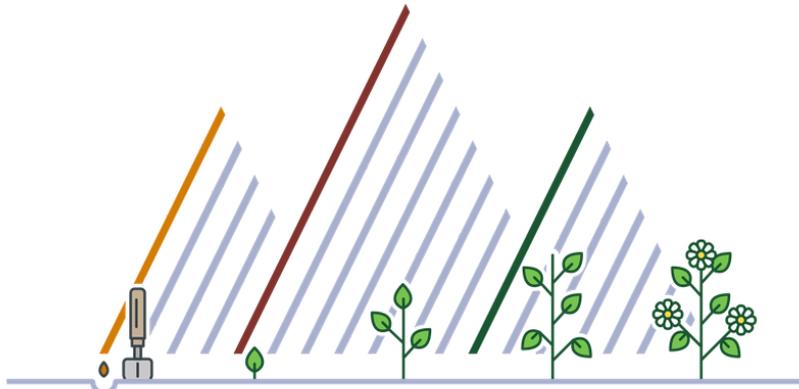


THE WEXNER FOUNDATION



# SUMMIT SEEDS

PLANTING OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEADING CHANGE

## COHORT BIO BOOK



**SARA AEDER**

***WGF Class 28***

Scarsdale, New York

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Sara Aeder is the Vice President of Israel and Jewish Affairs at JCRC-NY. Previously, she served as the Director of Development at the Bronfman Center for Jewish Student Life at NYU. She completed her EdD in Higher Education in May 2022 at NYU, where she has previously graduated with a BA, an MA in Hebrew and Judaic Studies, and a Masters in Public Administration. She lives in Westchester with her husband, three children, and pup.



**ANA BONNHEIM**

***WFF Class 7***

Charlotte, North Carolina

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Rabbi Ana Bonnheim is founding executive director of the Jewish Learning Collaborative, which matches leaders in the Jewish community with clergy and educators for personalized Jewish learning. Rabbi Ana was the director of the Open Dor Project, an accelerator for emerging clergy-led spiritual communities. She previously was the associate director of Greene Family Camp, a Jewish overnight camp in Texas. Previous volunteer experience includes chairing the Central Conference of American Rabbis' Ethics Committee, Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte's allocations committee and chairing Dartmouth Hillel's search for its first full-time executive director. Ana received smicha from HUC-JIR and a BA from Dartmouth College. She is a Wexner Field Fellow (Class 7) and one of the inaugural recipients of the Grinspoon Foundation's Amber Award. Ana lives in Charlotte, NC with her husband and two children.



**ALICIA CHANDLER**

***WHP Detroit 17***

Birmingham, Michigan

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Alicia Blumenfeld Chandler is a Research Associate at the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University and a doctoral candidate in Sociology at Wayne State University. Her scholarship explores the intersection of intermarriage, religious identity, and community belonging, with her dissertation focusing on the relationship between non-Jewish spouses of American Jews and the Jewish community. Her research interests span religious identity formation, exogamy, ethnoreligious boundary maintenance, and contemporary American Jewish demography. She has co-authored numerous community studies and scholarly works. In addition to her academic work, Alicia is the co-founder and a columnist for Nu?Detroit, a digital platform amplifying diverse Jewish voices in metropolitan Detroit. Her writing has appeared in the Jerusalem Post, Detroit News, Detroit Jewish News, Huffington Post, and other outlets. Alicia earned her J.D., cum laude, from Harvard Law School and her B.B.A., with high distinction, from the University of Michigan. Before pursuing her Ph.D., she served as General Counsel for the Continuing Care Division of Trinity Health and practiced law at leading Michigan firms.



**JULIE DUVALL**

***WHP Colorado 23***

Lakewood, Colorado

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Julie Levy Duvall (she, her, hers) currently works at Meta (Facebook) where she leads Risk Management, a global team that mitigates high-profile issues facing users, the company, and the public. Previously, Julie served as State Director for U.S. Senator Michael Bennet, and held various positions in the financial and energy industries, focusing on investor relations and public affairs. Having lived in southwest Colorado for many years, Julie led various community development projects to support family access to stable housing, local business support, and world-class education. She was recently appointed by Governor Polis to the Fort Lewis College Board of Trustees, where she is currently working on diversity & inclusion and higher ed affordability. In 2009, Julie was elected to the first of two terms with the Durango 9-R Board of Education. She has been active with various non-profit boards and organizations, primarily related to outdoor recreation, STEM education, and sustainability. Julie received her Master of Arts in Politics and Public Policy from the University of Colorado and her Bachelor of Arts from Fort Lewis College in Political Science. Julie, her husband Trey, and their two sons currently live in Denver.



