Rabbi Mark Wildes
FOUNDER/LEADER

Rabbi Pinny Rosenthal
SENIOR DIRECTOR

LAMM FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

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MJE Lamm Fellowships, now in its 11th Year with 139 graduates to date, is a select cadre of MJE participants with little or no prior Jewish education who have expressed a desire to move their Jewish learning to the next level. The program seeks to educate and helps to produce knowledgeable and passionate leaders for the future. This year’s class includes 20 men & women who meet each week for serious Jewish study and other important Jewish experiences. In 2016, the fellowship was dedicated in honor of Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm for his years of extraordinary scholarship and leadership on behalf of the Jewish people.

**MJE Lamm Fellowship Bios**

**2017-2018 Year 1 Participants**

**Katie Altman**
Katie is a guidance counselor at a public school in Manhattan, who loves to spend her free time with her nieces and nephews, traveling to Israel, and walking aimlessly around NYC. She has been an active member of the MJE community for 4 years and is looking forward to all of the learning opportunities this fellowship will provide.

**Maor Baror**
Maor was born and raised in Los Angeles, CA. She graduated from Brown University with a degree in Economics and International Relations. She currently works as a recruiter at a large staffing firm. Having never received a formal Jewish education, Maor is excited to be an MJE Fellow to learn about Judaism and explore her roots.

**Scott Brenner**
Scott first came to MJE for a Monday night class, and the rest is history. Originally from Long Island, New York, he currently lives in Long Island City, Queens. Scott studied design and environmental analysis at Cornell University and is a commercial litigation attorney in Manhattan. In his free time, Scott enjoys traveling, chess, yoga, jogging, occasional frisbee toss and rooting for the Miami Dolphins, Yankees, and his fantasy football team.

**Marianna Lammina**
Marianna grew up in New York. She is currently a PhD student at Columbia University, studying cognitive science with a concentration in intelligent technologies. Marianna also conducts research on curiosity and learning at Columbia’s Institute for Learning Technologies. She is currently learning Hebrew in and looking forward to expanding her Jewish education through MJE’s fellowship program.

**Daniel Lasman**
Dan is a first generation American, born in Berkeley, CA. His parents and grandparents were born in Lodz, Poland and now live on the west coast. He moved to NYC in 2007 after completing his BA in Literature and History at UC Santa Cruz. He earned his MS in Real Estate Development at NYU. Dan enjoys reading, non-fiction, writing poetry, painting, cooking and is a trailblazing outdoorsman. He shares his love of Judaism and outdoor hobbies with his wife, Lea.

**Casey Levine**
Casey found herself at an MJE last winter for a dinner, and now resides in this community. She received her BA in Mathematics and Economics from Columbia University. She began her career as a currency trader at Morgan Stanley before moving to San Francisco. She returned to Brooklyn in 2016, after spending a year exploring parts of Asia, working for a startup in Bhutan and studying Ashtanga Yoga in India. When not practicing yoga, you’ll probably find her dancing!

**Adrian Gucovschii**
Adrian was born in Coldenham (South America) before moving to Florida at the age of nine. Adrian moved to New York at the teens to complete his undergraduate studies at Yeshiva University. He later obtained a Juris Doctor from Fordham Law School and now practices law as a commercial litigator. Through the MJE Fellowship, Adrian hopes to be able to gain a better understanding of his Jewish roots and become a positive role-model to his community.

**Lauren Harris**
Lauren grew up in Orlando, Florida. She has been living in NYC for the past two years, working as a Graphic Designer. In 2014, she received her Bachelor’s of Fine Arts degree at the University of North Carolina. She was introduced to MJE in January of 2017 and has since been an active member. Lauren spends her spare time playing tennis and bass guitar, and enjoys exploring different projects from a variety of mediums.

**Stephanie Hausner**
Stephanie is from New City, New York, where she is finishing up her 8th year as a Clarkstown Councilwoman. She graduated from The Johns Hopkins University with a degree in International Relations. Stephanie works for the Israel Action Network at the Jewish Federations of North America, where she spends her time combating BDS and the delegitimization of Israel. Stephani enjoys the NY Rangers, racking up frequent flier miles, and reading books on the subway.

**Matthew Brown**
Matthew grew up in North Woodmere New York and now lives in Manhattan. He received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Michigan and his J.D. from Hofstra University School of Law. He works as a Labor & Employment Attorney since 2011. Matthew was introduced to MJE several years ago at their annual Simchat Torah festivities and has become a more active member ever since.

**Matt Davis**
Matt is a fourth generation Texan who just recently moved to New York City to challenge himself personally, spiritually, and professionally. Professionally his is in commercial real estate investments. When he is not working, some of the things he enjoys are traveling to new places, going on Shabbatons, meeting new people, working out, and beautifying the world.

