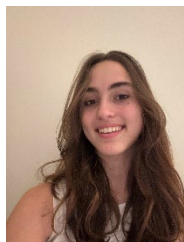


## 2025 Bronfman Fellow Introductions



**Phoebe Barowitz**

Brooklyn, NY

*Saint Ann's School*

### **Fast Facts**

- I created a Shakespeare reading group with two of my close friends and our favorite English teacher. We meet once a week to read, discuss, and act, and have read Romeo and Juliet, King Lear and The Tempest and are currently reading Macbeth.
- This year I am conducting and Independent History Research project on Israeli and Palestinian literary depictions of the impact of the Six Day War in Jerusalem.
- I used to be terrified of the ocean, and now I am a surf instructor for kids and adults ages 5-65.

Hi! My name is Phoebe Z Barowitz. I am a junior at Saint Ann's School in Brooklyn, New York which I've attended since I was three and is not a Catholic school - despite its name. I live with my parents, younger brother, and dog in a former Ex Lax factory, and call my grandmother almost every day. I was raised Reform and attend my synagogue's weekly service and Torah study and am very interested in learning more about other Jewish rituals and practices. I enjoy most of my classes, but I particularly love English and History because I have especially great teachers. This year I'm taking Macabre Marriages and 19th and 20th Century French and German Social Thought, and I love close reading and unusual words. In between classes I can be found chatting with my friends or compulsively reading The New York Times. My favorite features are Social Q's, The Ethicist and the Opinion page, and I think I've read every Tiny Love Story the paper has ever published. I love reading everything ever written by or about Elena Ferrante and hope to visit Naples (and Ischia) one day! I

periodically get sucked down an hours-long Ancestry.com rabbit hole trying to uncover more about my family and its history, whether in New York in the 1860s, or Hungary in the 1930s. I've recently been thinking a lot about the merits and pitfalls of progressive education and if community or spirituality is the driving force of Jewish life. However, I am not above watching reality TV, and am currently bingeing the newest season of Love is Blind. I am looking forward to meeting everyone and learning together this summer!



**Myriam Bayen**

Piedmont, CA

*Head-Royce School*

### **Fast Facts**

- I play defense on my school's varsity lacrosse team.
- My favorite board game is Ticket to Ride—I love playing it with my two younger siblings and the rest of my family.
- I enjoy spending time in the ocean and windsurfing, even though I'm not very good at it.

Hi! I'm Myriam, and I'm from Piedmont, California. Growing up both Jewish and French has significantly shaped the way I think about Judaism and being an American. I have two amazing younger siblings, and I love working with kids, especially elementary schoolers. I think there is something really magical about helping them build confidence and watching them go from hesitant to excited. I run Girls X Math, an after-school program for 2nd-4th grade girls to help them feel more confident in math. They're adorable, and seeing the impact we have on them is incredibly rewarding. Right now, I'm also doing research. Specifically, optimizing hyperparameters for an algorithm that solves the Pickup and Dropoff Problem with Time Window (PDPTW) to improve paratransit efficiency for people with reduced mobility. In my free time, I love trying new things—cooking,

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fashion, music, reading, meditating, yoga, and art projects. When I cook, I never make the same recipe twice; I always change something.



### Theodore Birdsong

Las Vegas, NV  
*Clark High School*

#### Fast Facts

- I have been playing guitar for 6 years and formed a band with friends. We recently won a “Battle of the Bands” charity event thanks to screaming fans.
- I am on my school’s varsity soccer and volleyball teams. I tower over my soccer teammates, who call me “Larry Bird.”
- I can do a “wheelie” on my bike the entire length of my block (over 600 feet).

Hello all! My name is Theo and I am from Las Vegas, Nevada. I am a junior in the math, science, and arts magnet program at Clark High School, a big inner-city public school that embodies all of my town’s incredible diversity. At school, I really enjoy playing soccer and volleyball, and playing guitar in the jazz band. After school, my friends and I walk a few blocks to Chinatown to graze on onigiri, Korean corn dogs, and Taiwanese beef noodle soup. Away from school, I love nature, including hiking, backpacking, skiing, mountain biking, swimming, and nature photography. My favorite places are the backcountry of Yosemite and the Carmel beach in California. I attended Skylake Yosemite Camp for many summers and hope to return as a counselor when I am in college. One of my passions is playing guitar. This year I started a rock cover band called “Low Tide” with five friends from school. We play little gigs around the city and at school events. I am affiliated with Vegas’ Temple Sinai, a reform synagogue. I am

co-president and co-founder of my school’s Jewish Student Union, a community where the small Jewish population at my school can connect and teach others about Judaism. I am incredibly excited to learn, connect with new friends, and explore Judaism as a Bronfman Fellow.



### Diego Castillo Schwartz

Toronto, ON  
*East York Collegiate Institute*

#### Fast Facts

- I’m actively involved in community work including a non-profit called Helping Hands Uganda, teaching English to newcomers and assisting the elderly in long-term care.
- My favourite book is Don Quixote by Miguel de Cervantes.
- My favourite band is The Grateful Dead.

