



Sunday Schedule - November 12, 2017

NYU Kimmel Center | 60 Washington Square South, NYC

Time	Program
8:45a	Check In (Room 802)
9:00a – 10:00a	Morning Shiurim* <i>Small-group morning shiurim.</i>
9:00a – 10:00a	PJ Library Family Program (Room 803) <i>Parents and children ages 0-9 are invited to a musical session with crafts and storytelling. Featuring a song leader and PJ Library children's books.</i>
10:00a – 10:30a	Cereal Creations Breakfast Snack (Room 802) <i>Sponsored by Sandra Di Capua '02 and Kellogg's NYC.</i>
10:30a – 11:15a	Bronfman Community Conversations* <i>Spark your creativity, and warm up for a day of learning and connection.</i>
11:30a – 12:30p	Breakout Sessions - Round 1* <i>Choose from one of five interactive sessions led by members of our community.</i>
12:30p – 2:00p	Communal Lunch (10th Floor) <i>Featuring a tribute to our educators, remarks from Executive Director Becky Voorwinde, and a remembrance of Edgar M. Bronfman z"l.</i>
2:15p – 3:15p	Breakout Sessions - Round 2* <i>Choose from one of six interactive sessions led by members of our community.</i>
3:30p – 4:00p	Closing Ceremony (Room 802) <i>Join us for a moment of song and reflection led by Rabbi Angela Buchdahl '89.</i>
4:00p	Hugs and Goodbye

Our coffee lounge (room 802) will be open all day - grab a drink and sink into a good conversation.

**Room numbers, session descriptions and presenter bios can be found on the following pages.*

Session Descriptions

9:00AM-10:00AM | Morning Shiurim:

The Bifurcated Mind and Its Consequences

Rabbi Avi Weinstein | Room 905

Navigating between justice and compassion. A Talmudic look at the liberal and conservative within all of us.

Democracy, Autocracy, and a Few Things in Between: What Some Jewish Sources Have to Say About Systems of Government, Freedom, and Human Rights

Rabbi Shimon Felix | Room 909

We are currently experiencing a challenging moment, politically and culturally, in America, Israel, and around the globe. The problems are acute, and some things we took for granted, such as the clear advantage liberal democracies have over other systems of government, are being questioned. This session will look at Biblical and later sources that discuss various forms of government, and the rights and freedoms of the governed.

10:30AM-11:15AM | Community Conversations:

Take the Bronfman Challenge™

Three questions, 30 minutes, 5 people. Spark your creativity, and warm up for a day of learning and connection.

Room assignments:

- Room 803: Last names beginning A - Fo
- Room 808: Last names beginning Fr - Ke
- Room 905: Last names beginning Ki - Mi
- Room 907: Last names beginning Mo - Sc
- Room 909: Last names beginning Se - Z

**This session is for everyone in attendance.*

11:30AM-12:30PM | Breakout Sessions Round 1 (Choose one)

Creative Interpretation of Rabbinic Stories

Dara Horn '94 and Ilana Kurshan '95 | Room 808

Dara Horn and Ilana Kurshan will be teaching about the creative interpretation of rabbinic stories. We will look at a few extended narrative passages from the Babylonian Talmud and discuss how they inform our own writing and teaching. More generally, we will address the cumulative nature of our people's literary heritage, in which every Jewish book is a midrash on what came before, and we are all authors of an ever-evolving Jewish story.

Between Bubbe Meises and Fake News: Parenting in the Too-Much-Information Age

Anya Kamenetz '97 | Room 803

Parents these days are curious, anxious, and wired, both emotionally and technologically. The Internet is one major new source of advice, inspiration, kvetching and bubbe meises. How does the virtual reality accessed through our smartphone screens influence our parenting experience? How does it impact our parenting decisions? How do community, tradition, religion and culture shape our parenting practices in light of all this? And, how does this new reality influence our Jewish choices for ourselves and our children? Together we will explore our own parenting experiences and envision ways to reclaim, bolster and balance a healthy sense of individual focus and supportive community to enhance our parenting journeys.

It Went Terribly: Storytelling Workshop

Jon Bresman '90 | Room 909

With Lauren Roth '87, Sam Schultz '14, Ella Shteingart '88, and Eve Sneider '14.

Join five alumni who reflect our diverse and intergenerational alumni community as they share personal stories about times when things didn't go exactly as planned. If time allows, we will also take a few minutes to workshop your own narratives to reflect on life and its messiness.

