

JTS

132nd Commencement Exercises
May 19, 2026

Order of the Exercises

סדר טקס הסיום

Alan Levine, Esq.,

Chair, Board of Trustees,
Presiding

Please rise for the academic procession and remain standing through the anthems and invocation.

At the conclusion of the exercises, please remain seated until the recessional march ends.

Processional

The National Anthems

Marc Samuel Szechter

Invocation

Rabbi Ron Fish

Conferring of Honorary Degrees

Dr. Shuly Rubin Schwartz, Chancellor

Commencement Address

H.E. Isaac Herzog, President of the State of Israel

Musical Performance

Lashir Zeh K'mo Lihyot Yarden

Text and Music by Naomi Shemer, arranged by N. Hirschhorn
and

Odecha

Text from Hallel Liturgy, Music by Stephen Glass

The Chorus of the H. L. Miller Cantorial School

Cantor Natasha J. Hirschhorn, Conductor

Elliot Roman, Pianist

Sheheheyanu

Rabbi Joel Schwab

Conferring of Degrees in Course

Dr. Shuly Rubin Schwartz, Chancellor

Dr. Jeffrey Kress, Provost

The Gershon Kekst Graduate School

Dr. Amy Kalmanofsky, Dean

The Division of Lifelong and Professional Studies

Dr. Lisa Springer, Dean

The William Davidson Graduate School of Jewish Education

Dr. Abigail Uhrman, Director and Associate Professor of Jewish Education

The Center for Pastoral Education

Rabbi Naomi Kalish, PhD, Harold and Carole Wolfe Director of the Center for Pastoral Education and Assistant Professor of Pastoral Education

Albert A. List College of Jewish Studies

Dr. Amy Kalmanofsky, Dean

Remarks on Behalf of the Graduates of List College: Zoë Anat Wulfstat

H. L. Miller Cantorial School and College of Jewish Music

Rabbi Ayelet S. Cohen, Pearl Resnick Dean, Division of Religious Leadership

Cantor Rabbi Shoshi Levin Goldberg, Director H. L. Miller Cantorial School

The Rabbinical School

Rabbi Ayelet S. Cohen, Pearl Resnick Dean

Remarks on Behalf of the Graduates of the Professional and Graduate Schools:

Cynthia Korziera, William Davidson Graduate School of Jewish Education

Welcome to the JTS Alumni Community

Benjamin Ehrlich, Alumni Advisory Board Chair

Charge to the Graduates

Dr. Shuly Rubin Schwartz, Chancellor

Recessional

Music performed by BaRock Orchestra

Greetings from the Chancellor

דברי הנגידה



Mazal tov to our graduates, and to your friends, families, faculty, and deans, on this special and joyful day!

Despite the challenges our graduates faced during their time at JTS, they thrived as students, deepening their knowledge and skills, building nourishing ties with classmates and faculty, creating community, and discovering meaningful ways to contribute to both the Jewish and the wider world. I hope these experiences continue to fortify them in the years ahead.

We are privileged to celebrate your remarkable achievements in the presence of our distinguished guests. This year's honorary degree recipients are outstanding leaders in their respective fields who have exhibited extraordinary courage, creativity, brilliance, and wisdom. Our world has been enriched immeasurably in countless ways by their contributions to society and the Jewish people. May their example continue to inspire our graduates, and all of us, in the years ahead.

This Commencement holds special meaning for me, as it marks my final ceremony as Chancellor. Like our graduates, I step down from this role strengthened by and grateful for the many ways that JTS has enriched my life. May we all go forward from JTS's warm embrace with resilience, insight, and resoluteness to meet what lies ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shuly R. Schwartz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, decorative flourish at the end.

Shuly Rubin Schwartz
Chancellor

Greetings from the Board Chair

דברי ראש הוועד



On behalf of the Board of Trustees and our Advisory Boards, it is my great honor to wish our graduates, and their families and friends, a joyous mazal tov!

We take immense pride in this year's group of graduates. Your dedication and passion throughout your time at JTS have guided you to this milestone and equipped you to lead, inspire, and serve Jewish communities across the globe.

As Chair of the Board, I have the privilege of witnessing firsthand the promise and potential of this new generation of Jewish leadership. As North America's leading institution of Jewish higher education, JTS is committed to integrating rigorous scholarship, teaching, dialogue, and religious practice to enrich Jewish lives and sustain vibrant communities. Today, we celebrate the graduates who not only embody this mission, but who actively bring it to life.

To our graduates: we hope you will always consider JTS your home. It is a place to which you can return in the future for continued learning, for connection and engagement, and to remain closely tied to the vital mission that unites us all.

B'shalom,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Alan Levine". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alan Levine, Esq.

