



מכון
SHALOM HARTMAN
שלום הרטמן
INSTITUTE



CONTENTIOUS TIMES. IMPACTFUL IDEAS. EMPOWERED LEADERS.

Annual Report of the Shalom Hartman Institute
Highlights from 2022-2023



The Shalom Hartman Institute is a leading center of Jewish thought and education, serving Israel and North America. Our mission is to strengthen Jewish peoplehood, identity, and pluralism; to enhance the Jewish and democratic character of Israel; and to ensure that Judaism is a compelling force for good in the 21st century.

HOW WE WORK

We drive meaningful change in the Jewish world through cutting-edge research and by empowering educational and community leaders in Israel and North America to tackle the most pressing challenges facing our communities. We identify, support, and train exceptional scholars and thought leaders who are committed to making a difference.

Our innovative educational programs for rabbis, educators, and lay change agents inspire action and create lasting impact. And we don't stop there—we reach the broader public through a variety of media platforms, publications, and events, amplifying our message and mobilizing others to join us in our mission.

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENTS

Dear Friends,

While Jewish life is rarely dull, this year has been both particularly momentous and challenging. The election in Israel in the fall of 2022—which resulted in the forming of a coalition with ultra-nationalists, the absence in the coalition of checks and balances on ultra-Orthodox demands on issues of state and religion, a focus on new settlements spearheaded by nationalist religious parties, and the proposed judicial reform—has dominated much of our thinking individually and institutionally.

The Shalom Hartman Institute is profoundly political but not partisan. We do not endorse any specific political party. We do, however, have definitive opinions on the nature of Israel as a Jewish democratic state, on human rights, and on state and religion, and it is on these issues that we and many others have found ourselves politically, intellectually, and morally at odds with the direction of the current Israeli government.

The political turmoil in Israel raises immense questions about the future of the State of Israel for all its citizens, as well as constituting a referendum on Zionism for the Jewish people worldwide. The decisions by Israel's political leaders implicate and obligate all of us who feel connected to the Jewish people and the State of Israel. And we are deeply concerned.

For much of the year we have been engaged with the question of what this moment demands of us and what particular role the Institute can and must play to fight for the Israel we believe in. We have been shifting our Centers and programs from long-term research and educational initiatives alone, to ways in which we can have a more significant impact in the short term as well. To use a running analogy, we have been asking ourselves how we can shift our focus from exclusively running marathons to also building our capacity for the 5k. This requires us to learn some new skills and competencies, including how we might expand beyond the educational sphere and engage effectively in greater degrees of social and political activism.

The good news is that the protest movement in Israel, and the overwhelming liberal Jewish response across North America, across the denominational divide, signal widespread concern for the future of the State of Israel characterized by greater engagement and activism toward social change than we have ever seen. Based on our first efforts to reorient our work, we at the Institute in both Israel and North America are excited and optimistic by the new possibilities that are emerging.

In Israel, which has been divided between religious/right and secular/left for decades, we are seeing the first phase of the disintegration of this dichotomy. With broad public rejection of the full proposed judicial reform, and growing concern for Israel's democratic future, a new coalition is emerging. Close to 30% of historically right-wing voters are now polling as intending to vote elsewhere, raising the prospect for a coalition that might lean right on issues of security but

center/left on issues of state and religion, human rights, and democratic commitments; and it might constitute a supermajority of Israelis who could implement major and overdue social change in these arenas. This emerging ideological social force is grounded not on the issue of Israel's borders, but on the nature of Jewish and democratic life within Israel's borders. It creates the conditions for the Institute's educational work across Israeli society, and for greater social activism and movement-building that could catalyze a better Israel for all Israelis.

In North America, with the awakening of an Israeli populace demonstrating their commitment to liberal Jewish and democratic values, North American Jews increasingly feel that they have peers and partners with whom to work on building the Israel we imagine. A relationship with Israel is no longer shaped exclusively by the policies of the government, but by the emerging social coalition. This new reality is also changing the discourse about Israel among North American Jews, which was often constrained by the misconception that stakeholders in Israel's future were limited to its citizenry. Among the Hartman Institute audience of "troubled committed" Zionists, we are seeing a marked increase in engagement with Israel, and an interest in working even more vociferously for the Israel we want.

To meet the challenges and opportunities of this moment, we are now sprinting in key areas of our work by developing our new Center for Shared Society in Israel, strengthening the growing network of our Rabbanut Yisraelit, creating a reservoir of future legislation for the next liberal democratic government in Israel that will reshape the nature of religion and state, building new partnerships in North America with other "troubled committed" organizations, accelerating the growth of our work with young people, and innovating in our rabbinic programs. All of this is happening alongside our ongoing and enduring marathon-running—the production of ideas and our signature educational programs—which build the future of Jewish life, one idea and one leader at a time. We are a more balanced track team than ever before.

A new possible future is emerging, and at the Institute we are marshaling all of our forces to play a significant role. As always, we want to thank you, our friends and supporters, for enabling our work and inspiring our dreams. We have always believed that the future of the Jewish people is dependent on the power and vitality of our ideas and the inspirational capabilities of our change agents. Now, more than ever, we see the significance of our work and the possibilities that it engenders for social, political, ideological, and religious change. While the short-term future will be difficult, a new and bright future is in our hands to achieve and our responsibility to actualize.

With much love and gratitude,



DONNIEL HARTMAN



YEHUDA KURTZER

Presidents, Shalom Hartman Institute

INNOVATIVE THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

At Hartman's bicontinental think tank, internationally renowned scholars in Israel and North America conduct cutting-edge research and produce innovative ideas around questions of central importance to Jewish life.

THE KOGOD RESEARCH CENTER

This year, the Kogod Research Center hosted over 50 scholars in 18 research seminars who worked collaboratively, interrogated deeply, and developed fresh thinking to address issues that impact Israel and North American Jewish communities.

The ideas generated in Hartman's research seminars permeated the public discourse in 2022-2023 through over 260 articles in the press, numerous conferences, thousands of classes for professionals and the public, essays in Hartman's **Sources: A Journal of Jewish Ideas**

and **Ofakim** journals, 93 podcast episodes, books, and high school curricula. Our ideas helped Jewish leaders use Jewish values to boldly guide their communities forward.

The ideas that emerge from our **iEngage** research seminar of scholars from Israel and North America fuel our programming, leadership education and digital content across the Institute and shape a new vision for Liberal Zionism in today's complex reality.

What is the relationship between North American Judaism and the institutions and culture of democracy?