Trust, Pluralism, and Open Discourse

Moses Sternstein '00 and Rabbi Mishael Zion | Room 905

Pluralism for thee, but not for me? Pluralism is a core commitment of The Bronfman Fellowship, but is pluralism necessarily a good thing? Looking at traditional texts and contemporary case studies, we will explore the trade-offs that pluralism demands, the points at which pluralism becomes most challenging, and the extent to which pluralism is at odds with other commitments to family, community, religion and culture.

11:30AM-12:30PM | Breakout Sessions Round 1 (Continued)

Personal Perspectives on State and Religion in Israel

Daphna Ezrachi '05, Yosi Yeshaya '04 and Daphna Yizrael | Room 907

In this session, three Amitei Bronfman community members will share personal perspectives on issues of state and religion:

- *Daphna Ezrachi will talk about marriage in Israel.*
- *Yosi Yeshaya will talk about Masoret: modern-traditional Jewish ideas from a Mizrahi Jewish perspective.*
- *Daphna Yizrael will talk about religious influence in public schools and the IDF.*

12:30PM-2:00PM | Community Lunch

2:15PM-3:15PM | Breakout Sessions Round 2 (Choose one)

Is the American Jewish Experience "Exceptional"?

Dr. Rache Gordan '94 and David Zvi Kalman '04 | Room 909

Is the experience of Jews in America the same as it was 50 years ago? How do we reflect on the recent rise of antisemitism and how that has changed the way we consider American Exceptionalism? We will examine these questions and others together through a scholarly historical lens and through a sampling of pop cultural sources including movies, television, and books where Jewish attitudes and depictions of Jews tell the story of our American experience.

What We Talk About When We Talk About Israeli Security

Elisheva Goldberg '05 and Jordan Hirsch '05 | Room 803

When American Jews and Israelis talk about Israel's security, it can feel like there is a lot at stake. Come join a conversation with Jordan Hirsch and Elisheva Goldberg who will present sides of the issue, facilitate a discussion, and hopefully give us a greater sense of what underlies the conversation on Israeli security and Jewish safety.

Protecting What is Most Sacred: Listening as an Act of Social Justice

Yona Gorelick '00 and Taylor Krauss '97 | Room 907

How can we respond to so much need in the world? As Jews and as people who care about suffering and injustice, it's easy to become overwhelmed. We will explore how listening to others can help to increase justice in our society. We will share experiences from our own work in education, community organizing, and film making and together we will try to surface what's sacred for ourselves and for others.

2:15PM-3:15PM | Breakout Sessions Round 2 (Continued)

Torah Changes the World

Dr. Yehuda Kurtzer '93 | Room 905

A core, defining feature of the Bronfman Fellowship experience is "text study," one of the few proven activities Jews of different backgrounds can do together in advancing pluralist community. For some, text study is a regular hobby; for others, a periodic novelty; for others, a kind of spiritual lifeblood. In this session we will both engage in some close Bronfman-style study of classic Talmudic texts that you may have studied in your Bronfman summer, but we will also try to take a bird's-eye view to the activity itself: why, and when, does this kind of study matter? And how might we apply the disciplines and sensibilities involved to help us tackle some real-life social problems?

What We Know So Far: (Relatively Honest) Reflections on the Role of Gender in Our Rabbinic Work

Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld and Rabbi Dianne Cohler-Esses | Room 808

In our ongoing (often daily) hevruta over the last twenty years, gender has been a particularly enduring theme. What, if anything, have we learned over the last three decades? What's changed? What's remained constant? What questions are we asking about gender, Jewish life, and religious leadership at this point in our lives?

Why I Moved to Budapest: The Revival and Renewal of European Jewry

Rabbi Michael Paley | Room 901

In 2017 there are approximately 1.1 million Jews in the area of the European Union. By far the largest and most innovative population lives in and around Budapest, Hungary with around 80,000 Jews. A decade ago many of these Jews did not know of their identity but now, in the post-communist period they have awakened as Jews. But what kind of identity should they have? Religious? Nationalist? Tribal? In 2013 my wife and I lived in Budapest for a year and we intend to return this spring. Our session will both explore the legacy of the fascinating Hungarian Jewish community and try to imagine its future.

