



מכון
שלום הרטמן
SHALOM HARTMAN
INSTITUTE

A YEAR OF CHALLENGE, RESILIENCE, AND RENEWAL

2024–2025 Impact Highlights



2024–2025 IMPACT OVERVIEW

This past year has tested the resilience of Israelis and the Jewish people around the world. In the wake of October 7 and the ensuing war, Israelis have confronted challenges of national unity and faced painful societal debates, as Jews around the world are encountering rising antisemitism and growing political polarization.

Historically, Jews have used crises to reimagine their communities, identities, and cultures, emerging with a renewed vision for the Jewish future; likewise, today's challenges demand that we integrate the wisdom of the Jewish past with contemporary thought and values.

In the face of such complexity, the Shalom Hartman Institute remains unwavering in our mission: to offer thought leadership, spiritual and moral vision, and the practical tools to help Jewish leaders and change agents in Israel and across global Jewry navigate uncertainty and inspire a better Judaism and a better Israel for the 21st century.

Through bold initiatives, pioneering scholarship, and transformative educational programs, we continue to provide inspiration and connection, strengthening the global Jewish community and advancing a shared vision for a just and pluralistic Jewish society and State of Israel.

We are shaping more resilient, morally courageous leaders committed to strengthening the Jewish people.

Front cover images:

Students at Hartman Teen Fellowship Shabbaton

Hartman Institute courtyard, CLP 2024

Merav Ben-Nun, Director of Min HaBe'erot and Facilitator Natali Hilu Mounayer

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Navigating Complexity with Moral Clarity

We are equipping leaders with thoughtful, visionary approaches to addressing the major questions facing Jewish life and the State of Israel. Our **Kogod Research Center for Contemporary Jewish Thought** fuels the cutting-edge scholarship that informs educational programs, seminars, podcasts, and articles empowering leaders to lead with courage, conviction, and compassion on complex issues related to Israel and the Jewish people.

Strengthening Liberal Zionism and Liberal Judaism in Israel and North America

The Institute's work drives connections across religious, political, and ideological lines. In Israel, we are fostering a vision of liberal democracy, peoplehood, and shared society. In North America, we are providing leaders and educators with the ideas they need to strengthen relationships and build a stronger, more grounded connection to Israel and Judaism.

Investing in the Next Generation

Through our **Wellspring** initiatives, we are nurturing the next cadre of young Jewish leaders—equipping teens, gap-year participants, and college students in North America and Israel with the language, confidence, and moral grounding to lead with integrity in a complex world. We are also supporting the professionals, educators, and institutions that serve them by offering tools for values-based learning about Jewish identity, Israel, and peoplehood.

Advancing Shared Society in Israel

Even in a time of profound national trauma, our commitment to fostering a shared society for Jewish and Palestinian citizens of Israel has remained steadfast. Through our **Center for Shared Society**, we empower Jewish and Palestinian Israelis to build a vibrant democracy together based on the values of equality, equity, and justice.



Kogod Research Center North American Scholars Conference

Hartman Teen Fellowship Shabbaton



Min HaBe'erot study session with Jewish and Arab Israeli educators

OUR 2024-2025 IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

320

North American high school students participated in the **Hartman Teen Fellowship**, more than doubling the previous year.



700

Israeli high school students received a comprehensive Modern Orthodox education at Hartman's two high schools in Jerusalem, the **Midrashiya High School for Girls** and **Charles E. Smith High School for Boys**

190+

leaders and learners from across the globe participated in our 2024 summer **Community Leadership Program** in Jerusalem, with 2025 expected to exceed those numbers.



35

college students gained hands-on leadership experience in the first year of our intensive **College Internship Program**, and by the end of 2025, **eighteen college campuses** will be participating in our new **Campus Ambassadors** program.



150

college students explored the commitments of a morally aspirational Zionism during the weeklong **Edward Fein Winter Student Seminar**, an immersive and experiential learning seminar in Israel.



2,500+

learners participated in a **Global Day of Learning for Our Hostages**, in partnership with sixteen Jewish educational organizations, thinking critically and morally about current challenges over the course of fifteen hours of virtual study.