I was born and raised in Toronto and consider myself typically Canadian. I love to be outdoors and often spend my weekends with my dogs hiking or trail running. Long distance running is something I spend much of my time doing especially. I have played competitive hockey for as long as I can remember. Whether it be just outside with friends or in a league I continue to do so. When not doing sports, I spend my time reading. Literature as a whole is a passion of mine, but generally I’m inclined towards philosophy and poetry. Equally as important to me is volunteering, which I see as a means of engaging with and improving the community.

## 2025 Bronfman Fellow Introductions



**Ma'ayan Cohen**

Columbus, OH  
*Bexley High School*

### **Fast Facts**

- I am in the Global Scholars Diploma program, a program of the Columbus Council on World Affairs.
- I am in choir and theater programs.
- I am in Wexner Service Corps in Columbus, and Better to Learn through Brandeis University.

My name is Maayan Cohen, I am 16 and a Junior at Bexley High School in Columbus, Ohio. I enjoy being involved in my community, participating in local volunteer organizations and teaching at my temple's Sunday school. I enjoy spending time with my friends and family, whether it's movie nights or hiking trips. I am very excited to be in this year's Bronfman Fellows, and I look forward to the experiences and opportunities the Fellowship brings.



**Maccabee Cohen**

Los Angeles, CA  
*Crossroads School for Arts and Sciences*

### **Fast Facts**

- I love making movies, especially documentaries. I studied documentary film-making at USC's School of Cinematic Arts for a semester under two academy-award winning documentarians; I was honored that my film, Yiddishtown, was nominated to represent the class in a screening for the entire Cinematic Arts college.

- I was featured in Variety Magazine because of my documentary's being screened at the Poppy Jasper International Film Awards.
- I play jazz guitar.

My name is Maccabee Cohen. I was born in and currently live in Los Angeles, California. My parents raised me as a Modern Orthodox Red Sox fan—both are often frustrating but ultimately rewarding. Currently, my life is consumed by two central academic interests. The first of these two interests is the ability of the study of culture to express something profound and to recontextualize the world around us, which we often see as mundane, or eternal, necessary, but which is really the exact opposite, which is to say capricious, conditional. The second is that of my sister's cat's ability to fit into small spaces and places. Having spent most of my childhood in Los Angeles, the Worker's Circle is a place that feels like a part of Los Angeles Jewry's mythology. The Worker's Circle—which is making the case for the importance of Yiddish and why the language should continue to exist—was sputtering and stalling and shutting down just about a year ago, which was when I began to document the organization, to make a documentary about it, which I ended up finishing towards the end of last semester. Now, a great deal of my time outside of school is consumed by documenting Yiddish language for a series I am working on about contemporary Yiddish with Columbia University and the University of Southern California. I am passionate about the omelets I often make myself in the morning; these omelets frequently include spinach, avocado, and bell pepper. With my omelets, they always arrive at the table tattered and tormented and tortured-looking. My family and the Boston Red Sox taught me never to give up—anything is possible.

## 2025 Bronfman Fellow Introductions



**Caroline Cosgrove**

Los Angeles, CA

*Harvard Westlake High School*

### **Fast Facts**

- I am the head of my school's language magazine, Babel, where students submit poems, artwork, and essays in foreign languages. It is fascinating to see submissions of recipes and literature from my peers' cultures.
- I can recite every line of Hamilton by heart! I did musical theater for 6 years, and still can't sing in tune.
- I am a self-proclaimed professional chef—my favorite dishes that I have made include Beef Wellington, Arayes, and sourdough bread.

Hi! My name is Caroline Cosgrove and I am from Los Angeles, California. I have three older siblings, and I also have a husky who I adore. I love cooking, spending time with friends, and going to the beach. I'm extremely passionate about linguistics, and I take courses in Spanish, French, and German. I'm currently a junior at a secular school called Harvard Westlake, but I previously attended Sinal Akiba Academy, a religious day school, until I was in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. For the past 8 years, I have spent my summers at Camp Ramah in California which was undoubtedly the highlight of each year. Ramah has been the place where I have connected most to my Jewish identity, both through the friends I have met there and engaging in prayer. I come from a Conservative Jewish home, and our weeks always conclude with large, extended-family Shabbats. My grandparents come from all around the world, making my family a fabric of different cultures and languages that I get to engage with on a daily basis. At school, I am a member of the student government and I am the captain of the ethics bowl team. I love listening to music and going to concerts. My favorite

artists are Lorde, Frank Ocean, and the Strokes. I also recently took up ceramics, which I find deeply calming and joyful.



**Marc Dweck**

Englewood, NJ

*The Frisch School*

### **Fast Facts**

- In ninth grade I was presented with a Certificate of Commendation from my mayor and City Council for fostering positive change in my community after two classmates and I invented a smart technology traffic signal.
- I've been named Editor-in-Chief of our school newspaper, The Paw Print, for the coming year.
- In my high school engineering lab, I created a device that allows people who are blind to navigate the school building independently.

