Paideia
MIFGASH

Participants' Catalogue 2025/2026



What is Paideia Mifgash?

The Paideia Mifgash is a series of Sunday traveling events, built around one common theme.

The project is dedicated to strengthening the presence of Jewish thought and culture in all its aspects, to bridge building and to the exchange of ideas at the local and Pan-European level.

The Paideia Mifgash aims to promote the diversity of Jewish life and to encourage and empower Paideia Alumni to grow as local activists.

The main theme for 2025 series is: People of the Book

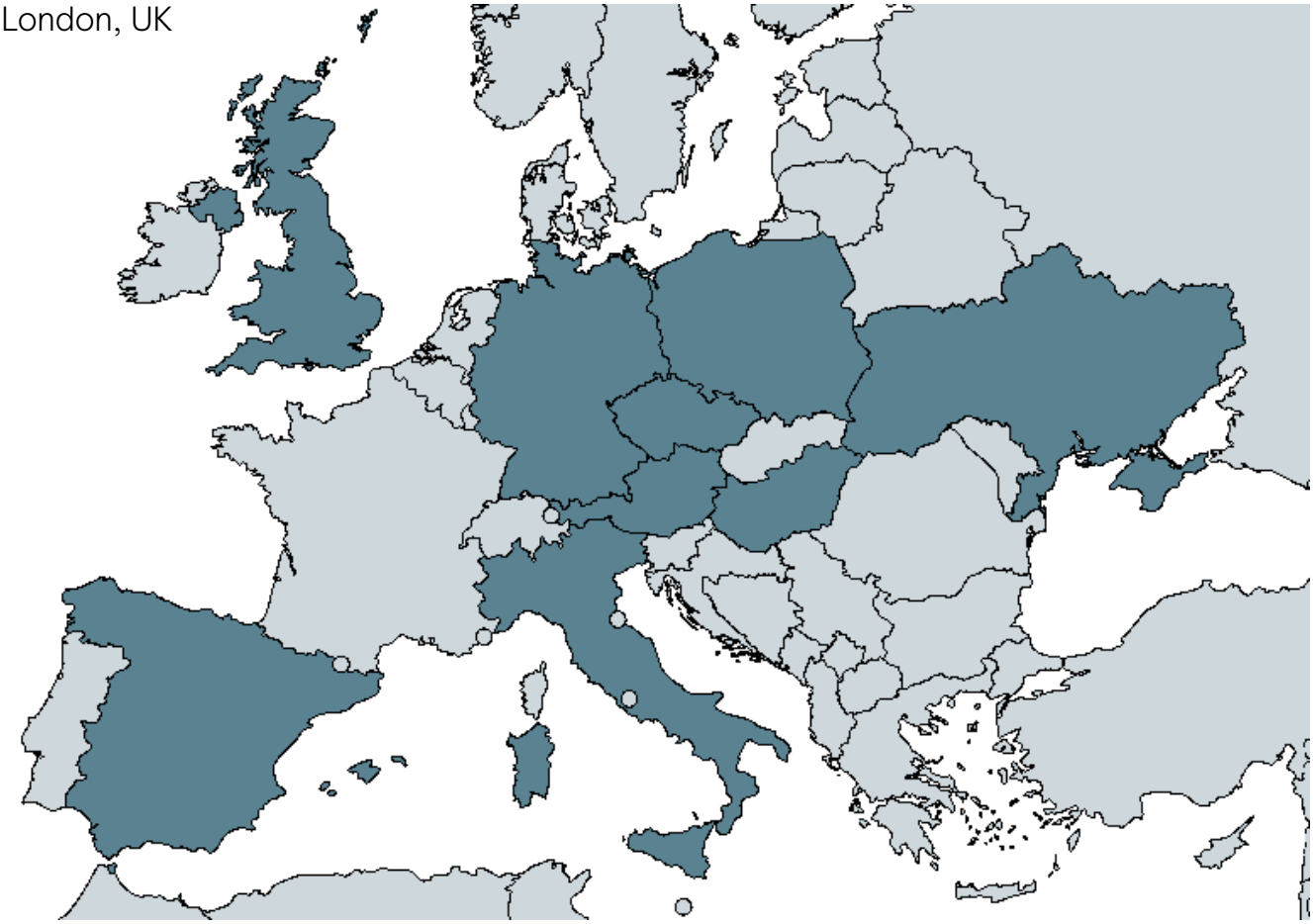
Paideia Mifgash is enriched through collaboration with the National Library of Israel and the European Association for the Preservation and Promotion of Jewish Culture and Heritage (AEPJ).

With its extensive resources, expertise, and experience, the National Library of Israel plays a key role in developing the Study Material Package, which is the foundation of the Paideia Mifgash project. The European Association for the Preservation and Promotion of Jewish Culture and Heritage further enhances Mifgash by promoting the program across its wide network of contacts.

