

# FEREP



The Jewish Federations®  
OF NORTH AMERICA  
Mandel Center for  
Leadership Excellence

## FEREPs in Graduate School



### MIRIAM APTER BRANDER

FEREP Class of 2014

Expected Graduation: May 2016

Miriam hails from Fair Lawn, New Jersey and moved across the Hudson to New York City. She will be moving to West Hartford, CT next month. Miriam received a BA from Stern College at Yeshiva University in Political Science with a minor in Psychology and an Associate's degree in Jewish Studies. She is currently pursuing a Masters of Public Administration at NYU Wagner, and just completed a Certificate in Jewish Philanthropy at the Wurzweiler School of Social Work at Yeshiva University. Prior to starting at NYU, Miriam worked for Presentense in their Jerusalem office, and has experience running Jewish identity clubs in public high schools in the US. In addition to her studies, Miriam interned for the Lawyers division at UJA-Federation of New York, where she oversaw the Law Student Division, spearheading a mentorship program between law students and young lawyers. As part of the FEREP cohort, Miriam is excited for the opportunity to network with Federation professionals and lay leaders.



### RACHEL GOLDRICH

Ernest W. Michel FEREP Fellow, UJA-Federation of New York

FEREP Class of 2014

Expected Graduation: May 2017

Rachel Goldrich is originally from Long Island, New York but has proudly lived in New York City for the past four years. She just finished her first at NYU, working towards an MPA and MA in Hebrew and Judaic Studies. While in school, she is interning at UJA-Federation of New York. Rachel is most excited about the incredible network that FEREP is opening her up to and she looks forward to meeting and learning from all of the current and past participants of the program. In her spare time Rachel enjoys cooking, traveling, listening to NPR podcasts, and exploring NYC.



### JULIA HUBNER

FEREP Class of 2015

Expected Graduation: May 2017

Julia Hubner is currently pursuing joint Masters degrees in Jewish Nonprofit Management from Hebrew Union College and Communication Management from her alma mater, the University of Southern California. Previously, she was the Director of Programs and Marketing at Kehillat Israel Congregation, the world's largest Reconstructionist synagogue, after being promoted from Program Associate. She also worked in higher education as both Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and an Admissions Counselor at American Jewish University. Raised in Berkeley, CA, she developed her passion for Jewish causes from strong familial roots. At USC, she earned Bachelors degrees in Communication and Religion. She also interned with the Shoah Foundation Institute and taught creative writing at the URJ Camp Newman. Outside of work and school, Julia loves fundraising for

and participating in 100-mile road cycling charity rides. Julia is thrilled to be joining her FEREP peers in gaining better insight into Federation structure and best practices.



### **RACHEL DANIELLE SACKS LIPKIN**

FEREP Class of 2014

Expected Graduation: April 2016

Rachel Lipkin grew up in Youngstown, Ohio, daughter of Andrew Lipkin, Youngstown Area Jewish Federation Executive Vice President and Hilari Lipkin, Kindergarten Teacher. Rachel attended The Ohio State University and graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science. Before graduate school, Rachel worked for the Jewish Community of Louisville as the Middle School Director, Assistant Camp Director, and Jewish Programmer. Rachel is currently a second-year MPA student at the John Glenn School of Public Affairs at The Ohio State University and has created her own Jewish Non-Profit Management specialization. Rachel has become an Adviser to Alpha Epsilon Phi-Rho Chapter, Secretary of the Public Affairs Student Association (PASA), Graduate Student Representative for the John Glenn College of Public Affairs Strategic Planning Committee, Recruitment and Admissions Student Assistant at the John Glenn College of Public Affairs, and a Development Intern at the Columbus Jewish Federation. Rachel believes the FEREP program is a great way to learn the ins and outs of the Federation world and is excited to be involved in an organization that supports so many people around the world and has supported her throughout her entire life.



### **ALEXIS MILLER**

FEREP Class of 2015

Expected Graduation: May 2017

Alexis Miller grew up in Highland Park, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. She attended the University of Pittsburgh and graduated with a Bachelors degree in Applied Developmental Psychology, a minor in Social Work, and a certificate in Public and Professional Writing. While in Pittsburgh, Alexis interned at the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh's Volunteer Center and was an Onward Israel participant the summer of 2014 during Operation Protective Edge. As a recent Philadelphia resident, Alexis is pursuing a Masters in Social Work from the University of Pennsylvania and a Graduate Certificate in Jewish Communal Service from Gratz College. Alexis is most excited to network and meet influential Jewish professionals and lay leaders through the FEREP Program and learn the ins and outs of working in the Jewish community.