How can the library of Jewish texts, ideas, and values help us respond to this particularly painful and contentious moment in Israel and support our aspirations for a Jewish democratic state?

In the face of the tensions of the current moment in Israel, how can we continue to expand the work of building a shared society of Arabs and Jews?

What might make Jewish rituals compelling for the majority of North American Jews?

How might we make pluralism an operating principle for the North American Jewish Community?

Can we shape a religious Zionism that embraces liberal values, concern for minorities, and an openness to religious pluralism?

Ben Sommer

Fellow, Kogod Research Center at Shalom Hartman Institute of North America, co-leader of research seminar: Ritual and Normativity



The Jewish world today needs new ways of thinking that can respond to a myriad of crises. While the world of the academy tends to be very siloed, our research seminars include people from a variety of academic disciplines as well as those working in the Jewish community, and (sometimes) even in the arenas of media and policy. Through a deep engagement with traditional sources, critical modes of analysis, and an eye to what can work, our seminars develop novel ideas grounded in the real world that challenge our assumptions and can improve Jewish life."

Ruth Kara Ivanov

Fellow, Kogod Research Center and graduate of the Maskilot Cohort 1, co-leader of *Ad Hena*, a research seminar exploring the identity of immigrants from the Former Soviet Union in Israel



The intellectual and spiritual conversations about who we are, why we're here, and how we can contribute to society animate the research seminars and permeate the hallways, dining room, and even encounters at the coffee machine. Inspired by my experiences at Hartman, I am raising the next generation of scholars to ask how exploring Jewish ideas, history, and Torah can inform our present and shape our future."

Tamara Mann Tweel

Fellow, Kogod Research Center at Shalom Hartman Institute of North America, participant in research seminar: American Jewish and the Political Process



My research has been profoundly informed by being a scholar at Hartman over the last three years. What I value most is the intellectual camaraderie, joyous sparring with colleagues, and deep sense of shared purpose. I am now teaching and writing about the purpose of education and the complicated history of prayer in schools."

Khalid Abu Ras

David Hartman Fellow, co-leader of research seminar, The Quran: The Sacred Book of Islam



At the Research Center, I appreciate the respect shown to my opinions, beliefs, and abilities. One of the ideas that emerged from this year's research seminar is that the richness and plurality of opinions that make up the Israeli mosaic is a blessing rather than a threat, a potential rather than a danger. Through my work at Hartman, along with colleagues, I am exploring what role Abrahamic religions should play in advancing a moral and just society and how to strengthen the dialogic aspect of our religious heritages. I am hopeful that the ideas that emerge from Hartman will promote and lead to an empathetic Israeli discourse that will counteract the current raging nationalist one."

LEADING THE PUBLIC DISCOURSE

At Hartman Digital, we are bringing bold, timely, and inspiring Jewish ideas to the platforms people love: podcasts, videos, and online lectures. In 2022-23, we doubled down on our commitment to deliver urgent and relevant content, so that Jewish leaders can respond in real time to the most pressing issues of the day. We reached hundreds of thousands of listeners, readers, and viewers, from high school students to retirees, with a wide range of Jewish affiliations, from across the United States, Canada and Israel. Our resources were also used by synagogues, book clubs, study groups, and professional groups to teach and frame community conversations.

We know that the world is changing at an unprecedented pace, and we're here to help our community stay ahead of the curve.



Each of our flagship podcasts, **Identity/Crisis** and **For Heaven's Sake**, attracts more than **10,000 listeners per month**. Our audience has grown 80% over the past year, and these shows are regularly among the top 10 Jewish podcasts in the United States.



“

Recently I started listening to the For Heaven's Sake podcast... That you are willing to hold onto a love for am Yisrael and Israel as a Jewish and democratic state and acknowledge the importance of these values, and that they should be held in necessary tension with each other makes me feel like you are talking directly to me.”

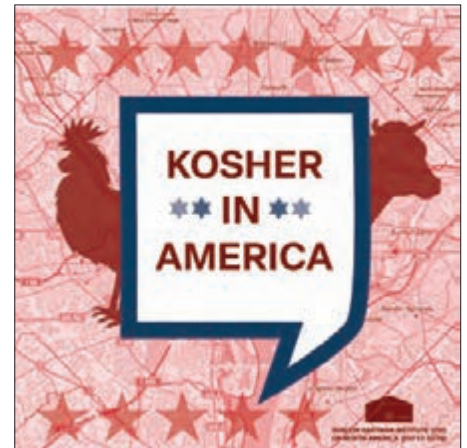
New in 2022-2023



Heretic in the House, our first scripted English-language podcast, was a four-part series hosted by Naomi Seidman about the identities, communities, and experiences of those who leave Orthodoxy. It rose to become the #1 Jewish podcast among US listeners within 24 hours of its launch and has since reached 20,000 listeners.



Bemadinat Hayehudim/“In the State of the Jews” (Hebrew) with Tehila Friedman, a former Kogod Research Center Fellow and former member of Knesset. She hosts guests—including other Hartman scholars and Israeli Members of Knesset—on subjects related to Judaism in the public square in Israel.

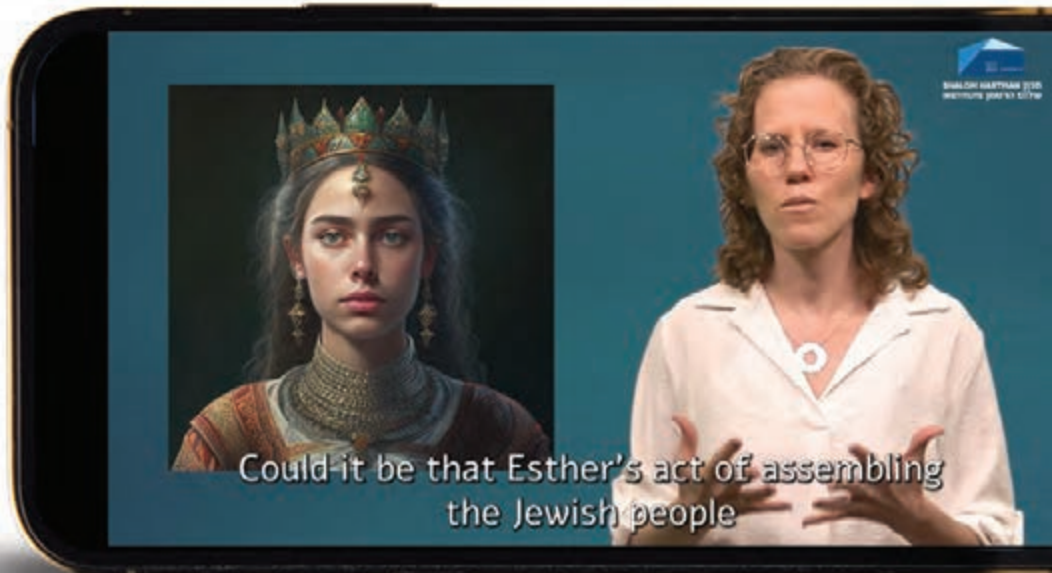


Kosher in America
Our first three-part scripted video series in English sheds light on how American Jewish ideas and identity get codified in the food that Jews eat. While there are many ways to learn about North American Jews, none is better than exploring their food.