Hi everyone! My name is Marc Dweck. I live in Englewood, NJ, and am originally from Manhattan. I identify as Sephardic, although my Jewish heritage is a blend. My mom is a first-generation American descended from Holocaust survivors, while my dad's side is deeply connected to the American Syrian-Jewish community. I belong to the synagogue down the block from my home, the Benaroya Sephardic Center at Congregation Ahavat Torah. I attend The Frisch School, a Modern Orthodox yeshiva day school. I'll be the editor-in-chief of our school newspaper, The Paw Print, in the coming year. When I'm not writing and editing articles for The Paw Print or representing my grade on the Student Council Executive Board, you might find me competing with the varsity debate team, rowing with the crew team, playing on the Frisch varsity tennis team, leading discussions in the Media Literacy and Current Events Club, helping



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to analyze gene sequences from DNA fragments, writing and editing articles for two STEM and Ethics publications, competing in Yeshiva League Science Olympiad or College Bowl, or teaching underclassmen as both coding captain of our varsity VEX robotics team and as leader of Hackathon. After being inspired by my grandparents to explore Arabic, I took an Arabic language course through the State Department and now lead an Arabic Language and Culture breakfast club at school. In my free time, I enjoy reading. I'm also a music lover and play guitar weekly in a rock band with other local high schoolers. I'm looking forward to connecting with all of you, sharing perspectives, and learning from your experiences!



**Micah Epstein**

Tokyo, Japan  
*American School*

### **Fast Facts**

- I memorized 1015 digits of pi last year and my goal is to reach 1500 this year.
- I conducted an in silico study on potential drug treatments for cellular senescence and submitted my work to the International Young Researchers Conference.
- I started the Japan chapter of BBYO (a Jewish networking organization) and serve as president.

Hi! My name is Micah (pronounced Mee-kah), and I'm from Tokyo, Japan. I've lived in Tokyo since I was born, but I'm half-Chinese and half-American. I speak 3 languages (Chinese, Japanese, and English), know a couple of songs in ASL, and I can tap (and blink) morse code (if that counts as a language). I go to the American School in Japan, where most of my peers come from a wide array of backgrounds. I have an older sister and a younger brother with vastly

different interests from my own. My love of being right drew me to my High School's debate team, where beyond learning how to speak eloquently and think on my feet, I learned how to present myself and project an aura of confidence when I had none. Besides verbal attacks, I've been fencing competitively for 3 years now. While I spend most of my time in Japan, my time in my grandparents' home in Atlanta is what shaped my Jewish identity. My grandparents' devotion is my earliest memory of Judaism and my subsequent attendance of Jewish summer camp and Sunday school were all driven by the faith they instilled in my family. The last text that I read that deeply resonated with me was American Prometheus by Kai Bird. Having watched the movie adaptation 6 times, reading the book fed into my obsession with Oppenheimer and his life. I'm excited for what new obsessions my time this summer will bring.



**Max Feldman**

Miami, FL  
*Ransom Everglades School*

### **Fast Facts**

- I've been going to a sleepaway camp, Camp Silverlake in Swan Lake, NY, for 8 years. It's my second home.
- I'm a cross country runner and have run a half-marathon. I'm planning on doing one again next year.
- I'm an enormous Miami sports fan. I love all our teams but specifically the university's football and basketball teams. GO CANES!!

Hi, my name is Max Feldman, and I'm from Miami, Florida. I'm a Reform Jew and have been raised that way my whole life. I am not a very observant person, but being Jewish is very important to me, and most of my personal values are influenced by Judaism. For example, learning

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about things like mitzvot (good deeds) and tzedakah (charity) at a young age greatly influenced my beliefs about volunteer service. I participate in a lot of community outreach and volunteer projects with my temple. Academically, I'm most interested in history. I'm taking AP U.S. Government and Politics right now and I love it. I enjoy keeping up with politics and trying to see how some current events relate to past precedents that I've learned about in my history classes. In addition to my interest in politics, I do a lot of volunteer work regarding climate advocacy as that is one of my biggest passions because Miami is so beautiful. Some of my hobbies include running, watching sports, biking, and playing basketball. I'm an enormous sports fan of all Miami teams. Especially the University of Miami Hurricanes. I'm counting down the days until college football starts again. I also can't wait for the Fellowship to start!!

- I'm involved in leadership at my school and am currently the Gender Sexuality Alliance Co-leader, Red Curtain Drama Club board member, Improv Co-Captain, and Admissions Fellow. I have also served on Student Council for the past three years and am currently the Student Council Clubs Officer.
- I love painting, illustration, and zine making. I attended Rhode Island School of Design Pre-College this past summer, where I majored in painting and met incredibly talented and passionate people. I have sold my art on Etsy and have participated in several craft fairs where I have sold hand-made jewelry and tchotchkes.



**Liana Galper**  
Boston, MA  
Gann Academy

### **Fast Facts**

- I am a youth speaker for Keshet and have spoken at fundraising and donor events. I have attended two Keshet Shabbatons and recently served on the Steering Committee for the Midwest Shabbaton. The Keshet community has entirely changed my relationship to Judaism and introduced me to the joys of Jewish community! This experience has motivated me to get further involved in Jewish leadership and I am now a 2024-2025 Jewish Women's Archive Rising Voices Fellow where I write articles for their website on the intersection of Jewish and Feminist identities.