Chair, Board of Trustees, JTS

Greetings from the Vice Chancellor

דברי סגן הנגידה



As I reflect on the accomplishments of this year's graduates, I am continually inspired by all they have achieved, the knowledge they have acquired, the lasting friendships they have built, and the strong academic foundation they have established here at JTS. As an alum, I know firsthand that the JTS experience is a gift that extends far beyond graduation, opening doors and creating opportunities for our graduates and their families for years to come.

In my role as Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement, it is both an honor and a privilege to serve my alma mater and to help ensure that our students, faculty, staff, and administration have the resources they need to fully experience all that JTS offers. From the scholarships we are proud to provide, to the Student Life experiences we support, to the academic, emotional, and spiritual guidance we champion, JTS is deeply grateful to our parents, donors, supporters, and leaders whose generosity sustains our students.

Mazal Tov to our graduates. May JTS always be a home for you, and may it continue to be a place that sustains you, inspires you, and nourishes not only your education, but your life's journey.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joel Seltzer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rabbi Joel Seltzer
Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement



Visit www.jtsa.edu/donate-now
or scan here to make a donation
in honor of a graduate!

Honorary Degrees

תארי כבוד

Rabbi Edward Feld

Doctor of Hebrew Letters, *honoris causa*

Sponsored by
Mr. Barry Lovell
Rabbi Jan Uhrbach

Your exceptional contributions to Jewish theology and liturgy have guided students, scholars, and spiritual leaders toward a deeper engagement with Jewish tradition, ethics, and prayer.

For nearly three decades, you have served as the senior editor of the pioneering *Lev Shalem* prayer book series: *Mahzor Lev Shalem* (2010), *Siddur Lev Shalem for Shabbat and Festivals* (2016), and *Siddur Lev Shalem for Weekdays* (2025). Through this distinctive series of Jewish prayerbooks, you have enriched contemporary Jewish worship immeasurably. The initial groundbreaking and transformative volume, *Mahzor Lev Shalem*, marked the first comprehensive revision of the Conservative mahzor in approximately 40 years. For that work, you were recognized as one of the most influential Jews in the *Forward 50*. The translation strove to be both traditional and contemporary, incorporating language that is gender-neutral and egalitarian. Found in synagogues and homes across the country and worldwide, your prayer books have enabled hundreds of thousands of Jews of all backgrounds and Hebrew levels to engage more fully in prayer. In 2022, you published *The Book of Revolutions: The Battles of Priests, Prophets*

and *Kings that Birthed the Torah* with the Jewish Publication Society. The book was named a 2023 Top Reference Book from the Academy of Parish Clergy. A prolific writer and scholar on Jewish theology, prayer, and halachic and ethical issues, your other works include the books *Joy, Despair and Hope: Reading Psalms* (2013) and *The Spirit of Renewal: Finding Faith After the Holocaust* (1995).

A graduate of JTS and Brooklyn College, you have also influenced lives as a teacher and spiritual advisor. You have held positions as Rabbi of the Society for the Advancement of Judaism; Hillel Director at Princeton University, Smith College, Amherst College, and University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana; and Rabbi-in-Residence here at JTS. At Princeton University, where you held the post of Hillel Director for 19 years, you led the planning and construction of the Center for Jewish Life. Thirty years later, your former Princeton students came together to dedicate the final *Lev Shalem* prayerbook volume in your honor.

Your mentorship, scholarship, theology, and deep humanity have shaped Jews and Jewish worship immeasurably and will continue to touch generations to come.

President Isaac Herzog

Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*

Sponsored by
Chancellor Shuly Rubin Schwartz
Chair Alan Levine

Throughout your life and career you have been a sterling exemplar of love for and service to the entire Jewish people.

After receiving your law degree from Tel Aviv University, you enjoyed a successful career in law until entering the Knesset in 2003. Beginning in March 2007, you spent four years as Minister of Welfare and Social Services. In 2013, you were elected chairman of the Labor Party, thus becoming Leader of the Opposition Party. And in 2018, you were unanimously elected the Chairman of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Israel.

In July 2021, you became the Eleventh President of the State of Israel. With votes from 87 members of the Knesset, you made history by gaining the largest support in any Israeli presidential election. In your inaugural speech, you emphasized the importance of coming together despite differences and not taking for granted the existence of a Jewish and democratic state, all of which requires continuous and dedicated effort on the part of the citizenry.

Many give lip service to the goal of greater understanding and respect among groups that have been at odds with one another. You have taken that on as a mission. While heading the Jewish Agency, and later as President, you utilized those offices to tackle the problem of divisiveness within the Jewish world in Israel, between the Jews of Israel and those of the Diaspora, and between Jews and Palestinians.