Presenter Biographies

Jonathan Bresman '90 is a consultant for children's entertainment and education companies, and has been a writer and creative for Hasbro, *MAD Magazine*, and Lucasfilm. As an undergrad at Harvard, Jon studied monkeys, politics, and creative writing. He has two graduate degrees from Columbia, where he focused on multimedia learning and educational entertainment. Jon lives in Newton, MA, with his wife and daughter.

Rabbi Angela Buchdahl '89 serves as the senior rabbi of Central Synagogue in New York City, the first woman to lead the large Reform congregation in its 175-year history. Born in Korea to a Jewish American father and a Korean Buddhist mother, Rabbi Buchdahl is the first Asian American to be ordained as cantor or rabbi in North America. Prior to her service at Central Synagogue, Rabbi Buchdahl served as associate rabbi/cantor at Westchester Reform Temple in Scarsdale, N.Y. Rabbi Buchdahl and her husband Jacob Buchdahl have three children.

Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld has been an educator at The Bronfman Fellowship since 1993. She has also been the Dean of the Rabbinical School at Hebrew College since 2006. Prior to assuming this position, she served as an adjunct faculty member and Dean of Students at the Rabbinical School. Rabbi Sharon graduated from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in 1990, and subsequently spent 15 years working in pluralistic settings as a Hillel rabbi at Tufts, Yale and Harvard. She is the co-editor of two volumes of women's writings on Passover, *The Women's Seder Sourcebook* and *The Women's Passover Companion*.

Rabbi Dianne Cohler-Esses is the Director of Life Long Learning at Romemu and is an educator and former Co-Director of The Bronfman Fellowship. She was the first woman from the Syrian Jewish community to be ordained as a Rabbi. She graduated from the Jewish Theological Seminary in 1995, where she was awarded several fellowships and a prize for academic excellence. Since that time she has served as an educator, scholar-in-residence, and administrator for multiple organizations in the Jewish world, including CLAL, The Bronfman Fellowship, The Curriculum Initiative and UJA Federation. In 2007 she was named one of fifty top rabbis by the Washington Post online.

Daphna Ezrachi (Amit '05) currently lives in Princeton with her husband Yitz Landes '05 and their son, Shai Aviv. Before moving to the US, Daphna was an educator in Israel, including with The Bronfman Fellowship. This September she started a Masters in Urban Planning at NYU's Wagner School of Public Service.

Rabbi Shimon Felix, Director of Re: IL Regarding Israel, was born in New York and made *aliyah* in the early '70s. He has worked and taught at a wide range of communal and educational frameworks, serving both young people and adults in Israel, the UK, and North America: he studied, taught at, and served as Educational Director of Yeshivat Hamivtar; headed the Jewish Agency's Bureau for Cultural Services to Communities; is the Executive Director Emeritus of the Bronfman Fellowship; served as Head of Jewish Studies and Life at the Bialik High School in Montreal; and held the position of Assistant to Chief Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks of Great Britain. Rabbi Felix is a founder and director of Re: IL Regarding Israel, an organization that offers educational content, planning, and programming in Israel and North America on the subjects of Israel, Judaism, and the Jewish people. He lives in Jerusalem with his wife, Dr. Iris Felix, and has a bunch of children and grandchildren who are, frankly, all over the place. His thoughts on the Torah, Jewish subjects, and many other topics can be found on his website, www.parshaoftheweek.com.

Carla Friend holds a Master's Degree in Music Education from NYU, a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from Ithaca College, and has more than 10 years of experience on both the teaching and administrative ends of the field. In 2014, she founded Tkiya: The Jewish Community Music Initiative with the mission of using participatory music experiences to help people of all ages find their unique connection with Jewish culture and to reinvigorate diverse Jewish communities. Carla's skill set and background in education allows her and her staff to inspire families through a new and refreshing approach. Tkiya's impact has rapidly spread across the New York Metro Area through partnerships with many JCCs, Ys, PJ Library, Synagogues, and more.

Elisheva Goldberg '05 previously served as an advisor to Member of Knesset Tzipi Livni, the co-leader of the Israeli opposition. She moved to Israel in 2012 to join a Jerusalem-based think tank called Molad: The Center for the Renewal of Israeli Democracy as an analyst and editor. Prior to her work in Israel she was assistant editor of a Daily Beast blog called Open Zion. Hailing from Seattle, WA, she has lived at various points in Israel, Egypt and Morocco. She currently lives in New York and is fluent in Hebrew and proficient in Arabic.