### **DANIEL LARSON**

FEREP Class of 2015

Expected Graduation: May 2017

Daniel Larson was born and raised in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, and graduated from the University of Alberta in 2012 with a Bachelors in anthropology and sociology. During his undergraduate degree, Daniel was involved with Hillel Edmonton, serving as Co-President. After graduation, Daniel trained and served as a madrich with Canada Israel Experience, Canada's national Taglit-Birthright Israel trip provider. Shortly thereafter, Daniel joined the team at The

Jewish Federation of Edmonton as Director of Communications & Campaign Coordinator, in addition to capacities as Director of Hillel Edmonton and Festival Coordinator for the Edmonton Jewish Film Festival. Daniel is currently an MBA/MA candidate in the Hornstein Jewish Professional Leadership Program, in conjunction with the Heller School for Social Policy and Management, at Brandeis University. Daniel looks forward to the networking opportunities available through FEREP, as well as learning best-practices from other Jewish Federation professionals.



### LISA LEBOVITZ

FEREP Class of 2015

Expected Graduation: May 2017

Lisa Lebovitz was born and raised in Franklin, Tennessee. While completing her BS in Hospitality Management from the University of South Carolina, she was active in Hillel and her sorority, Gamma Phi Beta. Lisa is completing her MBA at the University of Georgia and a Graduate Certificate in Jewish Communal Service at Gratz College while maintaining her full time position in the Business & Professionals Division at Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta. When she has free time, Lisa enjoys walking the Atlanta Beltline with friends, trying new restaurants, and travelling. As a FEREP, Lisa is most looking forward to learning from and working with Federation staff and lay leadership.



### NAOMI ROSENFELD

FEREP Class of 2014

Expected Graduation: June 2016

Naomi Rosenfeld was born in Toronto, Ontario, and graduated first in her class from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. While Naomi was involved in many extra-curricular activities, it was her work as chair of Holocaust Education Week that led to her receiving the highest non-academic, non-athletic honour bestowed upon any Queen's student. Upon finishing her studies, Naomi became the Hillel Director of Atlantic Canada where, as a lone professional, she spearheaded innovative Jewish programming on university campuses spanning across four different provinces and seven different campuses. Currently, Naomi is completing an MBA and MA from the Heller School for Social Policy and Management and the Hornstein Jewish Professional Leadership Program at Brandeis University. She is also currently working at Combined Jewish Philanthropies – using her vast research experience to help CJP develop a cohesive and comprehensive system of measurement and reporting.

## FEREPs in the Field



### RACHEL BARTON

Jewish Federation of Greater Washington  
FEREP Class of 2012

Rachel Barton is a California native who relocated to Washington, DC to work as the Melvin Cohen Young Leadership Associate/NEXT DC Coordinator at the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington. Rachel completed a dual Masters program in Social Work and Jewish Nonprofit Management at USC and HUC-JIR in Los Angeles in May 2014. As part of her graduate work, Rachel conducted original research and wrote a Masters thesis titled, *Beyond the Bus: Emerging Strategies for Engaging Birthrighters in Jewish Communal Life*. Her previous experience includes fundraising, direct social service, Zionist education, and Foundation work. As part of the FEREP program, Rachel has appreciated the opportunity to be part of a cohort of like-minded emerging professionals and participate in conversations about career paths as well as the “big questions” of the future of the field.



### ALEXI BIENER

Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles  
FEREP Class of 2013

Originally from Los Angeles, California, Alexi Biener completed her Masters in Jewish Nonprofit Management and Social Work from HUC-JIR and USC this past May. During her first year of graduate school, Alexi interned at Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles as a clinical social worker, assisting the vulnerable Orthodox population of Los Angeles. For her second year, Alexi interned at the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles in Campaign, where she recently started working full time in the area of young adult fundraising. Alexi loves that the FEREP program brings together like-minded graduate students and new Jewish professionals that can and will positively impact their Jewish communities for future generations.



### ANDREA DECK

Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta  
FEREP Class of 2013

Originally from the Washington DC area, Andrea Deck is the Senior Associate in Community Planning and Impact at the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta. She graduated with a Master of Arts in Jewish Communities from the Jewish Theological Seminary and a License and Master of Social Work from Columbia University. A graduate from Franklin and Marshall College, Andrea got her start with the Jewish Federation in Buenos Aires working with Holocaust survivors. She held graduate internships at UJA-Federation of New York in the Jewish Peoplehood Commission, as well as the Jewish Federations of North America’s Washington office.





