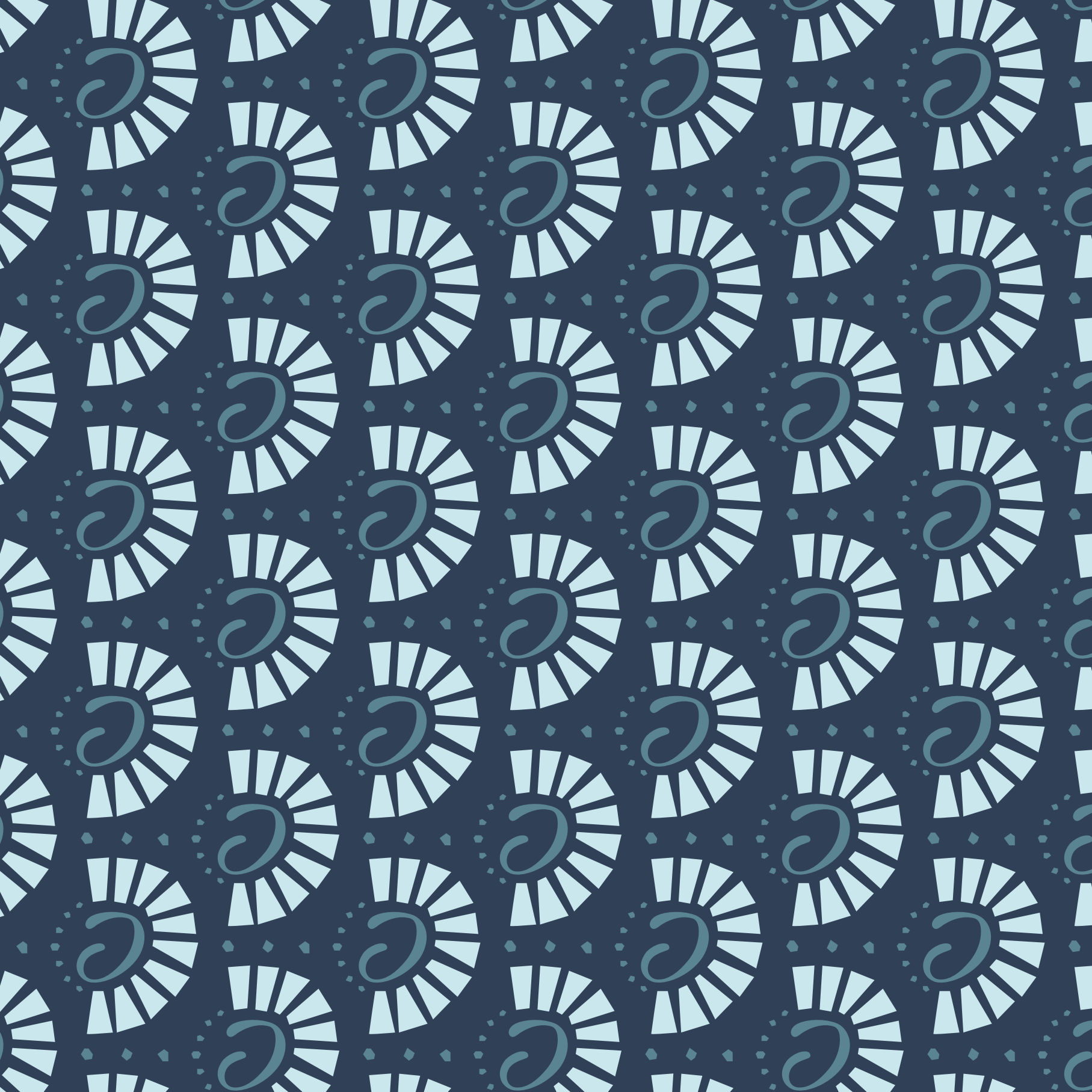


# Participants Catalogue

Paideia Project-Incubator 2025





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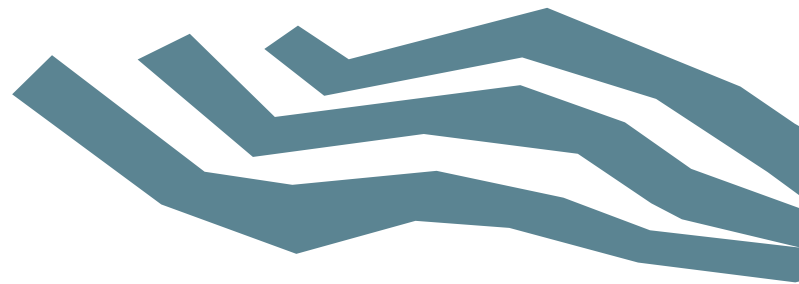
# Greetings

We are thrilled to introduce the participants and projects of the 18th annual Paideia Project-Incubator, Europe's leading program for supporting grass-roots Jewish life and culture initiatives across the continent. Since the inception of the program in 2006, it has tutored close to 350 projects, more than any other program in Europe, reaching over 300 000 people.

The Paideia Project-Incubator is designed for activists and innovators working in educational, cultural, heritage, communal, intercultural, and institutional fields. Over a dynamic ten-day period, it provides a comprehensive process that guides participants from initial concept to full realization of the project idea. The program offers advanced lectures, workshops, skills sessions and individual tutoring provided by our extraordinary international staff of mentors and guests, providing the impetus to move projects towards the next level and to work towards the revival of Jewish culture in Europe.

Once the program is over, participants take advantage of the larger paideia alumni community of over 1000 graduates from all over Europe and beyond who have gone through various Paideia's programs.

The Project-Incubator is a joint program organized in cooperation between Paideia, The European Institute for Jewish Studies in Sweden and its sister organization Paideia Folkhögskola.



**Barbara Lerner Spectre,**  
Founding Director of Paideia

**Noa Hermele,**  
Director of Paideia and  
Paideia Folkhögskola

**Lukasz Gorniok,**  
Program Director

**Agnieszka Baraszko,**  
Project Manager

**Sarah Frey,**  
Program Coordinator

# Paideia

Paideia – The European Institute for Jewish Studies in Sweden (Paideia) is an academic and applied institute of excellence founded in 2000 through foundational grants from the Swedish Government and the Marianne and Marcus Wallenberg Foundation. The mandate of Paideia is to nurture the renewal of European Jewish culture, to support cross-cultural dialogue and to promote a positive paradigm of minority culture within European societies. Paideia does this through highly intensive educational leadership programs, focusing on in-depth knowledge of Jewish sources and on social entrepreneurship.

Paideia is a non-confessional institution of literacy, innovation and know-how that produces individual leaders and a collective movement of activism. The matrix at Paideia merges academic life with professional and community work, and Jewish culture with the wider European society. Paideia is also the central hub for nurturing social innovation in Jewish Europe and has fostered more new initiatives than any other institution.

