SHALOM HARTMAN מכון
INSTITUTE שלום הרטמן



BIG IDEAS



BOLD LEADERSHIP

Investing in Hope for the Future

2025-2026
Impact Highlights

Our global Jewish future requires big ideas—and bold leaders to bring them to life with integrity, courage, and moral clarity.

The Shalom Hartman Institute is catalyzing that future.



uided by Jewish tradition and modern values, our generation's greatest thinkers and leaders spent this year confronting the challenges of our time: Israel's internal divisions, the horrors of ongoing war, rising antisemitism and anti-Zionism, and the erosion of democracy in North America, while envisioning a path forward grounded in moral clarity and shared responsibility.

We are seeing the impact everywhere, and this gives us tremendous hope.

From young leaders changing the conversation about Zionism on their campuses, to pioneering scholarship advancing a vibrant and democratic Israel, to paradigm-shifting podcasts exploring what it means to be Jewish in North America today—hundreds of thousands are turning to Hartman for the moral and spiritual guidance to lead with confidence.

Thank you for investing in our critical work. Your generous support is shaping a Jewish future we can all be proud of.



> The real test isn't what we believe during calm—it's who we are under pressure.

—**Donniel Hartman**, President
Interview with Abigail Pogrebin,
March 2026



> Hope lives in … the leaders of tomorrow who are showing up today to build something amid the fear and the wreckage.

—**Yehuda Kurtzer**, President
Identity/Crisis: Pathways to Hope in Israel,
February 2026

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Navigating Complexity with Moral Clarity

Today's leaders need bold frameworks for confronting the most urgent questions facing Jewish life and the State of Israel. Hartman's cutting-edge research and scholarship fuel our educational programs, podcasts, and publications—empowering leaders to navigate complexity with courage and compassion.

Ensuring a Judaism Committed to Democracy and Liberal Zionism

As our communities face challenges to democracy and increasing threats to Jewish belonging, we inspire rabbis, lay leaders, educators, and young adults to play an active role as change agents strengthening North American Jewish life.

Advancing a Vibrant and Democratic Israel

By investing in the ideas and leaders who keep pluralism, responsibility, and shared citizenship at the center of Israeli public life, we are helping shape Israel as a Jewish state rooted in democratic values.

Building a Leadership Pipeline to Navigate a Complex Jewish Future

We equip students, young leaders, and the educators who guide them with the language, confidence, and moral grounding to engage in questions of Jewish peoplehood, Israel, and Zionism with integrity.

OUR IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS



300+

college students on sixty campuses engaged with Hartman ideas through college leadership programs, national convenings, hands-on internships, and as campus ambassadors.

250

Birthright trip leaders from diverse backgrounds and organizations prepared to lead their summer trips at a **Madrichim Training Seminar**, led for the first time by Hartman faculty.





1,000

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

72

rabbis are teaching intensive, ongoing courses using our newest iEngage curriculum, ***Liberal Zionism: Between Crisis and Aspiration***, with nearly 1200 learners exploring the core tensions and values of liberal Zionism while engaging with the dominant critiques of Israel in a post-October 7 reality.

650

learners joined ***In The Face of Cruelty***, a virtual day of learning exploring what Jewish responsibility demands of us in this moral moment when the treatment of our neighbors signals the erosion of legal and ethical norms.

1.6 M

downloads of our **English and Hebrew language podcasts** in the past year, a 71% increase over the year before.



50

alumni of the **Mishmeret** Israeli lay leadership program explored safeguarding Israel as a Jewish and democratic state at a first-ever alumni gathering.



65

Jewish educators addressed the realities and challenges of their field at the **Wellspring Winter Educational Impact Summit.**

KEY INITIATIVES

Thought Leadership and Scholarship

Our bicontinental applied-research think tank, the **Kogod Research Center for Contemporary Jewish Thought (KRC)**, brings together more than fifty fellows from leading universities in Israel and North America. This year, KRC's convenings generated critical new scholarship to address urgent questions shaping Jewish life, values, and public discourse.

The global **iEngage Seminar** examined how North American Jews can sustain liberal Zionist commitments amidst war and uncertainty, while other seminars in North America and Israel focused on rebuilding Jewish community, Jewish engagement in the American public square, ethical responses to AI, and Israel's contemporary social and political challenges.

In January, Hartman's North American fellows convened for the KRC's annual three-day **Scholars Conference**, exploring how Jewish tradition understands responsibility to one's neighbor through texts on otherness, obligation, and moral accountability.