The Paideia Mifgash 2025 geographic spread

Locations:

- Vienna, Austria
- Brno, Czech Republic
- Berlin, Germany
- Sopron, Hungary
- Milan, Italy
- Cracow, Poland
- Krasnik, Poland
- Lublin, Poland
- Lublin, Poland
- Barcelona, Spain
- Barcelona, Spain
- Lviv, Ukraine
- Lviv, Ukraine
- London, UK



Mifgash Event Leaders



Basya Gartenstein

Vienna, Austria

Basya Gartenstein is a community relations consultant specializing in interreligious coalition building, Jewish communal development, and conflict transformation. She holds a Master of Divinity from Yale University and has worked with the Joint Distribution Committee, the Jewish Federation, and the Muslim Jewish Conference. Basya has led diplomatic initiatives with the Regional Organization for Peace Economics & Security (ROPES) across the U.S., Europe, and the Middle East, and received scholarships from the U.S. Department of State and the Omani Embassy for Arabic study and intercultural exchange. Basya currently serves on the Muslim Jewish Leadership Council, supports the Friedensbotschafter-Projekt, and develops international programs through the Bruno Kreisky Forum. She also participates in networks across Europe advancing educational initiatives to combat discrimination. Passionate about harnessing difference as a catalyst for intercommunal understanding, growth, and resilience, Basya is a Third Cohort Lord Rabbi Jonathan Sacks Legacy Scholar.

Basya is Paideia Paradigm Program 2023 Participant.

Proposed Agenda:

Event 1: Anti-Racism and Interreligious Literacy with as_ra & Rifka Junger

Hevruta Study Session:

Participants will engage with Jewish-Muslim curricular materials I am currently developing for the Sacks Legacy Scholars program. The session draws on Jewish thinkers such as Bahya Ibn Paquda, Moses Maimonides, and David ben Joshua Maimonides to explore historical approaches to ethical reasoning, interreligious engagement, and communal responsibility. Participants will examine how these thinkers navigated pluralistic environments and incorporated ideas from Muslim thought, using these historical frameworks as models for fostering inclusive, ethical, and interreligiously informed learning today.

Meet & Greet / Q&A:

Facilitated by as_ra, educators and civil society actors from Jewish and non-Jewish communities will discuss practical strategies for addressing antisemitism and broader societal discrimination. Rifka Junger, Advisor for the Prevention of Antisemitism and for Jewish Life at the Austrian Parliament, will bring her experience in policy and civic education to the conversation. The discussion will connect insights from the Hevrutah session to actionable tools for creating inclusive learning environments, linking historical and interreligious literacy to contemporary civic practice.

Cultural Event:

Private visit to the exhibit on antisemitism curated by Rifka Junger in the Austrian Parliament collaboration with Zara, Vienna's local anti-racist organization, providing participants with an immersive, interactive experience exploring the historical and contemporary manifestations of antisemitism.

Event 2: Jewish Texts, Humanistic Values & European Youth Leadership (with Smol Emuni & Brunnenpassage)

Hevruta Study Session:

Led by Rabbi Schlomo Hofmeister, board member of the young leaders of the Muslim Jewish Leadership Council (Hind Hafuda and Eidel Malowicki), community rabbi of the Israelitische Kultusgemeinde Wien (Vienna's main Jewish community), and rabbi for the Friedensbotschafter (Peace Ambassadors) youth program (where he and an imam reach thousands of students and teachers in Austria a year teaching about the intersection of antisemitism and Islamophobia as well as how to responsibly stregnthen Muslim and Jewish life), this session introduces Jewish texts addressing ethics, human dignity, and civic responsibility. Participants will examine how Jewish tradition can inform contemporary youth leadership, interreligious understanding, and civic engagement.

Meet & Greet / Q&A:

Dialogue with organizers from Smol Emuni, Europe's pan-Jewish educational network, will focus on translating textual insights into actionable programming. Discussions will emphasize cross-national collaboration, youth leadership, and fostering interreligious literacy in diverse communities.

Cultural Event:

Artistic presentation by Hind Hafuda (Hind Hafuda is a Vienna-based artist, cultural mediator, and interfaith activist, studying Arts & Education / Design in Context at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna and working at the Weltmuseum Wien. She is a young ambassador of Muslim Jewish Leadership Council (MJLC)) and Eidel Malowicki (a sociology graduate raised in a Hasidic Jewish family in Vienna, and active as a young interfaith leader with the Muslim Jewish Leadership Council (MJLC) and Yiddish-language educator) showcasing their Yalla City Walks, Talks, and Runs project. Participants will learn how Jewish and Muslim concepts were integrated in visual design, storytelling, and community engagement, emphasizing participatory methods that strengthen cross-community dialogue and civic collaboration.