Recognizing that Israel needed to achieve greater religious pluralism, you initiated a project to persuade municipal authorities to strengthen the resources available to liberal Jewish movements at the local level, where palpable change occurs. In addition, you formed a vision of worldwide dialogue among Jewish communities, which launched during your presidency as “Voice of the People”. Under its

aegis, Jewish leaders from across the globe talk seriously about the challenges facing the Jewish people, making sure that the full range of diverse Jewish voices are heard.

You have even extended that belief in the power of sitting with complexity, rather than ignoring it, by conceiving of an educational track on the Israel-Palestinian conflict that would be guided together by an Israeli and a Palestinian.

You have also been a stalwart believer in democracy as a Jewish value. When reforms of the judiciary were proposed in 2023, you argued that changes and improvements could be effected without diminishing democratic systems and practices. And in the most trying of times, after the October 7 attacks, you offered a soothing, healing voice that emphasized unity and courage. You powerfully recognized the heroism of October 7 victims and rescuers, and pressed the case for releasing the hostages, so that their families knew they had unalloyed support in the President’s office.

JTS’s scholarship and community are well known to you. The son of Israel’s sixth president, Chaim Herzog (z”l), another JTS honorary degree recipient, you were educated in both Israel and the United States. While your father was serving as Israel’s ambassador to the UN, you worked at Camp Ramah New England.

During this unprecedented time in Israeli history, you have embraced your responsibilities with unwavering composure, steadfast resolve, and exemplary dignity. Your accomplishments as Head of State fulfill the words recorded in the biblical Book of Proverbs: “Observe a man skilled at his work, who is fit to attend upon kings”.

You are the embodiment of true leadership.

Ms. Ruth Marcus

Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*

Sponsored by

Ms. Abby Joseph Cohen

Dr. Barry Holtz

As a journalist, author, and editor, you exemplify a commitment to integrity, American public discourse, and thoughtful engagement in civil life.

For the past year, you have been a contributor to *The New Yorker*, illuminating legal issues and challenges to the rule of law.

You previously spent 40 years at *The Washington Post*, most recently as an associate editor and opinions columnist. While at *The Washington Post*, you focused on the Supreme Court, the Justice Department, the White House, and the intersection of money and politics. In 2006, you began writing a regular column and distinguished yourself as one of the most respected opinion writers in the country. You also held roles as deputy national editor and as deputy editor overseeing the op-ed section.

In March 2025, you left *The Washington Post* after an opinion piece you wrote was rejected. *The New Yorker* later published your refused piece and an article on your experiences with

The Post. Your writing went viral and helped spark a nationwide discussion about the obligations of media and the press.

A finalist for the 2007 Pulitzer Prize in Commentary, you have bridged the worlds of legal scholarship and civic conversation, drawing on your degrees from Yale University and Harvard Law School. Your 2019 book, *Supreme Ambition: Brett Kavanaugh and the Conservative Takeover*, received acclaim from *The New York Times Book Review*, *Washington Post*, and *Kirkus*.

Infusing your work is your deep connection to Jewish values. Moreover, your proud and reasoned commitment to Zionism reflects the enduring importance of Israel in Jewish life.

In a time of polarization and division, your courage, commitment to bipartisanship, and exemplary body of work demonstrates the written word's ability to provoke, challenge, and reach across a spectrum of viewpoints.

Ms. Debra Messing

Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*

Sponsored by
Ms. Ruth Hendel
Dr. Robert Harris

You have enjoyed an acclaimed career in the world of television and the performing arts. And, alongside your accomplishments as a performer, you have been a bold and compassionate voice for the Jewish people.

A graduate of Brandeis University and New York University, your career spans over three decades. In 1998, you were cast as Grace Adler in the beloved sitcom *Will & Grace*. For your critically acclaimed role, you became a household name and received the 2003 Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Comedy Series.

You have been an important ally to the LGBTQ+ community, both through your work in entertainment and your public activism. The tender and endearing portrait of your character Grace's friendship with Eric McCormack's Will gave affirmation, joy, and hope to queer people around the world.

You also encouraged *Will & Grace*'s writers to center your character Grace's Jewish identity and to include details that present a portrait of someone who takes pride in the richness of her Jewishness, such as Grace's attendance at Camp Ramah. Today, Grace is celebrated as one of television's strongest Jewish women, one who eschewed negative stereotypes and offered an identity-affirming persona.

Following *Will & Grace*'s conclusion in 2006, you received a 2007 Emmy nomination for your role in *The Starter Wife*. You made your 2014 Broadway debut in the Tony-nominated play *Outside Mullingar*, and you played leading roles in the television shows *The Mysteries of Laura* and *Smash*. You returned to *Will & Grace* for the 2017 revival.

In 2017, you were inducted into the Hollywood Walk of Fame and received GLAAD's Excellence in the Media Award.