**ERICA FRANKEL**

***WFF Class 3***

New York, New York

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Erica Frankel is the Executive Director of Assembly. Over the past 16 years, Erica has founded and grown five new Jewish initiatives into existence, has touched the lives of over 20,000 Jewish college students, has trained and supported more than 500 rabbis and Jewish educators, and has seeded a thriving Jewish ecosystem in Harlem. Between 2015-2020, Erica shaped Hillel into a movement of Torah by growing the Jewish Learning Fellowship (JLF) into the largest Jewish educational program on campus. During these years, Erica also helped to found Hillel's Springboard Fellowship and the Fellowship for Rabbinic Entrepreneurs. Most recently, Erica founded IYUN, a project which builds community through the study of Torah for thousands of adults. Erica and her husband Rabbi Dimitry Ekshtut (WGF 33) build Jewish community in Harlem with their daughters Maayan and Dalia.



**JENI FRIEDMAN**

***WGF Class 23***

Brooklyn, New York

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Jeni S. Friedman is the CEO of the MFJC. An alumna of its signature leadership training program, the International Nahum Goldmann Fellowship, Jeni served as a volunteer member of the NGF Advisory Committee before taking the full-time position of Associate Director of MFJC in 2013. Her professional experience includes serving in the pulpit rabbinate and providing educational consulting for synagogues and schools across North America. She holds a certificate in Jewish Executive Leadership from Columbia Business School and UJA-NY and is a Senior Educator and Pedagogy of Peoplehood Fellow with M<sup>2</sup>: The Institute for Experiential Jewish Education. She has rabbinic ordination and a master's degree in Midrash from JTS, and a PhD in Education and Jewish Studies from NYU, where she was a Wexner Fellow/Davidson Scholar. Jeni serves on the boards of American Friends of Latet and the Jewish Art Salon. She lives in New York with her family.



## **ELYANA FUNK**

### ***WHP Colorado 23***

Lafayette, Colorado

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Elyana Funk grew up in York, Pennsylvania, spending summers at Camp Harlam. She earned a B.A. from Duke University, and has lived in Colorado since 2000. Elyana worked for the "I Have A Dream" Foundation of Boulder County (IHDF) for 24 years, beginning with the honor of an 11+ year journey of supporting the incredible "Dreamer Scholars," from their second grade through their senior year of high school, and beyond. She served as the AmeriCorps Director for a decade working with over 500 inspiring young professionals. She finished her time at IHDF as the Lead Senior Director with a focus on organizational culture and program design & management. With a passion for building connections and leadership in her Jewish community, Elyana was thrilled to join CU Boulder Hillel as the Executive Director in June 2024. She shares Hillel's belief in an inclusive culture embracing all Jewish experiences and is honored to join its legacy of impact. Elyana serves on Congregation Har HaShem's Board of Directors and focuses on community building, service, and social justice. She and her husband Jeremy have 3 children who are bilingual (English/Spanish), and simultaneously amazing and crazy-making. Check out Elyana's story on motherhood [here](#).



## **BORIS GLANTS**

### ***WHP San Francisco / Bay Area 22***

Stanford, California

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Boris Glants is the co-founder and CTO of TurnKey ([www.turnkey-labs.com](http://www.turnkey-labs.com)), which helps venture-backed startups build and scale dedicated offshore software development teams. Prior to TurnKey, Boris was the co-founder and CTO of Tonic Health (acquired by R1, NASDAQ:RCM), a venture-backed patient intake software platform used by a wide range of leading health systems and tens of millions of patients annually. Prior to Tonic, Boris founded ClyTel, a software platform that optimizes customer management and retention, and Sibyl Vision, an IT consulting company. Boris holds a BA degree in Computer Science from Brandeis University and an MFA from California College of the Arts. Boris is a Board Member at Hausner Jewish Day School focusing on Hausner's fundraising and investment strategy. Boris is a noted speaker on software development innovation and design.



