5th annual Paideia Project-Incubator

Stockholm
August 3-12, 2010
Dear Project-Incubator Participant,

Welcome to Paideia and to Stockholm.

Congratulations on being chosen from a great number of candidates to participate in this unique program. The choice testifies to qualities that all of you possess: the ability to respond creatively to great challenges, your dedication to the renewal of Jewish culture in Europe, and your innovative spirit.

What awaits you are 10 intensive days with a wonderful staff, all talented in the skills of transposing ideas into reality. I am certain that you will greatly benefit from them. But also, and no less important, what awaits you is the remarkable opportunity to get to know each other. The fusion of so many talented, creative individuals together can produce extraordinary results, and we hope that you have arrived well rested so that you can benefit from every minute of this prospect.

Of course we hope that the weather will accommodate and that you will see Stockholm at its sun-glittering-on-the-water-best. But to a great extent your Stockholm experience will be weather-resistant in that the true climate will be determined by what happens within the halls of Paideia. Given who you and the rest of your cohorts are, we can predict with a great certainty that these will be 10 beautiful days.

With best wishes for your success,

Barbara Lerner Spectre
Founding Director Paideia- The European Institute for Jewish Studies in Sweden
August 2010

Dear Participant,

Welcome to Stockholm and to the 5th Paideia Project-Incubator!

As a participant in this summer’s program in Stockholm, you form part of an extraordinary group of European activists, who are propelling Jewish culture in action through a broad spectrum of projects and programs.

The goal of the Incubator is to support your activism by offering practical and conceptual tools for the development of your project, as well as the opportunity to brainstorm and receive feedback on your projects from your peers and our faculty.

The Incubator was created in order to contribute to the reigniting of Jewish culture in Europe through social action and entrepreneurship. Year to year, we have the privilege to witness more and more activists, bringing to Stockholm their dedication and their passion, and to follow their growth and accomplishments as they return to their home countries all over the continent.

It is our hope that after these days, you will return to your devoted work not only enriched – but also empowered and inspired to further develop your project and contribute to contemporary Jewish European culture.

We are excited to have you with us!

Brachi Lipshitz
Director, Paideia Project-Incubator
August 2010
Paideia – the European Institute for Jewish Studies in Sweden

Paideia was created in 2000 through grants from the Swedish government and the Marianne and Marcus Wallenberg Foundation as an academic and applied institute of excellence. Its mission is to actively promote the renewal and flourishing of European Jewish cultural and intellectual life, while simultaneously promoting cultural diversity and humanistic values.

Paideia’s intensive One-Year Jewish Studies Program each year brings together in Stockholm 25 exceptional fellows from 12-15 different countries that can lead this renewal, and engages them in interactive text study and leadership development under the instruction of world-renowned European and Israeli faculty.

Each summer since 2006, Paideia also conducts the Project-Incubator, empowering and educating European social entrepreneurs for Jewish Culture in Action. Since its inception, more than 80 projects have been tutored during the program, from cultural centers to kindergartens, from educational programs to environmental campaigns.

Today, Paideia’s outstanding graduates are making a difference at every level of society, from art to academia, from journalism to community leadership. The Jewish education and leadership training at Paideia has created a cadre of confident individuals who are adding substance, wisdom and enthusiasm to Jewish life and culture throughout Europe and the FSU.
Adriana Elena Dumitrescu

Country: Romania  
Project: Retrieval of the local collective memory about the Jewish personalities of Braila  
Field: Education, Cultural Production  
Status: Conceptualization Stage

Adriana is a history teacher and headmaster of a secondary school in Braila. Together with her students, she is the editor and publisher of “Menora”, a school magazine on Jewish history, culture and civilization (Record Number 002385380 in the Jewish National and the University Library Catalogue). She has a permanent collaboration with the Jewish Community leadership in Braila in order to organize extracurricular activities in the school. Adriana is trained to teach Jewish History and Holocaust, with education from Institute Moshe Carmilly and Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj, Centre de Documentation Juive Contemporaine in Paris, Yad Vashem in Jerusalem and the Goldstein Goren Center in Bucharest. She also attended the Sixth International Conference on the Holocaust held in Jerusalem in 2008.

ABOUT THE PROJECT:

The project will create a collection of testimonies of the inhabitants of Braila on Jewish personalities who lived in the city. This collection will be published as a book that will serve to popularize the stories, to act as auxiliary teaching material for local history lessons and to value the local collective memory about the Jewish personalities who lived in Braila.

The memory and the oral history of the community will be documented through interviews with descendants to Jewish personalities who lived in Braila. These interviews will be conducted by a local team that will include history teachers in Braila, which will also serve to spread information about the book, entitled “Retrieval of the collective memory about the Jewish personalities of Braila (people, places and events)”. A number of activities will be organized in connection to the book launch.

Andrea Ausztrics

Country: Hungary  
Website: www.jewave.com  
Project: Contemporary Israeli & Diaspora Art  
Field: The Arts  
Status: In Process of Realization

Andrea is enthusiastic about arts and about cultures. Her daily job involves producing films and creating websites, her community job is project coordination and her passion is research. During the past few years, she has worked on several commercials and short films as a producer, assistant and creative writer. She has helped organize multicultural festivals and many programs related to the Jewish community, all while writing her thesis on the young Jewish Diaspora in Budapest. She holds a Ph.D in History, an MA in Cultural Anthropology and an MA in Philology of Aesthetics, all from Eotvos Lorand University. Her main research areas are religion and social anthropology. Andrea believes that changing your mentality is not merely a question of education, but of producing or creating ideas that are more beneficial methods of spreading the ideology of multiculturalism.

ABOUT THE PROJECT:

The project focuses on Contemporary Israeli and Diaspora art. The purpose is to develop a webpage, which is already under construction, to gather as many artists as possible and spreading their work among people and organizations that collaborate with artists.

In practice, the website presents the artist by location, by field and by name: what they are doing, where they are and who they are. For instance, if you would like to invite an Israeli hip hop artist to perform in your country, you would search by location (Israel) or by field (hip hop artists). The aim of the website is to construct a large database and to help organizations all over the world make their events more attractive and diverse. With the help of the database, the artists will become better known internationally, and local events have the chance of becoming more attractive. The database is the first step. Next will be to organize workshops and to invite people from the database working in the same field to bring them in front of a bigger audience.
Agata graduated with a B.A. from the Academy of Arts in Krakow in 2008, Department of Graphics. For her diploma she created her own illustrated Haggada Shel Pesach. She has been actively involved as a volunteer in the Beit Krakow progressive Jewish community, including developing the first post-war reform Siddur in Poland, which features some of her art. She also created the stage decorations for the “Mysteries of my Grandma” performance, directed by Rabbi Tanya Segal and realized as part of the Midrash Theater project. Her works have been published extensively in the Monthly “The Jewish Word” in Poland, including cover design. Currently she studies Jewish Studies at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow.