When the Israel-Gaza War divided the entertainment industry, you established yourself as a powerful advocate for Israel and the Jewish people. Alongside your social media platform, you spoke at the 2023 March for Israel. During an Israel trip sponsored by Creative Community for Peace, you met with families of hostages.

You served as the executive producer of the 2025 documentary *October 8*, which explores the rise of antisemitic violence, especially on college campuses, and the spread of misinformation across social media.

At a moment when moral clarity and courage are urgently needed, you inspire so many with your unwavering commitments. Your advocacy serves as an inspiring example of how Jewish values can be lived and lifted on the public stage.

Dr. Peter Schäfer

Doctor of Hebrew Letters, *honoris causa*

Sponsored by
Mr. Alan Klein
Rabbi Burton L. Visotzky

Your scholarly work in ancient religion has deepened the study of early Jewish texts and has enriched it as an academic discipline. Your academic achievements have contributed to scholarship across the world, and you have played an instrumental role in reviving the discipline of Jewish Studies in post-Holocaust Germany.

You are the Perelman Professor of Jewish Studies and Professor of Religion Emeritus at Princeton University, where you worked as a dedicated teacher from 1998–2013. Your contributions to the fields of rabbinic Judaism, early Jewish mysticism, and relationships between rabbis and Christianity have innovated and transformed the disciplines. Your colleagues have not only benefited from your academic wisdom but have enjoyed your abiding friendship. To use the Yiddish term, they consider you a consummate mensch.

From 2005 to 2013, you directed Princeton's Program in Judaic Studies. In 1993, you helped found Princeton's leading peer-reviewed journal *Jewish Studies Quarterly*, where you served as an editor.

Your visiting professorships include University of Oxford, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and Yale University. You are also the writer of many celebrated books, including *The Jewish Jesus: How Judaism and Christianity Shaped Each Other* (2012),

Origins of Jewish Mysticism (2011), and *Jesus in the Talmud* (2007).

Your scholarship has shaped the study of Judaism on both sides of the Atlantic, earning distinction in your home country of Germany and the United States alike. You received your doctorate from the University of Freiburg and your habilitation from the University of Frankfurt. In 1994, you were awarded the Leibniz Prize, one of the highest German awards granted to academics. In 2006, you were honored with the Mellon Award, the most prestigious award for American scholars in the humanities.

Following your Princeton retirement, you returned to Germany, advancing your scholarship both within and outside of the university setting. In 2013, you became an Honorary Professor of Jewish Studies at Humboldt University Berlin. From 2014–2019, you served as the director of the Jewish Museum Berlin.

Since 2015, you have been a member of the Board of Trustees of the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe Foundation. In April 2017, you were elected as a foreign honorary member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Your groundbreaking scholarship has established you as one of the world's most significant scholars—not just in your field but across academia at large.

Degrees in Course

תארים

THE GERSHON KEKST GRADUATE SCHOOL

בית הספר ללימודים מתקדמים במדעי היהדות ע"ש גרשון קקסט

Doctor of Philosophy

Daniel Roni Golde

Benjamin Haber Kamine

Doctor of Hebrew Literature

Ira Daniel Tokayer

Rachel Weinstein

Master of Arts

David Almog

Julian Charles Lander

Sarah Rockford

Zachary Meir Bernstein-Rothberg

Jacob Kaplan Lipkin

Hannah Batya Zalis-Halevi

Eitan Refael Bloostein

Michael Solomon Lippman

Micah Weinberg Cowan

Wade Jacob Melnick

THE WILLIAM DAVIDSON GRADUATE SCHOOL OF JEWISH EDUCATION

בית הספר ללימודים מתקדמים בחינוך יהודי ע"ש ויליאם דוידסון

Doctor of Education

Saul Kaiserman

Cynthia Rochelle Kozierok

Orna Siegel

Master of Arts

Samuel A. Arnold

Naima Hirsch Gelman

Reena Yocheved Zuckerman

Rachel Beth Cohn

Natalie Raanan-Lerner

THE DIVISION OF LIFELONG AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

החטיבה ללימודי המשך והשתלמות מקצועית

Master of Arts

Sarah M. Antine

Joshua Joseph Gastineau

Laurie Marvald

David Alan Balto

Susan Bamel Glickman

Philip Pizzo

Zachary Carruthers-Rothberg

Diane Halivni

Willa Leah Snowbender

Patrick Coyle

Matthew Aaron Kim

Johanna Tobel

Danielle Gobuty Eskow

The students whose names are listed herein were candidates for the degrees indicated at the time the program was printed.