Event 3: Interreligious Youth, Religious Literacy & Communal Resilience (with Solutions Not Sides)

Hevruta Study Session:

Joint study with Jewish and Muslim youth, led by Basya Gartenstein and Mohamed Ali Alma, co-founder of Solutions Not Sides (a UK-based organization fostering dialogue between Muslim and Jewish communities) and expert in countering radicalization. Participants will explore religiously informed approaches to communal resilience, historical text analysis, and strategies for teaching interreligious literacy to mitigate conflict. Discussions will focus on interpreting challenging texts responsibly and applying ethical reflection in youth leadership.

Meet & Greet / Q&A:

Dialogue with interfaith educators and civil society leaders on best practices for cultivating youth capacity to engage with religious texts responsibly, build resilience, and foster interreligious understanding across traditions.

Cultural Event:

Performance by Friderica Wachter Stanfel, Muslim activist and artist, combining art and storytelling to explore Holocaust remembrance, antisemitism, and interreligious solidarity. Participants will engage with creative expressions of ethical reflection, communal memory, and interfaith collaboration.



Iva Komarkova

Brno, Czech Republic

Iva is a project manager focused on Jewish culture, heritage, and education. She has led key cultural and community projects for the Jewish Community of Brno and the Museum of Jewish Culture in Moravia and Silesia. Iva is a co-founder of ŠTETL FEST Brno and OROT Brno, where she develops programs connecting the public with Jewish traditions. Her work includes innovative educational initiatives, including international collaborations and new approaches to Holocaust memory.

Iva is Paideia Project-Incubator 2024 Participant.

Machol Mifgash: Purim – Dance, Tradition and Text will be a one-day Sunday gathering held during the Purim period, bringing together Israeli dancing, Jewish text study, and a cultural program. The event aims to foster learning, intercultural dialogue, and shared joy through movement, music, and Purim traditions. Mifgash includes the study of selected Purim-related texts (Book of Esther, midrashim, contemporary commentaries) in pairs/hevrutot, using materials curated with the National Library of Israel. Mifgash aims for creating a shared space for dialogue and exploration of Jewish culture through text study, music, and dance, a more connected and engaged local community and a greater visibility of Israeli dance as a bridge-building art form.

Proposed Agenda:

Opening circle & Meet and Greet / Q&A:

Participant introductions and a conversation with a local community leader/activist about the meaning of Purim and the communal role of dance.

Hevruta Study Session:

Study of selected Purim-related texts (Book of Esther, midrashim, contemporary commentaries) in pairs/hevrutot, using materials curated with the National Library of Israel.

Machol – Israeli Folk Dancing:

Teaching both well-known and new circle/line dances led by local instructors, blending traditional themes with contemporary expression.

Cultural Program:

Live Israeli music or a performance by local dancers.

Tasting of traditional Purim foods (hamantaschen and other community specialties).



Uriel Aiskovich

Berlin, Germany

Uriel Aiskovich is a Jewish educator, community organizer, and social innovator based in Berlin. He is a PhD candidate at the University of Potsdam, researching the use of video games for Jewish education and critical thinking. Uriel holds an MA in Jewish Theology and a BA in Political Science, and is completing his rabbinical training at Abraham Geiger College. He taught Political Science and Philosophy of Social Sciences at the University of Buenos Aires and directed the Centro Hebreo Iona for 15 years. He currently coordinates Jewish Learning at the Fraenkelufer Synagogue and JASS – the Jewish Activism Summer School. Uriel also founded several initiatives on education, identity, and democracy, including ID: Identity and Diversity Talks, and is the co-author of Puño y Letra: Caligrafía y Poder (2021)**.

Uriel is Paideia Project-Incubator 2023 Participant.

Paideia Mifgash, we will host two cultural–educational sessions at the Mendelssohn-Remise in Berlin, an emblematic location, a building that belonged to the banking firm of the sons of Moses Mendelssohn, situated only a few meters from the site of the very first Berlin salon, run by Rahel Varnhagen. This historic setting provides an ideal backdrop for exploring the intellectual legacy of Rahel Varnhagen, Hannah Arendt, and the formative Jewish voices of the German Enlightenment.

Proposed Agenda:

Session 1: **Learning Activism from Arendt and Varnhagen**

This session will focus on the philosophy of Hannah Arendt, especially her writing about Rahel Varnhagen, examining how their reflections on identity, marginality, activism, and public responsibility speak to contemporary civil society.

Hevruta Study Session:

Participants will study selected passages texts in pairs:

Seyla Benhabib, “The Pariah and Her Shadow: Hannah Arendt’s Biography of Rahel Varnhagen”

Lyndsey Stonebridge, excerpts from We are Free to Change the World: Hannah Arendt’s Lessons in Love and Disobedience (2024)

Community Q&A and Discussion:

We will explore how Arendt illuminates questions of belonging, activism, and Jewish identity in pluralistic societies.

Session 2: **Rahel Varnhagen Walking Tour & Chevruta Dialogue**

This session will combine historical immersion with reflective study. Historical Walking Tour:

Led by Dorothee Nolte, participants will visit the key sites of the early Berlin salons, tracing the emergence of Jewish participation in intellectual and cultural life. The tour ends at the Mendelssohn-Remise.