During its relatively short period of existence, Paideia has developed into a premier European learning center for Jewish studies and has been able to produce a strong group of leaders for a new paradigm of European Jewish community, culture, and knowledge. Paideia has since its inception been instrumental in putting Stockholm and Sweden on the map as a hub in European academic Jewish life.

Cornerstones in all of Paideia's undertakings are that European minority culture should build upon inclusiveness, critical

thinking, openness and the support of a democratic civil society. It is a unique European institution, which under one roof combines academic teaching with programmatic support to grass roots initiatives and civil society, and the only such institution with a pan-European mission.

24 years after its inception, Paideia has over 1000 program graduates from various programs. The graduates are national and local leaders in education, religion, museums, academia, and community life. Individually and collectively, they are creating a new paradigm of knowledge and activism within Jewish life in Europe, the life that they themselves would like to see.

## Paideia Folkhögskola

Paideia Folkhögskola is Paideia's sister organization for free adult education. Paideia Folkhögskola is the first cultural collage with a Jewish profile. The Jewish profile of Paideia Folkhögskola is to a large extent reflected in the specialized courses, which are given in fields such as Jewish Studies, Jewish life, history, culture and languages. The courses make Jewish studies and culture available both for the Swedish Jewish minority and for the general public and have proven to contribute greatly to educational possibilities for Jewish topics in Sweden. These courses have since then grown and today Paideia Folkhögskola gives over 50 different courses, with over 1000 enrolled participants.




# Paideia Programs

The **One-Year Jewish Studies Program** is Paideia's core activity dedicated to the study and interdisciplinary interpretation of the textual sources that have served as the wellsprings of Jewish civilization. The curriculum of the One-Year Jewish Studies Program runs chronologically from Torah and Midrash, through Medieval Jewish Philosophy and Responsa Literature to Modern Jewish Philosophy and Literature, with courses taught by prominent scholars, including leading professors from major Israeli, American and European universities.

Since its inception in 2001, the program has graduated close to 600 students from over 40 countries, many of whom have gone on to further their studies and obtained a Ph.D. at different universities, while others have used their skills and knowledge in societal and cultural endeavors in Europe and its Jewish communities and institutions.



The background image is a photograph of a group of people sitting around a table in a library or study area. The image is split into two vertical panels. The left panel has a blue tint and shows two women in the foreground, smiling and looking at each other. The right panel is in grayscale and shows a man and a woman in the foreground, looking towards the right. Bookshelves filled with books are visible in the background of both panels.

The **Paradigm Program** is Paideia's program for discussing big ideas and how creating a new paradigm of how to approach Judaism and Jewish identity. During a week in spring, the institute invites 3-4 major contemporary thinkers to discuss three major questions together with 20 young professionals from the US, Europe and Israel. As an offshoot of the program, in 2016 Paideia created facilitation training of the concept – Paradigm Ideas. The training resulted, so far, in close to 60 various sessions in Europe, reaching over 1000 people.

**Paideia Alumni Activities**, including the yearly alumni conference, gathering over 100 of Paideia's graduates from different programs, a micro grant scheme, Paideia Mifgash – a series of one-day learning sessions dedicated to strengthening the presence of Jewish thought and culture at the local and pan-European levels.

# Participants







## Anda Reuben, Romania

Anda was born and raised in Bucharest, Romania. Her Jewish “awakening” came in her early twenties, inspired by the Jewish youth programs that were beginning to emerge in post-Communist Romania. It was love at first sight, and her connection only deepened with every learning activity and community Shabbat dinner. What began as volunteer work soon turned into a professional path. After earning her Master’s degree in Jewish Informal Education from the Jewish Theological Seminary of New York, Anda worked as an educator for the Jewish Community of Romania. She later made aliyah, but after a few years, she returned to Romania to put her knowledge and passion to even greater use. In 2019, she launched her own small business: an online modern Hebrew course for Romanian speakers of all ethnic backgrounds, the only program of its kind in the country. The course serves as a powerful platform for spreading awareness about Judaism, Jewish history, culture, and, of course, the Hebrew language.

## The Jewish HUB

The Jewish HUB is a community-driven initiative founded by professionals in Romania from diverse backgrounds - both Jewish and non-Jewish - united by a deep appreciation for Jewish culture and tradition. Our mission is to infuse modern, 21<sup>st</sup> century life in Romania with a vibrant, relevant Jewish perspective.

We design and deliver creative Jewish programs and products that help Romanian Jews of all ages reconnect with their heritage and explore their identity on their own terms. As many feel disconnected or under-represented by traditional Jewish institutions we offer an alternative - inclusive, engaging and forward-thinking.

As individuals who have also experienced this sense of isolation, we understand the need for a Jewish space that feels open, welcoming and empowering. The Jewish HUB is a growing community where people can learn, connect and thrive - personally, professionally and spiritually.



## Andrea Gottfried, Italy

Andrea Gottfried, based in Milan, Italy, is a pianist, orchestral conductor, and cultural entrepreneur dedicated to promoting Jewish culture, music, and heritage. He holds a Piano Diploma from the N. Paganini State Conservatory in Genoa, a Bachelor of Music from Tel Aviv University, and an Executive MBA from Bocconi Business School in Milan. Andrea is the founder and artistic director of the Nessiah Festival, an annual celebration of Jewish culture and heritage held in Tuscany since 1997. Beyond his artistic endeavors, he leads Officina dei Transiti, a cultural start-up that organizes festivals and events aimed at enriching local communities and showcasing historical sites. He collaborates actively with public institutions and forges strategic partnerships to support projects of both national and international significance. He is also the author of *Music of Israel: A Life Experience* (Proedi, 2006). Recently elected President of the Jewish Community of Pisa, Andrea is committed to revitalizing Jewish life in the city through a wide range of cultural and social initiatives.

## Lion's Gate – Jewish Heritage Center in Pisa

Just steps away from Pisa's iconic Piazza dei Miracoli lies the Jewish Cemetery, in use since 1674 and one of the oldest active Jewish cemeteries in the world. Yet this invaluable site remains largely invisible to the public due to limited physical access, missing on-site information, and a lack of connection to the city's main cultural routes. The challenge is not only one of visibility, but of cultural inclusion.

Our project will transform the former caretaker's house into a Welcome Center, with a ticket office, museum, and bookshop. By reopening the Porta del Leone, we will create a direct passage from the Piazza, linking two historic worlds. Visitors will experience guided and self-led tours with multilingual content, original artifacts, and immersive tools such as augmented reality that animate personal stories from the past.

Led by the Jewish Community of Pisa—with centuries of local presence and strong institutional partnerships—we aim to embed this site into Pisa's cultural identity, ensuring its future relevance and accessibility for generations to come.