200+

rabbis of all denominations joined our summer **Rabbinic Torah Seminar** in Israel in 2024, the largest in our history, returning home to inspire and support their own communities.

90+

educators gathered in Jerusalem for the inaugural **Wellspring Educators Summit** to think creatively and constructively about Jewish education during this



challenging time—double our original goal—and the Summit is at full capacity for summer 2025 with 120 participants.

48

Israeli rabbis were ordained in 2024–2025 through our **Beit Midrash for Israeli Rabbis**, the largest cohort in the program's history, with another eighteen scheduled to be ordained in 2027.



40,000

monthly podcast listeners engaged with Hartman ideas through our English-language podcasts; **53,000** tuned in to fifty-five episodes of our Hebrew-language podcasts in 2024, with a similar trend through the first half of 2025.



SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVES

Thought Leadership and Scholarship

Our global **Kogod Research Center for Contemporary Jewish Thought** brings together over one hundred scholars in North America and Israel who are shaping today's Jewish discourse and whose ideas influence the entire sphere of the Institute's work. The global **iEngage Seminar** tackled questions such as how North American Jews can uphold liberal Zionist values through ongoing war and uncertainty, and North American seminars addressed topics like how antisemitism operates in liberal democratic societies and how American Jews can contribute to the strengthening of civic life.



Seminars in Israel explored topics such as Jewish law and human rights, and the situation of Israel's Arab minority. In addition, a new seminar exploring contemporary religious Zionism through the lens of democracy and shared society was introduced, with the goal of producing an anthology of visions of religious Zionism for a global audience.



The 2025 **North American Scholars Conference** brought together Hartman scholars from across North America to tackle a range of critical topics including free speech on campus, unpacking the concept of "settler colonialism," the civic and democratic responsibilities of the Jewish community, and the role of Jewish studies faculty on campus.



Also in 2025, we launched the **North American Scholars Circle** to deepen the connection between academic scholarship and communal leadership. This pilot program included sixteen Jewish studies scholars whose influence extends beyond traditional academic roles. Together they explored Hartman ideas, reflected on their evolving responsibilities, and engaged in peer learning and case study analysis to strengthen their capacity to lead outside the classroom.



Empowering Lay Leaders

Our annual summer **Community Leadership Program (CLP)** in Jerusalem encourages lay leaders to explore the power of Jewish ideas and strengthens their understanding of the challenges impacting Jewish life today. In January 2025 we held our first-ever **Winter Leadership Conference** in North America, bringing together 135 community leaders, philanthropists, and educators for three days of learning, reflection, celebrating Shabbat, and envisioning a better Jewish future, together.



Tal Becker in conversation with Hartman Board Member Abigail Pogrebin at the Winter Leadership Conference

In Israel, we launched **Mishmeret (Guardians)**, a new lay leadership program engaging civic-minded Israeli leaders from the public, private, and non-profit sectors. 180 participants convened in small local groups.

Investing in Young Adults and the Educators Who Shape Them

From counselor training in partnership with Camp Ramah to our expanding **Hartman Teen Fellowship** and launching a new **Gap-Year Network** in Israel, our programs are preparing the next generation of Jewish young adults to lead—on campuses, in communities, and in Israel. In 2025, we are expanding our **Wellspring Summit for Educators** to include new cohorts for day school and Modern Orthodox educators.

In Israel, beyond their rigorous academic program, students at the **Midrashiya High School for Girls** and **Charles E. Smith High School for Boys** engage in leadership training, social activism, and volunteer opportunities to support their growth as civic-minded and thoughtful members of Israeli society.

Now in its second year, the **Hazon Leadership Initiative** is shaping an emerging generation of young leaders. With 200 emerging leaders in its network of current participants and alumni, Hazon is supporting Jewish Israeli college students as they transform their learning into action.



Expanding Impact and Deepening Local Partnerships

Underscoring our deep commitment to advancing Hartman's work in Canada, the Shalom Hartman Institute and its Canadian Board of Directors announced a new name, **The Shalom Hartman Institute of Canada (SHIC)**. In the fall, we launched **Courageous Leadership Canada**, a new initiative empowering lay and professional leaders in smaller Canadian Jewish communities with tools and ideas to navigate pressing issues like Jewish identity, connection to Israel, and pluralism—all through a Canadian lens.



