

**Nomi Levenkron** is a lecturer at Kinneret College, the Faculty of Law at Tel Aviv University, and the Hebrew University. Her areas of research and teaching are human trafficking, police and policing, and social and legal history. Since 2017 she has served as the editor for *"Police & History"*.

**Ula Madej-Krupitski** is Assistant Professor of Jewish History at McGill University, and researches travel, leisure activities, and youth movements in interwar Poland.

**Rachel Manekin** is Professor of Jewish Studies at the University of Maryland and the author of *The Jews of Galicia and the Austrian Constitution: The Beginning of Modern Jewish Politics* and *The Rebellion of the Daughters: Jewish Women Runaways in Habsburg Galicia*, which was a finalist for the 2020 National Jewish Book Award in Women's Studies.

**Naomi Seidman** is Chancellor Jackman Professor of the Arts in the Departments for the Study of Religion and the Centre for Diaspora and Transnational Studies at the University of Toronto and a 2016 Guggenheim Fellow. Her book *Sarah Schenirer and the Bais Yaakov Movement: A Tradition in the Name of Revolution* (Littman, 2019), won a National Jewish Book Award.

**Michal Shaul** is the Chair and Senior lecturer in the Department of History at Herzog College, Israel. She won the Shazar Prize for Research in Jewish History (2016) for *Holocaust Memory in Ultraorthodox Society in Israel* (which appeared in English translation from Indiana University Press in 2020).

**Wojciech Tworek** is Assistant Professor in the Department of Jewish Studies at the University of Wrocław, Poland, and the author of *Eternity Now: Rabbi Shneur Zalman of Liady and Temporality* (SUNY 2019); he is working on a second project about Chabad culture in interwar Poland.

**Tzipora Weinberg** is a doctoral candidate at the Skirball Center for Hebrew and Judaic Studies, New York University. Her research focuses on Eastern European Jewish history in the 20th century, centering around women's intellectual and religious experiences. As the 2021-2022 Max Weinreich Fellow in Baltic Jewish studies at YIVO and the 2022-2023 Dr. Sophie Bookhalter Fellow at the Center for Jewish History, she explores the educational and theological development of Orthodox women in Jewish Lithuania.

**Marcin Wodziński** is Director of the Department of Jewish Studies; Professor of Jewish History at the University of Wrocław, Poland; project manager of the DH project "Hasidism: Key Questions"; and the author of over a hundred articles in Polish, English, Hebrew, French, and Czech as well as nine monographs and six edited volumes.

**Kalman Weiser** is an Associate Professor of History and Humanities, the Silber Family Chair in Jewish Studies at York University, and Director of York's Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies. He regularly publishes about Jewish language politics and the history of Yiddish Studies. He is completing a book about the relationship between Orthodox Yiddish scholar Shloyme Birnbaum, the secular Yiddishist Max Weinreich, and German Yiddish scholars who served the Third Reich.

**Dikla Yogev** completed her dissertation in Criminology at the University of Toronto in June 2022, and has published on policing, social control, and social capital in the ultra-Orthodox communities of Israel. She is a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department for the Study of Religion at the University of Toronto, and Project Manager of "The Bais Yaakov Project"; she is working on a network analysis of the transnational reach of Bais Yaakov between 1920-1950.

**Mari-Masha Yossifon**, Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations of the University of Toronto, works on women's rights and Jewish law. She has a law degree from Universidad Torcuato Di Tella in Buenos Aires and serves as the Gilda Slifka Graduate Intern for Prof. Lynn Kaye's Talmud Project at the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute. She has been researching Bais Yaakov in Latin America for "The Bais Yaakov Project".



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# בית יעקב

## THE BAIS YAAKOV PROJECT



MARCH 20-21, 2023 TORONTO

Bais Yaakov in Historical and Transnational Perspective

Image by Uriel Birnbaum: Used with permission of the Nathan and Solomon Birnbaum Family Archive

MONDAY, MARCH 20

Bais Yaakov in Historical Perspective

TUESDAY, MARCH 21

Bais Yaakov as a Transnational Phenomenon

# OUR PARTICIPANTS

9:30 - 10:00 Registration

10:00 - 10:30 Opening Remarks: Dynner, Seidman

## SESSION - BAIS YAAKOV CONTEXTS

10:30 - 12:00

**Glenn Dynner** - "The Best Armor: Bais Yaakov and the Polish Hasidic Pedagogical Revival"

**Wojciech Tworek** - "Chabad, Bais Yaakov, and the Anxiety of Influence"

**Joanna Degler** - "Sarah Schenirer's Polish Cultural Influences in the Light of Her Polish language Diary"

### Break

## SESSION - THE CHANGING CULTURES OF BAIS YAAKOV (PART ONE)

1:00 - 2:30

**Kalman Weiser** - "Solomon Birnbaum's Orthodox Yiddishism and Its Reception in Bais Yaakov"

**Nechama Juni** - "Shifting Pieties: How Bais Yaakov Created a Queer Orthodox Praxis"

**Dainy Bernstein** - "Tzniut in Bais Yaakov Boro Park"

### Break

## SESSION - THE CHANGING CULTURES OF BAIS YAAKOV (PART TWO)

4:00 - 5:30

**Marcin Wodziński** - Moderator

**Ula Madej-Krupitski** - "Summering in Rabka: Bais Yaakov, Nature, and Travel in Interwar Poland"

**Naomi Seidman** - "Acting Like a Bais Yaakov Girl: Gender, Piety, Performance"

**Leslie Ginsparg Klein** - "'Snap! Clap! Snap! Clap!' The Diversity and Uniformity of Bais Yaakov Education and Culture Across North America"

## THE MUSIC OF INTERWAR BAIS YAAKOV

5:45 - 6:30 A concert of Yiddish and Hebrew songs from a 1931 songbook, led by Basya Schechter, with M Miller and the Kol Isha choir.