Holiday Videos (Hebrew)

Hartman scholars explore relevant and timely themes connected to the Jewish holidays, including a message of unity for Purim during one of the most divisive moments in Israeli history. This video received 26,500 views.

Shachechu Oti baHagaddah/“They Forgot to Put Me in the Haggadah,” a three-part video series, reflects on ideas and writings that could have been added to the canonical text of the Passover holiday.



66,000 views
on
YouTube

PUBLICATIONS

At Hartman, we believe that ideas have the power to change the world. That’s why we’re committed to publishing some of the most compelling and important ideas in Jewish thought today. Our scholars and writers share their insights and perspectives through our journals, resulting in collections that provoke new conversations and challenge old assumptions.

Our readers are hungry for richer, deeper content. We respond to that demand with Hebrew and English publications: **Ofakim** in Hebrew and **Sources: A Journal of Jewish Ideas** in English. Printed editions can be found on the nightstands and in the backpacks and tallit bags of thinkers and leaders, and the digital editions are shared widely by partners and readers, leading to thousands of pageviews for each article.



Ofakim "Israel 2023: A Liberal Democracy in Crisis"



Sources: A Journal of Jewish Ideas, Spring 2023

In "**Ne'emanut: Placing Relationships at the Center**," SHI NA

Scholar-in-Residence

Mijal Bitton argued

for the value of

loyalty or faithfulness

as a central Jewish

value with the power to drive Zionist

commitments. She later discussed this

article with Joseph Schwartz, Hartman

Rabbinic Fellow and Makom director,

and Daniel May, Hartman Fellow and

publisher of *Jewish Currents*, in a

Hartman **Ideas for Today** event and

then again as a guest on the *Promised*

Podcast.



Al Daat Hakahal/"The People's Perspective"

Hartman's online Hebrew language

magazine published 80 articles by

Hartman scholars, some reached as

many as 10,000 views.

"Parenting Children Who Have Left the Family's Halachic Way of Life"

by Chana Pinchasi, Deputy

Director of Be'eri and

Director of Be'er School

for Teacher Education

at SHI



"Why We Drink Four Cups at the Passover Seder"

by Ishay Rosen-Zvi, Senior

Research Fellow at SHI



Hitkansut Haggadah and Leader's Guide

Hitkansut is a Yom HaShoah ritual created in Israel. In early 2023, we published an adapted English version with an accompanying Leader's Guide intended specifically to resonate with North American Jews. This new ritual of memory weaves survivor testimonies, literary texts, music, poetry, and prayer into a poignant communal ritual of remembrance.

Hitkansut ceremonies took place throughout Israel, including in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, and Yerucham. **Michal Govrin** and **Tamar Elad-Appelbaum** led this

year's central Hitkansut ceremony in Jerusalem, focused on the special connections between different people during the Holocaust, meant to address divisions in Israeli society today. Over 150 people attended in person with nearly 1,000 tuning in for the livestream.

Leaders across North America brought this ritual to their synagogues, schools, federations, and JCCs in 2023 for personal and powerful intergenerational ceremonies that were filled with song, readings, candlelightings, and testimonials by survivors as well as their children, grandchildren, and other family members.



Hitkansut ceremony at SHI in Jerusalem



Making Sense of Critical Moments and Providing the Tools to Make a Difference

Our deep trove of research enables us to respond with the information and tools our leaders need at moments of challenge. This year, as Israelis and North American Jews responded to the most right-wing government ever elected in Israel, and then again to the coalition's proposed judicial legislation, the Hartman Institute provided Israeli and North American leaders with resources to better understand the realities and complexities of Israel's rapidly changing landscape, and foster networks that enabled leaders to respond effectively.

NOVEMBER 1, 2022

Israel elects new government

November 1, 2022

Live recording of **For Heaven's Sake** podcast, "Israeli Election: The Aftermath"



JANUARY 2023

Coalition government proposes judicial reform bill. Israelis protest every Saturday night thereafter.



January 2023

Identity/Crisis episodes with key leaders in Israel:

Tehila Friedman "The Hole in the Center of Israeli Society"

Rana Fahoum "Envisioning Shared Society"

Tani Frank "Beyond Shul and State in Today's Israel"

For Heaven's Sake episodes:

"Responding to Israel's New Reality"

"Lovers of Israel, Take a Stand!"

"Between Civil Disobedience and Civil War"

"On the Verge of a Constitutional Crisis"



SOURCE: WIKIPEDIA

FEBRUARY 2023

Ofakim journal special issue
(Hebrew): "Israel 2023:
A Liberal Democracy
in Crisis"



February 2

Lu Hayiti Avi Maoz/If I Were Avi Maoz featured rabbis from Hartman's Rabbanut Yisraelit discussing what they would do if they were given the multimillion-shekel budget allocated to Member of Knesset Avi Maoz.

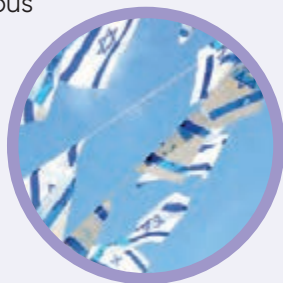


35,000 views

February 19

Ush'fatatem Tzedek/Decide Justly
(Deuteronomy 1:17)

We organized a public conference on the judicial reforms at the Begin Center, which was attended by more than **300 people** and broadcast live to **tens of thousands** of viewers. This conference was one of the first to gather Religious Zionists to voice objection to the proposed reform.



MARCH 2023

March 3

A letter to our Hartman Community: A message of friendship, with prayers for peace, by **Donniel Hartman** and **Yehuda Kurtzer**



March 23

In partnership with Hillel International, we hosted a conversation with Hartman's Rosh Beit Midrash, **Elana Stein Hain**, about how to navigate this moment on college campuses for leadership of local Hillels.