Beyond the KRC, we are engaging senior academics whose influence extends outside their classrooms. Last year, we piloted the **North American Scholars Circle** with fifteen Jewish studies scholars. Based on the program's success and to meet increased demand, in the fall it will be reinvisioned as the **Hartman Scholars Network**, to engage a much larger academic community grappling with complex questions that affect Jewish communal life.

New Resources for Responding to Pressing Challenges

Our newest iEngage curriculum, ***Liberal Zionism: Between Crisis and Aspiration***, responds to our post-October 7 reality with tools for teaching about Israel in a time of war and guiding communities with clarity and moral seriousness.

Our white paper, ***Building Communities of Belonging*** (May 2026), offers a values-driven framework for Jewish leaders who are navigating the increasing complexity of Jewish identity, status, and affiliation in their own communities.







The KRC Scholars Conference gives North American Fellows the opportunity to learn deeply together and engage with peers.

Empowering Lay Leaders

The future of Jewish life depends not only on visionary professional leadership, but on having thoughtful, morally grounded individuals who shape the conversations and direction of their communities. In a time of complexity and change, Hartman equips these engaged community members with the confidence to lead with integrity.



Now in its third year, **Mishmeret** (Guardians) cultivates a vanguard of experienced Israeli leaders and influencers committed to safeguarding a Jewish and democratic Israel.

In February, more than fifty alumni gathered at the inaugural **Mishmeret Alumni Seminar** for serious learning and peer collaboration, giving them the tools and shared language for translating values into action. Mishmeret alumni serve as volunteer mentors in the Hazon Leadership Initiative, empowering Jewish Israeli university students to advocate for social change.









Amid the war with Iran, our first-ever **Florida Leadership Conference** brought together 120 leaders for a day of learning on moral leadership in a time of crisis—creating space to process the uncertainty of the moment and begin to chart a path forward. Lay leaders, philanthropists, and committed learners joined senior Hartman faculty from Israel to think together about what lies ahead for Israel and the Middle East.

Our annual summer **Community Leadership Program (CLP)** in Jerusalem encourages lay leaders to learn deeply and dream boldly, preparing them to meet today's challenges. CLP 2025 quickly sold out, but when travel to Jerusalem became impossible, we shifted quickly to a **Virtual Beit Midrash** and in December, convened a second **Winter Leadership Conference** in North America, engaging ninety participants for three days of study and reflection. Demand for CLP remains strong, with two parallel sessions offered during summer 2026 and a West Coast Leadership Conference in October.

Investing in the Next Generation

From high school and gap-year students to camp counselors, college students, and emerging leaders, our programs for Jewish young adults are preparing them to lead with confidence as we strengthen and support the educators across the Jewish ecosystem who teach, mentor, and guide them.

Demand for our North American **Wellspring** programs has risen: the 2025–2026 **Hartman Teen Fellowship** drew 350 high school students—the program's largest cohort since its launch in 2022. At the **Edward Fein Winter Student Seminar** in New Orleans, 109 college students explored democracy through Jewish ethics, civic responsibility, and the tension between power and safety. Alumni of these programs are now stepping into early leadership roles across Jewish communal life.





Hartman Teen Fellows come together to learn and engage with their peers at two Shabbatonim each year.

> The Hartman Teen Fellowship … encouraged us to wrestle with hard questions, rather than settle for easy answers. The community at Hartman showed me that young people are hungry for these conversations.

—**Abby Boltax**, Hartman Teen Fellow

Today's Jewish Questions, Tomorrow's Jewish Leaders



Our ***Future Tense*** podcast, launched in mid-2025, hands the mic to emerging Jewish leaders tackling questions of belonging, identity, and Zionism in candid conversations with Hartman scholars and one another. Following a strong first season, six new episodes are underway.

> This [podcast] is exactly the kind of move institutions, Jewish or otherwise, should be making right now. Not just to be 'youth-inclusive,' but to actively counter disillusionment and foster more honest, generative discourse by literally lending a platform (and a microphone) to youth voices.

—***Future Tense*** **listener**

Educating for Israel's Moral and Civic Future

Israel's future depends on young leaders who can bring the values of pluralism, responsibility, and Jewish peoplehood into Israeli civic, religious, and communal life.

The Institute's two modern Orthodox high schools, the **Midrashiya High School for Girls** and the **Charles E. Smith High School for Boys**, are nurturing a generation of future leaders in grades 7–12 through a strong grounding in tradition, a rigorous academic curriculum, and a commitment to tolerance, critical thinking, and community involvement.