Courageous Leadership Canada

Our scholars and faculty continue to teach in cities across North America, at synagogues, on college campuses, and in community centers, allowing us to engage tens of thousands of leaders and learners with Hartman ideas. A new **regional presence in South Florida** is broadening our reach in the Southern U.S. and building key relationships.



Tal Becker at Aventura Turnberry Jewish Center in Florida



Training and Inspiring Rabbinic Leaders

In Winter 2024, Hartman North America launched the **Beit Midrash for New North American Rabbis (Rabbanut North America)**, an ordination program to train visionary leaders in North America. The inaugural cohort of thirteen participants will be ordained in December 2026, serving as rabbinic thought leaders grounded in pluralism, moral aspiration, commitment to Jewish peoplehood, and courageous leadership. Cohort VIII of the **Rabbinic Leadership Initiative (RLI)** launched in May 2024 with twenty-nine rabbis learning together during a three-year fellowship. Upon completion, they will join a network of more than 175 Hartman Senior Rabbinic Fellows.

Rabbanut Yisraelit, our growing network of hundreds of Hartman-ordained and aligned rabbis in Israel, continues to serve as anchors for Jewish and Zionist liberal values throughout the State. Following six months of supporting displaced families and survivors of October 7, we launched **Ruach HaAdam**, a year-long program where rabbis and spiritual advisors from Rabbanut Yisraelit partner with communities in the Gaza region to provide support and mentorship as they rebuild their community life infused with Jewish values and specialized rituals.

Building a Shared Society

The **Center for Shared Society** launched two new flagship initiatives at a time when shared society in Israel is at a critical juncture, marked by deepening divides.



The **Deraya Leadership Program** empowers the next generation of Arab-Palestinian-Israeli university students by providing them with the tools and values to strengthen the foundations of a value-driven society. By the end of the school year, there will be fifty-five alumni from three universities. The **Lighthouse Leadership Initiative**, operating at two of the leading teacher-training colleges in Israel, brings together Jewish and Palestinian Israeli faculty, helping them gain a better understanding of one another and integrate shared society values into teacher education, which then enters Israeli classrooms.



Faced with challenges in bringing Jewish and Arab Israelis together post-October 7, we redesigned our flagship **Min HaBe'erot** program, engaging Israeli Jewish and Arab educators in the shared study of Jewish, Christian, and Muslim traditions, values, and culture. Nearly 300 educators in Israel participated in this program in 2024-2025.

Reshaping Israeli Public Policy

The **Judaism and State Policy Center (JSPC)** promotes a liberal and pluralistic agenda on issues of state and religion in Israel through applied research, policy promotion, education, coalition building, and public advocacy.



In 2024, the JSPC prioritized local government, supporting newly elected municipal officials across Israel with policy toolkits, issue briefs, training, and guidance on issues of Judaism and State such as marriage, Shabbat, and religious services. Nationally, the JSPC held three conferences, engaged twenty-five Ministers and MKs, and played a key role in blocking harmful legislation. In 2025, priorities include advancing more pluralistic approaches to local religious services, Jewish culture budgets, Judaism in the education system, as well as supporting Ultra-Orthodox enlistment in the IDF.

JSPC Director Tani Frank (right) presenting at the People, Religion and State caucus in Knesset.

Creating New Rituals

In response to the emotional heaviness of the past year, the **Ritual Center** in Jerusalem produced new, contemporary ceremonies for Jewish holidays and lifecycle events, including the deeply moving “Memory and Hope” rituals for Tishrei 5785 commemorating the one-year anniversary of October 7, which was used in Israel and adapted to a North American audience. The Center also launched an online wedding ceremony resource to support pluralistic Jewish practices in Israel, and in North America we produced a Haggadah supplement for Passover 5785 reflecting on freedom amid uncertainty, in partnership with the Alliance for Middle East Peace (ALLMEP).