ALBERT A. LIST COLLEGE OF JEWISH STUDIES**בית המדרש ללימודי היהדות ע"ש אלברט ליסט****Bachelor of Arts**

Sophie Bacharach ^{JP}	Helene Goldberg ^{JP}	Alexander Saul Rosenberg ^{JP}
Amanda Whitney Baeck ^{JP}	Ilana Goldstein ^{DD}	Yardena Ahava Rubin ^{JP}
Jack Lewis Baeck ^{JP}	Abner Gordan ^{JP}	Aiden Jacob Schiller ^{JP}
Mynda Kochava Barenholtz ^{JP}	David Ioinovitch ^{JP}	Aron Abraham Shklar ^{JP}
Rachel Beth Binderman ^{DD}	Maya Jamil ^{JP}	Ariel Max Slomka ^{JP}
Rose Hannah Clubok ^{DD}	Julia Maya Lange ^{DD}	Jesse Joseph Spear ^{JP}
Hana Cohen ^{DD}	Devin Gabriel Leslie ^{JP}	Evan Spielvogel ^{JP}
Angelina Dayani ^{JP}	Daniella Lewinger ^{JP}	Samuel Jacob Van Praagh ^{JP}
Charlie Feuerman ^{JP}	Marc Philip Luban ^{JP}	Elijah B. Weinstein ^{JP}
Haya Shifra Fine ^{JP}	Max MikoLevine ^{JP}	Bettino Weisser ^{JP}
Dore Fish-Bieler ^{JP}	Eli Mizrahi-Aks ^{JP}	Julia Robin Wineberg ^{DD}
Gabriel Shai Freedman-Naditch ^{JP}	Gabriela Rose Buntman Orozco ^{JP}	Zoë Anat Wulfstat ^{JP}
Georgia Fried ^{DD}	Michael James Pagovich ^{JP}	Lev Zeldin ^{JP}
Brad Garber ^{JP}	Jacob Rabizadeh Resnick ^{JP}	Naomi Daniela Zweiback ^{DD}
Alix Gilkarov ^{JP}	Charlotte Love Roiter ^{JP}	
Clara Madeline Goldberg ^{DD H}	Natan Rosenbaum ^{JP}	

DD: Double Degree Program with Barnard College

JP: Joint Program with Columbia University School of General Studies

H: With Honors

H. L. MILLER CANTORIAL SCHOOL AND COLLEGE OF JEWISH MUSIC**בית המדרש לחזנים ע"ש ה. ל. מילר****Master of Sacred Music**

Marc Samuel Szechter

THE RABBINICAL SCHOOL**בית המדרש לרבנים****Rabbi, Teacher, and Preacher***

Zachary Meir Bernstein-Rothberg	Rachel Beth Cohn	Wade Jacob Melnick
Sara Malka Birnbaum	Micah Weinberg Cowan	Sarah Rockford
Noam Isaac Blauer	Marc Nathan Hersch	Noa R. Rubin
Eitan Refael Bloostein	Jacob Kaplan Lipkin	

Master of Arts

Zamir Rivel Halperin	Marc Nathan Hersch	Noa R. Rubin
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Students being ordained as rabbis either received a master's degree today from a JTS school or earned one previously. Only those who are receiving master's degrees today are called up to the stage.

* The ordination of rabbis will take place at a ceremony to be held on the afternoon of Commencement day.

The students whose names are listed herein were candidates for the degrees indicated at the time the program was printed.

Prizes and Awards

פרסים

THE RABBINICAL SCHOOL

Cyrus Adler Prize—*Miriam Leisman Rubin*
Bernard and Sydell Citron Scholastic Prize—*Eitan Refael Bloostein*
Rabbi Ben Zion Bergman Prize in Talmud—*Noam Blauer*
The Rabbi Max Gelb Memorial Prize in Talmud—*Eitan Refael Bloostein*
Rabbi Sidney Greenberg Homiletics Prize—*Marc Nathan Hersch*
Dr. Michael Higger Prize in Talmud—*Samuel Steven Lurie and Gideon Schwartz*
The Rabbi William H. Lebeau Merit Award—*Sarah Rockford*
Rabbi Albert Pappenheim Prize in Professional Skills—*Sara Malka Birnbaum*
The Kay and Rabbi Moshe (z"l) Pomerantz Prize in Congregational Education—*Wade Jacob Melnick*
Rabbi Morris Silverman Award in Liturgy—*Noah Benjamin Fulton-Beale*
Stephen Henry Shefin Memorial Prize—*Emmanuel Calef*
Rabbi Arnold Turetsky Prize in Homiletics—*Rachel Beth Cohn*
The United Synagogue Award for Congregational Service—*Micah Weinberg Cowan*
Eleanor and Meyer Visotzky Memorial Prize in Midrash—*Zachary Meir Bernstein-Rothberg and Sarah Rockford*
Rabbi Mordechai Waxman (z"l) Memorial Prize in Interreligious Engagement—*Jacob Kaplan Lipkin*
Raymond Mark Wintrob Memorial Prize—*Jacob Kaplan Lipkin*
Isaac H. Wolfson Memorial Award—*Zachary Meir Bernstein-Rothberg*
Joseph Zubow Memorial Prize in Codes—*Tamara Levana Mireille Settbon*