March 26

Massive protests across Israel after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu fires Defense Minister Yoav Gallant for criticizing the judicial reform proposal.



March 27

The live webinar, "Six Stories About the Protest in Israel" with Yehuda Kurtzer, drew a virtual audience of 750, with another nearly 5,000 listeners immediately after its release as an **Identity/Crisis** special podcast. In addition, it framed a story about the protests in JTA.



March 28

For Heaven's Sake released an episode titled "What Happens Next?" in which Donniel Hartman, Yossi Klein Halevi, and Elana Stein Hain discussed what needs to happen to build a civil society and create a coalition that could lead Israel through the next phase.

March 29

The Light of Faith and Peace: Muslim, Christian, and Jewish guests gathered at the Hartman Institute in Jerusalem for interfaith study and prayer.



And More...

SHAPING THE NEXT GENERATION

The Shalom Hartman Institute aspires to build a pipeline of leadership for Israel and the Jewish people and to transform the fields of Jewish and Israel education with the power of ideas.

In 2022–2023, we dramatically expanded our capacity in this area through Wellspring, a suite of interconnected educational initiatives for North Americans, as well as through the Center for Israeli and Jewish Identity based in Jerusalem, and through our two flagship Israeli high schools.



Young Jewish Leaders

We are building a pluralistic network of rising stars from around the United States and Canada, starting as young as 15 years old:

The Hartman Teen Fellowship launched in fall 2022 with 60 high school students. This exceptional community of 10–12th graders began an academic year of in-person and online learning with Hartman scholars exploring questions of identity and belonging, their relationship to Israel, and important issues facing the Jewish people.

The Hevruta Gap-Year Program opened its 9th year of learning in Jerusalem for North American and Israeli high school graduates. College-age alumni of Hevruta served as guides for the Teen Fellowship, deepened their learning at the Hevruta Shabbaton and Winter iEngage Seminar, and created programs for their own campuses.

Our college student programs brought 160 students from 45 campuses to Jerusalem for a week of intensive study at the Winter iEngage Seminar (December) to explore how Zionism and the State of Israel are part of an ongoing Jewish story. And more: 20 college-age Camp Ramah counselors studied for a week in Jerusalem (May), 40 student leaders joined the Student Leadership Summit in New York (August), and 5 interned at the Kogod Research Center.

Professionals Serving Young Adults and Teens

We expanded our network of professionals and educators who guide the next generation of Jewish leaders.

Our network of **Hillel professionals** grew to 120 with the addition of Cohort IX of the Hartman Fellowship for Hillel Professionals. Through this program, we strengthen the leadership of campus professionals, and they help us identify young leaders for our programs for students.

We deepened our commitment to **day school leaders**, completing a fellowship for 30 day school educators, bringing a first-ever group of **heads of school** to the Institute in Jerusalem (July), and investing in their schools throughout the year. In partnership with the Jewish Education Project (NYC), we are bringing iEngage to **synagogue-based education directors**. And we completed a pilot iEngage fellowship for **summer camp professionals**.



I appreciated being able to think about my own Jewish identity and realize that I can associate with certain aspects more than others. I understand that different people can relate to Judaism differently. Nobody is ‘more Jewish’ than someone else.”

—PARTICIPANT, HARTMAN TEEN FELLOWSHIP

“

I'm able to ask different questions and know how to bring Israel to staff and students in a more sophisticated and nuanced way. It's helped me get comfortable with presenting a wider range of ideas and knowing where to go for them."

—PARTICIPANT, HARTMAN FELLOWSHIP FOR HILLEL PROFESSIONALS

wellspring

“

Hartman encourages me to explore the conflict in Israel, my own ethics and morals, to hear a variety of perspectives, and to ask why I as an individual strive to be in this Jewish state.”

– Elan R.
University of Pennsylvania

SHALOM HARTMAN מכון
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“

As someone who has little experience with Torah study, this experience has really pushed me outside of my comfort zone in a positive way and I've felt so supported by the Hartman community along the way."

—PARTICIPANT, HARTMAN TEEN FELLOWSHIP

Our initiatives engage educators in Israel's public schools through cohort programs, seminars, and one-day conferences.

CENTER FOR ISRAELI AND JEWISH IDENTITY

This Center drives all our work with educators and youth in Israel.

The Be'eri Program for Pluralistic Jewish-Israeli Identity

trains educators to strengthen students' commitments to liberal Jewish values and has become a pivotal force for enriching Israel's Jewish and democratic foundations. This year, we created partnerships with new municipalities, including Haifa, Holon, and the department overseeing boarding schools and agricultural schools. We then hosted three immersive seminars for municipal leadership and principals on shared society. We began by supporting educators in

listening to new perspectives and then guided them in exploring how to bring the diversity of perspectives, including Palestinian narratives, into their classrooms.

In partnership with the Ministry of Education, **Reshit: The Tanach Initiative** trains Israeli secular school educators to teach Torah in relevant, deep, pluralistic, and critically minded ways. In February, alumni gathered for a seminar about *Teaching Tanach in Times of Complexity* where they explored how to teach Tanach to underserved populations as well as how the stories in Tanach can guide conversations today about divisions in Israel and responses to the judicial reform proposals.



NETWORK OF PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATORS

We are activating a **network of hundreds of principals** throughout Israel to integrate Jewish democratic values as core to their educational programs. In March, we gathered 45 school principals from across Israel for a weekend conference about the challenges of the day, including how Beit Midrash, *machloket* (disagreement), and other tools from the Jewish tradition can be models for fostering democratic values.

We support our **network of 2000+ public school teachers** throughout Israel to address the most pressing issues of the day, helping them consider how to ground lessons on identity and politics in Jewish values and integrate these conversations into the classroom. We hosted three seminars to empower teachers to constructively bring political discussion into their classrooms through a Jewish lens.



HARTMAN HIGH SCHOOLS IN ISRAEL

At the Shalom Hartman Institute’s two prestigious Modern Orthodox high schools in Jerusalem, the Midrashiya High School for Girls and the Charles E. Smith High School for Boys, we nurture the next generation of Israeli leaders. Our schools are a hub for intellectual and Jewish life, connecting families and communities with the Hartman Institute’s vision for what the Jewish people, the State of Israel, and the practice of Judaism should be.

By merging academic excellence with personal development and Jewish identity formation, the Hartman high schools create thoughtful leaders and courageous changemakers—ready to move us, collectively, forward.