Amir Israel, Rani Jaeger, and Yael Jaeger leading “A Time to Mourn and a Time to Heal” at B’nai Jeshurun in NYC

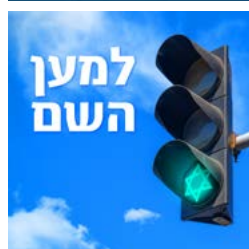
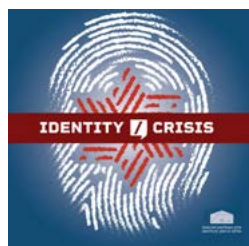
SHAPING PUBLIC DISCOURSE

We have dramatically expanded our online presence across multiple media platforms, providing leaders and change agents with the ideas and insights they need to lead with courage.

Podcasts

Identity/Crisis and **For Heaven's Sake**, our chart-topping flagship English-language podcasts, continue to grow their listenership and inspire listeners to grapple with pressing issues, provide context and framing, and offer clarity and moral vision.

We expanded our weekly Hebrew language podcast, **Lema'an Hashem** (For the Sake of Heaven) in 2024 to reach a broader audience by featuring alternating co-hosts alongside **Donniel Hartman**, and launched **Ben Kodesh Lechok** (Between the Sacred and the Law), an experimental Hebrew podcast in partnership with Hartman's Judaism and State Policy Center, comprised of short “flash” episodes of five minutes or less on topical issues.



Looking Ahead

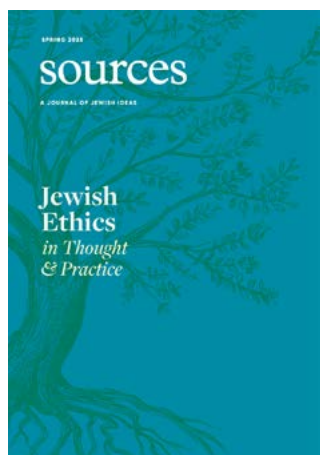
Our newest limited podcast series, **Future Tense**, launches in June 2025. Hosted by three college students, the series explores topics that resonate with young adults—Jewish identity, peoplehood, and Zionism—in conversation with a Hartman scholar.

TEXTing with **Elana Stein Hain**, which delves into Jewish texts to guide us as we grapple with the meaning of this moment, will relaunch in the fall of 2025.

A new Hartman **Arabic-language podcast** series is in the works, featuring **Rana Fahoum**, Director of the Center for Shared Society, in conversation with leading Palestinian-Israeli thinkers and activists.

Journals

Both of the Institute's long-form journals, **Sources: A Journal of Jewish Ideas** (English) and **Ofakim** (Hebrew), continue to amplify prominent voices and engage diverse audiences on today's most pressing issues. Recent issues of *Sources* tackled the challenges of being Jewish on campus, Jewish leadership, and Jewish ethics, while last fall *Ofakim* reflected on a year of war in Gaza, and more recently, on pursuing peace.



Hartman Voices in Israeli Media

Hartman Institute scholars are increasingly appearing on mainstream Israeli news outlets like Kan 11 to provide the public with a Jewish, values-driven, and moral voice during the war. In April, **Donniel Hartman** was profiled in a far-reaching Hebrew interview in Haaretz's *Gallery* magazine, which is published online in English to reach an even broader audience.



Social Media and New Digital Formats

In response to demand—particularly from teens and young adults in our **Wellspring** programs—we've significantly expanded our social media presence across multiple platforms and increased production of short videos focused on liberal Zionist perspectives grounded in Jewish values, producing over 100 English-language videos and 150 Hebrew videos in the past year. In November 2024, we launched an English YouTube channel with our award-winning inaugural video, "People of the Cook: Giving Thanks," featuring **Yehuda Kurtzer** and Israeli rabbi, chef, and educator **Nissimi Naim-Naor** cooking and learning together for Thanksgiving.



On Location: Hartman Podcasts

Both of our flagship English-language podcasts went on the road this past year, with a live taping of **Identity/Crisis** in March with guests Sarah Hurwitz and Franklin Foer on *What Ails American Judaism* at the Jewish Funder's Network Conference in Nashville, and an episode of **For Heaven's Sake** recorded live in October at JW3, London's Jewish Community Centre.