## Anna Łagodzińska-Pietras, Poland

Anna was born and has lived her entire life in Poddębice, a small town in Central Poland. A historian by training, she graduated in Jewish Studies from Jagiellonian University in Kraków, with her research focusing on the Jewish community in Łódź before World War II. She is currently preparing her PhD thesis on the pre-1939 Yiddish press in Łódź. With over 15 years of museum experience, Anna has worked as a historian, researcher, curator, educator, and guide. She currently serves as acting branch manager at the Józef Piłsudski Museum in Sulejów (Łódź branch) and as a historian and curator at the Museum of the City of Łódź. Beyond her institutional roles, Anna is actively engaged in initiatives to preserve Jewish heritage and promote education on Jewish history, tradition, and culture, particularly in Poddębice and Łódź. She has authored and co-authored numerous academic and popular articles, and has co-curated several major exhibitions, including the interiors of the Poznański Palace and a multimedia historical exhibition about Łódź at the Museum of the City of Łódź. She is also a coordinator of interdisciplinary educational projects that bridge history and contemporary learning.

## In loving/living memory

We know much about the Shoah. Yet we must go further — building a society that learns from history, becomes reconciled with the past, is open to the present, and responsible for the future.

Mirka Knaster, an artist involved in the project, experienced deep loneliness as a second-generation survivor. Anna Łagodzińska-Pietras is an academic and curator specializing in Jewish history and culture.

Our project, planned for the August 2026 Anniversary of the Liquidation of the Litzmannstadt Ghetto in Lodz, will be developed through inter-institutional cooperation. We aim to explore the ecological interconnectedness of nature, culture, and history through an art installation supported by educational and cultural programming. Trees will play a central role — silent witnesses to the Holocaust in Kulmhof and living monuments of remembrance in the Survivors' Park in Łódź.

Even the most terrible experiences can give rise to new life, and it is time to form a new perspective with a positive message.



## Anna Jaramillo, Italy

Anna Jaramillo is an aspiring academic who recently graduated with an MA in Modern Humanities from the University of Milan. For her dissertation, she presented an edition of a previously unpublished translation of *Keter Malkut* by Samuele Romanelli. During the 2021-22 academic year, Anna had the opportunity to participate in an Erasmus exchange in Paris, where she studied in the Department of Jewish and Hebrew Studies at the Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales (INALCO). Anna plans to enroll in a PhD program to further explore new research avenues. Her academic interests focus on the literature of Italian Jewish communities in the modern era and the linguistic identity of Jewish-Italian culture.

## Migvan: A Journey Through Jewish Multilingualism

Europe has always been a multilingual entity, and Jewish Europe even more so! For centuries, Jewish communities have spoken and written in about 30 different languages that blend Hebrew with local tongues. These languages reflect layered identities and diasporic histories. However, many of them are now endangered, and younger generations have limited exposure to them.

“Migvan: A Journey Through Jewish Multilingualism” is an interactive educational initiative designed to explore and celebrate the rich linguistic heritage of Jewish communities. The project is composed of a downloadable leaflet which combines brief historical and cultural insights with activities that invite personal reflection, storytelling and dialogue. Through games, discussions prompts, and accompanying digital content, the project aims to create meaningful encounters with Jewish multilingualism, whether in classrooms, community centers, family settings or informal study groups. Migvan is meant to be a way to make this diverse panorama relevant for Jewish youth, Jewish educators or simply curious learners.



## Charly Jazbor, Netherlands

Charly is originally from Cologne, Germany. After completing a BA in Fine Arts in the Netherlands, he spent time in Israel working with vulnerable communities through NGOs and municipal services as part of the Yahel Social Change Fellowship. During his time in Israel, Charly focused on issues such as food waste reduction, community building, and employment equality. He also organized community activities and developed educational materials through the Pardes Experiential Educators program. A recent alumni of Paideia (One-Year Jewish Studies Program 2024-2025), Charly is passionate about making a positive impact on European Jewish communities and continues to seek opportunities to contribute to their growth and development.

## TA'IM

Across Europe, Jewish identity is often framed through Ashkenazi lenses, leaving many young Jews unaware of the richness of Sephardi and Mizrahi traditions. This lack of representation isn't just a gap in knowledge — it's a missed opportunity for connection, pride, and communal growth.

TA'IM responds to this need through immersive, multisensory learning. Each session blends hands-on cooking with music, short films, and thoughtful discussion. Participants discover the stories behind iconic Jewish dishes — *from matbucha to kubaneh* — and the vibrant cultures that shaped them.

The project was developed within the Paideia Project-Incubator and is rooted in lived experiences and deep engagement with Jewish diversity — particularly the traditions of North African and Middle Eastern communities. TA'IM draws on these cultural foundations to foster dialogue and inclusion.

TA'IM creates a warm, inclusive space where people leave feeling enriched — intellectually, emotionally, and, of course, culinarily.





## Daria Halchenko, Ukraine

Daria Halchenko is the Fundraising Manager at the Hesed Hana Charitable Foundation in Kryvyi Rih, Ukraine. She has been actively involved in the Jewish community for over six years, gaining extensive experience in social projects, education, and community development. Her professional expertise lies in project management, grant writing, and creating initiatives that support vulnerable groups, including displaced families, elderly individuals, and children. Daria focuses particularly on psychological support, education, and fostering community engagement. She has successfully implemented a range of impactful projects, including social adaptation programs for internally displaced persons, mental health support initiatives, and cultural heritage preservation efforts. Daria is deeply committed to making a positive difference and is passionate about strengthening communities through innovative and sustainable initiatives.

## The Jewish Storytelling Hub

The Jewish Storytelling Hub was born from an intergenerational meeting at Kryvyi Rih's Jewish Community Center, where elderly Holocaust survivors and young community members discovered a powerful bond: the experience of growing up during war. This rare overlap of generations shaped by conflict inspired a project to preserve memory and strengthen community ties through storytelling.

We train 15 Jewish youth (ages 18–25) in interviewing and videography, equipping them to document the stories of Holocaust survivors and Jewish children under 12 currently living through war in Ukraine. A professional psychologist ensures that all interviews are conducted safely, with age-appropriate methods and parental consent for children.

The resulting video portraits — 10 from each generation — will be compiled into a digital archive, accessible online and shared through screenings, discussions, and Jewish heritage workshops for local and global audiences.

Led by the Kryvyi Rih Jewish Community Center, the project creates lasting connections between generations while preserving cultural identity and resilience. It offers a meaningful way to confront shared trauma and deepen community solidarity through memory and dialogue.



## Inesa Nosenko, Ukraine

Inesa Nosenko has been the Executive Director of JCC Mazal Tov since 1999 and, as of 2024, the Executive Director of Hesed Michel. She remains actively engaged in every program and project developed and implemented by the JCC. Inesa created a rural tourist destination, *Ethnic Village*, which has since been transformed into a shelter. She holds a Master's Degree in Arts and a Bachelor's degree in History from Zaporizhzhya State Pedagogical University. Inesa is deeply involved in the life and development of the city, the region, and the Jewish community of Zaporizhzhia, as well as in JCC Global Connection. Before the war, the focus was on volunteer initiatives. Since the outbreak of the war, she has been heavily involved in efforts to provide assistance to those affected by the conflict and who turn to the community for support. Inesa is passionate about creating new opportunities, developing project laboratories for children, teenagers, youth, and people with disabilities, and fostering community development. Her current priorities include rebuilding destroyed housing, providing psychological support, offering patronage for the elderly, and seeking new partners for collaboration.