780
students in
grades
7-12

Hartman high school alumni, Tova Sheleg (pictured) and Guy Schwartz, are deeply engaged in social activism, including leading protests and mobilizing peers to address proposed legal reforms.



Our students were recognized for their academic excellence, social activism, and leadership.

- The 12th-grade class at the Charles E. Smith High School for Boys received the prestigious **Outstanding Social Activist Award** from the Jerusalem Municipality.
- The high schools received an award from the Jerusalem Foundation, delivered by the Mayor of Jerusalem, Mr. Moshe Leon, **in recognition of their volunteering with the elderly.** ▼



- **Two Midrashiya students** in 11th and 12th grades were finalists in **the National Science Contest** for young scientists and developers in Israel.
- **Yara Hamel**, 12th grade, won second place in a **national literature contest** in the religious education system.
- **Uri Hirschman**, 9th grade, **Abia Goulchin**, 10th grade, and **Yonathan Gatz**, 12th grade, won the **Dan David Prize** for creative writing.



Our schools continue to grow in the number and types of students we serve as well as the variety of programming we offer.

- **We increased** the number of special education classes offered at the schools.
- **Leading educators** in our schools came together for a joint study program taught by Palestinian Israeli scholars and activists connected to Hartman's Center for Shared Society.
- **Students also participated** in a shared society drama class with Palestinian residents of Beit Tzafafa in Jerusalem.
- **Our 10th-12th grade students** came together to volunteer with local communities and lead social activist projects throughout the year.

“

This work is critical to the fabric of Israeli society going forward. Schools have a generational impact. If we want to advance the status of women and girls' status in society, we have to invest in institutions that promote that. If we want to create the next generation of leaders and activists, we have to invest in them.”

—KYLIE EISMAN LIFSCHITZ, PARENT

“

Our Beit Midrash has windows outside into society. We're creating a new type of Judaism that lives in the modern world and is enriched by it.”

—MICHAL HARTMAN, PRINCIPAL,
MIDRASHIYA HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS



High school students package and deliver meals to older and home bound adults.

GUIDING AN AGENDA FOR JEWISH LIFE

Communal leaders, Jewish professionals, and policymakers use Hartman ideas to envision the Jewish future. We infuse the public discourse in Israel with a moral imperative to promote civil rights, religious pluralism, democracy, and coexistence, and we work with local leaders in regions across North America to cultivate a healthier political and communal ecosystem.

CENTER FOR JUDAISM AND STATE POLICY

In its second year, the Center for Judaism and State Policy, based in Jerusalem, expanded its influence on the design of policy in the Knesset and local government and in shaping the public discourse on matters of religious freedom.

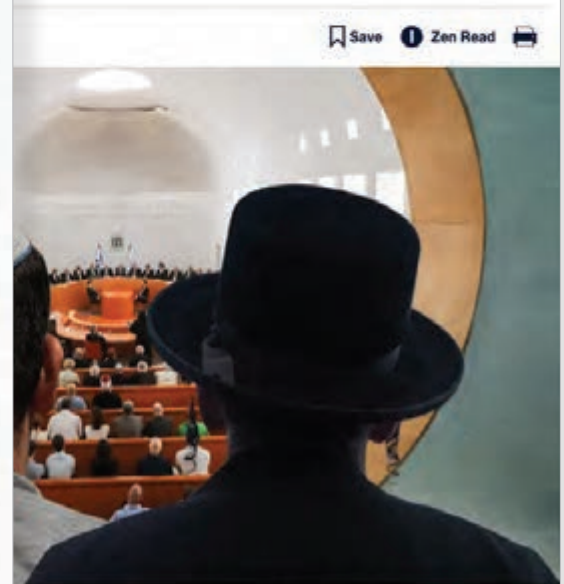
As debate unfolded leading up to the elections and

during the internal unrest that followed the elections in November 2022, the Center's team advised heads of parties in both the opposition and the coalition on issues related to Judaism and state, hosting three conferences where dozens of policymakers delved deeply into the consequential ideas generated by the Center.

In the News



...ready canceled a reform meant to provide Netanyahu's promises to his ultra-Orthodox...
...ts granted by Israel's courts to religious



...for religious women, it was the courts that went to bat for them." Credit: Ohad



Members of Knesset sought out meetings at the Shalom Hartman Institute where they gained insight into issues of state and religion. Rana Fahoum, Hili Tropper of National Unity, Benny Gantz of National Unity, Donniel Hartman, Michal Hartman, Ronit Heyd, Tani Frank (above), Avigdor Lieberman of Yisrael Beiteinu (below)



- **July 2022:** *Who Is a Jew, Law of Return, and Conversion Reform*, convening about the complex political, social, and religious issues that affect Jews all over the world, especially recent immigrants from Ukraine and Russia who came to Israel during this current war.
- **November 2022:** *Shabbat in the Public Sphere*, advocated for the decentralization of power to municipalities and regional authorities.
- **May 2023:** *Judaism and State Issues in Light of the Judicial Overhaul*, explored through case studies of marriage and divorce how the legislative efforts of this coalition will impact marital status and other issues of Judaism and state.

STRENGTHENING JEWISH LEADERSHIP IN NORTH AMERICA

Responding to the challenges of the day requires bold leadership. In local communities, we educate a cross-section of Jewish leaders—rabbis, communal professionals, and lay leaders—to nurture a diverse, resilient, vibrant Jewish communal ecosystem.

We are inspiring deep learning and courageous leadership by asking big questions, exploring ideas, and studying texts.



MONTREAL

Elana Stein Hain spoke with Rabbis **Lisa Grushcow**, **Lionel Moses**, and **Eric Grossman** about how we can instill deep Jewish identity and a sense of obligation to carry forward our Jewish tradition.



CHICAGO

Lay leaders in Chicago met throughout the year to explore pressing questions related to Jewish peoplehood, identity, and belonging.



“

Having participated in CLP in the past, I was excited to be in the first cohort of the Chicago Leadership Fellowship. I welcomed the chance to learn, challenge and discuss issues facing the Jewish world broadly, but more personally, how these issues impact our local community. Our monthly gatherings provided opportunities to meet leaders from across the Chicago Jewish landscape. The diversity of voices at the table reflected Hartman’s commitment to diversity of viewpoints and I greatly appreciate that approach.”

—LISA PORTNOY, CHICAGO LEADERSHIP FELLOW

BOSTON

Together, Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP) and the Hartman Institute prepared Boston lay and professional leaders and educators for their spring mission to Israel in honor of the country’s 75th anniversary. Hundreds of participants joined the program and studied with Hartman scholars in Boston and Jerusalem.