**David Goldstein**
David is a native New Yorker currently working on his masters degree at Touro college. He’s strongly rooted in family values. He is a devoted father of one and an avid hiker, camper and chess player. David is enrolled to be a member of the 17/18 fellowship program and very grateful to receive the high quality education MJE has offered.

**Nicole Liebman**
Nicole is an exuberant and passionate individual. She loves being outside and reconnecting with nature, being an avid yoga coach, and exploring holistic healing methods. Nicole has lived abroad multiple times and works in commercial real estate. Ms. Liebman is a CoStar Powerbroker, member of the Real Estate Board of New York, MedFlight, and Young Adult Forum for WPO World Presidents’ Organization.
Abigail Pleeter
Abigail is from Princeton, NJ and is thrilled to be continuing her Jewish education with the MJE Fellowship. She currently works as a therapist for SilverCare agency. Abigail earned her Bachelor’s degree from Union College in 2010 and Masters in Social Work from the University of Pennsylvania in 2012. Abigail is currently working on becoming an LCSW in both NJ and NY.

Johnathan Rosen
Johnathan is originally from Cape Town South Africa, but has spent most of his life living in Melbourne Australia. In early 2016, Cynet Inc. relocated Johnathan from Australia to the Upper West side, assigning him to launch a local NY presence and operations center. He was introduced to Steve Eisenberg by his wife Judy, and was inspired by a Monday night class to become active members of the MJE community.

David Schranz
David grew-up in Queens, NY. He attended SUNY Albany, with a concentration in marketing. He currently works as an Account Manager at a marketing research firm. In his spare time, he likes to play golf and basketball.

Scott Shapiro
Scott is originally from Pennsylvania and attended Rider University where he majored in Finance. He joined MJE for a Monday Night Class and after hearing Rabbi Wildes talk about the Torah he realized this is a perfect fit. Since then Scott has become an active member in the MJE community and proud member of the MJE Fellowship class. In his free time Scott enjoys bike riding, snowboarding, and hiking.

Leanne Sinsky
Leanne grew up in Marlboro, New Jersey and now lives in Harlem. She recently graduated from Rutgers University with her B.F.A. in stage management and is now working as a stage manager at various theaters throughout New York City. Leanne is also a yoga instructor and enjoys teaching and practicing yoga in her free time. Leanne also loves running, cooking, and spending time with friends and family.

John Vega
John was born and raised in NYC, specifically in the Bronx. His interest in Judaism began after the death of his father, completing his conversion process this year. He looks forward to deepening his understanding of Torah, continuing to develop his Jewish identity and learning as much as possible. He is an Emergency Room physician. His hobbies include: reading, writing, poetry, sports, and going to the movies.

Amanda Dryer
Amanda Dryer is a seventh grade Humanities teacher and learning specialist at Ben Porat Yosef Yeshiva Day School. A graduate of Brandeis University, she subsequently served as a Teach for America corps member and earned her masters from Fordham University. Outside of the classroom, Amanda is a basketball and slam poetry coach, a passionate genealogist, and she leads Bikur Holim at MJE!

Gail Goldspiegel
Gail, originally from Queens, is excited to be continuing her Jewish education. She currently teaches preschool at The Mendel School, and has worked as a museum educator at the Intrepid, MoMA and NYPL. She earned her MSED in Museum Education from the Bank Street College of Education, where she created her own picture book, “Beatrice the Butterfly Visits The New York Public Library.”

Ariel Zucker
Ariel did not grow up with an extensive Jewish education background, but a Birthright trip changed her life and ignited a flame! She has been learning ever since. Ariel has become an active participant at the MJE’s Wednesday night Learning program. Ariel studied neuroscience at Muhlenberg college and is currently work in a research associate at the NYU Child Study Center doing Autism research.

Danny Hackman
Danny, originally from Minneapolis, lived in Silicon Valley prior to moving to NYC for the past five years. Danny is currently working at Wells Fargo Advisors as a Certified Financial Planner Professional. Danny was first inspired by a speech Rabbi Wildes gave during a Monday night class and grew to become an active member of the MJE community. Danny enjoys hanging out in Central Park, Jewish learning, and the treasure trove of entertainment NYC has to offer.

Anna Hertz
Anna has held various positions in the retail merchandising industry, and is currently Director of Merchandise Planning/Beauty at Macy’s. Outside of work, Anna loves traveling and experiencing new places, Jewish learning, and spending quality time with loved ones and friends. A native New Yorker, Anna enjoys being part of the vibrant UWS and MJE community.

David Grant
David served as CEO of Success for Kids (SKP) in this role. He oversaw the planning, implementation, curriculum development, partnerships & strategic program alliances and evaluation of the organization’s international programs and services. Currently, David leads a research effort for the State Department to assess youth violence issues in the Caribbean and make recommendations for systems wide change.