**ARI GORDON**

***WGF Class 21***

New York, New York

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Ari Gordon is Director of Muslim-Jewish Relations for AJC, where he builds partnerships between Jews and Muslims in the US and abroad to work together on issues of common concern and to foster civil engagement on issues of difference. His work is based in the belief that effective relationships between Muslims and Jews are good for the welfare of both communities and for the democratic fabric of the United States. Ari is a master teacher and lectures regularly in academic, Jewish, and multi-faith settings on Judaism, interreligious relations in history and religion in the world today. He previously served as Special Advisor and as Assistant Director of Interreligious and Intergroup Relations for AJC. A graduate of Yeshiva University and Harvard Divinity School, Ari completed PhD in Islamic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. He is the author of *Sacred\_Orientation\_in\_Late Antiquity\_and\_Early Islam* (Routledge Series in Islamic Philosophy, 2025), an exploration of sacred geography and interreligious relations in Islam's formative period. Ari is fluent in Arabic and Hebrew and a proud native of Philadelphia. He lives in Riverdale with his wife, Shuli Taubes and three children, Freddie, Leona, and Sunny Bea.



**LAUREN HASS**

***WHP New England 14***

Orange, Connecticut

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I am a proud alumna of Wexner New England '14 and remain deeply engaged in Jewish communal life and leadership. I currently serve on the Executive and Development Committees of the board of Ezra Academy, the K-8 Jewish Day School my children attended (formerly Board President), and am the Grants Chair for the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven's Women of Vision. I am an active member of the Federation's Women's Engagement and Philanthropy community and proudly lead morning minyan for my synagogue once a week. Professionally, I am a Certified Professional Organizer and the founder of Clutter Kicker, a professional organizing business that helps individuals and families create calmer, more functional homes and workspaces. I serve as President of the Connecticut chapter of NAPO (National Association of Productivity and Organizing Professionals). I previously served as Donor and Member Relations Director for Bpeace (Business Council for Peace), a nonprofit dedicated to fostering economic opportunity in conflict-affected regions. Outside of my professional and volunteer work, I enjoy exercising, playing tennis, baking, gardening, and reading. I am blessed to share my life with my husband and three children.



**MICHELLE HIRSCH**

***WHP Cleveland 22***

Orange Village, Ohio

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Michelle grew up in Akron, Ohio as the oldest of four girls to a very loving family. She spent her childhood attending Jewish community events watching her parents and grandparents lead by example. Whether it was at school, playing sports, attending summer camp, or within BBYO, Michelle naturally found herself drawn to leadership roles. This theme continued through her college years within her sorority and serving as a Penn State Lion Ambassador. After college graduation, Michelle lived in Chicago for two years before moving to Cleveland and marrying fellow BBYO'er, Evan Hirsch. Making Cleveland her permanent home, Michelle jumped right into Jewish volunteer life while starting her career at her family's P&C insurance business and attending business school at night to obtain her MBA. She has held numerous leadership roles within the Jewish community both locally and nationally. Professionally, she has spent the last 20+ years working her way through every department of Brunswick Companies, now managing all business development and client retention initiatives as the third-generation owner. She loves spending time with her amazing husband and two incredible little mensches who make her heart smile every single day.



**GRAHAM HOFFMAN**

***WFF Class 1***

Fulton, Maryland

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Graham Hoffman is Chief Strategy Officer of Assembly, an innovation laboratory designed to launch, catalyze, and scale new projects to engage Jews in Jewish life. Graham previously served as the President and CEO of Jewish Philanthropies of Southern Arizona. Originally appointed as CEO of the Jewish Community Foundation of Southern Arizona in 2018, in May 2020, Graham was named President and CEO of the Jewish Federation and Jewish Community Foundation of Southern Arizona and charged to integrate the two to form the Jewish Philanthropies of Southern Arizona. Graham was born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis' Olin Business School, he began his career in consulting at Accenture. Graham was recruited to join Hillel International in 2003 where he found great fulfillment in translating his for-profit consulting skill set to benefit Hillel's unique global platform for transforming next-generation Jewish life. He spent a decade working to dramatically enhance Hillel's engagement and education strategies worldwide, before spending five years as Deputy Director of Development at the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) & American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF).



**MEIR HOLTZBERG**

**WHP New England 14**

New Haven, Connecticut

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I am an entrepreneur living with my family in New Haven, CT. In my experience, I was on the executive board at the Jewish Federation for over 13 years, and the Co-chair of the P and A. I helped usher in a transformative approach on how we distributed allocations at the Federation. I am often called the problem solver, as I am curious about everything. My businesses include, Joburg Meats, a South African biltong company, a portfolio of Real Estate in Connecticut, a Xerox Sales agency for New England, and most recently a commercial industrial Robots company selling in 12 states.