Hevruta Study Session & Civil Society Dialogue:

At the Remise, after some refreshments, we will conduct a chevruta-style learning session focused on Varnhagen's legacy, through a talk by Dr. Hannah Lotte Lund, who has researched and written quite a lot about Varnhagen, followed by an open conversation about how these early Jewish thinkers shaped the evolution of German civil society, cultural modernity, and interreligious dialogue. For this we will look for collaboration with the experts from National Library of Israel and the European Association for the Preservation and Promotion of Jewish Culture and Heritage (AEPJ).

Q&A / Meet the Community:

Participants will share reflections and explore how the salon model can inspire contemporary communal, social, and cultural engagement.



Akos Nagy

Sopron, Hungary

Ákos is from Budapest but has also lived in Israel for a number of years. His educational background is in journalism and communication management. He has been active in the Hashomer Hacair youth organization in Budapest, which he now represents as Chairperson. After completing his studies, he worked at the JCC as a coordinator and as a professional photographer. Since 2014, he has worked as Chief of Staff at the Federation of Hungarian Jewish Communities (MAZSIHISZ), focusing actively on the development of the Jewish community in Hungary.

Akos is Paideia One-Year Program 2022-202 and Project-Incubator 2023 Participant.

The event marks a pivotal gathering celebrating resilience and renewal in the Jewish community. Centered around the screening of the documentary "We Will Dance Again," this event aims to facilitate deep discussions on rebuilding Jewish identity following the October 7 attacks, framed within the metaphor of growth associated with Tu BiShvat, the Jewish New Year of Trees. Participants will leave feeling connected and less isolated within the regional Jewish ecosystem, with a renewed sense of belonging, resilience, and hope. The event aims to foster ongoing interactions between communities, initiate new collaborations, and revive Jewish presence in Western Hungary, serving as a seed for future growth and togetherness.

Proposed Agenda:

Opening and setting the tone for reconnection and renewal inspired by Tu BiShvat.

Film Screening – *We Will Dance Again*, A poignant documentary showcasing stories of loss, survival, and resilience, highlighting themes of regrowth after devastation.

Hevruta Study Session:

Text-based reflection using traditional sources to explore Jewish responses to crisis, community, memory, and renewal, fostering intimate pair learning.

Meet & Greet / Q&A with Local Leaders:

Discussion with community leaders on post-October 7 changes, communal needs, and opportunities for cross-border cooperation. Stage Panel Discussion – “Rebuilding Identity Together”

Cultural Event:

Conclude with a Tu BiShvat Seder featuring traditional elements, music, poetry, and community expressions symbolizing renewal and connection.



Miriam Camerini

Milan, Italy

Miriam Camerini is a theatre director, Jewish scholar, writer, singer and actress. Among her shows: "Golem", "Un grembo, due nazioni, molte anime", "On golden wings", "Caffe Odessa", "Chouchani", "Il Mare in valigia", (on Else Lasker-Schüler). In Opera, her work as a stage director includes: "Le Nozze di Figaro" (2014), "The Magic Flute" (2015); Giuseppe Sarti's "Armida e Rinaldo" (The Jerusalem Theatre, 2024). At Yiddish Summer Weimar Miriam has performed in the "Bobe Mayses" project in 2016 and directed "Di Megile fun Vaymar" in 2019. In 2024 Miriam co-produced and performed a Pourimshpil for UNESCO – Medem Yiddish Centre in Paris and Bordeaux. She also produced "Lo Shabbat di tutti", a performance/show that invites audience members to experience a Shabbat dinner with food, theatre, music, and learning. Miriam studied Linguistics and Literature in Milan, State University and Theatre Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, studied Bible and Talmud at the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem and is now a rabbinical student at Beit Midrash Har'El. Miriam lectures regularly on Bible, Rabbinics and contemporary Jewish topics at State and Catholic Universities, Italian National Jewish Museum (MEIS), and several other institutions. After years of interfaith work with Muslim and Christian communities, Miriam published a book on food and religions, "Ricette e Precetti" (Giuntina, Firenze 2019), which has been published in German by Hentrich&Hentrich in 2021, with the title "Rezepte und Gebote". She's currently working at a new Italian commentary and translation of "Song of Songs" for teenagers and one on the book of Ruth, as well as an interfaith Bible publication: "La Bibbia dell'amicizia". She's a regular contributor to Catholic magazine Jesus with her column "Miriam's song" on women, arts and religions.

Miriam is Paideia Project-Incubator 2015 Participant.

An open cultural event will be held on Sunday in a cozy theatre–café in Milan's Navigli district, featuring music, food, and drinks. The program includes a Beit Midrash–style text-study session organized as a "speed-learning" format. Each table will focus on a different topic, ranging from foundational subjects such as Shabbat and kashrut to more advanced areas including ethical questions, interpersonal relationships, sexuality, politics, and other themes tailored to participants' interests and levels of knowledge.