WILLIAM DAVIDSON GRADUATE SCHOOL OF JEWISH EDUCATION

Chaim Davidson Prize—*Natalie Raanan-Lerner*
Rabbi Carl and Barbara Friedman Award—*Samuel A. Arnold*
Lisa and James Schlesinger Prize—*Reena Yocheved Zuckerman*

H. L. MILLER CANTORIAL SCHOOL AND COLLEGE OF JEWISH MUSIC

Cantors Assembly Foundation Scholarship Awards—*Rebecca Cushman, Leo Dworsky, Ayala Gottlieb Alter, Sharon Litwinoff, Esther Schwartz, Coleman Shickman*
Cantors Assembly Recruitment and Pipeline Award—*Libbie Sarah*
Cantors Assembly Israel Study Award—*Ruth Engel*
Cantors Assembly Camp Ramah and Youth Engagement Award—*Kelsey Bailey*
Cantors Assembly Cantorial Excellence Award—*Toby Banks and Shira Bodnar*
Cantors Assembly Jewish Liturgical Music Preservation Award—*Caitlyn Shannon and Brittany Stern*
Cantors Assembly Chesed Award—*Frances Shacket*
Cantors Assembly Hoffman Family Foundation Award in honor of Hazzan Charles Davidson—*Marc Szechter*
Cantors Assembly Richard Briskin Cantor-in-Residence Award—*Toby Banks*
Anonymous Prize—*Libbie Sarah*
Max and Sol Feld Prize in Composition—*Leo Dworsky*
Dr. Leonard E. Field and Beatrice E. Field Award—*Rebecca Cushman*
Rabbi David C. Kogen Community Activities Award—*Kelsey Bailey*
Hazzan David J. Leon Prize—*Frances Shacket*
Amy B. Putterman Memorial Prize—*Shira Bodnar*
Rose S. Rovine Prize in Liturgical Music—*Ruth Engel*

ALBERT A. LIST COLLEGE OF JEWISH STUDIES

Raphael and Sara Rifkin Krasnow Memorial Education Award—*Sophie Bacharach*
 William and Alexander May Memorial Education Award—*Amanda Whitney Baeck*
 Dr. Bernard Samson and Mrs. Sarah Bluma Samson Levinthal Memorial Award—*Jack Lewis Baeck*
 Sarah Barcan Soffin Memorial Award—*Mynda Kochava Barenholtz*
 Benjamin and Anna Jaffee Memorial Award—*Max MikoLevine*
 Freda and David Leiter Student Aid Fund—*Rose Hannah Clubok*
 Rosalyn Goden Milians Education Prize—*Angelina Dayani*
 Bina Appleman Memorial Education Award—*Charlie Feuerman and Helene Goldberg*
 Marcus and Frances Krasnow Thau Award—*Haya Shifra Fine*
 The Teachers Institute Class of 1917 Award—*Dore Fish-Bieler and Julia Robin Wineberg*
 Dr. Joseph Garrison Parker Prize—*Gabriel Shai Freedman-Naditch*
 Louis and Mary Lefkowitz Memorial Award—*Georgia Fried*
 Charles Steven Reinish Memorial Award—*Brad Garber*
 Minnie Weiss Halpern Memorial Education Award—*Alix Gilkarov*
 The 1976 Celebrating Classes Joshua Ovsay Memorial Award—*Clara Madeline Goldberg*
 Harry [Hillel] Appleman Memorial Education Award—*Ilana Goldstein*
 The 1976 Celebrating Classes Joshua Ovsay Memorial Award—*David Ioinovitch*
 Sarah Goldin Lewittes Award—*Maya Jamil*
 The Teacher's Institute Class of 1919 Award—*Julia Maya Lange and Jesse Joseph Spear*
 List College Scholars Award for Academic Excellence—*Devin Gabriel Leslie*
 Minnie Weiss Halpern Memorial Education Award—*Daniella Lewinger*
 Emanuel Halpern Memorial Award—*Marc Philip Luban*
 Moses Leo Gitelson Memorial Award—*Eli Mizrahi-Aks*
 Fanny Schneyer Education Award—*Gabriela Rose Buntman Orozco*
 Max and Bess Goodman Memorial Prize—*Michael James Pagovich*
 Isak, Rosa, and Shifra Thau Memorial Award—*Jacob Rabizadeh Resnick*
 Professor Paul Chertoff Prize—*Charlotte Love Roiter*
 Harry and Ernestine Goldstein Award—*Natan Rosenbaum*
 List College Scholars Award for Academic Excellence—*Alexander Saul Rosenberg*
 The Teachers Institute Class of 1920 Award—*Hana Cohen and Yardenah Ahava Rubin*
 List College Scholars Award for Academic Excellence—*Aiden Jacob Schiller*
 Esther Zommerstein Zweig Education Award—*Aron Abraham Shklar*
 Judith M. Lewittes Award—*Ariel Max Slomka*
 Helen P. Sussman Memorial Prize—*Evan Spielvogel*
 Grace J. Calder Fund—*Samuel Van Praagh*
 William A. Calder Fund—*Elijah B. Weinstein*
 Dorothy Ertischkek Kabakoff—*Bettino Weisser*
 Alvin S. Raphael Prize—*Zoë Anat Wulfstat*
 Fanny Schneyer Education Award—*Lev Zeldin*
 Irving and Mary Kremsdorf Memorial Award—*Naomi Daniela Zweiback*