**SARA HURAND**

**WHP Cleveland 05**

New York, New York

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An imaginative architect, creator, and community advocate working outside traditional boundaries of architecture design, art, social action, and philanthropy. Sara's work ranges from immersive and curated installations to design collaborations, program and funding initiatives that foster communal spirit, individual, and familial connectedness. Her approach to artistic expression and engagement reflects her belief in the compassionate and transformative power of art. She lives in Tel Aviv, Israel and New York City, US.



**IAN KANDEL**

***WFF Class 27***

Washington DC, Washington DC  
(202) 549-5184 / ikandel@bbyo.org

Ian Kandel is the Vice President of AZA, BBG and the Teen Movement at BBYO International. Originally from a small town in Pennsylvania, he currently lives in Washington, D.C. where he volunteers frequently in politics, campaigns and new voter education, while working to engage Jewish teens in Jewish life around the world. His own Jewish identity was formed by family stories of supporting the establishment of the State of Israel and from his participation in his local youth movement as a teen. After graduating from The George Washington University with degrees in political science and Judaic studies, and spending a term at Tel Aviv University, he joined BBYO as a full-time professional and has served in positions at both the local and international levels ever since. Ian has received an MBA from the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University, a certificate in Informal Jewish Education from Hebrew College of Boston and is involved in several networks including the ROI Community, Rock the Vote and GatherDC. Having traveled to more than 25 countries, he craves any chance to go abroad. Ian also enjoys outdoor adventure, soccer, tennis, music and photography.



**DAVID KATZNELSON**

***WHP San Francisco 06***

San Anselmo, California  
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David is a Grammy-nominated music producer, writer and CEO of Reboot. He is a hiker, swimmer and problematic record collector...he loves poetry and literature. He and his family live on top of a mountain where wild turkeys pass their bedroom windows and birds of prey soar majestically.



**ANDREW KOERNER**

***WHP Palm Beach 22***

Palm Beach Gardens, Florida

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Andrew Koerner grew up in Palm Beach Gardens and attended Jupiter Community High School. He was active in USY and attended Midrasha at the JCC, participating in the 1992 March of the Living. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan in Judaic Studies and went on to Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, graduating in 2000. Andrew has practiced immigration law for 20 years and has been in private practice in Miami, New York and Palm Beach Gardens, since September of 2020. He is happy to be back in Florida and making new connections within the community. Andrew met his husband on a blind date set up through friends at Congregation Beth Simchat Torah, the LGBTQ synagogue in New York. They have one son, Cooper, who will turn 10 next month. Cooper is in third grade at Meyer Preparatory Jewish Academy in Palm Beach Gardens.



**MICHELLE KOHN**

***WHP Cincinnati 13***

Cincinnati, Ohio

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Michelle Herman Kohn currently works in the Strategic Relations Office of Cincinnati Children's, focused on high-impact growth opportunities. She has led international business development initiatives, including the Israel Exchange Program, where Cincinnati Children's collaborates with clinical, academic and research institutions in Israel to improve child health around the world. Prior to this position, Michelle worked for the Jewish Agency for Israel in Cincinnati and their headquarters in Jerusalem. There she served as the Director of Donor Affairs, working with North American federations, Keren Hayesod communities, Israeli donors and corporations and led international young leadership programming. Michelle worked as an International Relations Associate for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) in Jerusalem and was responsible for engaging American communities in JDC's welfare relief work in Israel, the former Soviet Union and Argentina. In her volunteer work, Michelle is the past President of the Cincinnati's Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), a past board member of The Rockwern Academy, Cincinnati AJC and co-chaired Cincinnati's Federation's 2030 Israel and Wider World Strategy Committee.



**TIANA KOPPEL**

***WHP New York 23***

Briarwood, New York

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Tiana is currently the Vice President of Ad Sales Marketing at Fubo. She previously led marketing and strategy at Meta, QuickFrame, and Uncharted Power. In addition to her corporate experience, Tiana has also worked as an independent film producer, with her credits including the Emmy and Golden Globe-winning GREY GARDENS; MARIA MY LOVE, which premiered at the 2011 TriBeCa Film Festival; and HELLO, MY NAME IS DORIS starring Academy Award winner Sally Field. Tiana graduated from Harvard University with a BA in Visual and Environmental Studies and earned an MFA in Creative Producing from Columbia University. She also earned a Certificate of Readiness from Harvard Business School, with a focus on Business Analytics, Economics for Managers, and Financial Accounting. Apart from work, Tiana currently serves on the advisory board for the Jewish Community Center in Harlem and is an amateur potter. She is based in New York City where she lives with her husband Nathaniel, their twin sons Gabriel and Robert, and their dog and cat, Riley and Tallulah.