Proposed Agenda:

Hevruta Study Session:

Speed-dating style on "how to" study gemarah and offer different topics, from basics like shabes and kashrus to more sophisticated questions or moral ethics, sexual life, politics.. depending on people's levels and interests.

Meet & Greet / Q&A:

Designed as a panel discussion with all instructors who led the study tables. They will address questions from attendees and engage in conversation with one another. Music will accompany the food, coffee, and wine breaks throughout the day.

Cultural event:

The event will conclude with a one-hour concert of Jewish music performed by members of the organizing ensemble.



Lidia Wocior-Abatbul

Lublin, Poland

Lidia Wociór-Abutbul works at the Lublin Voivodeship Marshal's Office in the Department of Holocaust Site Commemoration. She conducts activities commemorating the Jewish communities that inhabited the Lublin region and were exterminated during Operation Reinhardt. In addition, she is an educator in Grodzka Gate Theatre NN in Lublin where she guides Israeli groups. Before, she worked as a teacher at Secondary Technical School of Electrical Engineering and as an online languages' teacher. She graduated Ph.D. studies at Maria Curie-Sklodowska University in Lublin in Culture Studies - Department of Culture and History of Jews. What is more, she has studied inter alia at the University of John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin. She holds MA diploma in Philology, Slavonic Studies with Ukrainian language specialization and Translation Studies and MA diploma in Applied Linguistics and BA diploma in Art History with specialization in Museum Studies and Historic Sights Preservation.

Lidia is Paideia One-Year Program 2013-2014 Participant.

The event is envisioned as an opportunity to introduce participants to fundamental skills in Talmud study. It will offer a unique occasion to learn about the Daf Yomi tradition and to experience text learning through the hevrutah method. Its significance is further enhanced by the setting, the historic Chachmei Lublin Yeshiva, and by the timing, taking place 103 years after the proposal for the Daf Yomi cycle was first presented and adopted.

Proposed Agenda:

Hevruta Study Session:

A *hevruta* study session is planned to take place at a historic venue closely associated with the origins of Daf Yomi, where Rabbi Meir Shapiro first introduced and implemented the practice at the Chachmei Lublin Yeshiva. The session will focus on the Talmudic page corresponding to the date of the upcoming Mifgash meeting.

Meet & Greet / Q&A:

Following the hevrutah study, a “Meet and Greet” will be held with local community leader Iwona Hermon, accompanied by a tea and coffee break with light vegetarian refreshments. The program will conclude with a cultural event featuring hora dancing, taught by Agnieszka Litman, a member of the Jewish community in Lublin and a professional dancer.

Cultural event:

There will be music playing during food and coffee (and wine later) and a 1 hour concert of Jewish music(s) with some of my band members - and possibly myself - to end the day and farewell till the next session.



Marcin Krol

Lublin, Poland

Marcin Krol was born in Krakow/Poland. He is a violinist, prayer leader in progressive Jewish communitiew across Poland. He graduated from Music Academy in Krakow and Cologne. He organises events connected to Jewish culture for Jewish and non Jewish audience. Marcin Krol is a member of Radom Chamber Orchestra.

Marcin is Paideia Project-Incubator 2023 Participant.

The event will take place at the historic Chachmei Lublin Yeshiva and will be linked to both its virtual library and the broader history of the Jewish community in Lublin. It will be organized in cooperation with the Jewish Community of Lublin and the “Jewish Lublin” Foundation.
The program envisions several key aims: fostering strong interest in the Yeshiva’s library among both Jewish and non-Jewish local communities; supporting the revitalization of the Yeshiva building as a venue for concerts and cultural events; and promoting awareness of the heritage of Lublin’s Jewish residents and the preservation of Jewish culture within the region.

Proposed Agenda:

Hevruta Study Session:

TBD

Meet & Greet / Q&A:

Meet and greet with Iwona Hermon - leader of the Jewish community of Lublin

Cultural Event:

Violin recital of Marcin Krol.



Magdalena Pulikowska

Krasnik, Poland

Magdalena was born and raised in Kraśnik. She gratuated from Jagiellonian University in Kraków (Jewish Studies and Pedagogy). Magdalena lives in Kraków where she works as a Hebrew Teacher and Educator. She leads projects to commemorate Jewish community in Kraśnik.

Magdalena is Paideia Project-Incubator 2025 Participant.

The program plans to feature Talila Guteville, a French Yiddish singer whose parents originated from Kraśnik. She will perform a concert either in the town's synagogue or at the local cultural center, open to all residents. In conjunction with the concert, a hevrutah study session will be conducted based on her personal memories. Additionally, a meeting with Ms. Guteville will be organized to explore her family history, along with a special guided tour retracing her parents' footsteps in the town.