Certificate Programs

תכניות תעודה

Certificate in Spiritual Care and Counseling

The Certificate in Spiritual Care and Counseling is awarded to people of all faiths who have completed a curriculum of Jewishly grounded academic learning, supervised clinical experience, professional skills development, religious and personal identity formation, and development of competencies in providing spiritual care to people of diverse backgrounds.

2026 RECIPIENTS

Marc Nathan Hersch

Jacob Kaplan Lipkin

Kimberly Rosenthal

Project Judaica

Central to the revival of Jewish life and learning in Ukraine, Project Judaica is a unique program sponsored by JTS in cooperation with the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences in Kyiv. Students enrolled in its certificate program go on to assume leadership positions in Ukrainian Jewish communities and in Jewish scholarship.

CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION, JUNE 2026

Institute of Oriental Studies, Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, Kyiv

Certificate in Jewish Studies

Pavlo Bersenev

Mykhailo Hromovyi

Mykhailo Syrotko

Yulia Dyadachko

Serhii Lyakhovetskyi

Vitalii Telichko

Sofia Haiduchok

Ella Madei

Inna Tsaruk

Larysa Holovko

Bogdan Petsiukh

Oleksii Zdorenko

Our graduating Judaica students in Kyiv completed their course work in the midst of war and bombardments, attending classes virtually from basements and shelters. We congratulate these graduates on their devotion and remarkable achievement.

Certificate in Judaica and Hebraica Librarianship Program

The Certificate in Judaica and Hebraica Librarianship, offered jointly by JTS and the Association of Jewish Libraries, is awarded to librarians, library school students, academics, and PhD students in the field of Jewish studies who have completed a curriculum providing skills in the specialized universe of Judaica librarianship. Coursework is followed by a supervised internship in specific areas of interest. Graduates are equipped with the skills necessary to work in research, academic, special collection libraries, and archives in the US and internationally.

2026 RECIPIENTS

Dainy Bernstein	Mirit Lerner Naaman	Miriam Rafai
Lili Brown	Martina Mampieri	Raquel Rein
Yaniv Cohen Roman	Abigail H. Meyer	Nicole Siegel
Sergii Gurbych	Elly Moseson	
Nikki Halpern	Andrea Nuñez	

Certificate in Biblical Hebrew

The Biblical Hebrew Certificate is awarded to those who have completed a curriculum covering the fundamentals of Biblical Hebrew grammar. Graduates have acquired the necessary tools and abilities to translate the books of the Tanakh in the original Hebrew.

2026 RECIPIENTS

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Rabbi Shoshana Dworsky	John Gorrell	Aidan Sammis
Judythe Gatchell	Carole Kantor	Steven Scheck
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Susan Leshnower	Emily Kirschenbaum	Suzanne Fournier
Eric Osterday	Barry Kramer	Joseph Korn
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Michael Weingart	Marcia Linebarger	Sheryl Shulman
Patricia Wright	Phillip Bert McDowell	Edward Sopher
Miriam Bakal	Sharon Baumgarten Mills	Kyle Swanson
Per Brask	Gale Nichols	Dann Thornton

Emerging Leaders Fellowship

The Emerging Leaders Fellowship is a yearlong program for 10th–12th graders that fosters curiosity, critical thinking, and a deeper connection to Jewish learning. Fellows participate in monthly seminars with JTS faculty, engage in guided research projects with rabbinic mentorship, and come together for in person Shabbatonim to build community. The program offers a unique opportunity for students to explore Jewish texts, history, and identity in a rigorous and supportive environment.