Tanya came to Poland in 2007 as a Rabbi and is the co-founder and spiritual leader of the progressive community Beit Krakow. A theatre director, actor, lead singer and guitarist, she is also the founder of the Midrash Theatre project and has created the performances “Melody of Silence” (based on “Akidat Izchak”) and “Mysteries of My Grandma” (based on the Midrash “Eicha” from the Book of Zohar), which have been shown during the Krakow Jewish Culture Festival. Tanya has studied theatre, Jewish studies, Jewish philosophy and Kabbala at Tel-Aviv University 1991-95 and 2002-06, and holds an MA as director of Musical Theatre from the Moscow Theatrical School. In 2007, she graduated from Hebrew Union College with the thesis “Megilat Ruth via Midrash theatre”, and was ordained as a Rabbi the same year.

ABOUT THE PROJECT:

The Midrash Theatre is about to realize its third production, entitled “Traces of Messiah”. Midrash Theatre involves the study of classical Jewish text, and its interpretation in a contemporary context through various artistic means (theatre, music, and graphics). The production will explore current Jewish identity in modern-day Poland, where many people learn of their Jewish identity late in life and prefer to attend cultural (not religious) Jewish events, which for them feel more comfortable. The project will be realized through interactive production workshops and study sessions regarding various concepts of Messiah in Jewish classical literature and conclude in a performance at the Krakow Jewish Culture Festival in July, followed by a discussion with the audience.
ABOUT THE PROJECT:

We want to create an Internet-based quarterly academic journal for students of Jewish and/or Hebrew studies around Europe and publish it in Polish, English and Hebrew. We would like to start with Poland and Polish Universities, where higher education in the field has become vibrant in the last couple of years. There are Hebrew Studies centers in Warsaw, Poznan and Torun and an important Jewish Studies Department in Krakow.

The periodical will start as a platform uniting Polish students and in the next, natural step, will reach out to European students. As we want to remain open to all students willing to participate and contribute to our project, regardless of their place of residence, the internet serves as a perfect medium. The journal will be of academic character, representing different areas of Jewish Studies. We would provide room for articles in literary studies, linguistics, Bible studies, Talmud and Mishna, philosophy, culture studies, history, sociology and more. Emphasis will also be placed on giving a voice to aspiring translators of Hebrew literature. To guarantee high academic standards, the content will be reviewed by academics and scholars from around Europe (some have already agreed to cooperate).
Anita Bartha  
Country: Hungary  
Website: www.pixrael.hu  
Project: Pixrael Project  
Field: Education, Cultural Production, the Arts, Community Work, Activism  
Status: Running and Moving Towards Expansion

Anita is the coordinator of the Hungarian Jewish Youth Organization Kidma. She is also the lead organizer of various projects like the Pixrael Project in 2008 and 2009, Purim Community Day, Hanukah Festival, etc. She also works with community development and in informal Jewish education. Born in 1984 in Budapest, Andrea is a 5th year graduate student in Budapest at the Eötvös Lorand University and at Pázmány Péter Catholic University - at the Jewish Studies, Literature and Aesthetics Faculty. For several years, she worked as a journalist for various Hungarian newspapers. She has volunteered and studied in the Yagur and Ein-Hashofet Kibbutzim and studied at the Haifa University summer program.

ABOUT THE PROJECT:

The Pixrael Project was launched in 2008 on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Israeli state and the EU Year of Intercultural Dialogue. Our purpose was to present the 60-year-old state differently from the usual representation in the mass media. More than 2000 photos were submitted and the 60 best were selected by a professional jury and became the photo exhibition. In 2009 the Pixrael Tel-Aviv 100' online photo competition focused on the city of Tel-Aviv’s 100th birthday. The aim of the project was to display how Tel-Aviv developed into a real metropolis. The 50 best photos were selected from more than 1000 pictures from 10 countries. The international aspect of the contest made it possible to present Tel-Aviv from different points of view. The pictures were exhibited in several places in Hungary, and the project was also supported by an art workshop that focused on the integration of traditional Jewish iconography in modern applied arts. In 2010 we are working on a new exhibition called Pix.Urb - Picture urban life: Beirut - Budapest - Tel Aviv. The aim of the project is to encourage inter-cultural dialogue and promote mutual understanding between the urban cultures of these three different and misunderstood cities in the Middle East and Eastern Europe.

Anna Shayevich  
Country: Russia  
Website: www.sefer.ru/eng/programs.html  
Project: Student Programs in Jewish Studies  
Field: Education  
Status: In Process of Realization

Anna is the Educational Programs Coordinator at the Sefer Center for University Teaching of Jewish Civilization, where she is responsible for student program planning and financing. She is a graduate in Hebrew Philology from Tel Aviv University and has worked as Cultural Programs Coordinator for JDC Moscow for four years. Anna has studied management and leadership skills in Moscow and educational management with the Kivunim organization in Moscow. She also volunteers for the “E-club program” at the youth welfare club.

ABOUT THE PROJECT:

The program will include several types of actions, such as:

1) Youth conferences - an opportunity for young scholars to present their research in Jewish studies and to meet other students as well as leading academics in Jewish studies from the FSU, Israel and Europe.

2) Summer and winter indoor schools: miniature universities with lectures by leading experts in Jewish studies, dealing with topics that are not part of the regular study curriculum in most universities. The Indoor schools are divided into separate tracks for beginner and advanced students; graduate students teach classes and serve as mentors for beginner students. The popular Beit Midrash – a program that provides an innovative and more personal approach to the study of Jewish texts and culture – is an integral part of each SEFER indoor school. (Location: Moscow).

3) Field schools, providing students the ability to conduct excavations, collect and preserve fragments of Eastern European Jewish history, touching and preserving the remnants of the rich history born in these geographic areas and, many times, exploring their own personal history. (Locations: Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Poland, Czech Republic and Slovak Republic.)
**David Stoleru**

**Country:** Israel  
**Project:** A Jewish approach to Heritage in Europe  
**Field:** Education, Cultural Production  
**Status:** Conceptualization Stage

Born in France, David arrived to Israel as an 11-year boy, where he studied at the 'Netiv Meir' yeshiva for four years. After his military service, he went to study architecture in Paris, earning an MD in Architecture from the Paris-La Seine University. After moving to Barcelona in 1997, he began to investigate the connection between the remnants of the great medieval Jewish communities and contemporary cities. Currently a Jerusalem fellow at the Mandel Institute, David is the co-founder of the Zakhor Study Center and of the Jewish Heritage Commission of Catalonia. He was selected to the JDC Jewish Young Leadership Seminary. David is also the founder of the Talmudic Circle in Barcelona, which focused on the study of Responsa texts written in Barcelona. David is married to Romi, with two daughters (Milah, 4.5 and Leia, 1.5 years old).