Jacob “Spike” Kraus (left) Rabbi
Marc Baker (right)



WASHINGTON, DC

Donniel Hartman delivered the keynote address for *Shared Destiny/ Separate Paths: A Leadership Forum on American Jewry & Israel* in Washington, DC, exploring the forces driving a wedge between North American and Israeli Jews and considering how to reimagine a defining narrative for Jewish peoplehood.



170
North American
participants

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Our signature summer Community Leadership Program (CLP) returned to Jerusalem after two summers of virtual programming. Together we explored the commitments of a morally aspirational Zionism.





ISRAEL at 75

This year marked 75 years since Israel's independence, a peak moment in Jewish history that resonated for Jews worldwide. We celebrated the establishment of the Jewish democratic state as we explored the challenges, costs and opportunities that come with statehood.

Amid ongoing challenges to Israel's democracy, **Yehuda Kurtzer** spoke with Member of Knesset **Merav Michaeli** at the Marlene Meterson JCC Manhattan for a wide-ranging conversation on this current moment, the ethics of political compromise, and the past and future of the Israeli left.

Masua Sagiv, Yossi Klein Halevi and **Elana Stein Hain** discussed Israeli and North American perspectives on this momentous anniversary of statehood at a time of bitter disagreement and polarization, at B'nei Jeshurun in NYC.



Micah Goodman spoke with **Angela Buchdahl** at Central Synagogue in NYC about what is at stake for Israel as it celebrates its 75th year, and how Israeli society is both pulling apart and coming together.

At this moment of profound challenge and opportunity for the State of Israel, **Donniel Hartman** sat down with **David Schuck** in Westchester, NY to offer his vision for a vital liberal Zionism that can speak to—and for—the present and the future of the State of Israel.

EMPOWERING RABBIS AS CHANGE AGENTS

At the heart of our programming for change agents are our Rabbinic Leadership Programs. Rabbis across the denominations continue to turn to Hartman for ideas, guidance, resources, and spiritual and intellectual renewal as they build thriving and engaged Jewish communities.

RABBINIC LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES

182 North American rabbis returned joyfully to Jerusalem in summer 2022 for the **Rabbinic Leadership Initiative (RLI)** and **Rabbinic Torah Seminar (RTS)** after two summers of virtual learning. The theme of *Why Israel?* brought timely texts and ideas to rabbis on the meaning of Zionism in the 21st century.

“

Participating in RTS each summer gives me the opportunity to breathe the air of Jerusalem while studying with a diverse group of colleagues and friends. My learning and conversation at Hartman inspires my high holiday sermons and provides me with the resources to address the issues that matter most to my community, including their evolving relationship to Israel. Based on this past summer's topic, I spoke on Rosh Hashanah 5783 about 'The Wisdom of Staying Connected to Israel,' integrating much of what I learned in Jerusalem.”

—RABBI RACHEL AIN
RABBI OF SUTTON PLACE
SYNAGOGUE



This year marked the return of Hartman's signature **Rabbinic Student Seminar in Israel**, bringing together a pluralistic cohort of 17 exceptional and diverse North American rabbinical students spending their year in Israel.

“

My favorite part about the Hartman Rabbinic Student Seminar has been the opportunity to do serious mifgash [encounter] on three levels: rabbinic relationships, Torah, and Israel. I have learned so much from the diverse perspectives of rabbinical students from other denominations!

Exploring self-hood, identity development, and relationship with Israel through the lens of our sacred texts, and through the ideas of our ancestors, has moved me to feel even closer to Torah.

I am particularly moved by this seminar's challenge to me to think deeply about what my relationship with Israel will be like as a rabbi serving a community in North America.”

—LARA RODIN
JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY RABBINICAL
SCHOOL STUDENT



Rabbis from Rabbanut Yisraelit featured on national television while protesting judicial reform.

RABBANUT YISRAELIT

Rabbanut Yisraelit (Israeli Rabbis Network) is a national network that cultivates a new generation of Israeli Jewish leaders who possess a vision of modern, pluralistic, values-based Judaism. The flagship **Beit Midrash for Israeli Rabbis**, co-run by the Shalom Hartman Institute and the Midrasha at Oranim, is the only program of its kind, ordaining pluralistic rabbis to help Israelis engage meaningfully with Jewish life in the 21st century.



For the second year in a row, the **Israeli Rabbis Network** convened a week of study in February that offered more than 30 events throughout the country in person and on Zoom, including convenings, study sessions, Tu B'shvat seders, as well as articles, videos, and podcasts. Given the tension in Israel society, the theme of this year was *Areyvut: Responsibility and Solidarity in a Time of Dispute and Polarization*, and explored and offered ways to facilitate disagreement and foster civil discourse.

Tamar Elad-Applebaum along with other rabbis from the Network spearheaded Ma'ahal Ha'Haskamot (The Tent of Agreements), which was a physical tent pitched between the Supreme Court and the Knesset. For weeks, they joined in protest, prayer, hunger strikes and calls to stop the legislative process to pursue dialogue between those who support and oppose the judicial reform.



600 rabbis and spiritual leaders from across Israel participated

Yael Golan

Co-director of the Israeli Rabbis Network, graduate of the Beit Midrash for Israeli Rabbis, founder and director of the LGBTQ Beit Midrash in Tel Aviv



Elkana Sherlo

Senior teacher at Rabbanut Yisraelit, graduate of the Beit Midrash for Israeli Rabbis; co-founder of the Negev Interfaith Initiative in 2016; awarded prize from Ben Gurion University in October 2022 for advancing religious tolerance



BUILDING BRIDGES OF LEADERSHIP AND UNDERSTANDING

Hartman convenes cohorts of leaders for important conversations that can only happen here. Through decades, we have honed our expertise in nurturing sophisticated, nuanced inter-group and intra-group education that serves as a powerful foundation of understanding between Jews and other communities.

THE BLACK/ JEWISH LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE (BJLI)

American leaders in Black and Jewish communities need new understandings of each other to write the next chapter of their relationship. After two years of planning, network building, and research by Hartman scholars and Black studies faculty, Hartman launched a pilot cohort of 24 Black, Jewish, and Black Jewish leaders from the New York City region for a six-month fellowship from November 2022–April 2023. Participants—journalists, writers, public intellectuals, musicians, artists, philanthropists, and museum directors—studied together

in New York, the Deep South, and Israel, exploring rich and complex topics, including Black narratives and identity, Jewish narratives and identity, Black Jewishness, and the role of Zionism and Israel/Palestine in Black-Jewish relations. This community of leaders is poised to reshape existing narratives about each other, combat ongoing racial injustice and antisemitism, and promote new and deeper partnerships to improve American society.