2025–2026 PARTICIPANTS

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 Marni Rosen, St. Louis, MO
 Ella Krieger, Providence, RI
 Lucas Storch, New York, NY
 Talia Schein, St. Louis Park, MN
 Oriana Salazar-Schuster, Brooklyn, NY
 Emerson Blum, Northbrook, IL
 Sabrina Rauch, Needham, MA
 Adelino-Daniel Sima, Timisoara, Romania
 Avital Klayman, Cary, NC

Yael Steinman, Albany, CA
 Theodore Garfinkle, New York, NY
 Rachel Jacobs, Overland Park, KS
 Lauren Messer, Demarest, NJ
 Ariyeh Schmelzer, Newton, MA
 Emanuel Leibowitz, Great Neck, NY
 Hayley Maultasch, Plainview, NY
 Samson Poland, Boca Raton, FL
 Callie Cousin, Cooper City, FL
 Eytan Whiting, Boca Raton, FL

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לכבוד בוגרי 1976 בשנת ה 50 לסיומם

For more than a century, The Jewish Theological Seminary has enhanced the world by training talented and committed individuals for religious, professional, and lay leadership.

Members of the class of 1976—rabbis, cantors, educators, and leaders in innumerable, diverse fields and disciplines—you have been worthy representatives of this historic institution, applying Torah and tradition to daily religious and family life, education, business, science, the arts, and community building. We applaud you, your efforts, and your achievements, especially as we mark this significant milestone. Mazal tov!

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Master of Arts

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Bachelor of Sacred Music

Earl Berris	Edwin Gerber
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Master of Sacred Music

Marsha Bryan Edelman

Diploma of Hazzan

Earl Berris	Edwin Gerber
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צדיקים

The Jewish Theological Seminary gratefully acknowledges the esteemed members of the Tzaddikim Society. These individuals care deeply about the Jewish future and have chosen to leave a lasting legacy by including JTS in their estate plans.

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As of March 31, 2026
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Lashir Ze Kmo Lihyot Yarden

לשיר זה כמו להיות ירדן

מילים לחן: נעמי שמר

לשיר זה כמו להיות ירדן.
אתה מתחיל למעלה בצפון
צעיר, צונן, שוצף ומתחצף
אתה שומע ציפורים בסבך
וכל אחת מהן ציפור גן עדן
כי לשיר זה כמו להיות ירדן.

ימיך שוטפים כמו ירדן
וכמותו זורם אתה דרומה
על החופים צומח עשב פרא
אבל הלאה, הלאה, הלאה
גאון מימיך הלא ימיך
שוטפים כמו ירדן

סופך לגווע כמו ירדן
להיאסף לאט אל ים המות
במקום הנמוך ביותר בעולם
אבל מראש הרי השלג
בהמולה גדולה צוהלת
אחריך שיריך מפכים להם
הלא לשיר זה כמו להיות ירדן

Our lives and our songs flow like the Jordan River. You begin in the North, young, fresh and insolent, you hear the singing of the birds, each one from Paradise. Your days pass like the Jordan River, heading south, past the wild grasses on the banks, moving on and on. Your end, too, will resemble the Jordan River, slowly collecting into the Dead Sea, the lowest place in the world. But from the snow covered mountain tops your songs will rush down in a joyous tumult, for isn't singing like being the Jordan River?

Odecha

אוֹדְךָ

אוֹדְךָ כִּי עָנִיתָנִי. וַתְּהִי לִי לְיִשׁוּעָה. אֶבֶן
מֵאֶסוּ הַבּוֹנִים. הִיְתָה לְרֹאשׁ פְּנֵה. מֵאֵת
יְהוָה הִיְתָה זֹאת. הִיא נִפְלְאת בְּעֵינֵינוּ. זֶה
הַיּוֹם עָשָׂה יְהוָה. נְגִילָה וְנִשְׂמָחָה בּוֹ:

I will praise You for you have answered me; You have been my deliverance. A stone the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is God's work; it is wonderful in our eyes. God has made this a day of triumph; let us be glad and rejoice.

(Psalm 118:21-24)

THE JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

As a preeminent institution of Jewish higher education, The Jewish Theological Seminary integrates rigorous academic scholarship, teaching, discourse, and religious practice in order to strengthen Jewish tradition, Jewish lives, and Jewish communities in the broadest possible sense. JTS achieves this by:

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- Fostering the search for intellectual, religious, and emotional truths, and articulating a nuanced vision of Judaism that is spiritually rich, complex, ever evolving, and thoroughly grounded in Jewish texts, history, ideas, practice, and values.
- Integrating the wisdom of our past with that of contemporary society and sharing this wisdom with others in order to ensure the flowering of Judaism and the Jewish people worldwide and to enrich the broader community.

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