### **MERAV FINE**

Ernest W. Michel FEREP Fellow  
FEREP Class of 2012

Merav Fine is the Program Manager for Member Services at the Jewish Funders Network where she develops meaningful programming to engage funders in the future of the Jewish community, and works to strengthen their relationships with one another to promote the Network's impact on Jewish life. She comes to JFN with a deep background in Jewish communal life, particularly around developing inclusive programming. Merav completed her MPA in Nonprofit Management and Policy and MA in Hebrew and Judaic Studies from NYU. Throughout her graduate work, she interned and consulted with Jewish organizations including UJA-Federation of NY, Reboot, and the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York. Originally from Queens, New York, she received her B.A. in Government and Politics from the University of Maryland, College Park, and later spent two years working at University of Maryland Hillel developing inclusive programming for students from all walks of Jewish life. Merav continues to teach Judaics and Hebrew with a small tutoring company, and is also a yoga instructor in Brooklyn.



### **JULIA FRANKS**

Greater Miami Jewish Federation  
FEREP Class of 2012

Julia Franks currently serves as a Planning Associate at the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, working at the intersection of Israel, Jewish identity, and community engagement. Julia is committed to her work, striving to create a pluralistic, inclusive, and welcoming Jewish community. Prior to this, she was a Grant Writer/Special Projects Manager at Facing History and Ourselves in Boston. She holds an MBA in Nonprofit Management from Brandeis University (2013), an MA in Government from the Interdisciplinary Center in Israel (2009), and a BA in International Studies and a Certificate in Jewish Studies from Indiana University (2007). Julia is a Taglit Fellow and serves on the Diller Tikkun Olam Award National Review Committee. Julia is thrilled to participate in the FEREP program and deeply values FEREP because of her amazing cohort, professional development, and opportunity to be the first Community-Designated Scholarship Recipient for the Greater Miami Jewish Federation. She enjoys hiking, reading, and traveling.



### **LANI HART**

Jewish Federations of North America  
FEREP Class of 2011

Lani Hart is the Assistant Director of Talent Acquisition and Talent Development for the Jewish Federations of North America's Mandel Center for Leadership Excellence. In this role, she works on professional development and staff enrichment programming and helps to attract, strengthen and retain the best talent for the Federation system. Lani has been working in the Federation system for six years. Before JFNA, she interned at UJA-Federation of New York and was the Assistant Director of Young Leadership at The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington. Originally from Chicago, Lani holds a BA in Sociology, Jewish Studies and Hebrew from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and recently earned her MPA in Nonprofit Management and Policy and MA in Hebrew and

Judaic Studies from NYU in January 2014. Lani enjoys being part of the FEREP program and all of the exciting professional development opportunities it offers.



### JENNIFER LIEBERMAN

UJA-Federation of New York  
FEREP Class of 2013

Jennifer Lieberman is pursuing an MPA and MA in Hebrew and Judaic Studies from NYU. Originally from south Florida, Jennifer attended the University of Florida where she graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a BA in Jewish Studies and a BS in Family, Youth, and Community Sciences. Throughout her undergraduate studies, she interned in the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County and UJA-Federation of New York, working on a variety of projects including engaging young professionals in Federation and its agencies and working with volunteer services for beneficiary agencies. While in graduate school, Jennifer has interned at UJA-Federation of New York in the Lawyers Division and the Network Commission. Jennifer currently works as a development associate in the Emerging Leaders and Philanthropists department at UJA-Federation of New York. Jennifer is honored to be a FEREP and to have the opportunity to learn with her peers in the FEREP program.



### BECKA ROSS

Jewish Federation of Silicon Valley  
FEREP Class of 2012

Originally from Walnut Creek, CA, Becka Ross is the Director of NextGen Engagement and Philanthropy at the Jewish Federation of Silicon Valley. She received her Masters in Jewish Education and Jewish Non-Profit Management from Hebrew Union College in May 2014. While in school, she was named the inaugural Carol Koransky intern and participated in the Masters Concentration in Israel Education fellowship through the iCenter. Prior to graduate school, Becka worked at the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland and Congregation Beth Israel in Portland, OR. Becka loves the network of professionals FEREP has connected her to and is always excited to bring what she has learned from her fellow FEREPs back to the Silicon Valley community.



### STEVEN SCHIMMEL

Jewish Federation of Cumberland, Gloucester & Salem Counties  
FEREP Class of 2012

Steven Schimmel is the Executive Director of Jewish Federation of Cumberland, Gloucester & Salem Counties in New Jersey. He has been with the organization for six years. Prior to working for the Jewish Federation, Steven was a marketing manager with Eventive Marketing in New York City and worked in the film industry with International Creative Management in Los Angeles. He has an MBA from Rutgers University and a BA in History and Political Science from Manhattanville College. Steven says that the FEREP program has been an essential career building opportunity and it is just one of the many ways that the Federation system has invested in the future leadership of the organization.