**ABOUT THE PROJECT:**

The project is a program linking European cities with medieval Jewish Heritage sites, in which local schools can develop specific on-site learning activities and a personal connection between pupils and places. These activities will include:

1. Discovering new layers connected to the pupils’ experiences of Jewish life, based on the development of identification with the historical local Jewish communities.
2. Development of new meanings for these Jewish Heritage places, related to the general multicultural society.
3. Discovering the historical community through texts written by the local Jewish scholars and rabbis. Midrash, Pyut and responsa will be the main elements through which intimate knowledge of Judaism will be transmitted. All the chosen texts will be relevant to the understanding of the contemporary city, contemporary society and the moral questions that arise in our lives.
4. Common study-sessions with Jewish and non-Jewish school pupils, focusing on three elements: the place, the historical Jewish community and the contemporary Jewish community.

---

**Galina Levina**

**Country:** Belarus  
**Project:** The International Children Art Forum “Jewish Shtetl Revival - From Shtetl Streets to Modern Art Museums”  
**Fields:** Education; Cultural Production; The Arts; Community Work; Activism  
**Status:** In process of realization

Galina was born in Minsk, and studied architecture at the Belorussian Polytechnical Academy. She is the architect of the new Synagogue in Minsk and of Holocaust memorials in Bobruisk and Glusk. Galina was also involved in the project of reconstructing the Voloshin Yeshiva, as well as in other reconstructions of architectural monuments, designs of public buildings, and of theatrical scenography and costumes. Galina is the author of several poetry books, and of a book documenting Jewish life in Slonim before the Holocaust. She is the Cultural Advisor of the Union of Belorussian Jewish Public Associations and Communities, and the initiator and director of several programs dedicated to children and to Jewish community life.

**ABOUT THE PROJECT:**

The Union of Belarusian Jewish Public Associations and Communities has developed a program called Jewish Shtetl Revival, to support modern Jewish art by fostering the creativity of children and young adults. The ultimate goal of the program is to bring Jewish art back into the lives of Jewish communities within the context of global culture and to strengthen the Jewish identity of the participants, who are Jewish children ages 14-18 from Jewish communities in the FSU and Europe. Through artistic expression, it aims to strengthen their bonds to Jewish heritage. During the program, youth from different communities visit several towns in Belarus, famous for their Jewish history and culture, where they become acquainted with Shtetl history and the everyday life of the Jewish people who lived in the Pale of Settlement. The program has run successfully since 2007 and the will of the community is to continue to provide the young members of the community with this educational opportunity to search for their Jewish roots and to share the knowledge and experience of Jewish culture and arts from their own countries.
Elena Feldman
Country: Russia
Project: Inspired Jewish Leadership
Field: Education, Community Work, Activism
Status: Conceptualization Stage

Irina Sklyankina
Country: Russia
Project: Inspired Jewish Leadership
Field: Education, Community Work, Activism
Status: Conceptualization Stage

Elena began as a volunteer with Project Kesher in 1998, and worked at the Tula Jewish Community Centre “Hasdej Neshama“ starting that same year. She is now the coordinator of the project “Building civil society through women’s coalitions“, which is active in Oryal, Bryansk, Nizhniy Novgorod, Volgograd and Balakovo. She was previously an administrator at the ORT KesherNet Center in Tula, which she was part of starting up ‘from scratch’. The center teaches both computer skills and provides social training for each participating group. Elena is a graduate of the Tula State University and holds a PhD in economics. Her motto is that everybody has to make just a little thing to change the world.

Irina is head of the Jewish Education and Community Building Department at Project Kesher, and was previously alumni coordinator for the Beit Binah program in the same organization, a program where she has trained for three years herself. Irina holds a diploma from the Tula State Teachers’ Training University, and for a number of years worked as a tutor at the Lauder Foundation’s Tula Jewish kindergarten, “Shalom”. She has worked for the Tula Jewish Community Center as a coordinator of the youth club and of the teenage and family club.

ABOUT THE PROJECT:

The project seeks to increase the number of Project Kesher activists in leadership positions in both the Jewish community and the larger society. Concretely, the project aims to raise their status in the community, to enhance and deepen their leadership skills based on Jewish text study, to give them fundraising tools to enable them to further develop their communities without international assistance, and for them to facilitate cooperation between the Jewish community and governmental and non-governmental organizations (both Jewish and non-Jewish).

The project will take place in 15 cities with 30 participants from Ukraine, Russia, Belarus and Georgia. It will consist of seminars for activists who have been emerging in the Project Kesher network, field training and social activism campaigns, each bringing together 2-3 cities that will implement projects aimed at the establishment of partner relationships with governmental and non-governmental organizations.
Giles Howe

Country: UK
Website: www.sovietzion.com
Project: Soviet Zion
Field: Cultural Production
Status: In the stages of realization

Giles has worked in many diverse capacities, including geriatric care work, multilingual market research, construction work, charity fundraising, party hosting, and many positions within the service industry. He has volunteered for Cancer Research UK, and also as an accompanist to a choir (in Stockholm!). He grew up in a small town between London and the south coast of England, in the only Jewish family in town. Without a specifically Jewish education as such, it was never a massive feature of his youth. However, when he was roughly 16, he began to really dig into his Jewish identity. He is especially interested in the secular side of this heritage, in particular Yiddishkeit, and following an unforgettable trip to Ha’aretz with the Taglit Birthright organization, has begun learning both Yiddish and Hebrew and hopes eventually to make Aliyah.

Katy Lipson

Country: UK
Website: www.sovietzion.com
Project: Soviet Zion
Field: Cultural Production
Status: In the stages of realization

Katy recently returned from the European Tour of ‘The 12 Tenors’ as Musical Director. She trained at the London School of Musical Theatre, and has a BMus from Goldsmiths University. She is not only a musician, but also a singer, actress, composer, and music/drama teacher. Her professional credits include the world premiere of Charles Miller’s ‘Jason and the Argonauts’ at the Cochrane Theatre, London, the West End workshop of ‘Zorro’, ‘Jack and the Beanstalk’ at the Liverpool Everyman, and ‘The Last 5 Years’ at RADA. She was also Assistant Musical Director on the UK tour of ‘Hot Flush’ starring Sheila Ferguson and Marti Webb. Most recently Katy appeared in ‘Chess in Concert’ at The Royal Albert Hall, and she currently works as a vocal coach at The BRIT School. (www.katylipson.com) She grew up in a very Jewish area in Manchester and attended Jewish school until 11 years old. Katy can read Hebrew and it has always been a passion of hers to write a Jewish musical!