Proposed Agenda:

Hevruta Study Session:

Session based on memories of Talila Guteville

Meet & Greet / Q&A:

Family and place history of Talia Guteville

Cultural Event:

Talia's concert hosted in Krasnik's Synagogue.



Mateusz Lagosz

Krasnik, Poland

Mateusz Lagosz, a Krakow native, has been involved with the city's Jewish community since 2008. He served as president of the Gimel Jewish Student Club and, in 2015, became the Sunday School Program Coordinator at JCC Krakow, a role he held for seven years. He also co-created and led the BBYO Krakow Tapuzim teen program for another seven years, supporting youth engagement with Jewish culture.
Since 2016, Mateusz has worked as a tour guide in Krakow, collaborating with JCC Krakow, Walkative!, and his own company. He has guided thousands of visitors, offering insight into the city's Jewish history and heritage. His tours have reached a wide audience, including Jewish students, professionals, and Holocaust survivors. Deeply committed to Jewish remembrance and education, Mateusz co-founded the Days of Israel festival in Krakow in 2015, organizing a week-long celebration of Jewish culture. He has participated in numerous conferences and training programs, including NOA: Overcoming Antisemitism and Nur and Razem czy osobno at POLIN Museum in Warsaw. These initiatives brought together members of Jewish and Muslim communities, where Mateusz led workshops focused on intercultural understanding and cooperation.

Mateusz is Paideia Project-Incubator 2025 Participant.

Mifgash will create a performative walk around the Jewish Quarter in Krakow via the lens of Jewish artists and poets. Using pieces of art; both written and graphic we would discuss the history, setting, meaning and the Jewish aspect of those. It will start by a one hour session with the participants where participants will examine the works in pairs. Afterwards, they will walk out to explore and use the texts/artworks in certain spots in the city. Mifgash envisions the exposure of the historical (and present day) local Jewish artists, understanding their stories and places connected with them, and providing a space for discussion.

Proposed Agenda:

Hevruta Study Session:

Based on materials (graphic and written) by Jewish artists depicting Krakow as a connecting place.

Meet & Greet / Q&A:

TBD

Cultural event:

Performative walk through Krakow's Jewish Quarter.



Ofer Laszewicki

Barcelona, Spain

Ofer is a multimedia journalist and press officer. Between 2016 and 2022, he worked as a correspondent in the Middle East, where he published articles, analyses, and reports in media outlets such as La Vanguardia, La Razón, Artículo 14, TV3, and others. Ofer also worked as a radio host on Kan11, a fixer for international audiovisual projects, co-director of the documentary "Xueta Island," and creator of the podcast "Alhayam." Since 2024, he is the coordinator and press officer of Mozaika, an organization that promotes open Jewish culture in Barcelona.

Mateusz is Paideia Project-Incubator 2025 Participant.

Mifgash aims to equip participants with practical podcasting tools to explore sensitive and relevant social issues in a constructive and respectful way. Using the Alhayam model of binational, cross-community dialogue, the event seeks to:

- Foster nuanced conversations about topics such as the Israel/Palestine debate, ensuring participants learn to avoid hate speech and polarizing narratives.
- Encourage reflection on contemporary Jewish life in Barcelona, giving space to diverse voices in the local community.
- Address the current state of antisemitism in Spain, including lived experiences and media portrayals.
- Strengthen media literacy and storytelling capacities among participants, enabling them to create responsible, human-centered audio content.

Proposed Agenda:

Hevruta Study Session:

Based on materials about audio storytelling as a tool for empathy and depolarization.

Meet & Greet / Q&A:

Keynote Mini-Session: “Podcasting as a Tool Against Hate”. Expert talk on how narratives shape public discourse regarding minorities, conflict, and identity. Practical examples of avoiding hate speech and fostering ethical dialogue.

Cultural Event:

Practical Podcast Skills Session, hands-on training covering, interview techniques for sensitive topics, sound recording fundamentals (microphones, environments, apps) or scriptwriting for narrative and conversational formats.



Paul Sanchez

Barcelona, Spain

Paul is a journalist specialising in Israel and a translator from Hebrew into Catalan, Spanish and English. He is a volunteer at Mozaika, an association that promotes Jewish culture in Barcelona, where he head the Sefer project, the literary branch of Mozaika that organises, among other things, the annual Barcelona Jewish book festival. Paul works as communications officer at AEPJ and co-host a podcast on Israel called Alhayam.

Paul is Paideia Project-Incubator 2024 Participant.

Proposed Agenda:

Hevrutah Study Session:

Based on a "book surfing" format. Attendees will be asked to bring a poem having to do with a Jewish-related subject form home. It can be their own or someone else's work. In the hevrutah session, we will base the discussion on the poems people have brought from home and the discussion will aim to establish connections between them and with the theme of the meeting.

Meet & Greet / Q&A:

Poetry reading by 3 local Jewish poets. They will read samples of their poetry and answer questions from the audience.