Dr. Rache Gordan '94 is an assistant professor of religious studies at the University of Florida, where she teaches courses on Judaism and American religion. She received her doctorate in religious studies from Harvard University and is working on a book about post-WWII American Judaism and a book about the 1947 novel-turned-film, *Gentleman's Agreement*.

Yona Gorelick '00 is instrumental in illuminating people's inherent resilience, hatching hopefulness, and manifesting wholeness. A graduate of Barnard College, Yona holds Level One certification in Internal Family Systems Therapy and has previously worked for Jews United for Justice and Goucher College Hillel.

Jordan Hirsch '05 is a Next Generation National Security Fellow at the Center for a New American Security. Previously, he was Special Adviser at the Paul E. Singer Foundation and Visiting Scholar at the Columbia Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies. A former editor at *Foreign Affairs*, he received a J.D. from Yale Law School and has written for publications such as *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *The Washington Post*.

Dara Horn '94 is the author of five novels, including *Eternal Life*, which will be published in January 2018. A scholar of Hebrew and Yiddish literature, she lives with her husband and four children in New Jersey.

David Zvi Kalman '04 is a doctoral student at the University of Pennsylvania. He is the co-founder and director of Jewish Public Media and the owner of Print-O-Craft, a Jewish art press. He has written for *The Forward*, *Tablet*, and *Haaretz*; and recently received an award for reporting from the American Jewish Press Association.

Anya Kamenetz '97 is endlessly curious about learning and the future. Her forthcoming book, *The Art of Screen Time* (PublicAffairs, 2018) is the first, essential, don't-panic guide to kids, parents, and screens. Anya is the lead digital education correspondent for NPR; her team's blog is at NPR.org/ed. Previously she covered technology, innovation, sustainability and social entrepreneurship for five years as a staff writer for *Fast Company* magazine. She has contributed to *The Village Voice*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *New York Magazine*, *Slate*, and *O, The Oprah Magazine*. Anya grew up in Louisiana in a family of writers and mystics, and graduated from Yale University in 2002. She lives in Brooklyn with her husband and two daughters.

Taylor Krauss '97 is a documentary filmmaker whose recent work includes Ken Burns' and Lynn Novick's *The Vietnam War*; David France's *The Death and Life of Marsha P Johnson*; Edet Belzberg's *Watchers of the Sky*; Eve Ensler's *City of Joy*; and Eugene Jarecki's *Promised Land*. Krauss is currently a Pulitzer Center grantee for work in the Shingal mountains of Northern Iraq; received the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award for work in the DRC; and was awarded the Susan J. Herman Award for Leadership in Holocaust and Genocide Awareness. As the founder of Voices of Rwanda, an archive dedicated to filming video testimonies of rescapés for use in memorialization, research, and education; and Voices of Yezidi, an archive established to document the 2014 Genocide Against the Yezidi by ISIS, Taylor is deeply engaged in issues of genocide, oral history, and ethnography. He currently sits on the Advisory Board of The Yale Genocide Studies Program.

Ilana Kurshan '95 is the author of *If All the Seas Were Ink*, published in 2017 by St. Martin's Press. She has translated books of Jewish interest by Ruth Calderon, Benjamin Lau, and Micah Goodman, as well as novels, short stories, and children's picture books. Her book *Why Is This Night Different From Other Nights* was published by Schocken in 2005. She is a regular contributor to *Lilith Magazine*, where she is the Book Reviews Editor, and her writing has appeared in *The Forward*, *The World Jewish Digest*, *Hadassah*, *Nashim*, *Zeek*, *Kveller*, and *Tablet*. Kurshan is a graduate of Harvard University (BA, summa cum laude, History of Science) and Cambridge University (M.Phil, English literature). She lives in Jerusalem with her husband and four children.

Dr. Yehuda Kurtzer '93 is the President of the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America and a leading thinker and author on the meaning of Israel to American Jews, the value of the Jewish past to the Jewish present, and questions of leadership and change in American Jewish life. Yehuda received his doctorate in Jewish Studies from Harvard University and an MA in Religion from Brown University, and is an alumnus of the Wexner Graduate Fellowship. Previously Yehuda served as a member of the faculty and as the inaugural Chair of Jewish Communal Innovation at Brandeis University. He lives in New York with his wife Stephanie Ives and their three children.

