



Jewish Changemakers: Inspiring young adults to be community leaders

If I am not for myself, who will be for me?

If I am only for myself, what am I?

And if not now, when?

- Rabbi Hillel



Emma Dunn, Twin Cities Young Adult Engagement Manager

For the past three weeks, 500 Jewish Changemakers Fellows, including 11 from our local Minneapolis-St. Paul cohort, have asked themselves these questions. This Fellowship, intended to spark leadership skills and create good professional contacts, inspires young adults to lean into their community and act at a time of unprecedented crisis and

challenge. We work with young adults seeking opportunities to plug into Jewish life, from leadership roles in St. Paul to educational programs in Israel, and we facilitated exploration, reflection, and goal setting during our local cohort meetings with the Fellows.

We realized right away the incredible opportunity this Fellowship was for important and timely conversations—about community, challenges, justice, and the power that we as individuals have to make essential change. Social change leaders, like the members of our cohort, need to be able to tell [three stories](#): the story of self, the story of us, and the story of now. Over three weeks, we dove into these stories, spending time exploring our careers and our sense of personal leadership, learning more about how we connect to the global Jewish community, and thinking deeply about the importance of service and advocacy, especially now that Changemakers across the country are motivated to strive for racial equity in their community.



Mazel Tov Cohort I!



Michael Alperin



Mikaela Bush



Ezra Cohen



Ellie Hechter



Ethan Kadet



Jordan Levy



Leila Rennie



Eliana Smelansky



Zoe Tselos



Jamie Wahout



Olivia Weitz

(more)

President & CEO of JFNA, Eric Fingerhut, sums it up: “a Changemaker is never satisfied with the status quo—They know that we can do better.” At Federation, we are proud to invest in Changemakers. The Jewish community needs visionary, dedicated volunteer and professional leaders as the engine of Jewish growth, vitality, and innovation. Now is the time for an entire generation to see the Jewish community as an opportunity for their dreams to be realized and passions fulfilled—and we’re proud to say that this Fellowship has opened the door for many exciting new leaders.

To our local Changemaker Fellows participating in Session I or Session II (and stay tuned for details on Session III!), we are so proud that you are leading for change.