ABOUT THE PROJECT:

SOVIET ZION is an epic new sung-through musical set in Birobidzhan, the capital of the Jewish Autonomous Region of Russia – an area of Siberia set aside by Stalin in the 1920s as a Yiddish homeland, indeed, the first Jewish homeland of the modern. SOVIET ZION follows the lives of three very different families who settle in the region: a poor Yiddish family from the Ukraine, a rich idealistic American family, and later a staunchly religious family who move there from Israel. The show covers 30 years of their intertwining lives, covering Stalin’s purges, the Shoah, and Israel’s independence. Although epic in scope, its small forces mean it could be easily staged in any small theatre or community centre and that is exactly what we intend to do. Our immediate plans for the show are to stage an invite-only recital to give us the opportunity to make further changes before taking the show to the public stage. We then want to stage the work in a small-scale tour of the UK, visiting some of the larger Jewish communities and if that is successful, take the show on an international tour, eventually to Birobidzhan itself – which still exists today even if the community there is small and disadvantaged. We see this show as a great vehicle to raise awareness of the region’s existence, and also as a potential fundraising opportunity to help a community in desperate need of both financial assistance and recognition by the rest of the world.
Iulia Tucinskaia

Country: Chisinau, Moldova  
Project: Weekends with Jewish texts  
Field: Education, Community Work  
Status: In Process of Realization

After graduating Paideia in 2009, Iulia co-founded Moishe House Chisinau - the first in the FSU. In January 2010 she became president of the Hillel Jewish student organization in Moldova. Iulia holds a Bachelor’s degree in Fine Arts from the State Pedagogical University, where she studied arts, psychology, design and pedagogy. She worked as an interior designer for several years. Iulia has also studied at the “Sela” program in Israel. She is involved in summer schools organized by “Sefer”, the Moscow Center for University Teaching of Jewish civilization. In addition, she participates in the eco-green movement in Moldova. Iulia plans to obtain a Master’s Degree in Leadership for Sustainability and Management of NGOs and is interested in classical and Klezmer music, Jewish heritage, active life, literature, and art.

Natalia Yakimchuk

Country: Russia  
Project: Weekends with Jewish texts  
Field: Education, Community Work  
Status: In Process of Realization

Natalia is an alumna of the Paideia One-Year Program (2008-2009), and is currently in post-graduate studies in Religion Studies at Moscow State University, from where she also holds a specialist degree in philosophy, anthropology, the history and philosophy of religion, Latin and Greek. Natalia works for the Federal Agency for the Commonwealth of Independent States, and has worked at the Technical University of Moscow as a teacher of philosophy, tutor and lecturer. She has participated in various educational programs in Israel, such as “Eshnav” for young researchers and a Hebrew Ulpan at Rothberg International School. She has a bet-level in Hebrew.

ABOUT THE PROJECT:

The project consists of learning weekend seminars, aimed at a number of different Jewish communities for two-three days each time. The program for the seminars includes introduction sessions to Talmud-Torah text (Parashat-a-shavua), discussions on different philosophical, psychological, sociological topics using traditional and contemporary Jewish texts, (both in a Beit Midrash setting and through open discussion), cultural and social activities such as movies, games and talks. While the main components and activities can remain largely the same for all communities, there is also room for adjusting to the target group depending on group size, age and religious characteristics.
Jude (Judith) Williams

Country: UK
Project: Jeneration
Fields: Education, Community Work
Status: Up and Running

Jude grew up in Birmingham, England, and had her formative Jewish experiences in a Zionist youth movement, ULPSNYC. Within the arms of the youth movement, Jude fell in love with the Jewish tradition and Israel. After studying in Leeds, Jude made Aliyah and became a freelance Jewish educator teaching courses, seminars and running trips. Jude graduated Hebrew University with a Masters in Contemporary Jewry in 1999 and in 2002 was a participant in the Jerusalem Fellows Program at Mandel School, Jerusalem. In 2004, she moved with her family to London to take up a position with the Movement for Reform Judaism directing the youth and young adult department. During the past five years Jude has held the responsibility for devising and launching Jeneration. The role has combined informal education, community building, management and building needs-based programming. Jude lives with her husband Chuck and their four children in Finchley, London.

ABOUT THE PROJECT:

Life between 18 and 30 has the potential to be an exciting time of Jewish experimentation and personal growth. Jeneration was created to facilitate that; unlocking the Jewish tradition as a potential source of meaning and purpose, in non-synagogue and often cross-communal settings.

So Jeneration works with 18-30 year old Jews in the UK, helping them to find Jewish meaning and purpose through events, trips, prayer, social action and connections to a wider Jewish community.

Jeneration operates as a provider of activities that are passionate pluralist; that values personal choice, egalitarianism, inclusiveness, and engaging deeply with Jewish texts and tradition. We aim to work in a way that is accessible and relevant to people’s lives, meeting existing demand and developing it further.

Liana Jagniatinsky

Country: Lithuania
Project: Jewish Culture in new Vilna
Field: Education, Cultural Production, the Arts, Community Work
Status: Conceptualization Stage

Liana was born in the city of Vilna – a city well known for its Jewish past. She graduated from Vilnius State University with a BA and an MA in Communication Science and continued her professional growth in one of the biggest companies in Lithuania, as Public Relations Manager and later as Marketing Manager, mostly responsible for corporate social responsibility projects. Currently, she is a board member of the Lithuanian Marketing Association and is involved in various projects. Since her childhood, Liana has been strongly involved in the life of the Jewish Community, volunteering for different Jewish projects. She was an active member of the Lithuanian Jewish Student Union and later of the European Union of Jewish Students. At present, Liana coordinates activities for Young Jewish Adults and has initiated a new project focusing on Jewish Culture in Lithuania - a culture that is remarkable for its vibrancy and ability to attract people.

ABOUT THE PROJECT:

The idea of the project is to create a space for viable Jewish culture. While many things might be happening around us, they still seem distant when we are not involved in them. Our goal is to develop a living, rich and diverse Jewish culture, as it was many years and even centuries ago.

The project has three main branches. The first one is to bring together prominent Lithuanian Jewish artists to create common performances. There are many very talented and well-known Jewish artists – musicians, actors, artistic directors, designers, singers and painters, who can create something incredible with our help and support. The second branch consists of exhibitions displaying professional and lay artists’ oeuvres, including educational and other activities. The third branch is a market-day – a Jewish bazaar, which will include Jewish cuisine professionals, presenting traditional Jewish dishes and giving cooking classes, and Jewish artists, displaying the huge diversity of their work. The project will be open to the general public, who will be presented with attractive Jewish life in a cozy atmosphere.
Lena (Olena) Pysina

Country: Ukraine  
Project: Repairing the world through the proactive study of Torah  
Field: Education, Community Work, Activism  
Status: Conceptualization Stage

Lena was born in Russia, but moved to the Ukraine at the age of three – and became a member of Cherkassy Jewish community of Progressive Judaism community at eight. In the community, she went through various leadership programs and seminars for teachers in Jewish Sunday schools. She went on to working with children in the community, both in different Jewish camps and in kindergarten. Lena is a graphic designer and painter according to her formal education. She has worked for the Jewish Welfare Fund and became a Paideia fellow in 2008-2009. After Paideia, Lena continued to work in the community, mostly with youth and adults in Jewish organisations, and has recently joined Project Kesher to work as a coordinator of youth groups.