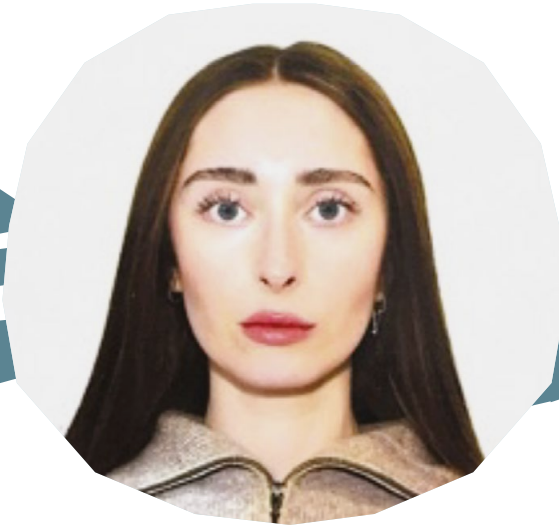
## The Project Laboratory

In Ukraine's shifting wartime landscape, community strength doesn't just survive — it adapts. At the Max Grant House in Zaporizhzhia and the Ethnic Village shelter, JCC Mazal Tov's Project Laboratory trains everyday leaders to respond with creativity, care, and initiative.

Building on years of grassroots work, the next phase will strengthen the skills of active community members — from volunteers to teenagers — in leadership and project management. These tools help them launch local initiatives that transform resilience into action and bring people together during crisis.

The need is urgent: war, displacement, and social disruption continue to fracture lives and communities. By investing in people now, we grow a responsive, durable community capable of adapting, sustaining recovery, and shaping its future.

To move forward, we seek to develop a clear strategy and working model, strengthen financial stability, and expand our network of partners.



## Lada Nezhynova, Germany

Lada was born and raised in Ukraine, where she graduated from a French lycée. From an early age, she developed a deep passion for the arts, receiving education in music, theater, and visual arts. She has extensive stage experience as an actress and singer, performing both solo and as a member of the New Voice pop choir under the direction of Mikael Kiladze. Beyond theater and music, Lada has also worked in film, modeling, photography, and videography. After relocating to Germany in 2022, Lada worked in television in Neumünster as a camerawoman, video editor, and social media manager. Currently, she serves as the Social Media and PR Manager at UPJ Netzer, where she is also a content creator and Madricha. Lada completed a one-year Madrichim Educational Program supported by ZWST and represented UPJ Netzer at the European Zionist Youth Movement Conference in Greece, supported by the WZO.

## Rimonim

Rimonim is a one-of-a-kind European experience for Jewish young adults aged 18–25, brought by UPJ Netzer, the progressive Jewish youth movement from Germany. Together, we explore cities full of Jewish history, connect with local communities, visit synagogues, and talk with inspiring local rabbis and community leaders. We celebrate Shabbat in an innovative way and share the joy with like-minded Jews.

We've successfully implemented the project in 2024–2025, gathering more than 30 young adults from Germany, the Netherlands and Austria, who are shaping their Jewish identity in a modern way. Rimonim is more than a trip — it's a chance to find your people all over Europe and rediscover what being Jewish means in the eyes of Gen Z.

Jewish life can feel far away, but Rimonim brings it home — to you, your story, and your future.



## Larysa Michalska, Poland

Larysa Michalska is an educator and the manager of historical and human rights education projects at the Humanity in Action Poland Foundation. She is also the co-founder and President of the Board of the Max Kopfstein Association. Larysa holds degrees in Religious Studies, Jewish Studies, and Social Change Management from Jagiellonian University. She has completed numerous training and courses in history education, Holocaust education, multicultural education, as well as NGO development and management. Larysa is a graduate of the Academy of Anti-discrimination Education and is a certified trainer for NOA (Network Overcoming Antisemitism). Larysa has collaborated with several Polish and international NGOs and institutions, both Jewish and non-Jewish, that work in the fields of culture, education, and Jewish heritage. Her work focuses on issues of identity, Jewish history and culture, cultural heritage, and the complexities of history and difficult memory.

## The Place of Memory – Memory of the Place

The project revives the almost forgotten Jewish traditions and stories woven into Chorzów's past, a city in the Upper Silesia region in Poland. The Jewish community was once an important element in the city's landscape, but is now fading from public memory.

As the founder of the Max Kopfstein Association, I feel a deep responsibility to preserve and share this legacy. Experienced in local heritage projects we seek to restore the memory of the city's Jewish community and mark the 150th anniversary of the non-existent synagogue.

This project is more than a programme – it is a tribute. The Max Kopfstein Association aims to build a bridge between past and present, highlighting the crucial role Jews played in the local industry, economy, and culture until World War II. Through workshops, city walks, mapping, a 3D digital model of the destroyed synagogue, and a Jewish choir performance we want to engage the local community - Jews and non-Jews, and their descendants worldwide.

We inspire pride, curiosity about local heritage and empathy to counter growing antisemitism and will help to shape a more open, inclusive society that remembers and celebrates its full history.



## Luciano Waldman, Portugal

Luciano Waldman is an archaeologist with a degree in History and Archaeology from Bar-Ilan University, with experience in excavations, curation, and heritage education. He is currently completing his master's degree in Archaeology at the University of Lisbon, focusing on Jewish material technology in Portugal. Born in Brazil, raised in Israel, and now living in Portugal, Luciano is a descendant of Portuguese ancestry. Since 2018, he has been the founder and director of the Centro Cultural Judaico Rua da Judiaria in Lisbon and serves as the representative of the Jewish Community Center in Lisbon. He is dedicated to researching and promoting Jewish history in the city, particularly focusing on the Alfama Jewish Quarter, Lisbon's last surviving medieval Jewish site. Luciano's work fosters the preservation of both material and intangible Jewish heritage through exhibitions, publications, and events that connect the past with the present. He adopts an interdisciplinary approach to strengthen both Jewish heritage and the Jewish community.

## JewWhere

In Europe, the stories of Jewish heritage are often hidden in plain sight — a former bakery, a school, or the site of a historic massacre are now just ordinary places. Jew Where was created to bring these forgotten narratives back into public consciousness and reconnect a new generation with their cultural roots.

Our unique hybrid model, beginning in Andalusia, combines physical discovery with deep digital storytelling. We install memorial markers at historic sites, each linked by a QR code to an interactive platform with stories and photos, designed for students, travelers, and local communities.

Led by a team with over 10 years of experience, this is a living, evolving journey, not a static map. Jew Where impact is to transform how people engage with history, creating a lasting digital archive and fostering a deeper appreciation for this vital part of Europe's shared soul.