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We deeply appreciate the nearly 1,400 donors and thousands of program participants in Israel, North America, and across the globe, who supported the work of the Shalom Hartman Institute in immeasurable ways in 2024.

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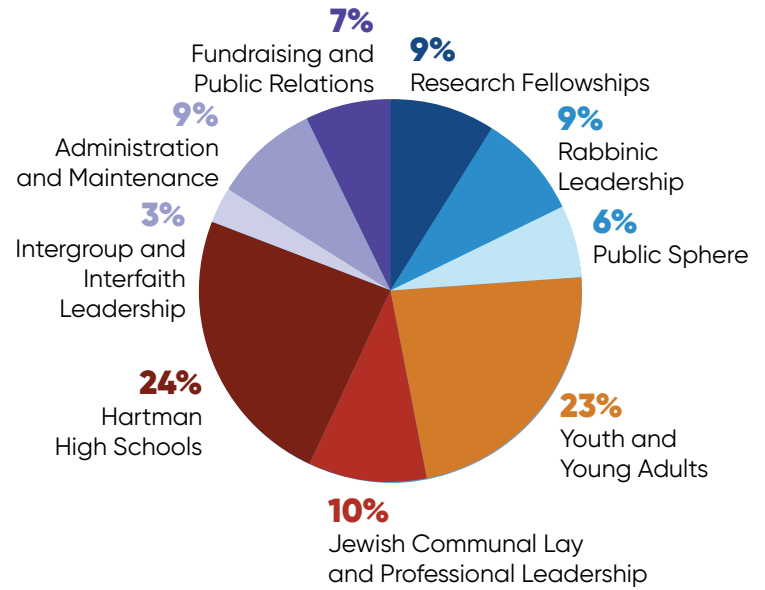
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Talia & Yoni Engelhart	Jennifer Moses & Ron Beller	Karen Gantz Zahler^ & Eric Zahler*
Dana ** & Daniel Ezer	Naomi & Jon Newman	Sherri & Marty Zigman
Rachel Farbiarz & Alex Laskey	Roni & Robert Okun	Marshall Zolla*
Vered & Jay Feldman	Deb Platek & Martin Oppenheimer	Anonymous
Rhona & Raymond Fink*	Jay Pomrenze	
Susan & William Firestone	Joan & Jan Popkin*	
Laraine z"l & Alan Fischer^		

2024 FINANCIAL REPORT

Expenditure by Area of Activity

(USD in Thousands)

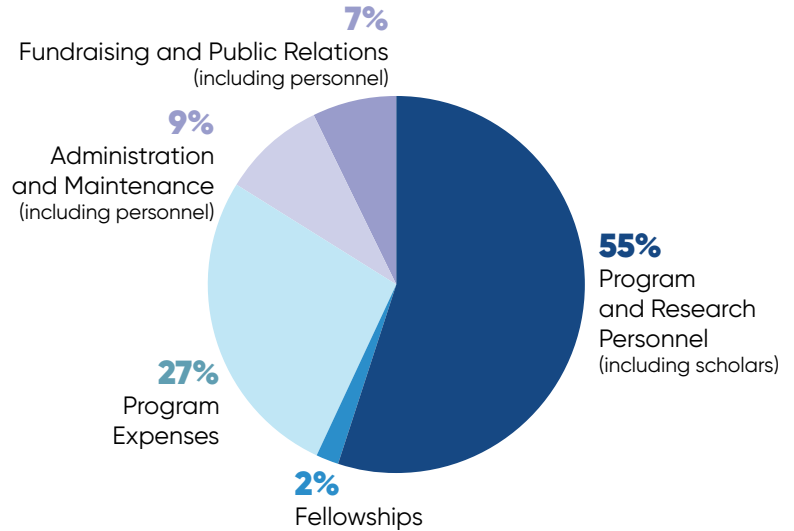
Research Fellowships	\$4,025	9%
Rabbinic Leadership	\$3,695	9%
Public Sphere	\$2,773	6%
Youth and Young Adult	\$9,680	23%
Jewish Communal Lay and Professional Leadership	\$4,468	10%
Hartman High Schools	\$9,790	24%
Intergroup and Interfaith Leadership	\$1,444	3%
Administration and Maintenance	\$3,824	9%
Fundraising and Public Relations	\$3,215	7%
	\$42,914	100%