Vlada Bystrova

Country: Ukraine  
Project: Repairing the world through the proactive study of Torah  
Field: Education, Community Work, Activism  
Status: Conceptualization Stage

Vlada is Programming Director at Project Kesher, where she started working in 2000, while also completing her MA. She quickly found her interest in self-education and in qualitative research through interviews, and in identifying criteria of NGO efficiency. At Kesher, she has worked as a coordinator of the “ORT-KesherNet” program in the Ukraine and as the coordinator of the youth program “Next generation”, a joint project with Hillel aimed at building Rosh-Hodesh groups and training young Jewish leaders. With experience in working with both middle-aged women and youth, Vlada has facilitated advanced leadership training programs and a number of “Mothers – Daughters” seminars.

ABOUT THE PROJECT:

Jewish women in Russia and the Ukraine face a variety of different challenges related to issues such as career, relationships and Jewish identity. This project will help women in 14 different cities become well-educated and prepared to address these matters and understand how they can utilize Jewish values in their work as Jewish professionals and volunteers – and by using professional skills to advance the Jewish community and society as a whole.

20 participants will be carefully selected from youth groups and communities, and offered 3-day seminars considering the needs of their specific communities. Topics integrated in the curriculum include female leadership in the Torah through text study; group dynamics; volunteerism and community outreach; economic literacy and budgeting.

The project participants will each hold 2 monthly workshops and facilitate text study and monthly activism for groups of 15-20 persons at a time, over a 10-month period. They will be taught to use step-by-step lessons that will empower them to demonstrate their leadership and strengthen the Jewish identity among the group members, leading to change in the personal, communal and societal spheres.
Liat Margalit

Country: Israel
Project: EICOP - European Israeli cooperation platform
Field: Education, Activism.
Status: Pilot Stage

Raised in Israel, Liat has taken part in international and multicultural initiatives involving Israelis, Arabs and Europeans for the past ten years. She is a member of ROI - a global community of young Jewish innovators, and a member of the Young Israeli Forum of Cooperation, an Israeli NGO that works to increase the influence of young professionals on the regional integration of Israel in the Middle East and Europe. She earned a bachelor’s degree in Political Science, with a minor in Spanish and Latin American Studies, from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and spent six months studying at the International People’s College in Denmark. She is a graduate of the StandWithUs Israel Fellowship, a unique program training Israeli university students to be international ambassadors and future leaders of Israel. Currently, she works as the advisor to the deputy minister of Industry, Trade and Labor.

ABOUT THE PROJECT:
Cultivating and expanding the relations between Israeli and European civil societies by enhancing existing ties and expertise of young professionals. EICOP is a partnership of civil society organizations represented by young professionals from the European Union and Israel who have identified a deficit of regular and institutionalized dialogue between their civil societies. Therefore, a common platform was created upon which common projects and dialogue on both national and international levels can take place.

How do we do it?
Through building upon existing ties between Israeli and European civil society and organizations. Through the exchange of young professionals from Israel and Europe in academia, business, parliaments, government, NGOs and the media. Through mutual participation in community and cultural programs. Through combining the expertise of Israeli and European organizations, sources of subsidy, stakeholders and expertise for the development of Euro-Israeli projects. Through connecting European and Israeli Individuals and organizations working in the same field.

Petr Beneš

Country: Czech Republic
Project: Shalom Chaverim!
Field: Community Work
Status: Conceptualization Stage

Petr is a member of Jewish Liberal Union in Prague (member of WUPJ). He joined this Jewish progressive community a year ago, as he started to attend classes of biblical Hebrew and regular worship services. He is now active member, working in the community with matters such as holy days and other activities. Currently, he is working on redesigning and improving the community’s web site and graphic identity, and with publications. Petr studied languages and literature at the Charles University in Prague, before joining the Faculty of Social Sciences, where he studied mass communication and journalism with a specialisation in TV. His Jewish education is mostly self-taught, supplemented with seminars in Anti-Semitism the Holocaust, etc. at the University. He has run an independent music label, several music magazines and currently works as a deputy director at the MAFRA MEDIA publishing house.

ABOUT THE PROJECT:
Shalom Chaverim! is an outreach program, which has been practically non-existent in the Czech/Prague based Jewish community so far. This lack of programming opens up a large number of opportunities - from organizing small stepping stones such as crash courses in reading Hebrew and introduction to Judaism, to courses promoting Shabbat.

The program will be complex, inclusive and widespread, but still communicated with a focus on the individual and leaving open the question of their form of involvement and Jewish identity – be it secular or Zionist, atheist or believer – so they can feel involved and get a taste of a multitude of Jewish activities. In order to address this diverse audience, the program will rely on modern marketing methods and on events such as open Shabbats and Holy Days. It is based in Prague, mainly using the facilities of the liberal union congregation.
Piotr Widlaszewski

Country: Poland
Project: יידיש לעבט (“yidish lebt”)
Field: Education, Cultural Production, the Arts, Community Work, Activism
Status: Running and Moving Towards Expansion

Piotr holds an MA Sociology from the University of Gdańsk, and is currently pursuing an additional Master at the Center for Eastern Studies, Warsaw University. His particular interest is the condition of the lesser used languages in East-Central Europe and the CIS, and especially the issue of Yiddish language survival. Since 2004, he has been involved in several activities for Yiddish language, the most important being “Yiddish Lebt”, where he is one of the founders. Apart from creating a large number of software solutions for Yiddish users, Piotr also assists the Jewish Community with publishing initiatives. He is also active in organizing “leyenkrayz” and co-producing the only radio broadcast in Poland in Yiddish, as well as cultural events related to Yiddish and Jewish culture.

ABOUT THE PROJECT:

We are the authors of several solutions supporting Yiddish, aimed at users ranging from beginners to native speakers to researchers. Among these solutions are advanced algorithms for open source platforms such as MediaWiki or Joomla, enabling the RTL (right-to-left) writing system, which is also useful for Hebrew. We have also developed a Yiddish keyboard for all major operating systems, as well as the largest post-war Yiddish-Polish Dictionary (online). Currently, we are concluding work on the Hunspell Yiddish dictionary for spell check in, i.a., OpenOffice, Firefox, and the entire Mac OS X. All this work is done on free license and open source.

The current project focuses on the development of specialized software for the corpora and tools of NLP (natural language processing) for the Yiddish language.