Hi! My name is Liana Galper, and I am from Boston, MA. My family spans many different denominations but I would consider myself culturally Jewish. I love Jewish art, folktale, and tradition. My favorite story is the midrash (stories elaborating on the Bible) of Lilith (especially Judith Plaskow's The Coming of Lilith) and I could talk about it forever. I attend a Jewish day school where I am involved in theater and visual art. I'm especially passionate about the intersectionality of Judaism and queerness and how to represent that experience through art! I primarily paint but am always excited about exploring new mediums. Right now, I'm working on a big yellow painting that is occupying my whole desk. When I'm not covered in paint or doing school work, I'm listening to music (my favorite bands are Big Thief, Ramones, and Boygenius) or reading. I am so excited to meet everyone!!

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**Micah Gruenwald**

Denver, CO

*Thomas Jefferson High School*

### **Fast Facts**

- I love doing speech and debate. Specifically, I compete in Original Oratory (arguably the best category). This year my topic is on transcending hate through connection following lessons from philosopher Martin Buber.
- Cycling is one of my favorite pastimes. Whether it is road cycling, mountain biking, or even unicycling, being on a cycle always energizes me. My favorite trick is the track stand, and my favorite rider is Remco Evenepoel.
- Building robots for my school's robotics team is a huge passion of mine. I just finished our build season and completed code that will run the robot mainly autonomously.

Hi everyone! My name is Micah Gruenwald. I live in Denver, Colorado, where I enjoy a thoroughly Coloradan lifestyle. Whether it's speeding down hills on a road or mountain bike, skiing in our beautiful mountains, or finally reaching the top of the peak I've been backpacking towards all day, nature is where I find the most connection to myself, my peers, and my Judaism. When I'm not in the great outdoors, you'll often find me at school, laughing with friends, spending way too much time building robots, or talking to a wall as I practice my speech and debate speech over, and over, and over again. Or, you might find me at work, where I try to make math fun and engaging for my students, and impart to them my love of math! Otherwise, you'll probably find me at home, where I'm either petting my dog, Murray, folding origami, practicing my calligraphy, watching Hell's Kitchen (I LOVE Hell's

Kitchen!!!) or doing much of the above at the same time. In addition to these activities, I love learning. Tracing the root of a problem, understanding its context, and solving it exhilarates me. If you have something to argue about, I'll always look forward to playing the other side. I think it's fascinating to try to approach a problem from another perspective, with a wide range of moral bases. Besides the more academic learning, currently I'm also trying to get the hang of juggling (we'll see if I have it down by summer.) Putting juggling together with my ability to unicycle, I hope to have the full circus trick done by my school's talent show this year (wish me luck!).



**Sophia Katz**

Los Angeles, CA

*Shalhevet High School*

### **Fast Facts**

- My favorite way to procrastinate is by spending hours on the New York Times Cooking App – I currently have 253 recipes saved!
- I wrote a letter to the editor about Israel's judicial reform protests that was published in the New York Times.
- I am a fairly amateur guitar player no matter how much I practice, but nevertheless I love music and learning instruments!

Hello! My name is Sophie Katz and I live in Los Angeles. I go to Shalhevet High School, a modern Orthodox school. I've lived in LA my whole life and very much appreciate the weather. I'm an avid newspaper consumer, enthusiastic Gemara (Commentaries on Jewish Law) learner, and aspiring guitarist. I would love to someday learn piano too. On the weekends, I help lead programming at my shul for teens, focusing on teaching girls how to read Torah (Bible) and lead

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davening (prayer), something that is unique to my shul in the LA Orthodox community. I am also a proud student journalist, and lead my school's independent, student-run paper. I love writing in-depth feature pieces and localizing national and international news, a practice that often involves seeking out and understanding different sides to the story. Writing these types of stories has informed my work leading a program bringing teenagers from my shul and Muslim teenagers in my community together to have conversations. Some of my favorite things to read are books about Israeli history, New York Times obituaries, and Divrei Torah written by my friends. I also love anything and everything sweet, but hate washing dishes with a passion so I never bake. I'm excited to meet all of you and have an incredible summer!



**Benny (Ahron) Marmor**

St. Louis Park, MN  
*Breck School*

### **Fast Facts**

- I start my mornings reading the newspaper, and try to apply what I see when I write and edit my school paper, where I also manage the website. I am fascinated by how today's headlines fit into the larger trajectory of history, connecting current events to the past to better understand the world.
- Improving my Hebrew has been an adventure—through books, movies, music, and sometimes cringing at my own mistakes on video calls with my Israeli friends and family. I love the process of breaking language barriers and discovering new ways to connect with people.

- Whether I'm leading my school's Robotics Team, experimenting with gadgets in my basement, or debugging code, I love the challenge of making things work—especially when a stubborn bug finally gives in or a machine comes to life.