8:30-9:00 Coffee

## SESSION - BAIS YAAKOV AND THE AGUDAH Zoom (Hybrid)

9:00 - 10:30

**Ilan Fuchs** - "Yehudah Leib Orlean, Agudah Socialism, and Bais Yaakov Pedagogy"

**Nathan Cohen** - "Providing Textbooks and Reading Materials for Bais Yankev Girls in Interwar Poland: What, Who and How?"

**Iris Brown** - "Agudist Youth Movements for Girls: Foundation, Ideology and Activity"

### Break

## SESSION - BAIS YAAKOV IN TRANSNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

### Zoom (Hybrid)

11:00 - 12:30

**Rachel Manekin** - "'I Am Full of Deception... Am I Allowed to be a Bais Yaakov Teacher?': From the Diary of a Teacher in Interwar Poland"

**Michal Shaul** - "Bais Yaakov Teachers in Israeli Ultra-Orthodox Holocaust Memory"

**Mari-Masha Yossiffon** - "The Development and Evolution of Bais Yaakov in Buenos Aires"

### Break

## SESSION - BAIS YAAKOV, RELIGION, CULTURE

1:30 - 3:00

**Nomi Levenkron** - "'Here Comes the Bride': Political Violence, Gender, and Religion in the Activity of Beit Ya'akov Teachers in Ta Yehudit" (1948-1951)

**Tzipora Weinberg** - "'To Continue Their Education in Torat Hashem': The Curious Case of Lithuanian Bais Yaakov"

**Dikla Yogev** - "Sarah Schenirer and Her Female Disciples in the Hebrew Press"

## SESSION - "BAIS YAAKOV: THE STATE OF THE FIELD"

3:00 - 4:30

Roundtable discussion on the state of Bais Yaakov research, present challenges, and future potential in Poland, North America, and Israel with Joanna Degler, Glenn Dynner, Iris Brown, and Leslie Ginsparg Klein.

## BAIS YAAKOV IN THE ARCHIVES

4:45-6:00 Exhibition of Bais Yaakov-related resources from the Nathan and Solomon Birnbaum Family Archive, the Fisher Library Rare Book Room.

**Iris Brown** is a senior lecturer at the Ono Academic College and the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies, focusing on Orthodox Judaism, Jewish Law, and Gender. She is currently working on a study of the educational ideologies of the Beit Yaakov school system in Israel.

**Nathan Cohen** is an Associate Professor of Yiddish at Bar Ilan University and Associate Editor of *Yad Vashem Studies*. Nathan researches East European Jewish cultural history in the 19th and 20th centuries, Yiddish book history and history of reading, and modern Yiddish literature. His most recent book *Yiddish - The Linguistic Leap: From a Common Dialect to a Cultural and Literary Language* (Zalman Shazar. 2020) is being translated into English.

**Joanna Degler (Lisek)** is Associate Professor of Jewish Literature and Culture and the Yiddish Language at the University of Wrocław, Poland; project manager of "The Literary Canon of Memoirs by Polish Jews"; editor of Sarah Schenirer's newly discovered diary; and author of many articles on Yiddish women's literature and culture.

**Glenn Dynner** is the Carl and Dorothy Bennett Chair in Judaic Studies and Director of the Bennett Center at Fairfield University, editor of *Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies*, a Guggenheim Fellow, and author of *Yankel's Tavern: Jews, Liquor & Life in the Kingdom of Poland* (Oxford, 2014). He is working on a book titled *Higher Education: The Hasidic Revival in Poland on the Eve of the Holocaust*.

**Ilan Fuchs** is a professor at American Public University and the author of *Jewish Women's Torah Study: Orthodox Education and Modernity* (Routledge, 2013). He recently completed *Ascension of the World*, a study of Yehudah Leib Orlean and Orthodox Socialism in the interwar period.

**Leslie Ginsparg-Klein**, Academic Dean of the Women's Institute of Torah Seminary & College, earned her Ph.D. at New York University in 2009 with a dissertation titled "Defining Bais Yaakov: A Historical Study of Yeshivish Orthodox Girls High School Education in America, 1963-1984"; she is now completing a much-expanded book on changes in the culture of North American Bais Yaakov, in all its different contexts, over the past sixty years.

**Nechama Juni** is Assistant Professor of Judaism and Religious Studies at Carleton College and a scholar of gender and Jewish law. Her article on "The Gender of Law," in *Jewish Law: New Perspectives*, Suzanne Last Stone and Yonatan Brafman (eds.), is forthcoming from De Gruyter.