## Magdalena Pulikowska, Poland

Magdalena was born in Kraśnik and has lived in Kraków since 2010. She graduated from the Jagiellonian University with degrees in Education: Socio-Cultural Animation and Jewish Studies. A dedicated educator, she specializes in Jewish culture and remembrance, with a strong focus on the history of Jews in Kraśnik. In 2014, she launched the Facebook page *Kraśnik na starych zdjęciach* (Kraśnik in Old Photographs), where she shares historical photos and stories from her own and others' archives. A significant part of the page is devoted to commemorating Kraśnik's Jewish community. She has developed meaningful connections with Jewish descendants from the area, many of whom she has personally guided during visits to Poland. Her current project is translating the *Kraśnik Yizkor Book*, a memorial book, from Hebrew into Polish. Since 2012, Magdalena has worked with the Jewish Community Centre (JCC) in Kraków, leading educational workshops and tours for both Jewish and non-Jewish audiences. She coordinated programs for children and teens, including BBYO and Sunday School, served as chief editor of the JCC newspaper *Jesteśmy*, and teaches Hebrew there. In 2015, she founded the *Days of Israel in Kraków* association and organized a week-long cultural festival for six consecutive years.

## Shalom Kraśnik

Kraśnik is a town of 40,000 in eastern Poland. Before the Holocaust, it was home to a vibrant Jewish community that made up more than half of the population. This rich history is now largely forgotten by current residents. However, many are eager to learn about their town's Jewish past, not through textbooks, but by walking the same streets, hearing real voices, and making the past present.

A valuable resource is the *Kraśnik Yizkor Book*, a memorial volume written by survivors in Hebrew and Yiddish, filled with pre-war stories and testimonies. This book is currently inaccessible to most locals due to language barriers.

To bridge this gap, I will translate selected chapters of the *Yizkor Book* and create walking tours of Kraśnik's Jewish historical sites. Participants of all ages will read translated passages aloud at meaningful locations. Each tour will conclude with a booklet summarizing the route and stories, encouraging further exploration and sharing.



## Mateusz Lagosz, Poland

Mateusz Lagosz, a Kraków native, has been involved with the city's Jewish community since 2008. He served as president of the Gimel Jewish Student Club and, in 2015, became the Sunday School Program Coordinator at JCC Kraków, a role he held for seven years. He also co-created and led the BBYO Kraków Tapuzim teen program supporting youth engagement with Jewish culture. Since 2016, Mateusz has worked as a tour guide in Kraków, collaborating with JCC Kraków, Walkative!, and his own company. He has guided thousands of visitors, offering insight into the city's Jewish history and heritage. His tours have reached a wide audience, including Jewish students, professionals, and Holocaust survivors. Deeply committed to Jewish remembrance and education, Mateusz co-founded the *Days of Israel festival* in Kraków, organizing a week-long celebration of Jewish culture. He has participated in numerous conferences and training programs, including *NOA: Overcoming Antisemitism*, *Nur*, and *Razem, czy osobno* at POLIN Museum in Warsaw. These initiatives brought together members of Jewish and Muslim communities, where Mateusz led workshops focused on intercultural understanding and cooperation.

## Kazimierz: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow

Kazimierz, Krakow's historic Jewish quarter, is often defined primarily through the lens of the Holocaust. Yet this framing obscures a broader, richer story — one of centuries of cultural flourishing, pre-war contributions, post-war resilience, and a vibrant Jewish presence today. There is a growing need to open this narrative to both locals and visitors, allowing them to explore the neighborhood through a more complete and inclusive historical lens.

Our project responds to this need through an innovative digital guidebook app that reveals overlooked places and untold stories, while always honoring the memory of the past. Complementing the app, we will host workshops, guided tours, and public talks that encourage dialogue, deepen understanding, and invite reflection.

Developed with the support of historians, educators, and cultural experts — and shaped by the active participation of the local Jewish community and its living memories — this project affirms that Jewish life in Krakow is not only history, but also a vibrant part of the present and future.



## Merav Krone, Netherlands

Merav is an educator at the Jewish Museum in Brussels and a cultural heritage professional dedicated to fostering connections within Jewish communities. With a background in graphic design, she leverages her creative skills to envision a world where Jewish individuals can express themselves artistically, bridging traditional practices with contemporary methods of research and expression. Next year, Merav plans to pursue a master's degree and explore her own Sephardic family archive, seeking traces of artistic expression carried by her community to the Netherlands in the 17th century. Her passion for research and connecting people is driven by a sense of something missing in her own upbringing. While Judaism and its traditions were always present in her life, her deep interest in artistic expression and communal exploration developed over time.

## Rascal

Younger Jews in Amsterdam, especially those with intercultural backgrounds, are exploring identity beyond traditional frameworks but lack a platform to engage with Jewish life.

Our project, *Rascal*, is a thematic, intercultural, bilingual (Dutch/English) quarterly magazine that fills this gap through cultural and artistic expression. Inspired by a Talmudic approach, Rascal brings together people with diverse experiences and knowledge levels, driven by curiosity and the act of questioning. The result is a large-format (A2) printed magazine that combines visual and textual works and includes traces of the editorial process.

As two young cultural professionals active in the Dutch art scene, we launch each issue with a public event that adds a communal and artistic layer to the magazine. These gatherings foster creative learning and connection, offering a deeper and more diverse understanding of diasporic Jewish life in the Netherlands—both within the Jewish community and in dialogue with broader society.



## Noa Leiserson Bibas, Spain

Noa, born in Madrid, is a Philosophy graduate with an arts background. She pursued further studies at the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, where she participated in a Jewish Experiential Education Program. Currently based in Madrid, Noa has just completed a Master's in Cultural Project Management with La Fábrica. In addition to her academic pursuits, she works as an English teacher and cultural guide/mediator at some of Madrid's prominent museums. Noa is also developing a cultural mediation project that explores Spain's interaction with its Jewish history and heritage, a project she hopes to bring to fruition soon.

## Lir'ot

To be Jewish is to learn to walk through history by asking new questions, by casting new light — to interpret, as Ortega put it, the “themes of our time.”

The story of Jewish presence in Spain is told today in the same way we speak of Roman necropolises or Iberian settlements. Jews have not disappeared from history, but we have become part of the discourse of the invisible, the vanished, the indecipherable. Is that all we care about — the dead Jews?

That's why *Lir'ot* was born: to communicate, integrate, and share a living culture that has too often been presented as if it were dead — by centering contemporary Jewish creators through an annual Spanish-Jewish Arts and Culture Festival.

We connect the Spanish public with their roots through our shared history. Only by being a visible part of the present can we build a future where Jewish culture is fully part of Spain's cultural life.