Visit to The Legacy Museum in Montgomery, Alabama





BJLI was one of the most rewarding and challenging leadership programs I have ever joined. We asked participants to hold their unique historical narratives of tragedy and triumph in one hand, while embracing someone else's set of messy narratives in the other. We struggled as a community to hold competing and overlapping stories while we laughed, cried, danced, and studied together.



—TERRENCE JOHNSON

BJLI CO-DIRECTOR AND
BLACK STUDIES FACULTY
LEAD, AFRICAN AMERICAN
RELIGIOUS STUDIES
PROFESSOR AT HARVARD

DIVINITY SCHOOL AND AUTHOR

OF *BLACKS AND JEWS IN AMERICA: AN
INVITATION TO DIALOGUE*

MUSLIM LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE (MLI)

Since 2013, MLI has offered Muslim leaders deep, academic, and rigorous study about Jews, Judaism, Israel, and Zionism. Our eighth cohort, consisting of 27 North American Muslim leaders, concluded with a two-week seminar in Jerusalem in July 2022. In May 2023, we gathered over 60 members of the MLI network, which stands at 150 alumni, for a weekend retreat with 30 North American Jewish leaders. Participants explored the theme *Loving Criticism: Making Change from Within*, discussed the most pressing issues facing each of their communities, and identified opportunities for their communities to come together.

Our alumni are bringing their learning and relationships back to their communities. For example, through introductions made through Hartman, Zahra Shirwa (Cohort VIII) attended a Jewish global justice conference (OLAM's Focal Point) in Washington DC to help put Somalia on the radar of the many Jewish and Israelis attendees and speakers from organizations and NGOs working in international development, humanitarian aid and disaster relief. As a Somali immigrant, she aspires to build bridges, break down barriers, and create opportunities to acknowledge each other's humanity.



260
educators and
principals

THE CENTER FOR SHARED SOCIETY

Our newest initiative, the Center for Shared Society, aims to empower Palestinian and Jewish Israelis to build a vibrant democracy together by engaging in deep and sophisticated conversations about identity, values, and commitments. When people engage with each other directly and learn intimately about the other's narratives, beliefs, cultures, history, values, holidays, and customs, they begin to see each other in new ways. The leaders engaged in this deep study and engagement build communities of mutual respect, tolerance, and equality.

In its first year, the Center focused on ensuring that the issues of shared society are integrated into every aspect of the Hartman Institute so that we learn and model the work we will inspire others to do along with us. Here are a few highlights of programming and sessions for Hartman's senior leadership, faculty, scholars, teachers, staff, and students:

- **Intensive study about Palestinian identity, culture, and experiences** through tours of Arab communities in "The Triangle" in northern Israel, and Palestinian Bedouin communities in southern Israel
- **A panel for International's Women's Day** on "Female Leadership in a Time of Crisis" featuring three Palestinian Israeli leaders
- **A pilot program with leading teachers** in Hartman's high schools about Palestinian communities
- **Courses that focus on the challenges of building a shared society** geared toward rabbinical students in the Beit Midrash for Israeli Rabbis and students in our Hevruta Gap-Year Program
- **Six Palestinian scholars joined Hartman's Kogod Research Center** and convened with Jewish Israeli colleagues in three research seminars on topics ranging from identity and symbols in the Israeli public sphere to Jewish and Arab relations in Israel

We mobilized the alumni network for a two-day seminar with 80 participants focused on the opportunities and challenges of teaching the values of shared society in a divided society.



The Center now oversees Hartman's premier intergroup initiative, **Min HaBe'erot** (From the Wells), which launched in 2014 to engage Israeli educators of Jewish, Muslim, and Christian backgrounds in questions of religious and cultural identity.

This past year, Min HaBe'erot (MHB), working in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and local municipal governments, launched two new groups in the South of Israel that brought together educators from neighboring Jewish and Muslim-Bedouin communities. In addition, we mobilized the alumni network for four different gatherings, including study sessions and a shared Iftar (break-fast). For the first time this year, MHB encouraged and supported alumni educators to develop initiatives that brought their learning and experiences to their communities. MHB alumni facilitated for a series of study sessions for Jewish and Arab women in Haifa; decorated a hospital rehabilitation center with inspirational quotes in Hebrew and Arabic and developed study sessions about these quotes; convened Jewish and Arab teachers, students, and gap year participants for text based encounters.



Rana Fahoum, a Palestinian Israeli with a distinguished career in education and the former CEO of the Jerusalem International YMCA, joined Hartman in May 2022 to lead the Center for Shared Society. In conversation with Yehuda Kurtzer on the Identity/Crisis podcast, "Envisioning Shared Society," January 10, 2023, she shared the following observations:



“

It's all about people.

We must start first with identity, knowing who you are so that you have the confidence to then begin to engage with others. We must overcome the obstacle of ignorance. After that, we can start a conversation based on shared values.

In order for shared society to work, we have to be able to work with those who hold radically different ideas. This comes from building trust and remaining optimistic. I am an educator at heart and believe the message of the late Professor Seymour Fox, you can't work in education if you are not optimistic.

The way to really reclaim public discourse is to bring people together to find common ground. We don't need to fully agree on everything, but we can certainly agree on basic issues that are endangering the democracy in Israel.”

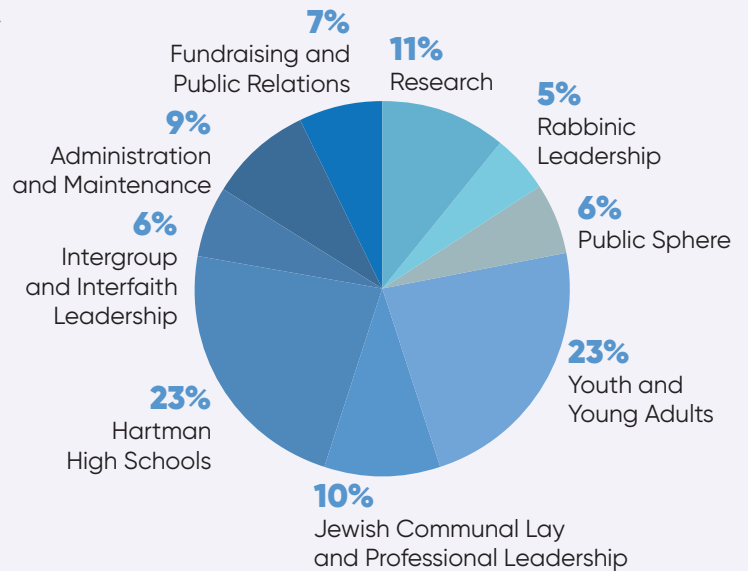
2022 FINANCIAL REPORT

EXPENDITURES

EXPENDITURES BY AREA OF ACTIVITY

USD (IN THOUSANDS)