I live in St. Louis Park, MN, where I attend an Episcopalian school and a Modern Orthodox synagogue. You can usually find me with a book in hand but when I'm not reading, I'm working on robots in the robotics lab or writing for the school newspaper. I enjoy reading from all genres, and am currently rereading Chaim Potok's novels, one of my favorite authors. Depending on the season, I freeze my toes playing hockey on Minnesota's frozen lakes, or spend time biking on our beautiful trails. One of my favorite things to do in my free time is learning TaNaKh and Talmud (Jewish Bible and interpretations) with my father.



**Olivia Meyer**

New York, NY  
*The Dalton School*

### **Fast Facts**

- I love listening to old music and have been collecting records for the last few years, all of which I can confidently say are much older than I am. My favorite album I've found so far is Faith by George Michael.
- I have volunteered for over 300 hours at the National Museum of Mathematics, where I love interacting with visitors and explaining how math shows up in our daily lives.
- I play on both my school and club volleyball teams and have



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been playing the sport for over six years. Even though I once wanted to be a hitter, I've since embraced my lack of height and now protect the back row as a libero at the expense of my knees.

Hello! My name is Olivia Meyer and I attend the Dalton School in New York City. A lifelong New Yorker, I love the activity and noise of the city, and there I always find new and fascinating places to explore. My most recent place of interest is the New York Public Library's Main Reading Room, where I go for history research and to enjoy the beautiful architecture -- being in such an important place motivates me. I've also discovered a handful of vintage bookstores, where I continue to hunt for Leonard Cohen's complete poetry collection. I've been a member of Central Synagogue since birth, a reform congregation in midtown. Recently, I've become more interested in exploring my own Jewish identity, and have been discussing Torah with my school's pluralistic Torah Study group. I'm currently researching the history of Sephardic Jews in Spain and Portugal during the Spanish Inquisition, and have compiled significant evidence to believe that my Portuguese family has Sephardic Jewish roots. At any given moment, you'll likely find me flying around the volleyball court, trying to learn a new song on my guitar (without complex chords), or debating deontology versus utilitarianism on my Parliamentary debate team -- or with my sister at the kitchen table. Having tried many of the best black-and-white cookies in New York, I've become a self-proclaimed expert in the field.



**Cruv Milgrom**

San Francisco, CA  
*Abraham Lincoln High School*

**Fast Facts**

- I like my skiing steep and deep, my surfing

smooth and glassy, and my riding fast and loose.

- I love the beautiful game as a Varsity midfielder at my high school and a referee for the city's youth league.
- I can chant 3 different tropes (Shabbat, High Holidays, and Esther).

I grew up in the Mission District in San Francisco, the heart of Latino culture in the city. I attended Spanish-immersion schools K-8 and took my linguistic and cultural fluency with me into high school which makes up a majority of my social scene. My summers offer contrast as I've spent the last 7 at Camp Ramah in Northern California, which to this day is my happiest place on Earth. I love sing-a-longs with my sister to Benson Boone and Dua Lipa among many other artists while cleaning the kitchen most nights. I love the smell of jasmine on a city block and the mountains after it rains. I love the crash of the waves at sea level and the blanketed quiet of the back-bowls at altitude. I love and am fortunate enough to travel to culturally rich cities across the globe and return home to what might just be my favorite one. I love my school friends, camp friends, and cousins, all with whom I treasure my relationships, offering a constant diversity from all parts of the country. And I love my family; my inspiration to love, care, and find meaning, no matter where life takes me. All in all, I love what it means to be alive.



**Oren Milgrom-Dorfman**

Brooklyn, NY  
*Bard High School Early College Manhattan*

**Fast Facts**

- I've been doing aerial silks (a circus art) for the last six years.
- Over the last year, I've become really interested in trop (the

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melodies used to chant different books of the Bible), and I worked with my grandmother, a rabbi, to learn some of the more niche ones, including the melody used for the Song of Songs, Ecclesiastes, and Ruth.

- I thrive in places where I can talk about interesting things (which, for me, can include Jewish egalitarianism, modern politics, or math, ideally all at the same time) with interesting people.

Hi everyone! I am born and raised in Park Slope, Brooklyn, where I live with my parents, my two younger sisters (one in 9th grade, the other in 7th), and our pet bearded dragon Spike. I go to Bard High School Early College Manhattan, where I enjoy vigorous debates with my friends about Plato's Republic and tutor peers in subjects ranging from calculus to essays about Shakespeare. Outside of school, I'm an active member of several local Jewish communities, especially Altshul, a traditional egalitarian minyan, where I regularly read Torah and lead services, and the Hartman Teen Fellowship, which I've been a part of for the last two years. I'm also a voracious reader (right now, I'm reading Louise Erdrich's *The Sentence* and Joan Didion's *The Year of Magical Thinking*) and writer (of poetry, short stories, and currently a fantasy novel about a girl trying to stop a volcano from destroying the world). I get to share my love of reading through a program called BookMatch Teen, where high school students like me can recommend books to our peers across the country. Although I spend most of my time in the city, I love to be in nature when I can. Last summer, I went on a week-long Outward Bound backpacking course in the Pacific Northwest, and I hiked Yosemite's Half Dome (20 miles and 5000 feet of elevation gain) with my dad. I can't wait to explore what it means to be Jewish in the modern world with all of you!