**BEN LINDY**

***WHP Cincinnati 19***

Cincinnati, Ohio

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Ben Lindy is an elected member of the Cincinnati Public School Board and an active member of the Cincinnati Jewish community. Ben has spent over twenty years working in public education, including time as a classroom teacher, district administrator, non-profit leader, and school board member. He was the founding executive director for Teach For America in Cincinnati for nearly nine years and the school board president of Cincinnati Public Schools for two. In the Jewish world, Ben runs a havurah for families with young children, studies with a weekly havruta (of Wexner Heritage friends), teaches Sunday school at Wise Temple, and learns with Hadar whenever he can. Ben is a graduate of Yale College and Yale Law School. He lives in Cincinnati with his wife (Paige), his son (Aaron), and his daughter (Lucy).



**DANIEL MALAND**

***WHP Miami 23***

Miami, Florida

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Daniel Maland is a civil litigation partner with the law firm Rennert Vogel Mandler & Rodriguez in Miami, Florida, where he represents clients in bet-the-business litigation and consumer protection claims. Daniel recently completed his term as chair of the Florida Bar's Blockchain and Digital Assets Committee. In addition to being the proud father of three boys, Daniel is a member of AJC's Miami Executive Committee and Board, and volunteers as a board member of the Morningside Civic Association, where he is actively involved in the improvement and preservation of Morningside Park- Miami's largest city park. Daniel enjoys road cycling, exploring Miami and the world with his family, and finding new, delicious foods to eat.



**BILLY MEDOF**

***WHP Atlanta 10***

Roswell, Georgia

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Billy Medof, a member of the Atlanta Wexner Heritage 2010 class, is president of Georgia-Pacific Corrugated, which includes over 35 packaging plants across the United States. Before joining GP, Billy worked as director of business development at Delta Air Lines, an investment banker with Citigroup in New York, and as a field artillery officer in the United States Army. He is a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point where he earned a degree in engineering physics. He later earned an MBA from Columbia University in New York. Billy is a member of the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta board of directors, the Weber School board of directors, and the AIPAC National Council. Billy, his wife Alli, and their three boys have been members of Congregation Etz Chaim since moving to Atlanta in 2003.



**EDWARD MERMELSTEIN**

***WHP New York RSJ***

New York, New York

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Edward A. Mermelstein is an internationally recognized attorney, investment advisor, and strategist. For more than three decades he has guided governments, sovereign and pension funds, family offices, and corporations through foreign direct investment, political risk management, and cross-border real estate transactions. From 2022 to 2025, he served as Commissioner for International Affairs for the City of NY, leading the city's global engagement strategy by representing NYC in dealings with the United Nations, the international diplomatic community, and the consular corps. In that role he worked to strengthen New York's position as a global hub for diplomacy, investment, and cultural exchange. Before joining city government, Edward founded several firms, including One & Only Realty, One & Only Holdings, and the boutique law firm Rheem Bell & Mermelstein, specializing in international corporate and real estate law, private equity, and real estate investment. Beyond business, Edward has been deeply involved in philanthropic and humanitarian work. He has served on the Board of Overseers at New York University and helped establish the Mermelstein Family Scholarship; served as a board member of JDC, COJECO and ZAKA President.



**LINDY MILLER**

***WHP Atlanta 18***

Decatur, Georgia

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A Georgia native, Lindy Miller has over two decades of public policy, corporate strategy and start-up experience. In 2016, after building and leading Deloitte's Global Public Policy group, Lindy co-founded Cherry Street Energy, a renewable energy company that has transformed Georgia's energy marketplace. She then jumped into the political arena as a statewide candidate in Georgia's 2018 midterm elections. That experience intensified her desire to build foundational infrastructure to support women in their efforts to win elections. She has served as Strategic Advisor to HerTerm, co-founded Georgia Onward PAC in 2020, and has served as an officer and advisor in other elections since. Lindy is a Principal at CenterPoint Properties and co-founder of TendWell. She lives with her husband and three sons in Decatur, Georgia.