# Ofer Laszewicki Rubin, Spain

Ofer Laszewicki Rubin is a journalist and communicator with extensive experience in the Middle East. From 2016 to 2022, he served as a correspondent in Israel and Palestine, covering political developments and conflicts while producing in-depth reports and documentaries. Now based in Spain, Ofer continues to publish analyses and feature stories on the Middle East and international politics in various media outlets. Beyond journalism, Ofer films and edits corporate videos for institutions, brands, and NGOs. He currently leads institutional communications for Mozaika and is the co-creator of the podcast *Alhayam*.

## Alhayam

Alhayam (a Hebrew expression meaning “above/up the sea”), is a podcast which offers weekly information about Israel/Palestine and Jewish Affairs. Although there are many podcasts in Spanish, we’re pioneers in the Catalan language, thus connecting with a segment of Catalonia’s population who have no access to well-balanced and accurate information.

Alhayam opens a window for dialogue, without shying away from difficult debates. Our podcast appeals to an audience interested in gaining a deeper understanding of Israel/Palestine and the Jewish world from an honest and critical perspective. Alhayam’s main goal is to humanize both Israelis and Palestinians, as well as to confront the alarming rise of antisemitism and Islamophobia in western society. Human principles are a common ground: we highlight the value of human life and the cost paid by civilians on both sides.

The producers of the podcast - Ofer Laszewicki and Paul Sánchez - have Jewish-Israeli roots and extensive experience working as foreign correspondents on the ground, which brings a distinctive level of knowledge and personal connection to Israel and Judaism.





## Rachel Gould, Germany

Rachel is the administrative and organizational consultant at The Unerasure Projekt. She holds a PhD in Public Policy from Tel Aviv University. She made Aliyah with her family in 2010 and in 2021 followed a job opportunity to Düsseldorf, Germany, where they now reside. From a young age Rachel has been an active and engaged community volunteer, with a particular focus on her Jewish communities and education.

## Collecting their stories, honoring our history

Düsseldorf is the third largest Jewish community in Germany with a religiously diverse population of 7000 individuals who come from many different countries. These various differences have resulted in fracturing into smaller groupings within the larger unified community. Overcoming these differences will build a more resilient community for the future.

Younger members of the community, trained to conduct interviews, invite older members of the community to share their life stories. The collected narratives create an ongoing, living community archive. Sensitivity to language preferences for the interviews and the archived materials is of utmost importance to ensure broad community accessibility.

Our project facilitates cross-generational interactions throughout our community that result in all parties feeling welcomed, included, and appreciated for what they share and what they can give to strengthen the larger community. This archive will be a vivid and central contribution in shaping the identity of the modern-day community in Düsseldorf.



## Saul Reichman, Germany

Saul Reichman is a US-born Israeli who relocated to Cologne, Germany, six years ago. As a seasoned innovation and corporate venturing leader, he has spent his career helping multinational corporations drive strategic growth through technology innovation, partnerships, and investments. For the past decade, he has worked extensively in the automotive and mobility sectors, supporting companies in establishing their corporate innovation and venturing arms. Beyond his professional achievements, Saul has always been deeply committed to social activism, particularly in advancing diversity and gender equity. Since moving to Germany, he has actively fostered stronger business, historical, and cultural ties between Germany and Israel. He frequently participates in initiatives that promote mutual understanding and collaboration between the two countries. Saul is also passionate about mentoring and supporting underrepresented voices in the tech and innovation space, advocating for inclusive leadership and equal opportunities. In his spare time, he enjoys hiking, running, and baking. He continues to work on improving his German and believes in the power of language as a bridge between cultures.

## Jewnity

*Jewnity* (= *Jewish+Unity*) is a pan-European initiative that brings together LGBTQIA-friendly Jews (aged +35) across borders to foster connection, support, and shared learning. Responding to a personal need following the October 7th events, and with a record in business entrepreneurship and profound activism in the Jewish German and global world, I created *Jewnity* for those who may feel often isolated in their Jewish and/or gay local communities.

*Jewnity* offers a safe, inclusive space to engage in open dialogue and strengthen communal bonds beyond traditional affiliations. Through regular virtual sessions and side-events focusing on social, cultural, and political topics, the online platform promotes dialogue, learning, and empowerment among participants from varied backgrounds.

*Jewnity* is not affiliated with any specific Jewish denomination—its strength lies in unity through diversity by amplifying underrepresented voices and creating room for meaningful conversations. *Jewnity* offers inclusion for those navigating complex identities across Europe and seeking a multicultural community.

*Jewnity* encourages its members to become agents of change in their local and regional environments across Europe.



## Vladan Bošković, Sweden

Vladan Boskovic was an Aaron Isaac Fellow of the Paideia One-Year Jewish Studies Program 2024/25. He has been involved in various activities of the Jewish Community of Stockholm, such as being the Rosh Gabbai of the Great Synagogue of Stockholm and Board Member of the Jewish Community of Stockholm. He is currently Board and Executive Member of Masorti Europe and President of the Zionist Federation of Sweden and President of Mercaz Sweden. He used to be President of the Stockholm Chapter of the Sweden-Israel Friendship Association. Vladan Boskovic has studied linguistics and social anthropology at the University of Stockholm and comparative Indo-European linguistics at the University of Uppsala

## The Unified Jewish Community of Stockholm

The Jewish Community of Stockholm is a unified community encompassing all three major religious denominations. This impacts short- and long-term management of the community, including the definition of who is a Jew, religious life, burials, social activities, education, food, etc.

All Jewish communities in Sweden are unified communities, but only Stockholm has a ballot system consisting of candidates for the executive board (“government”) nominated by the nomination committees (“political parties”). No independent candidates are allowed and they are excluded from making the major decisions that determine the everyday and long-term matters of the community.

As a lay leader of the community for many years, perspective both as serving on the Executive Board as well as a candidate, I think the party ticket is not the optimal way for democratic governance. I would like to investigate the electoral system and come with recommendations.



## Yuliia Robchynska, Ukraine

Yuliia Robchynska has been working at Project Keshet Ukraine as a Jewish Education Manager since 2023. She oversees programs focused on supporting Jewish communities and promoting Jewish women's leadership. The goal of these initiatives is to help Jewish communities in independent Ukraine re-establish their identities, continue celebrating Jewish holidays, provide Ukrainian translations of important texts such as the *Siddur Erev Shabbat*, train Ukrainian-speaking educators, and encourage Jewish women to take active roles in community development. Since 2018, Yuliia has been involved in volunteer activities with the Volunteer Community JDC. She coordinates *The Skein of Kindness* project, whose volunteers knit and crochet clothes and toys for premature babies, create fun hats for children in cancer hospitals, and make socks for seniors. Since 2019, she has also been a volunteer participant in Limmud Ukraine. Yuliia has a personal interest in creating and participating in pub quizzes.

## Jewish Weekend

The war in Ukraine has inspired Ukrainian Jewry to rediscover themselves within the mosaic of Ukrainian culture. Jewish Weekend project invites people to be part of this journey – not just to listen, but to experience. We want to reach out to all Ukrainian adults, Jewish or not, who believe in multiculturalism.