**Eitan Miller Feder**

Portland, OR  
*Grant High School*

### **Fast Facts**

- I love to join a lot of clubs at my high school, from badminton to advanced physics and chemistry.
- I am a Jew who hates cream cheese but I am all for the bagels and lox!
- I love to volunteer at various houseless villages around Portland, especially when I get to de-nail lumber for future reuse.

I love hiking in Portland's Columbia River Gorge, sometimes with my brilliant dog (who is eating his own foot right now. Maybe not that brilliant.) I really value meeting with my Jewish community at my Reconstructionist synagogue and Camp Solomon Schechter, where I have received Paper Plate Awards for "Most Likely to Join the Circus" and "Only CIT Trusted On His Own With Campers." But the most senior position I have held (at age six) was Assistant to the Deans of Jewish Life at the American Hebrew Academy, where my responsibilities included scraping havdallah candle wax off the floor and hiding under the podium during t'fillot (prayers). I go to a (too) big public high school, where I enjoy Environmental Science, American Sign Language, and woodworking. In my free time I play, coach, and run tournaments for a VR e-sports league. I am also having fun with a new 3-D printer, including printing pieces to use in the D&D games I run with friends and with kids at the camp I lead over the summer and through the year.

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**Yona Pianko**

Seattle, WA

*Lakeside High School*

### **Fast Facts**

- I am a member of a youth circus performance troupe and spend about 10 hours a week in the gym practicing tumbling, contortion, acrobatics, juggling, and aerial arts.
- I am scuba certified... and was crazy enough to do that in Puget Sound in the winter (seriously cold water!).
- I've always been interested in human development and psychology. I especially love working with kids--from babysitting to teaching Hebrew school, and last summer I even helped run a summer camp in a rural village in Tanzania!

Hi! My name is Yona and I'm from Seattle. I absolutely love the outdoors and grew up attending Ramah in the Rockies, which instilled in me a passion for backpacking and mountain biking. My favorite class is English, and I could talk about themes and literary motifs in my favorite books for hours. When not in class, you'll probably find me on stage – whether in the ensemble of school musicals or putting on circus shows. At school, I founded/run our Jewish Student Union, serve on the Student Library Board, and lead Outdoor Club. I'm a procrastinator and on an eternal journey to find the best chocolate chip cookie recipe. Jewishly, I was raised at Kavana, a pluralistic and non-denominational community, and enjoy both the funky renewal edge of Judaism and finding new tunes to add to my Musaf (prayer service) repertoire. Apparently I'm a Jewish fellowship junkie, as I also participate in the Rising Voices Fellowship with JWA and the Hartman Teen Fellowship (my parents tell me I need to get out more!). I feel grateful to have been exposed to

so many different types of Jewish communities, but this has also led me to struggle at times to figure out where I fit. In addition, it's been tricky navigating the world as a Jew in the context of a super liberal city and school community; I am someone with empathy and a great appreciation for nuance, and at times, I've found myself frustrated in both Jewish and progressive settings. I am so, so thrilled to be a Bronfman Fellow and look forward to meeting the whole cohort, tackling text study together, and engaging in deep late-night conversations.



**Sylvie Raab**

New York, NY

*Ramaz School*

### **Fast Facts**

- In my free time, I love to run "cooking experiments," exploring recipes from different cultures, like making tteokbokki from scratch or attempting to recreate the fried plantains from a Cuban food truck. Sometimes things go incredibly wrong, but half the fun is in the chopping, mixing and adjusting flavors anyway.
- I became a NYC Parks Department tree steward last summer and now care for the street trees in my neighborhood.
- Last fall, I started learning Korean through a State Department-funded program, and since then I have become increasingly interested in Korean history and culture.

Hi everyone! My name is Sylvie Raab, and I'm from New York City. I attend the Ramaz School, a modern Orthodox day school on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. In school, I love all my classes, but especially my Spanish literature and

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Gemara (Commentaries on Jewish Law) classes that combine my interests in language and text analysis through discussions about meaning, interpretation and historical context. My favorite thing to read in class so far has been Jorge Borges' *Funes, el Memorioso*, through which we explored Uruguay's political landscape during the late 19th century and the nature of memory and perception. I also really enjoy writing for my school's newspaper and competing with our model congress team, where I have loved drafting legislation on global policy and diplomacy. If you heard some of my favorite hobbies, you might think they seem more suited to a 90-year old than a teenager. That's because I spend a lot of time volunteering with DOROT, a nonprofit that builds connections between older and younger generations. There, I have befriended amazing people with incredible stories and the best hobbies, like knitting, crocheting, gardening and scrapbooking. When I'm not doing that, you can probably find me watching Jubilee videos or catching up on new music releases (currently listening to Lady Gaga's new album, *MAYHEM*). I'm super excited to get to know everyone, hear your perspectives and learn together!

program, I have had my work featured in yearly student exhibitions at the museum.