Sabrina Small

Country: Germany
Project: Moderne Jüdisches Kochbuch—Modern Jewish Cookbook
Field: Cultural Production
Status: Conceptualization Stage

Sabrina grew up in a reformed Jewish family in Los Angeles, California. A staunch atheist, Sabrina used her Bat Mitzvah as a platform to philosophize about the existence of God and the meaning of being a Jew who does not believe in God. As staunchly atheist as she is, Sabrina is also staunchly a Jew and has devoted her adult life to exploring her Jewish roots by writing about the cultural issues confronting Jews living in Germany, as well as her own connection to her ancestry. Sabrina is a member of the Ohel Hachidusch congregation in Berlin, an open forum for Jews of all backgrounds. With credentials in Gastronomy and cultural theory, Sabrina has a rare insight into the development of modern Jewish identity in relation to food culture. She has given lectures about Jewish cuisine, from bagels to turkey-bacon, throughout the US and Europe.

ABOUT THE PROJECT:

In order for the Jewish community in Germany to remain vital, there needs to be more exchange between Jews and Germans. Food is a personal and enjoyable way to promote exchange and it is especially so in Germany. Germans cook at home on average 5 days a week and are big cookbook consumers. Finding Jewish cookbooks in Germany, however, is not very easy and the ones which exist are terribly outdated. I would like to write a modern Jewish cookbook using recipes from my own Jewish background but also incorporating recipes from different Jewish communities in and around Germany. I believe this cookbook would be a welcome edition to the cooking scene here. I also hope that Germans will discover the delights of Jewish cooking and see the connections it shares with German cooking. The act of cooking and reading about Jewish food also communicates as an historical key to Jewish culture, and exposes German audiences to modern Jewish cultural systems.
Tamas was born in Slovakia in a Jewish family. After finishing high school, he continued his studies in Budapest, earning a BA and MA in economics from the Corvinus University and a BA in Jewish studies from the University of Jewish studies. Together with his brother Andras, he has been coordinating Jewish community life in the city of Komárno on a volunteer basis since 1996. The community has its own homepage (www.menhaz.sk), its own newspaper in two languages with 400 copies per month and 20-30 organized activities per year. He worked as a Madrich unit head at the Szarvas International Jewish Camp in Hungary for 10 years and is a board member of the MOTL Hungary. After a number of years working for multinational companies, he is now working for the Jewish community of Budapest as grants coordinator and deputy head of the HR department.

**ABOUT THE PROJECT:**

The project DERECH is a new activity provided by the Jewish community of Komárno. The aim of the project is to bring people back to our roots, and to provide Jews in small communities the opportunity to be part of Jewish life. The program brings together culture, text, traditions and contemporary life in small communities, with educational and cultural activities taking place monthly. The activities will be connected to holidays, when services will be provided with comments by invited guests, along with the display of Jewish art. Shabbat will also be celebrated together a few times during the year. As part of the project, Hebrew lessons will be prepared, beginning at the basic level. In order to assure high quality in the program, it will involve several different organizations. The project is also meant as a model for other small communities.

Shaul Bassi

Country: Italy
Website: www.venicejewishstudies.org
Project: Live and Learn in Jewish Venice
Field: Education, Cultural Production, the Arts
Status: Pilot Stage

Shaul is the co-founder and director of the Venice Center for International Jewish Studies, and associate professor of English literature at Ca’Foscari University of Venice, where he has taught since 2000. He graduated from the University of Venice, studied at Berkeley and Liverpool, and earned his Ph.D. from the Universities of Pisa and Florence. His research, teaching and publications are divided between Shakespeare, postcolonial theory and literature (with a focus on India) and Jewish studies. He has lectured at several Italian and international universities; He has taught at Wake Forest University-Venice, Venice International University, Harvard-Ca’Foscari summer school and at UC Santa Cruz. He is director of the international literary festival Crossings of Civilizations (www.incrocidicivilta.org) and a member of the Jewish Community of Venice, in whose board he served from 1994 to 1998.

**ABOUT THE PROJECT:**

The aim of the project is to develop and launch at a European level The Venice Center for International Jewish Studies that was created in 2009 to recognize and commemorate the shaping power of the Ghetto for Jewish life and its historical connections to other cultures. Our mission is to promote the enhancement of Jewish life and culture in the Ghetto today, to further the understanding and dissemination of Jewish history and culture, to facilitate academic study and research and ongoing student and adult learning in Jewish studies. For centuries, the Ghetto was a place of segregation, but also a thriving Jewish cultural center. Today, the shrinking of the local Jewish community and the impact of mass tourism threaten to make the Ghetto a tourist site and a Holocaust memorial, rather than a living society. The Center, that closely cooperates with the community, is committed to creating an alternative scenario, where the active presence of plural Jewish cultures is guaranteed by international visitors that participate in different cultural activities, ranging from artists and writers in residence who will come to create art inspired by this place, to scholars who will teach and learn about Jewish cultures, to students and the general public interested in learning more about Judaism.
Participants Profiles

Taras Prakapenka

Country: Belarus  
Project: The “Lucky Ticket” Jewish Handicraft College  
Field: Education, Cultural Production, Community Work, Social Work  
Status: Conceptualization Stage

Taras is active in the Jewish Community of Gomel at a variety of levels. Until recently, he was the director of the Gomel ICC youth club and he has worked as a Madrich for seven years. He has helped organize Shabbatons for 60 people and a Masa Shorasim trip to Israel for 400 young people. Taras holds a law degree from the Belarusian State University. His informal training includes courses with JAFI, the ICC and Nachshonim as well as the School of Madrichim for Gomel-Minsk. He recently completed a study entitled “Political and Legal Aspects of Talmudic Judaism”.

ABOUT THE PROJECT:

The project aims at combining Jewish studies with vocational training for a group of ten Jewish youth chosen from disadvantaged families in Gomel, giving them the opportunity to develop spiritually and to expand their career prospects. The students will be given full scholarship during one entire year, including three (Kosher) meals per day and accommodation - they will be living together in two shared apartments under the supervision of a staff member in charge of their well-being. The Jewish studies will take part in the mornings and will cover topics such as Jewish History, Tradition and Law, History of the State of Israel, Jewish Culture and Jewish Heritage. Afternoons are spent on vocational training that will prepare them to enter the labor market as jewellers and cutters of precious stones. Combining the two study elements aims at creating confident young individuals that can form the basis for a strong and vital Jewish community in Gomel.

Joshua Avedon

Jumpstart Co-founder and COO Joshua Avedon is a start-up veteran with an MBA in nonprofit management and an undergraduate degree from U.C. Berkeley in Mass Communication. He is a recognized leader in forward-thinking use of technology, viral communication and community-building strategies within the world of emerging Jewish organizations. As a successful business and communication strategy consultant for both for-profits and nonprofits, his background includes experience building infrastructure, overseeing complex accounting systems and managing million-dollar budgets. He is also one of the founders of IKAR, one of the largest and most successful Jewish Emergent communities in the country. A member of Selah Cohort 6, Joshua is also a CLI trained facilitator and has taught the principles of sustainable innovation for organizations such as ROI and Paideia. Joshua is married to Stephanie Avedon, and they have three children: Elias, Navi and Sarit. He lives with his family in the house where he grew up in Venice, CA.