**KIM NEWSTADT**

***WFF Class 7***

Cincinnati, Ohio

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Kim Newstadt guides priorities for learning and innovation at the Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati. She leads emergent learning, creates participatory processes to define community needs and builds opportunities for field-building and experimentation. As the project lead for the 2019 Cincinnati Jewish Community Study, Kim worked closely with Brandeis University, Jewish agencies and local leaders to explore the applications of data to inform strategies and investments. In response to emerging needs, Kim launched Reflect Cincy, a pool of grant funding for new and innovative ideas to spark meaning and connection to Jewish life. The Reflect Cincy Creative Team embodied a participatory grantmaking model, in which those most affected by funding decisions influence how dollars are granted. Within her career in philanthropy, Kim has worked at the Jewish Community Foundation of Los Angeles, Santa Monica Museum of Art and University of Southern California. She is a graduate of Upstart's Change Accelerator program and is a recipient of the 2021 Harris and Alice Weston Junior Avodah Award. Kim finds joy in raising two spirited daughters with her husband and fostering connections through the arts as a dancer and painter.



**MICHAEL NOVACK**

***WHP St. Louis 15***

St. Louis, Missouri

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Michael serves as the Founder and CEO at Kiosite, a technology-focused company working to match talented individuals to meaningful career opportunities on a more transparent, more accurate, and more efficient basis. The company's work seeks to improve the lives of individual job seekers, the productivity of private sector businesses, and the efficiency of public sector initiatives. Dubbed a "Wiz Kid" by the St. Louis Business Journal and named a "30 Under 30," Michael has extensive entrepreneurial experience and regularly presents on a variety of business, hiring and development-related topics. Prior to his current work, Michael worked as a technology consultant through a firm he founded. Michael serves as an advisor or director on a variety of non-profit and corporate boards in St. Louis, New York, and Israel, and attended Washington University in St. Louis.



**AARON PORTMAN**

***WGF Class 30***

Columbus, Ohio

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Aaron is a rabbi committed to elevating the inherent dignity in all people, regardless of faith, through meaningful interaction and pastoral engagement. Ordained at Yeshivat Chovevei Torah in 2021, Aaron has served as an educator in a variety of settings, including as the head of Camp Stone, as a co-educator in a Christian-Jewish Sunday school, and as a professor at City College. Aaron also served as a chaplain at Rikers Island, where he learned the power of presence and spontaneous prayer. Prior to his current role, Aaron served as a Chaplain Resident at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. Aaron is now the Campus Rabbi and Senior Jewish Educator at OSU Hillel. He and his wife Dena live on campus.



**TALI RONEN**

***WHP San Francisco 14***

Mountain View, California

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Tali Ronen is a dedicated leader with extensive experience in social impact and community service, particularly within the Jewish community. She currently serves on the board of UpStart, where she supports initiatives that foster innovation and growth among Jewish organizations. Previously, Tali served on the Board of the Oshman Family Jewish Community Center, including as Chair from 2021 to 2024. Her leadership experience also includes serving on the Executive Committee of the Jewish Federation Bay Area Board and as President of the Gideon Hausner Jewish Day School Board. In addition to her community leadership, Tali is a certified Pilates instructor and CoreAlign trainer, with a specialized focus on functional movement and post-rehabilitation education. Originally from Israel, she holds a Bachelor's degree in Educational Administration and Organization from Tel Aviv University and a Master's degree in Human Resources and Organizational Development from the University of San Francisco. She is also an alumna of the SF14 Wexner Heritage Program. Tali lives in Mountain View with her family and remains deeply engaged in initiatives that strengthen and enrich Jewish community life.



**JIM SCHEINMAN**

***WHP San Francisco 14***

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Maven Venture's ([www.mavenventures.com](http://www.mavenventures.com)) unique investment model combines an early stage consumer incubator with a MicroVC Fund that has proven to be successful – over the past 5 years, 4 out of 10 Maven investments have led to exits including two acquisitions by Google. Maven is the first incubator and seed fund to focus exclusively on consumer internet and mobile startups with hyper-growth potential. Maven invests in the Seed and Series A rounds and provides access to the most talented team of consumer growth-hacker mentors in the industry who have helped build Facebook, twitter, linkedin, airbnb and others. Jim Scheinman, the Founder and Managing Director of Maven, has 20 years experience as a consumer entrepreneur and investor. AOL's \$850M acquisition of Bebo in 2008 where he was employee #1 and Board Member was Jim's largest exit and he also helped build NBC Internet into a \$6B public company as a senior executive in 2000, and helped scale Tango to 200M members and \$1B+ valuation.