Rabbi Michael Paley is the Pearl and Ira Meyer Scholar in Residence of the UJA-Federation of New York. Prior to his arrival at UJA, he was a professor of Jewish studies and Dean at Bard College, and the Vice - President of the Wexner Heritage Foundation where he remains a member of the permanent faculty. For many years, Rabbi Paley served as the University Chaplain at Columbia University. Rabbi Paley was the founding director of the Edgar M. Bronfman Youth Fellowships in Israel. He also served as the Jewish Chaplain at Dartmouth College. Rabbi Paley earned his bachelor's degree at Brandeis and graduate degrees in Jewish and Islamic philosophy and science at Temple University. Rabbi Paley is married to Ann Dobrejcer and they are the parents of three children, Briyah, Naamah with her husband Stephen, and Gabriel.

Moses Sternstein '00 is a lawyer and product guy for a Real Estate insurtech company. Lives in Brooklyn (but moving to Englewood) with wife and daughter.

Rebecca Voorwinde '97 is Executive Director of The Bronfman Fellowship. Becky oversees the strategic planning and educational vision for all aspects of the Fellowship in Israel and the US, including working closely with the global alumni community of over 1,100. Becky has worked with the organization since 2008. Becky's professional experience includes work in the Corporate Responsibility Group at Ernst & Young LLP and at the Australia-based non-profit human resources consultancy, Diversity @ Work. Becky graduated summa cum laude from Barnard College with a B.A. in American Studies. She serves on the board of JPro, the network for Jewish communal professionals. Becky resides in Brooklyn with her husband Michael and their daughters Miriam and Pearl.

Rabbi Avi Weinstein directed The Bronfman Fellowship from 1987 thru 1997, after which he was granted the title of Executive Director Emeritus, a title that is a synonym for “What do we do with him now?” Concurrently, for some of those years he directed the Bronfman Library of Jewish Classics, and The Educational Initiative and was given the title Bronfman Scholar. As Director of the Bronfman Library, he translated “Gates of Light” a thirteenth century Kabbalistic lexicon. Before that he edited and translated 1949: The First Israelis By Tom Segev. He was the Director for The Meyerhoff Center for Jewish Learning for Hillel International and is presently the Head of Jewish Studies for the Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy. His writing has appeared in Commentary, The Jerusalem Report, The Washington Post, and The Boston Globe.

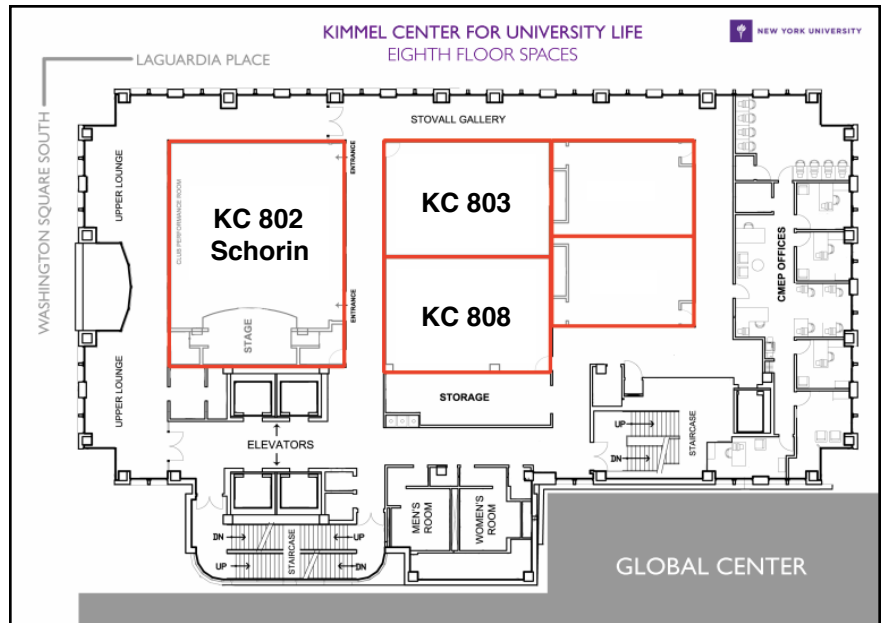
Yosi Yeshaya (Amit '04) was born and raised in Jerusalem. He took a gap year before his army service to live communally with some fellow Bronfman alumni. He served 3.5 years in the IDF infantry unit, and is completing his MA in Jewish History at the Revivim BA/MA Program at Hebrew University. He is the recipient of an Alumni Venture Fund grant for a high school educational enrichment program. Yosi has worked in different informal educational programs such as Beit Avi Chai and Bakehila along with teaching Tanakh, history and Jewish studies. In the past two years he has been teaching at SAR High School as a WZO Shaliach in New York. Yosi has staffed the Bronfman Fellowship as a Madrich and Director of Security and Operations.