Jewish Weekend is a vibrant two-day event exploring deep connections between Jewish and Ukrainian cultures through language, music, literature, cuisine, architecture etc. With lectures, tours, performances, workshops, and food tastings led by passionate experts, each moment is designed to be engaging, moving, and fun.

Since 2023, over 800 participants in 5 cities have joined us.

In the fall of 2025, we will connect Rivne and Lutsk, 2 neighboring cities in the west of the country, and in spring of 2026, we will launch an international Jewish Weekend in Kraków for Ukrainians displaced because of the war and the Polish community to strengthen the link between them.

Jewish Weekend is created by Project Keshet, a Jewish women's organization with decades of providing Jewish community with knowledge in the USA, Israel and Ukraine. As a coordinator of the Jewish Weekend project in Ukraine, I am proud to enable Ukrainian communities to discover the diversity and richness of mutual influences between cultures.

# Staff and guests







## Liora Asa

**Development Tutor/  
Curriculum Builder**

Liora, with an M.B.A., University of Haifa (2006), an M.A. International Affairs, George Washington University (1993), and a B.A., University California, Berkeley (1989) has over 20 years of professional experience in project management, training, and Resource Development and Financial Management consulting. Over the past decade, Liora has worked as Resource Development and Financial Management Consultant at Shatil - Israel's leading capacity building center for social change organizations, providing support to hundreds of NGOs throughout the country. Liora is an experienced trainer on a broad array of resource development and financial topics, as a lecturer at the University of Haifa's NGO management program over the past three years, and as a veteran international trainer with the Galilee International Management Institute.



## Agnieszka Baraszko

**Project Manager at Paideia**

Agnieszka Baraszko born and raised in Gdansk, Poland, is a Project Manager and Recruitment Officer at Paideia – the European Institute for Jewish Studies in Sweden. She works with the One-Year Jewish Study Program, runs Paideia Mifgash Project and is a part of Paideia's PR team. Agnieszka leads Hevruta training sessions and gives lectures on Jewish Folklore. She is Paideia alumna and an active member of Stockholm and Gdansk Jewish Communities. She graduated from University of Warsaw, Jewish Open University in Warsaw and Autonomous University of Madrid. She holds an MA in Spanish literature and language and specializes in translation.



## Eiran Davies

**Educator at Paideia and Paideia  
Folkhögskola**

Rabbi Eiran Davies studied for the rabbinate at The Judith Lady Montefiore College at Ramsgate, the rabbinical programme of the Spanish and Portuguese Jews' congregation in London, England. Subsequently, he undertook further study at various institutions in Israel, including Yeshivat Hamivtar in Efrat, Midrash Sephardi in Jerusalem, and the Straus-Amiel rabbinical fellowship. Back in the UK, he worked on a number of innovative projects within the Jewish community, including Grassroots Jews, a non-denominational space for Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, Bee the Change, an initiative to encourage urban Jews to become beekeepers, and was a founding partner in Ruchot, a kosher vegetarian community cafe. Eiran now lives in Stockholm with his wife Yael, and their two children.



## **Sarah Frey**

**Project Coordinator  
at Paideia**

Sarah Frey is a Stockholm-based pop artist, musician, and cultural coordinator with a multifaceted career spanning music, television, and education. Raised in Stockholm's Jewish community, she earned a BA in Jazz Vocals from the Royal College of Music in Stockholm. Transitioning into the pop genre, Sarah writes, performs, records, and produces her own material, while also collaborating with renowned artists and bands. Beyond her musical pursuits, Sarah has worked in various cultural sectors, including television and commercial industries, where she served as a manager and coordinator. She furthered her expertise by studying Cultural Management at Stockholm University. Currently, Sarah serves as the Educational Coordinator for Profile Courses at Paideia Folkhögskola.



## **Shuvi Hoffman**

**Global Jewish Education  
Manager, National Library  
of Israel**

Shuvi is a "Revivim" graduate, an honors program in Hebrew University, where she received her BA in Jewish studies and her MA in Biblical studies. She taught Tanach, Jewish philosophy and Hebrew, wrote Jewish studies curriculum and worked as a teachers' mentor in various frameworks in Israel and abroad. She spent two years in New York teaching Hebrew and Tanach in SAR High School as a WZO emissary, as well as teaching at Drisha summer programs.



**Lukasz Gorniok**  
**Director of Project-Incubator**

Lukasz works as Head of the One-Year Jewish Studies Program and is also the Director of the Paideia Project-Incubator. He completed his studies of Political Science and History at Pedagogical University in Krakow, Poland, and Dalarna University College, Sweden. He was also a Krister Stendahl Fellow at Paideia (2008/09). He holds a doctorate in history from Umeå University with the dissertation entitled "Swedish Refugee Policymaking in Transition? Czechoslovak and Polish Jews in Sweden, 1968-1972". In 2012, he received a grant for research at the Institute for the History of Polish Jewry and Israel-Poland Relations at Tel Aviv University. His area of research is modern Jewish history, cultural history, and religion. His articles appeared in the volume *Jewish Migration in Modern Times: The Case of Eastern Europe*, Routledge, 2019, and in the journal *East European Jewish Affairs*.



**Erik Gribbe**  
**CFO at Paideia**

Erik is the CFO of Paideia and formerly the director of the Paideia Project-Incubator, and has been responsible for a number of other Paideia programs, such as the Paradigm Program, the RF(H)E/Paideia Museum Program, the Alumni Conference and the One Sweden Project. He holds a BA and MA in Business and Economics from the Stockholm School of Economics and ESADE in Spain, and a BA in Liberal Arts from Stockholm University. Prior to joining Paideia in 2007, he has worked for the UNICEF, setting up a municipal statistics office in the Dominican Republic, as a high school teacher, translator and as volunteer at the Red Cross for many years. His previous background is in the performing arts, as a dancer at the Royal Swedish Ballet for ten years.



**Noa Hermele**  
**Director of Paideia**

Noa Hermele is the Director of Paideia – The European Institute for Jewish Studies in Sweden and founding Rector of Paideia Folkhögskola. He has been a board member of the Forum for Jewish Studies at Uppsala University and chairperson of the Committee for National Minorities at the Swedish Arts Council. He is currently board member of the Jewish Cultural Magazine in Sweden, board member of RIO – the umbrella organization for the 114 Swedish folk high schools owned by civil society organizations, member of the steering committee for the Yiddish Language Centre at the Institute for Language and Folklore, and member of the reference group to the Government's study for a National strategy for strengthening Jewish life in Sweden.



## **Patrick Levy**

**Project Development Tutor/  
Curriculum Builder**

Patrick Levy is a counsellor for Human Rights and other non-for-profit organizations and institutions on organizational strategy, peer education and fund raising in Israel and abroad. Patrick initiated Alumot- the Center for the Organization of People with Disabilities in Israel and leads multi-sectoral projects for this community. After having been a teacher in Israel, in Jewish schools in France and the United Kingdom, he served as executive director of national and international non-for-profit organizations. His areas of specialization are pluri-sectoral projects, peer education, support of unfavourised communities and health issues.