**EVAN SCHLESSINGER**

***WHP Los Angeles 05***

Charlotte, North Carolina

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Evan Schlessinger is the President of the Springboard Company, a research and consulting firm based in Los Angeles. Springboard helps companies to drive revenue through innovation and consumer insights. While the Springboard Company has extensive experience in the food and beverage industry, much of the firm's work involves advising retailers and manufacturers across a wide array of consumer categories. The work of Evan Schlessinger has been featured in the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post, Newsweek, CBS This Morning, and the ABC Home Show as well as countless trade publications. As a lay volunteer, I am Chair Emeritus of the Jewish Community Foundation of Los Angeles - an organization that manages over \$1.5 Billion in assets and distributes over \$200 million in grants each year to support the community and Israel. I also chaired the Cutting Edge Grants Committee, focusing on identifying and supporting promising new high-impact organizations. Beyond the Foundation, I was a founding member and Board Chair of the LA Jewish Venture Philanthropy Fund, served as Board Chair of Jewish Family and Life Media and was on the Exec Committee of the Jewish Funders Network.

**EAN SEEB*****WHP Denver 14***

Denver, Colorado

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Ean Seeb has a storied history in Colorado's cannabis industry as a seasoned entrepreneur. He co-founded one of Colorado's oldest & most successful medical cannabis businesses, Denver Relief, which he later dismantled & sold a large portion to Willie Nelson's team, in 2016. He is a founding partner of Denver Relief Consulting, one of the nation's first cannabis consulting firms, in 2011. During his tenure, he led consulting efforts that helped establish dozens of cannabis businesses across more than 15 states, including two of the world's largest currently operating cannabis corporations. Mr. Seeb has served on multiplied industry boards including one of the first publicly traded cannabis companies. Additionally, he is the former Chair of the Board of the National Cannabis Industry Association. In 2019, Ean left the private sector to further advance the normalization of cannabis in Colorado through public policy. Notable accomplishments during this time include the establishment of the Cannabis Business Office, the pardoning of more than 4,000 prior cannabis convictions, and the regulation of intoxicating hemp, among other initiatives. He is currently the Special Advisor on Cannabis & Natural Medicine to Governor Jared Polis.

**STEPHANIE SILVERMAN*****WHP Cleveland 05***

Shaker Heights, Ohio

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Stephanie Silverman co-owned (with Fellow Wexner x2 graduate Susan Borison) Your Teen Media - a media company that provides valuable information for parents of teens. Stephanie earned her Bachelor's Degree (Finance) from Miami University, and worked as a commercial banker prior to her life as an entrepreneur. Stephanie is the current Wingspan board chair, and past board chair of its subsidiary Bellefaire JCB. She is also on the board of Footpath Foundation, and chairs the Youth at Risk sub committee at the Cleveland Federation. An east-coaster transplanted to the Midwest, she loves all things CLE - hiking, reading, paddle sports, and mostly loves her volunteer opportunities/community in Cleveland. She is the mother of three (two whom have relocated to Cleveland - yay), and lives in Shaker Heights, Ohio with her husband and lovable chocolate lab Luna.



**ADAM SMOLER**

***WHP Chicago 17***

Chicago, Illinois

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Adam grew up in the heart of downtown in Chicago, in the 80s, before the larger wave of gentrification took place. Adam attended Brandeis University, where he majored in Politics. After graduation, he decided to spend time at Yeshivat Darchei Noam-Shapell's. Upon his return to the US, he moved to New York, where he was immediately excited by the richness of the Jewish community and its offerings. Adam worked for a tech start-up and then moved to a firm that was acquired by Google. He has since held a variety of roles within Google in the online ad space. Adam met his wife at Kehillat Hadar, an independent minyan on the UWS. They moved to Chicago (city) in 2010 where they are committed to raising their children. They enjoy hosting lively Shabbat dinners with a diverse group of people and love spending time with their three sons. Adam mentors others who are at earlier stages of their careers and regularly speaks at various Chicago area schools. Adam was most recently Chair of the Board of Directors at Anshe Sholom B'nai Israel in Chicago.