Daphna Yizrael is the Director of Amitei Bronfman in Israel. In her previous position, she was Director of Programs and acting Director of the Beit Tefila Israeli Community, in which she is still an active member. She has held leadership and educational positions at the Mandel Leadership Institute, the Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism, Geshar and the Zalman Shazar Center, and was senior community emissary in the MetroWest community in New Jersey. She has a degree in Jewish Philosophy and Political Science from Tel Aviv University (cum laude) and studied towards an MA in Hermeneutics at Bar Ilan University. Daphna is a graduate of both The Beit Midrash for Excellent Students in Jewish Sciences at the Hartman Institute and The Program for Management of Cultural Institutions at Tel Aviv University. She edited the book *Georgia – Journey to Jewish Heritage*, published by The Zalman Shazar Center, and co-edited a book with Dr. Daniel Marom on Hebrew culture for early childhood education, published by The Mandel Leadership Institute.

Rabbi Mishael Zion is Director of the Mandel Program for Leadership in Jewish Culture. He is an educator for the Bronfman Fellowship, and a former Co-Director. Together with his father, Noam Zion, he is the author of *Halaila Hazeh: An Israeli Haggadah* and *A Night to Remember: The Haggadah of Contemporary Voices*. Mishael holds a bachelor's degree in sociology and Jewish thought from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and received his rabbinic ordination from Yeshivat Chovevei Torah Rabbinical School in New York. He has served as a faculty member at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem and the Skirball Center for Adult Jewish Learning in New York, and has been a visiting scholar at the New York University School of Law.

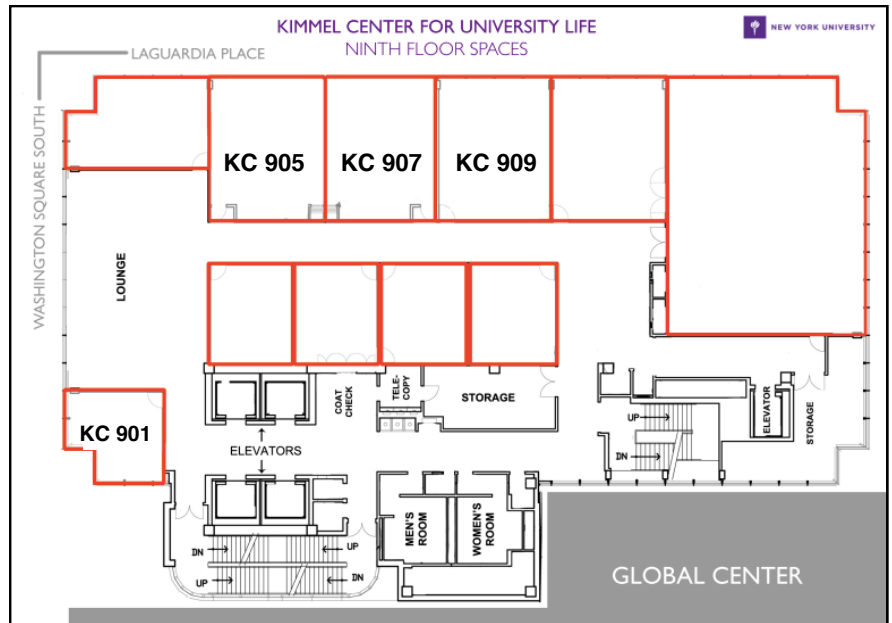
8th Floor

- Room 802** Coffee Room
Closing Ceremony
- Room 803** Family Program
Community Conversations
Breakout Sessions
- Room 808** Community Conversations
Breakout Sessions



9th Floor

- Room 901** Breakout Session
- Room 905** Community Conversations
Breakout Sessions
- Room 907** Community Conversations
Breakout Sessions
- Room 909** Community Conversations
Breakout Sessions



10th Floor

- Rosenthal** Communal Lunch