Hi everyone! My name is Yalei, and I'm from Brooklyn, New York. Currently I attend The Abraham Joshua Heschel School, which I joined in high school—my first ever experience with formal Jewish education. Before that, I went to a project based middle school; one example I love to use is that we learned trigonometry by designing and building wooden rowboats. I am really passionate about art in all forms. Since a young age, I've loved creating visual art, though my drawings from when I was five years old definitely prove that you can love something without being all that good at it. Now, my favorite medium to work in is a combination of watercolor and charcoal, and I love documenting my art evolution in my innumerable sketchbooks. As I've grown up, that love has expanded to include poetry and dance. I was raised attending the Park Slope Jewish Center, an egalitarian conservative synagogue, though I actually had my bat mitzvah at the Grand Canyon. My relationship with Judaism is constantly changing, but I deeply enjoy all sorts of Jewish learning—especially the logic and moral basis of Talmudic arguments. In particular, I love exploring the idea of belonging in the context of my identity as a half-Chinese, observant Jew. If I'm not in school (or on the train trying to get to and from school) you can probably find me reading, dancing, drawing, spending time with my two dogs, or trying to watch a new tv show. I'm excited for a great summer together!



**Yalei Ravin**

Brooklyn, NY

*The Abraham Joshua Heschel School*

### **Fast Facts**

- I love watching movies! Some of my favorites are *Good Will Hunting*, *Stand by Me*, and *Dead Poets Society*.
- Last summer I was a volunteer in a research lab at The Mount Sinai Hospital. I studied the HIV envelope and researched potential antibodies.
- I have been a part of the Brooklyn Museum's Studio Art program since I was ten years old. As a participant in this



**Saul Rosen**

Dallas, TX

*Lakehill Preparatory School*

### **Fast Facts**

- I am the president of my school's Diversity Discussion Group (DDG), where we discuss current events, politics, and



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other topics that we might not get a chance to talk about in or out of school.

- I run a cheese club at school where I can introduce people to the cheeses I find interesting and try them in a shared environment.
- I am an avid weightlifter and have been trying to stay consistent amidst the pressures of Junior year and my life.

Hi y'all! My name is Saul Rosen. I am a Reform Jew, born and raised in Dallas, Texas. My dad was born in East Lansing, Michigan, and my mom was born in Teluk Intan, Malaysia. As a mixed-race Jew, the intersection of culture, community, and faith within Judaism has always been an enormous interest of mine, and I am so excited to explore it this summer. Aside from that, I enjoy going to the gym, cooking, and (especially in Dallas) eating! Food has always been a super big part of my life, and I like to think of it as a way to stay connected to and learn more about my own culture, along with many others from across the world. Dallas's food scene has grown over the past few years, so I spend a lot of time with my friends looking for the best (and cheapest) restaurants around. On top of this, last summer, I picked up a job as a cheesemonger! I have become enamored with the cheese world, and I love learning new things every day. At first, it was surprising to me how much depth there was in a world of curdled milk and molds, but now I am constantly looking for the coolest and most interesting cheese I can find. Anyways, I am super excited to meet everyone and to learn more about Judaism!



**Elijah Schaffzin**

Memphis, TN

*University High School*

**Fast Facts**

- I love keeping up with the U.S. Supreme Court and the Courts decisions. I consider

myself Justice Sonia Sotomayor's number one fan!

- Last year I interned for U.S. Congressman Steve Cohen's office. It was rewarding to answer constituent calls and work on bills relating to environmental racism and Black maternal health.
- Since becoming involved with environmentalism, I have committed to being vegetarian!

Hi! My name is Elijah Schaffzin, and I am from Memphis Tennessee, though I was born in New Jersey and still consider myself a northerner at heart. Because my parents are both law professors, I have grown up enjoying debating every issue under the sun. Their jobs also meant moving to several places, including North Dakota as a baby before Tennessee. At times, I have felt like the odd Jew out, but I love Memphis's small but mighty Jewish community, and it is a huge part of who I am. I have a deep love for our planet, and I serve on the board of the Jewish Youth Climate Movement (JYCM) and am the director of JYCM's Memphis chapter. I am inspired by the pluralism of these spaces and believe that a variety of Jewish perspectives and practices is needed to confront the challenges of our day. I go to a public school run in collaboration with the University of Memphis, and I stay involved in this community as the editor-in-chief of the student newspaper, as a leader in student government, and through research with a University of Memphis professor that focuses on the expansion of youth climate activism and ecological feminism. While I attend a Conservative synagogue, I most identify with reconstructionism and believe in viewing Judaism as an evolving idea that should be tailored to each generation's needs. Some of my hobbies include walking the nature path by my house, reading poetry (Mary Oliver and Alan Ginsburg are my favorites), and watching movies of all kinds. I am so excited to engage with peers and deepen my relationship with Judaism this summer!

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**Mira Soskis**

Washington, D.C.

*Washington Latin School*

**Fast Facts**

- As part of a fellowship I am doing at the Folger Shakespeare Library, I have gotten to hold a second quarto (which doesn't have quite the same prestige as a first folio but is still very cool)!
- Last summer, I spent a month in Rennes, a city in Brittany.
- I like to do crossword puzzles, although I'm not particularly good at them.