Expenditure by Use

(USD in Thousands)

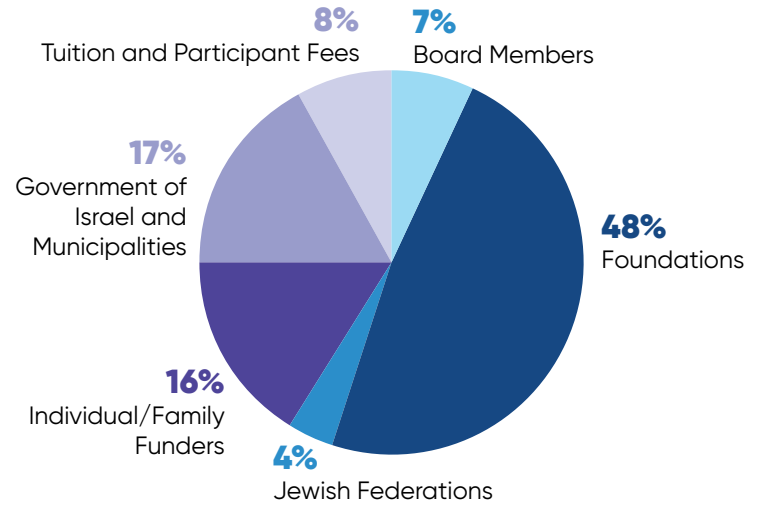
Program and Research Personnel (including scholars)	\$23,701	55%
Fellowships	\$1,001	2%
Program Expenses	\$11,233	27%
Administration and Maintenance (including scholars)	\$3,824	9%
Fundraising and Public Relations (including scholars)	\$3,215	7%
	\$42,974	100%



Income by Type of Funder

(USD in Thousands)

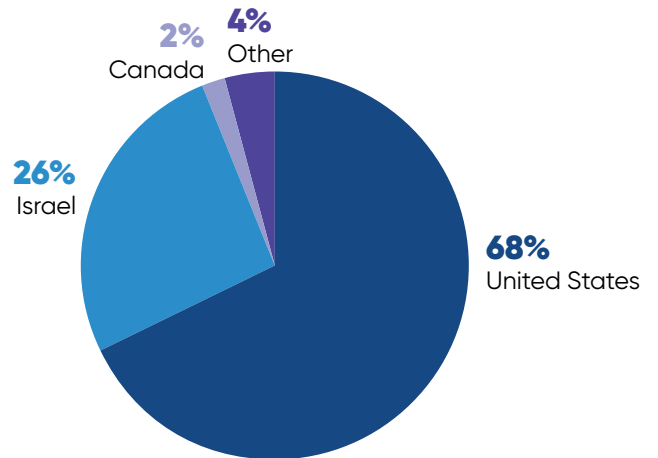
Board Members	\$3,157	7%
Foundations	\$20,712	48%
Jewish Federations	\$1,526	4%
Individual/Family Funders	\$6,764	16%
Government of Israel and Municipalities	\$7,350	17%
Tuition and Participant Fees	\$3,468	8%
	\$42,977	100%



Income by Country

(USD in Thousands)

United States	\$29,438	68%
Israel	\$10,970	26%
Canada	\$962	2%
Other	\$1,607	4%
	\$42,977	100%





LOOKING AHEAD

As we face the future, the work of the Shalom Hartman Institute is more vital than ever.

With your continued partnership, we will remain a source of strength, wisdom, and vision for the Jewish people and Israel—rebuilding trust, reinvigorating Jewish identity, and anchoring our communities in pluralism, hope, shared values, and a shared purpose.

Together, we are shaping more resilient, morally courageous leaders committed to strengthening the Jewish people.

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On **For Heaven's Sake**, Donniel Hartman and Yossi Klein Halevi revive the Jewish art of constructive discussion.

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