Erik Gribbe

Erik works with resource development at Paideia and has been involved with the Project-Incubator since 2008. He holds a MA and a BA in International Economics from Stockholm School of Economics and a BA in Arts from Stockholm University. Before coming to Paideia, Erik has worked for the UNICEF, the Red Cross and as a high-school teacher, among other things. His previous background is in the performing arts, as a dancer with the Royal Swedish Ballet for 10 years.
Dina Gidron

Dina is a management and strategy consultant in the non-profit sector in Israel. Working with a variety of organizations, Dina facilitates strategic planning and organizational processes and provides individual counseling to both junior and veteran managers. Over the past year, Dina has also written a number of papers including an in-depth report on Social Management in Israel (for Sheatufim) and a review of environmental models and green programs that empower and develop vulnerable populations (for JDC Israel). Following a long career in the business sector - her last position as Executive Director and Partner in a leading business training and consulting firm - Dina served as Shlichat Aliya in Canada and later joined JDC in Israel and served as Director of Donor Relations in the International Relations Division from 2006 until 2009. Based in Jerusalem, Dina managed a team focused on developing and fostering links between JDC programs in Israel, the former Soviet Union (FSU) and the rest of the Jewish world with North American Federations, foundations and private donors. Born in England, Dina grew up in Israel. She holds an MBA from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, where she also earned her BA in Political Science and Geography. Dina is married and the mother of two boys. They live in Zur Hadassa, a small community on the outskirts of Jerusalem.

Rani Jaeger

Rani was the Scholar-in-Residence at Paideia for the year 2009-2010. Rani is the heads of the teachers training school at the Shalom Hartman Institute, which pioneers a new model of Jewish education for Israeli secular high schools. He teaches at Tel-Aviv University and is currently pursuing his PhD at Bar-Ilan University, at the department of Hermeneutics. Rani is one of the founders of “Beit Tefilah Israeli”, a new liberal synagogue in the heart of Tel Aviv.

Shawn Landres

Jumpstart co-founder and Chief Executive Officer Shawn Landres has extensive experience in academic and nonprofit leadership, peer network development and grant management. Shawn currently serves as Chair of the Advisory Board of Jewish Mosaic: The National Jewish Center for Sexual & Gender Diversity and is a member of the American Jewish Committee ACCESS Los Angeles Steering Committee, the IKAR Leadership Council, the J Street Advisory Council, the PJA/MPAC Muslim-Jewish New Ground Project advisory board, and the Selah Network Leadership Team. Coeditor of four books and numerous articles, he has written for The Christian Science Monitor, Huffington Post, Forward, and the Annals of the AAPSS, among others (including Austrian, British, Czech, Hungarian, and Slovak journals). He has taught at UCSB; the University of Judaism; Matej Bel University in Banska Bystrica, Slovakia; and Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Shawn also is a Research Scholar at the Institute for Jewish & Community Research. An interreligious activist with expertise in evangelical-, Catholic-, and Muslim-Jewish affairs, Shawn is an inaugural (2009) Fellow of the Ariane de Rothschild Fellows Program. Previously, he served as Director of Research for Synagogue 3000, where he managed the launch of the S3K Synagogue Studies Institute, launched the widely read S3K Reports series and Synablog, and conceived S3K’s Jewish Emergent Initiative. Shawn holds degrees in Religious Studies and Social Anthropology from Columbia University, UCSB, and the University of Oxford. He is certified by 21/64 as a consultant/trainer in multigenerational family philanthropy.
Barbara Lerner Spectre

Barbara is the Founding Director of Paideia, the European Institute of Jewish Studies in Sweden, an academic institute established in 2001 through a grant of the Swedish Government that serves as a resource and stimulus for the renewal of European Jewish culture. She was formerly on the faculty of the Shalom Hartman Institute of Jerusalem, where she taught Jewish Thought, and the Melton Center of the Hebrew University. Her area of research is in Models of Response to the Holocaust in Christian and Jewish Theology. Her publications include: “A Theology of Doubt” (Hebrew) and, together with Noam Zion of the Hartman Institute, the two volume: “A Different Light: The Hanukkah Book of Celebration”. She is the recipient of the 2007 Max Fisher Prize for Jewish Education in the Diaspora, and the 2008 ICRF award for Women in Action.

Brachi Lipshitz

Brachi is the director of the Paideia Project-Incubator since 2007. Residing in Israel, she is a theatre director, and leads the Beit-Midrash for storytellers at Elul, in Jerusalem. She is also the founder and director of several community theatre groups and has initiated many community theatre projects within the Jerusalem municipality. Brachi has taught various courses – both theoretical and practical – in theatre and Jewish culture at Emunah College, Jerusalem, and in several high schools. Brachi was in charge of the Arts Track and the Arts and Text days at Paideia during 2005-2006. She holds a B.Ed. in Theatre Directing and Education from Seminar Hakibbutzim College in Tel-Aviv.

Beto Maya

Beto is the Program Director for ROI. In this position, he is responsible for summit selection, programming, regional gatherings, grant pooling and more. Born in Mexico City, Beto was very active in the Zionist youth movement, “Dor Chadash.” After making Aliyah in 1993, Beto has developed Zionist Education and Leadership programming in many frameworks. Upon completion of his Bachelor of Education Degree from the Beit Berl College in Non-Formal Education and Israeli Studies, he worked in the Hagshama Department of the World Zionist Organization. Beto was then sent to Mexico City as a shaliach for the Jewish Agency for Israel and returned to Israel after three years. Before joining the ROI team, Beto was also the Education Coordinator of the Herzl Museum.

Beto currently resides in Modi’in with his dog, Kranky. He misses “real” Mexican food and has a true love for the San Diego Padres.

Ofra Palmer Granot

Ofra works as a resource development counselor for non-profit organizations in Israel, specializing in business-community relations and in cross-sector partnerships. She coordinated the Community Affairs’ unit at Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd for six years, from 2002 to 2008. Ofra taught at the Ariel College and still gives workshops on The Third Sector issue at several other organizations. Previously, she served as a fundraising manager at the Dor Shalom movement and for three other non-profit educational organizations. Ofra holds an MA in NGO management from the Hebrew University and a BSW in social work from Tel Aviv University. Ofra is the chairwoman of a Jewish text study group in her community.
Amy Philip

Amy is Deputy Director of The Pears Foundation. She is responsible for the strategic direction and management of almost all of the Foundation’s UK partnerships and projects with particular focus on community, citizenship, Holocaust Education, and Jewish community projects including the Jewish Social Action Hub (www.jhub.org.uk) which aims to build the capacity of innovative emerging and existing organisations and projects.

Before joining the Foundation, Amy was Deputy Director of the Parliamentary Committee against Antisemitism and was responsible for the delivery of the All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Antisemitism. Previously she was Researcher and Policy Adviser to the Deputy Mayor of London.