Hello, my name is Mira Soskis! I'm from Washington, D.C. and a member of the Hill Havurah. I love language and language learning - I currently only know French but I plan to learn many more languages over the course of my life. I have an incredibly cute dog named Pax who enjoys when I sing and recite poetry to him. I am interested in almost everything, with special emphasis on horology, folk music, early silent films, AI, and early video games. I compete in my school's Underwater Robotics team and run our philosophy club. I specifically enjoy discussing ethics and am fascinated by (though have some real ambivalence towards) effective altruism and utilitarianism. I look forward to meeting you all this summer!



**Emily Tarrab**

Brooklyn, NY

*Yeshivah of Flatbush Joel Braverman High School*

**Fast Facts**

- Last summer, I researched a bacteria-derived biopolymer's impact on plant growth and gene expression, seeking to combat erosion and aid in developing anti-

erosion GMOs. I spent most of my time in a greenhouse taking measurements or in the lab making and seeding petri dishes.

- This year, as co-president of my school's Students Supporting Israel chapter—a national grassroots movement—I've organized a lobbying trip to the Capitol to advocate for increased security assistance for Israel. We plan to meet with several officials, including Sen. Chuck Schumer and Rep. Hakeem Jeffries.
- I love all things music, especially jazz, indie rock, folk, and bossa nova. Collecting vinyl has become a hobby, ranging from Samara Joy to the Cocteau Twins. My family and I have traveled multiple times to Newport and Montreal for their jazz festivals. I also created a Spotify playlist with over 500 saves!

Hi everyone, I'm Emily! I'm a native New Yorker from Brooklyn, who, unlike most Brooklynites, lives on a bay in a quiet little neighborhood, a short drive away from the hustle and bustle. For the past twelve years, I have attended Yeshivah of Flatbush, a Modern Orthodox school. Although I wasn't born in Israel, I have citizenship and am fluent in Hebrew. I love playing tennis in my free time and always look forward to attending the US Open each summer (and staying up all night to watch the Australian Open too...). On Sundays, my family and I often spend time at NYC jazz clubs, soaking in the energy while munching on tasty bites. Speaking of food, I love cooking—mainly making traditional Syrian and Lebanese dishes with my mom, aka the best food in the world! Academically, I'm primarily interested in Middle Eastern and Western European history, as well as learning Gemara (Commentaries on Jewish Law). I'm also passionate about Model UN and have had the chance to visit the UN headquarters in Manhattan. Alongside these interests, editing for my school's newspaper over the past three years has greatly fueled my

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love for writing and learning about the world around me. I also deeply appreciate reading historical, philosophical, and scientific non-fiction. When I have time on my hands, you'll probably find me watching The Great British Bake Off (or baking with my GBBO cookbook) or eating cookies while rewatching Dead Poets Society, Airplane, and Napoleon Dynamite—all of which I firmly believe are cinematic masterpieces. I'm so excited to be spending the summer with you all! See you soon!



**Boaz Webber**

Natick, MA  
*Maimonides*

### **Fast Facts**

- I compete in Track & Field, my events are High Jump and Triple Jump.
- I love doing things 'for the lore', whether it's shaving my head and training for a marathon with some friends (with three weeks' notice), or spontaneously staying up all night learning Torah with some of my boys.
- I have become fascinated with the craft of building a community with intentionality, and have used my position as a Teen Leader of my local HaZamir (Jewish Teen Choir) chapter as an outlet to do so.

Hi! My name is Boaz Webber. I live in Natick, Massachusetts. I can't wait to meet you all. I attended a pluralistic Jewish day school until 8th grade, and transferred this year from my local public high school to a Modern Orthodox school, Maimonides. I have been deepening my connection to Jewish practice and Halakha (Jewish Law) over the past year-and-change. I now live my day to day navigating traditional Orthodox beliefs, modern sensibilities, and my own moral intuitions. This often leaves me in challenging, stimulating, and sometimes

uncomfortable situations—like being on an advisory/planning committee for institutions that I ideologically disagree with. I have become increasingly fascinated with the notion of cultural translation—a language that I have become immersed in. Perhaps the most challenging conflict I wrestle with is over whether to employ my somewhat-Israeli accent in Hebrew (cultivated during my time living in the Holy Land, and speaking Hebrew with my Israeli mom at home) or my traditional Ashkenazi drawl with its lilting 'oy's and luxuriously nasal 's' instead of 't'. I never know whether to exclaim with the hearty and invigorating command of 'Shabbat shalom!' or the heimish and spiritual entreaty of 'Good shabbos'. My favorite pastimes are playing sports, learning, climbing trees, quixotizing, reading, writing, and philosophy among other things. I should also mention that I have the best parents ever (no diss to your parents), two younger siblings, and an incessantly-misbehaving-but-super-cute dog. I consider myself an amateur poetry lover, amateur chess player, amateur explorer, amateur polymath, amateur parkourist, amateur food critic, and professional amateur.