Cultural Event:

Open Mic Poetry Reading. Following the poetry reading by the 3 local poets, we will give the floor to audience members who want to share their own poetry or read poems by authors they like. We will provide printed poems from a variety of relevant authors to encourage participation.



Sara Moon

London, UK

Sara Moon is a nature-connection facilitator, Jewish educator and Kohenet//Hebrew-Priestess. Sara has trained in the One Year Program at Pardes & Paideia Institute for Jewish Studies, the Adamah Jewish Food & Farming Fellowship, Forest School (Level 3) & Wildwise's flagship programme Call of the Wild and its alumni program, Tending the Green Fire. Sara has taught and held ritual in Synagogues, fields, farms & retreat centres across the diaspora and runs an earth-based, experiential, B-Mitzvah programme for teens.

Sara is Paideia One-Year Program 2019-2020 Participant.

A day of Jewish joy, inspired by the festival of Purim, gathering community for an evening of Jewish text study and performance. This event will explore themes from the Book of Esther; of resisting tyranny, uplifting visionary female activists and showcasing local Jewish musicians who perform music from across the Jewish diaspora. The envisioned outcome is to bring in a more inter-generational crowd for this event, targeting the usual audience who are young Jewish adults but also hoping to reach older generations who would appreciate the creative nature of this event, combining text study and performance. These would both be people who might attend communal Jewish events and others who might not usually go to institutional Jewish events but would appreciate cultural Jewish activities.

Proposed Agenda:

Hevruta Study Session:

Study Session on Book of Esther

Meet & Greet / Q&A:

Meet & Greet folding in ideas from the *hevruta* study session

Cultural Event:

Musical performance.



Nataliya Tolok

Lviv, Ukraine

Nataliya was born and have always lived in Lviv, western part of Ukraine. In 2003 she graduated from Lviv State University of Ivan Franko, foreign language department and since that time she has been working as a teacher, translator and a tour-guide for many years. In 2016-2018 Nataliya has worked as an administrator in the Honorary Consulate of Israel in the western region of Ukraine and in 2017-2019 – as the program coordinator of Israeli Culture center by the Embassy of Israel in Ukraine. Since November of 2018 she has been the head of the Jewish youth organisation “Hillel”. For the last ten years she has been involved and organised a number of projects directed to the preservation of Jewish historical and cultural heritage of the region (festivals, exhibitions, conferences, performances, films, etc.) She is an active participant of the community dance group “Jewish miniatures” and since 2019 she has been researching on vernacular Jewish dance, regularly holding workshops, lectures , seminars on vernacular Jewish dance, including cross-cultural workshops (Ukrainian-Jewish) and the reconstruction of a traditional Jewish wedding. Since March 2025 Nataliya is the initiator and the executive director of NGO “Lemberik” working on the preservation and promotion of Jewish cultural heritage in the western part of Ukraine.

Nataliya is Paideia Project-Incubator 2024 Participant.

Mifgash will focus on "Music, dance and singing tradition in the Torah, the Talmudic Texts and Jewish literature". This Mifgash project will make participants more aware of the the specific topic of music, dance and singing in Jewish tradition reflected through Jewish texts, offering them a chance to know about the preservation of Jewish cultural heritage from the specialists and researchers.

Proposed Agenda:

Hevruta Study Session:

Reading the texts from the Torah, the Talmud and secular Jewish literature describing the attitude to music , dance and singing in Jewish tradition.

Meet & Greet / Q&A:

Meeting with the researchers and specialists on Jewish cultural heritage in a form of lecture and discussion held at the Center for Urban History.

Cultural Event:

Workshop on traditional Jewish dance and singing nigunim ending with the concert of Jewish music, inviting local musicians and possible guests from abroad.



Alina Tolok

Lviv, Ukraine

Alina was born in Lviv, Ukraine. Since childhood, she has taken part in various educational seminars and programs, such as “Roaming University,” “Sambation,” the international summer school on Judaica and Semitic philology “Sefer,” the “Art-Midrasha” summer camps, volunteer camps of the Lviv Volunteer Center, as well as research trips to Jewish cemeteries and remnants of synagogues in Ukraine, Belarus, and Poland. Alina has worked as a coordinator of educational programs at the Jewish youth organization Hillel in Lviv. In 2014, she began her studies at the Ukrainian Academy of Printing, and in 2018 she completed her diploma thesis on “Jewish Book Printing in Western Ukraine in the 19th–20th Centuries.” In 2020, Alina graduated from Hillel’s School of Madrichim, and since then she has been regularly invited to Jewish camps and educational seminars at Hillel and other Jewish organizations.

Alina is Paideia One-Year Program 2023-2024 Participant.

Mifgash aims to deepen participant's understanding of how Jewish thought has developed from classical texts to contemporary interpretations, strengthen connections within the community, and inspire further learning. It also aims to increase engagement with Jewish culture through digital tools, empower young people to see themselves as active participants, and raise the value of translation and publishing work. By opening up cultural events to a wider audience, the program helps to make the local Jewish community more visible and alive. Mifgash will explore how the book shapes the Jewish people and how Jewish thought transforms under the influence of time and environment.