## **Nirit Roessler**

**Project Development Tutor/  
Curriculum Builder**

Nirit is an organizational consultant specializing in resource development and strategy. For the past 20 years she has been a director of various training, consulting and mentoring programs and has a vast experience as a trainer, writing guidebooks, and promoting sustainability of NGOs both in Europe and in Israel. Since 2012 she is the Professional Development Director of JCU – Jerusalem Culture Unlimited – a capacity-building program for arts and culture organizations in Jerusalem. Her professional track is vast – including directing special projects in the Tower of David Museum in Jerusalem, the Jerusalem Van Leer Institute, Shatil, the Pradler Resource Development Program and more. Nirit has been with the Paideia Project-Incubator since 2007 and laid the ground for its current format.





**Barbara Lerner Spectre**  
**Founding Director of Paideia**

Barbara Lerner Spectre is the Founding Director of Paideia. She was formerly on the faculty of the Hartman Institute of Advanced Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, where she taught Jewish Thought. She was among the founders of the Seminary of Judaic Studies in Jerusalem. Her area of research is in models of inference in Christian and Jewish post-Holocaust theology, for which she received a research grant from Yad V'Shem Institute. Barbara's publications include "A Theology of Doubt" (Hebrew) and, together with Noam Zion of the Hartman Institute, the two-volume "A Different Light: The Hannukah Book of Celebration." In 2007, she received the prestigious Max M. Fisher Prize for Jewish Education in the Diaspora and in 2016, the Abraham Geiger Medal. In 2018, she received The King's Medal for her outstanding contribution for Jewish culture in Sweden and beyond.



**Federico Szarfer**  
**Project Development Tutor/  
 Curriculum Builder**

Federico Szarfer, based in Barcelona, works as project manager for a number of EU-funded projects and for the European Days of Jewish Culture. He is also in charge of communication for the AEPJ. He conceives his work as the design and creation of experiences for cultural institutions, television, theatre and events. His passion lies in communicating Jewish culture as a pluralistic, current and meaningful heritage that can engage anyone. He is the founder and a member of the Jewish Cultural Platform Mozaika in Barcelona.



**Victor Sorensen**  
**Project Development Tutor  
 Curriculum Builder**

Victor has grown up and lives in Barcelona. He worked as director of education for the Jewish ATID Community and as director of the CIB (Comunidad Israelita de Barcelona). In 2010, with a group of friends from the Jewish community of Barcelona, he founded the Mozaika Cultural Platform. The Platform became a Jewish Cultural Center (Casa Adret), where all kinds of projects related to Jewish history and culture (Sefer Barcelona- Jewish Book Festival), research or activism (Salam Shalom Barcelona) are developed. Victor currently works as director of the AEPJ (The European Association for the Preservation and Promotion of Jewish Culture and Heritage), where he coordinates the projects of the European Route of Jewish Heritage of the Council of Europe and the European Days of Jewish Culture among other activities.

# Thank you

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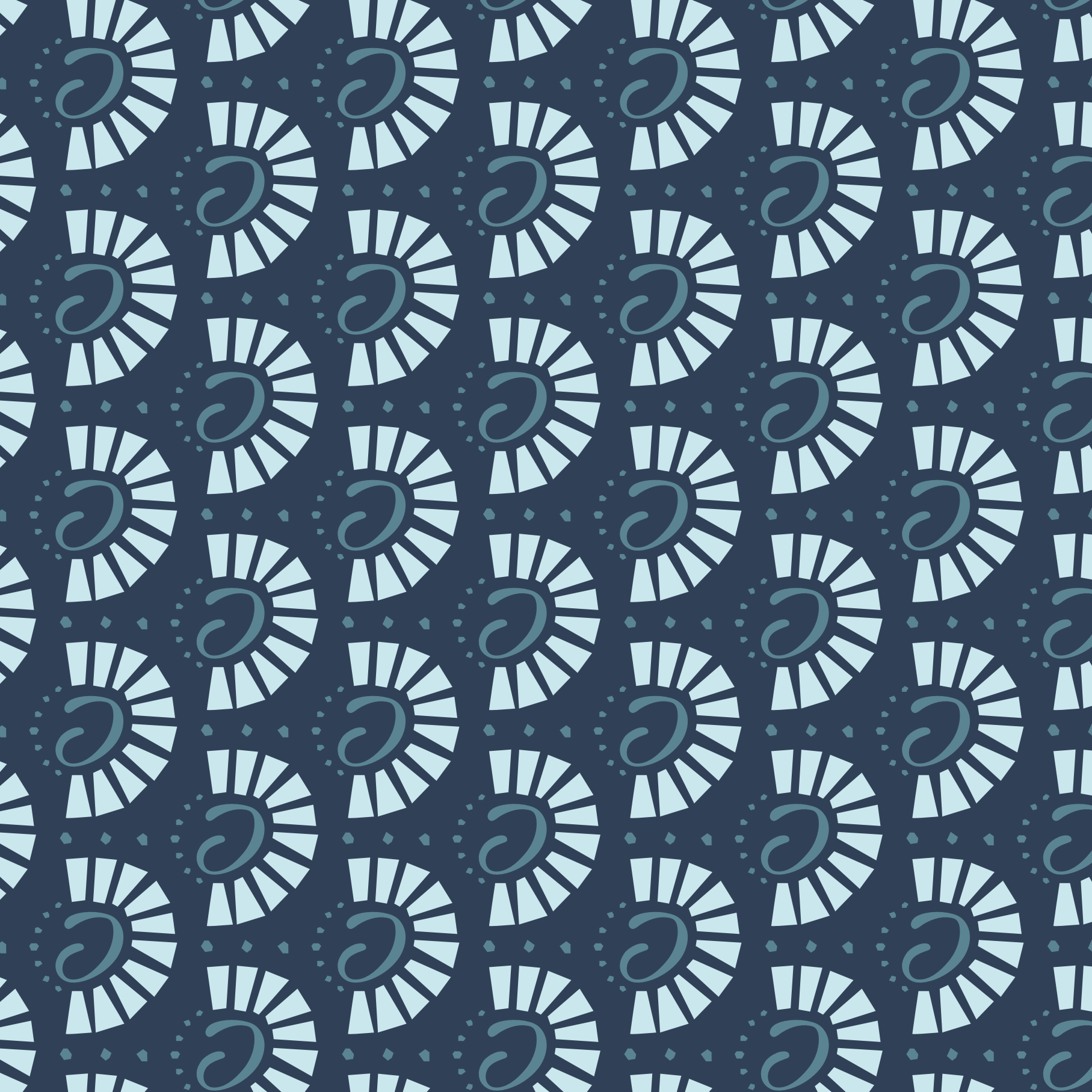
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