She has been a Limmud volunteer since 2003, including chairing Limmudfest in 2005 and serving as a trustee in 2009. She is currently on the Limmud International steering group with responsibility for training.

Gary Rosenblatt

Gary Rosenblatt has been editor and publisher of The Jewish Week of New York, the largest and most respected Jewish newspaper in America, since the summer of 1993. Prior to that he was editor of the Baltimore Jewish Times for 19 years.

Mr. Rosenblatt has won numerous journalism awards from both the Jewish and secular press for his writing, and was a finalist for a Pulitzer Prize in 1985, the first time an article in the Jewish media was cited.

He is founder and chairman of The Conversation, an annual retreat for American Jews who are leaders in a variety of fields to discuss what it means to be Jewish in America in the 21st century.

He is also founder and chairman of the Jewish Investigative Journalism Fund, and Write On For Israel, an advocacy program for Israel -- through journalism -- for high school students.

Judy Rosenblatt

Judy Rosenblatt is a mentor with the National Jewish Teachers Project, a program to help new teachers in Jewish day schools on a one-to-one basis. She formerly served as guidance counselor at Talmudical Academy of Bergen County, a boys yeshiva high school in New Jersey, and the Hebrew Academy of Great Washington, a co-ed yeshiva in suburban Maryland.

Fabian Sborovsky

Fabian works with recruitment of new students at Paideia and is the Paideia Project-Incubator program coordinator. He was an Amalie Beer fellow in 2007-2008 and currently serves as chairman of the Paideia Alumni Association. Fabian holds an M.A in Jewish Studies from Vanderbilt University and is active in Jewish education in the United States and Sweden. His previous background also includes several years in the travel industry.

Judy Rosenblatt is a mentor with the National Jewish Teachers Project, a program to help new teachers in Jewish day schools on a one-to-one basis. She formerly served as guidance counselor at Talmudical Academy of Bergen County, a boys yeshiva high school in New Jersey, and the Hebrew Academy of Great Washington, a co-ed yeshiva in suburban Maryland.

Fabian Sborovsky

Fabian works with recruitment of new students at Paideia and is the Paideia Project-Incubator program coordinator. He was an Amalie Beer fellow in 2007-2008 and currently serves as chairman of the Paideia Alumni Association. Fabian holds an M.A in Jewish Studies from Vanderbilt University and is active in Jewish education in the United States and Sweden. His previous background also includes several years in the travel industry.
Rabbi Ute Steyer

Rabbi Ute Steyer received her rabbinic ordination (s’mikha) from the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York in 2009. She also received a M.A. in Jewish Philosophy. Her thesis dealt with the rabbinic and scriptural influences on thought of Emmanuel Levinas. She is currently giving a two-year graduate fellowship in legal theory at the Center for Jewish Law and Contemporary Civilization at Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law.

Rabbi Steyer has served as acting rabbi in small congregations in North America as well as scholar-in-residence at various congregations. She taught courses at the JCC in Manhattan and is scheduled to teach a course in Pastoral Theology at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Rabbi Steyer was raised in the UK, Greece and Germany and has lived for many years in Stockholm, Sweden and was an active member of the Stockholm Jewish community. Ute was a Wallenberg Fellow at Paideia during the year 2001-2002.


Noomi Weinryb

Noomi is a PhD candidate in Organizational Research at the Department of Business Administration at Uppsala University. Her research focuses on philanthropists as policy actors in a comparative perspective. She was previously the Deputy Director of Paideia, where she has been the initiator of the refined applied leadership program. Noomi has a B.A. and M.A. in Economy from the Stockholm School of Economics, and a B.A. in Theatre Studies and Jewish Studies from Stockholm University. Before coming to Uppsala, Noomi spent a year and a half as a graduate student in Philanthropy at the Federmann School of Public Policy at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. As an economist, Noomi has also worked as junior consultant for customer driven business strategies and has worked extensively with fundraising, program creation and philanthropy in the field of Jewish life and culture. Noomi was a Wallenberg Fellow at Paideia during the year 2001-2002.

ROI Community

Inspiring young leadership, empowering innovation, and creating a more vibrant Jewish community all over the world – that’s what ROI is all about.

Founded in Jerusalem in the summer of 2006, ROI is a global community of outstandingly creative individuals who have a personal vision about how to make the Jewish world a better place. Built around intensive networking and skill-building activities in Jerusalem and the Diaspora that are continued online, ROI enhances its members’ ability to re-create community in their own image. ROI embraces the diversity and dynamism of Jewish life, with a youthful energy that represents its best hope for the future.

The ROI Community for Young Jewish Innovators is a venture of the Center for Leadership Initiatives that was created by philanthropist Lynn Schusterman in partnership with Taglit-Birthright Israel.

Jumpstart

Jumpstart’s mission is to develop, strengthen, and learn from emerging nonprofit organizations that build community at the nexus of spirituality, learning, social activism, and culture. An incubator, catalyst, and think tank, Jumpstart provides infrastructure organizational capacity building for visionary next-generation leaders and groups; builds cross-sector peer networks of purpose; develops field-building strategies for communal and philanthropic support of emerging organizations; and offers analysis and assessment of key trends and exchange of best practices.

Jumpstart’s widely read report on the Jewish startup Sector, The Innovation Ecosystem (http://jewishjumpstart.org/survey/), developed in a collaborative partnership with The Natan Fund and The Samuel Bronfman Foundation, urges support for innovation, new metrics for success, and collaboration to reduce costs.
The Jewish Social Action Hub

The JHub is a centre of creativity, energy, learning and innovation, providing office space, meeting rooms and a support network for innovative UK-based Jewish individuals, projects and organizations who are working to contribute meaningfully, in a variety of ways, to the Jewish and wider world.

The JHub works with the following aims:

- To energize the British Jewish community by encouraging social action, innovation and social entrepreneurship
- To help innovative emerging and existing organizations and projects to grow and develop by strengthening and providing support to build their capacity
- To facilitate networking and collaboration amongst organizations through Jewish learning, professional development and social events.

JHub is an operating program of The Pears Foundation

Pears Foundation:

The Pears Foundation is a family charitable foundation investing over £6 million annually in charitable causes in the UK, Israel and the developing world. In 2007 The Foundation established JHub: the Jewish Social Action Hub. JHub aims to energise the British Jewish community by encouraging social action, innovation and social entrepreneurship; to help innovative emerging and existing organisations and projects to grow and develop by strengthening and providing support to build their capacity and to facilitate networking and collaboration amongst organisations through Jewish learning, professional development and social events.

Pradler Program

We wish to express our gratitude as well to the Pradler NGO Empowerment Program for the long-time assistance and support in structuring the program and its content. Much of the training materials used during the Incubator are based on the Pradler Program curriculum. Pradler is an initiative of the Pratt foundation (www.pradler.org.il).