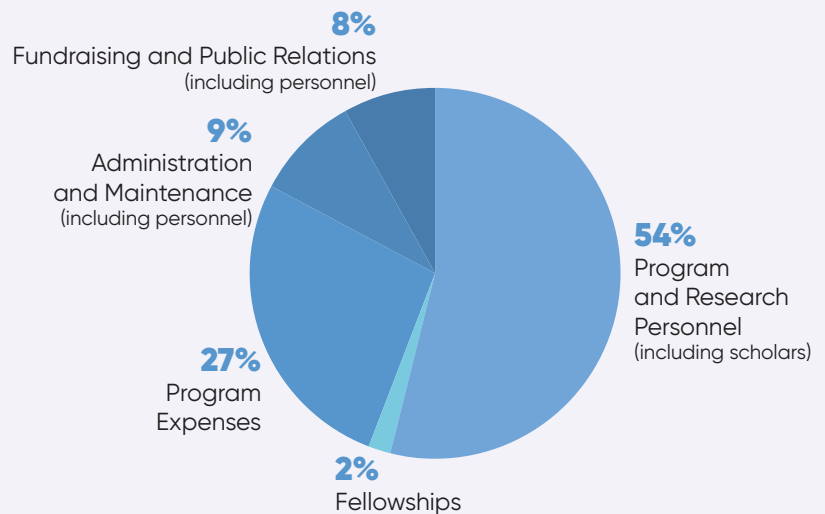
Research	\$4,154	11%
Rabbinic Leadership	\$1,791	5%
Public Sphere	\$2,232	6%
Youth and Young Adults	\$8,457	23%
Jewish Communal Lay and Professional Leadership	\$3,771	10%
Hartman High Schools	\$8,691	23%
Intergroup and Interfaith Leadership	\$2,306	6%
Administration and Maintenance	\$3,393	9%
Fundraising and Public Relations	\$2,649	7%
Total	\$37,444	100%



EXPENDITURES BY USE

USD (IN THOUSANDS)

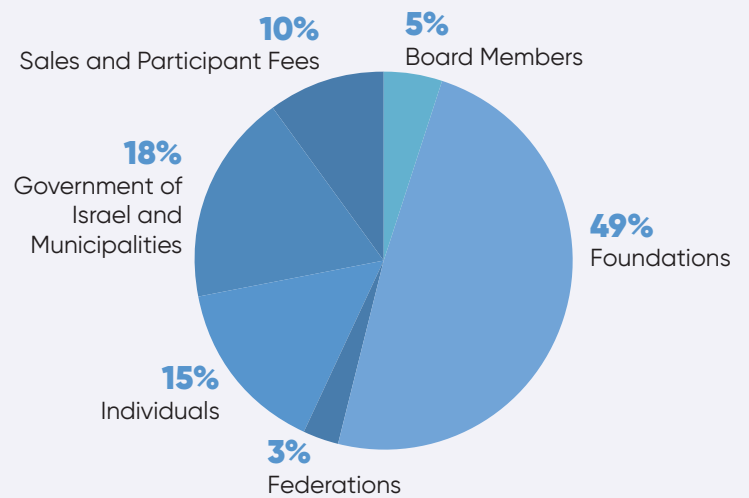
Program and Research Personnel (including scholars)	\$20,296	54%
Fellowships	\$902	2%
Program Expenses	\$10,204	27%
Administration and Maintenance (including personnel)	\$3,393	9%
Fundraising and Public Relations (including personnel)	\$2,649	8%
Total	\$37,444	100%



INCOME

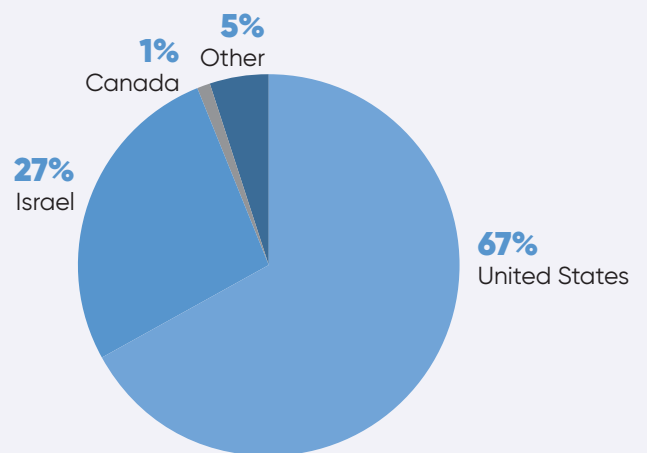
INCOME BY TYPE OF FUNDER USD (IN THOUSANDS)

Board Members	\$1,899	5%
Foundations	\$18,320	49%
Federations	\$1,302	3%
Individuals	\$5,369	15%
Government of Israel and Municipalities	\$6,693	18%
Sales and Participant Fees	\$3,897	10%
Total	\$37,480	100%



INCOME BY COUNTRY USD (IN THOUSANDS)

United States	\$25,119	67%
Israel	\$10,158	27%
Canada	\$496	1%
Other	\$1,707	5%
Total	\$37,480	100%



WITH GRATITUDE TO OUR PARTNERS

During a year when we doubled down on our work of supporting leaders in building an Israel that upholds Jewish values and strengthening the connection between Israel and North American Jews, we remain grateful to our partners for continuing to recognize the essential significance of our work by showing tremendous generosity and commitment to it.

We deeply appreciate the more than 1,400 donors and thousands of program participants in Israel, North America, and across the globe, who supported the work of the Shalom Hartman Institute in immeasurable ways in 2022. Thank you also to the government of Israel, our strategic partner for our school-based activities across Israel, and to our major institutional partners in Israel and North America who invested their trust, guidance, and support in our work on behalf of the Jewish people. With this support, we have been able to respond to the needs and opportunities of the moment and to develop the ideas, leaders, creative content, and programming to ensure that Judaism is a compelling force for good in the 21st century.

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