Proposed Agenda:

Hevruta Study Session:

Texts to be studied include excerpts from the Torah, passages from the Mishnah and Talmud, classical commentaries, works by Maimonides and Yosef Karo, materials on the history of Jewish printing, as well as examples from contemporary media and digital formats.

Meet & Greet / Q&A:

The project will include a discussion of the challenges and nuances of translation (through meeting with translators and publishers of Jewish texts in Yiddish and Hebrew translated into Ukrainian), along with readings of selected excerpts.

Cultural Event:

Mifgash will conclude with an informal musical gathering featuring local musicians and performers who sing songs in Yiddish and Hebrew, combining traditional and contemporary interpretations.

Staff



Agnieszka Baraszko

Program Manager at Paideia

Agnieszka Baraszko, born and raised in Gdańsk, Poland, is a Project Manager and Recruitment Officer at Paideia – The European Institute for Jewish Studies in Sweden. She works with the One-Year Jewish Studies Program, Paideia Project-Incubator and runs the Paideia Mifgash Project. In her role, she oversees program operations, designs and implements educational initiatives, and leads sessions focused on Jewish culture. Agnieszka is deeply passionate about her work, which aims to strengthen Jewish life and culture in Europe while promoting education and diversity in all its forms. She also leads Hevruta training sessions and gives lectures on Jewish folklore. A Paideia alumna, she is an active member of the Jewish communities in both Stockholm and Gdańsk. She holds an MA in Spanish language and literature, specializing in translation, and is a graduate of the University of Warsaw, the Jewish Open University in Warsaw, and the Autonomous University of Madrid. Beyond her professional life, Agnieszka is a dedicated artist, designing her own jewelry and exploring her passion for drawing and digital art. These creative pursuits allow her to express her artistic vision and continuously push the boundaries of innovation.



Shuvi Hoffman

Global Jewish Education Manager at The National Library of Israel

Shuvi Hoffman, Global Jewish Education Manager at The National Library of Israel (NLI), is a “Revivim” graduate, an honors program in Hebrew University, where she received her BA in Jewish studies and her MA in Biblical studies. Taught Tanach, Jewish philosophy and Hebrew, wrote Jewish studies curriculum and worked as a teachers’ mentor in various frameworks, including Hebrew University, Shalom Hartman Institute, SAR High School and Drisha.



Alina Marincean

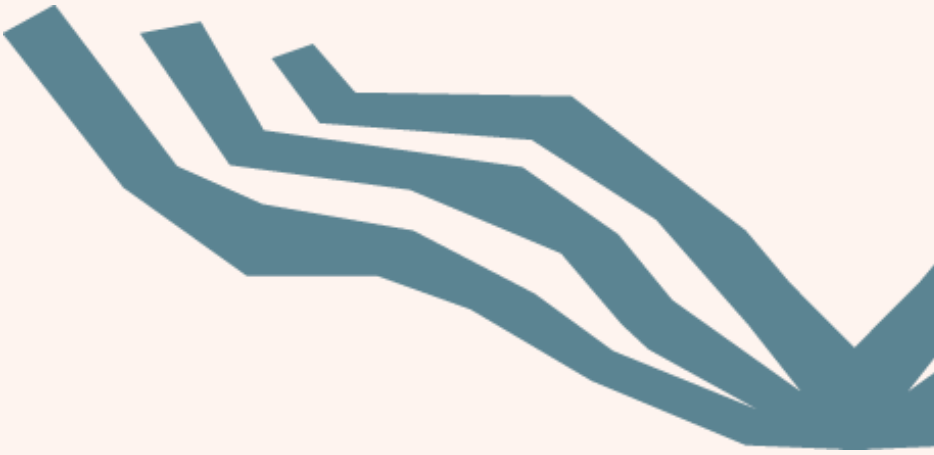
EDJC Project Manager

Alina Marincean is the manager of the European Days of Jewish Culture within the AEPJ. Her vison over the European Jewish Heritage is rooted in dialogue between memory and living Jewish heritage.

A dedicated advocate for Jewish living expression, with a background of over 18 years of experience in museum curation and education, she has built a professional path at the intersection of cultural preservation, public education, and academic research. With a strong background in Jewish Studies, applied ethics, and philosophical counselling, Alina has led impactful cross-border initiatives, successfully managed international grants, and developed meaningful cultural programming across Europe. Her work at AEPJ reflects a belief that culture is not only remembered—it is shared, renewed, and reimagined together for the benefit of all human fellows.

Paideia

THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH STUDIES IN SWEDEN



Paideia Mifgash is strengthened by the collaboration with

The National Library of Israel

aepj jewisheritage

Cultural route of the Council of Europe
Itinéraire culturel du Conseil de l'Europe

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Paideia's annual work program is

Co-funded by the European Union