Samantha Grossman
Samantha is a marketing professional from NYC who loves exploring the world, learning new philosophies, and swapping stories about Jewish journeys. An avid runner, baking enthusiast, and bikram yoga devotee. Samantha is most passionate about personal growth and the relationship forged with others along the way.

The MJE Senior Fellowship Leadership Program consists of a select cadre of committed MJE participants who have a deep desire to move their Jewish learning to the next level. This program combines weekly learning, mitzvah workshops, Chessed projects, Shabbatonim and a special track within the Spring Retreat to produce the next leaders of MJE.

The MJE Scholar Circle is composed of Senior Fellows who desire to have additional enrichment. They study challenging readings in the Tanach with various commentators with their chavrutot and learning groups. After three weeks of independent study, The MJE Scholar Circle comes together to discuss their thoughts and ideas concerning the topic in a “book of the month” format with an MJE educator.

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP BIOS
2017-2018 YEAR 2 PARTICIPANTS
Jonathan Senker
Jonathan, originally from Philadelphia, found the MJE Fellowship immensely fulfilling, and was eager to continue building on his strong Jewish identity to become a more educated Jew, able to contribute as a leader in the MJE community and in the greater Jewish community. Jonathan is also involved in Israel advocacy. Jonathan earned his BA from Brandeis and his law degree from Brooklyn Law School, and works as a real estate attorney.

Shaina Slonim
Shaina was born and raised in Great Neck, moved to NYC for grad school, and returned for the grass, trees, and stars. She works for a candy distribution company while pursuing her passions of cooking, writing, and CrossFit. An active member of her book club, Shaina also plays the piano and is a devoted mother to her rescue dog. She looks forward to continuing her Jewish studies as a Senior Fellow.

Jenna Winstars-Herzog
Jenna is a native New Yorker. She recently graduated from Baruch College, and currently works as an administrative assistant for Primeview-Advanced Display Solutions. Her hobbies include reading, writing, cooking, knitting and enjoying nature. She is passionate about music, theatre and making a difference in people’s lives.

Michael Penn
Michael is a proud Jewish Young Professional, living and working in Midtown New York City. Born and raised in Sunny South Florida, and migrated to New York after finishing his undergraduate degree at U of Arizona to pursue his graduate degree at NYU. He is an athlete, a lover of all things travel, and a former US Federation Chess Champion.

Glen Rosenberg
Glen Rosenberg was raised in Trumbull, CT and currently resides on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. He works as a Pharmaceutical Sales Representative. In his free time, Glen enjoys exploring new restaurants, watching political debates, and working out at the gym. Glen is a storytelling coach and helps people process life events so that they can tell their story articulately and with confidence.

Jayde Tillis
Jayde was born in NYC and raised in Marlboro, NJ. received her BS from Florida Atlantic University with a double major in Finance and Marketing. After graduating she moved back to New York to pursue a career in Finance. Since moving back, she has focused on plant- ing Jewish roots and building a stronger religious identity, which MJE has played a vital part in.
FELLOWSHIP SUPPORTERS

Basya & Jonah Lobel
Laurie & Lewis Barbanel
Lisa & Paul Glazer
Dr & Mrs. Henry Kressel
Nancy Waldbaum
Doris & Marc Blumkin
Leigh & Danny Waxman
Randi & David Sultan
Elisa & Alan Pines
Tehilla & Guy Tsadik
Debbie & Bill Rand
Pearl Ginsburg
Racheli & Shimon Laufer
Shira & Jeff Eisenberg

CLASS INCLUDES

The Next Level with Rabbi Mark Wildes
Fundamentals of Jewish Law, practice and philosophy

Facets of the Torah with Rabbi Pinny Rosenthal
Understanding Chumash via study of the Parsha

Essentials in Faith and Belief with Rabbi Jonathan Feldman

Seminars on Jewish Experience
with speakers on various topics ranging from Women in Judaism, Jewish History, to Chassidic
& Mystical Thought

PROGRAM INCLUDES

Israel Trip
Heavily Subsidized Tanach/Bible learning trip to Israel

“The Claire and Jack Margolius & Marilyn Margolius Craft MJE Fellowship Israel Trip is sponsored by
Leigh and Daniel Waxman.

Fellows Social Events
Periodic gatherings to help connect socially (bowling...)

Field trips
YU Seforim Sale, Kashrut run to Whole Foods, Matza Baking factory...

Shabbatons
In suburban communities to expose Fellows to the broader Jewish community

MJE Spring Retreat
3-Day Shabbat Getaway in the Berkshires with seminars, sports and kumzits

Mentorship
Each Fellow is assigned a mentor from the MJE staff to get the most from the program