**ERICA STARRFELD**

***WHP Cleveland 22***

Orange Village, Ohio

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Erica is a community leader, lifelong learner, and strategic marketing & communications professional. She is currently the Vice President for University Marketing and Communications at Case Western Reserve University where she is committed to driving visibility and ensuring the reputation for one of Cleveland's most premier institutions. Prior to that, Erica spent nearly two decades at Nestle USA in brand management and centralized marketing leadership roles. Erica has a BA from the University of Michigan and an MBA from Georgetown University. Erica lives her life with vulnerability and courage. She is committed to the forever quest of personal self-improvement and using every interaction to create an environment where everybody can be their best.



**BRETT STERN**

***WHP Cincinnati 19***

Cincinnati, Ohio

(513) 885-8226 / brettstern@gmail.com

Brett is a fourth generation Cincinnati who is truly in love with her city and its Jewish community. A former Jewish communal professional, she has been a residential Realtor for the past fifteen years. She holds a BA in Jewish Studies and Sociology from Indiana University and Master's degrees in Jewish communal service and non-profit management from Brandeis University. An avid cook, Brett's greatest Jewish communal involvement comes from the Shabbat and holiday meals that she and her husband, Noah, host in their home. During a typical year, Brett and Noah host several hundred people for shabbat and holidays. As the mother of two queer young adults, Brett is particularly passionate about LGBTQ involvement and equality in Jewish spaces.



**DAWN STRAUSS**

***WHP Dallas 13***

Dallas, Texas

(214) 289-4534 / dawnstrauss99@gmail.com

I am the full-time Director of Development at Braver Angels, a nonprofit committed to depolarizing the United States. I also serve as a facilitator for the Anti Defamation League. I am trained in facilitating their World of Difference and Words to Action curriculums. I have extensive experience in public speaking and fundraising on a volunteer basis.



**KEVIN WALDMAN**

***WHP San Francisco 11***

San Francisco, California

(415) 572-8563 / [kw@kevinwaldman.com](mailto:kw@kevinwaldman.com)

Kevin Waldman lives in San Francisco and enjoys being a connector and a storyteller. Professionally, he advises growing technology companies on their commercial real estate strategies – currently as an Executive Director with Cushman & Wakefield. Over the course of his career, Kevin has negotiated over \$2 billion in real estate transactions covering over 7 million square feet of space. Kevin has served on the board of directors for Shefa: Jewish Psychedelic Support, Mem Global (Moishe House), the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, as well as others. Kevin was Moishe House's International Board Chair for 3 years and also served in a number of other capacities including Vice Chair, Governance Chair, and the International Fund Co-Chair. He is an alumnus of the Wexner Heritage Program and JFNA's National Young Leadership Cabinet. Kevin was raised in New Orleans on incredible live music and spicy food, received a Bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Austin, and loves trail running and cycling.



**ERIC WASSERSTROM**

***WHP Columbus 11***

Columbus, Ohio

(614) 439-9614 / [Eric@wasserstrom.com](mailto:Eric@wasserstrom.com)

Husband, Girl Dad, Dog Dad, Golfer, Skier, Yogi.



**MATTHEW WILLIAMS**

***WGF Class 25***

Atlanta, Georgia

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As Vice President of the Center for Antisemitism Research, Matt Williams leads ADL's development of rigorous research and answers to both longstanding and new questions about how to measure, understand and prevent antisemitism. He partners with other ADL departments to utilize research and impact analysis to develop practices for addressing antisemitism. Matt joins ADL after serving as the founding director of the Center for Communal Research at the Orthodox Union and the managing director of the Berman Jewish Policy Archive. Much of Matt's decade plus of research leadership has been devoted to crafting impact-driven research programs in a range of fields – from substance use to informal education. At the Policy Archive, he oversaw the development of the archive's online presence and partnered with researchers to produce public-oriented scholarship. Prior to those roles, he worked as a management consultant crafting professional development programs and strategic plans for educational institutions, as a curator and as a high school teacher. Matt holds a BA from Yeshiva University and an MA and PhD from Stanford University.

# THE WEXNER FOUNDATION

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## THE WEXNER FOUNDATION

Guided by the vision of Abigail & Leslie Wexner, The Wexner Foundation focuses on the development of Jewish professional and volunteer leaders in North America and public leaders in Israel.

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*The Wexner Foundation is a nonpartisan, interdenominational, pluralistic program that engages leaders of divergent opinions and provides forums for rigorous debate on a wide range of issues. Faculty, speakers and authors at any of the Foundation's written and spoken forums express their views only. Such views are not to be construed as the view of the Wexner philanthropic organization.*