"We are not only building projects, we're building a shared future. I'm looking forward to turning these ideas into reality."

—**Dor Ben-Avi,** member of the Hazon Alumni Network



The **Hazon Leadership Initiative** prepares Jewish Israeli university students turn their learning into action. Last fall, we launched a new **Hazon Initiative Accelerator** to support entrepreneurship, providing students with mentoring, tools, and access to grants. Graduates join a robust alumni network of 180 young leaders, providing ongoing support and guidance. Hazon alumni lead more than fifty organizations across Israel, driving grassroots change and influencing the public discourse.

Strengthening Jewish Educators

In early 2026, Hartman introduced two new North American **Wellspring Educational Impact Cohorts** supporting educators in Jewish day schools, including a cohort from Modern Orthodox schools. We also welcomed a new cohort to the **Edward Fein Campus Professionals Fellowship**, with educational teams from five college campuses coming together to learn with Hartman scholars.

In the Israeli public-school system, eighteen schools across the country are using the **B'Dibur Echad** (In One Voice) curriculum to strengthen Jewish democratic identity, and more than 170 teachers and principals attended Hartman-led educational seminars. The Institute's **Tanach (Bible) Initiative** has trained hundreds of educators across Israel to teach a pluralistic, relevant Torah that speaks to contemporary moral questions.



High school principals explore a Jewish democratic vision for Israeli public schools at B'Dibur Echad seminar, *Dorshim Democratia* (Seeking Democracy).



> Through Hartman, I've learned to understand that love of Israel goes hand in hand with a hope for harmony in the Middle East. Long-term peace will only come when we lead with love, clarity, and moral courage.
>
> **—Member of Courageous Leadership Canada Lay Leaders Cohort**

Deepening Local Partnerships

Hartman partners with local communities to help Jewish leaders—both lay and professional—engage core ideas to build resilience and strengthen local Jewish life. Through **Courageous Communities**, we support local leaders as they learn with Hartman scholars over three years.

This year, the initiative reached communities including San Francisco, Denver, Chicago, Washington, DC, greater New York, Detroit, Boston, and Toronto. Several small and mid-sized Canadian communities also participated through **Courageous Leadership Canada**, combining virtual learning with a six-day immersive in Jerusalem focused on what it means to build, sustain, and nurture vibrant Jewish life today.





Training and Inspiring Rabbis

Rabbis need ongoing inspiration and support to bolster their communities and respond to their needs with Torah that meets this moment. Hartman is investing in rabbinic leadership and creating spaces for learning, support, and spiritual renewal.



In a year when many programs in Israel were canceled due to war, eighty-five intrepid rabbis and Jewish educators made their way to Jerusalem in July 2025 for a four-day **Summer Seminar** focused on sustaining community during challenging times.

We continued to expand and strengthen our ordination programs, investing in the rabbinic leaders of tomorrow. Our growing network of ordained and affiliated rabbis in Israel, **Rabbanut Yisraelit**, is redefining what spiritual leadership looks like by creating a rabbinate that is representative of all segments of Israeli society. Cohort VI will be ordained in 2027, joining more than one hundred Hartman-ordained rabbis and over 250 affiliated rabbinic leaders shaping a pluralistic Israeli Judaism.



Rabbi Adi Romem sharing her motivation for becoming a rabbi during a Knesset event celebrating the 90th anniversary of the ordination of the first female rabbi.

To meet the needs of rabbis supporting communities under intense strain, Rabbanut Yisraelit expanded leadership training with **V'shachanti B'tocham** (Dwelling Among Them), an eighty-hour mediation certification course.

Drawing on insights from **Tzomachat Shuv** (Growing Again)—which supports twenty-eight evacuated communities in the Gaza Envelope and the north—the Institute is launching a new trauma-informed rabbinic leadership program, **Meshivei Nefesh** (Restoring the Spirit), centered on healing and emotional wellbeing.



In North America, **Rabbanut North America** (Beit Midrash for New North American Rabbis) is answering the call for a new rabbinate grounded in pluralism, textual mastery, and moral aspiration. The inaugural cohort of thirteen visionary leaders will be ordained in December 2026, ready to lead with ethical clarity and bold vision. A second cohort of seventeen mid-career professionals began their rabbinic journey in January.

> "Our sessions gave me … frameworks for the complexity of compromise and a textured understanding of rabbinic leadership."
>
> —**Member of Rabbanut North America Cohort I**



Advancing Shared Society in Israel

Committed to a vibrant and inclusive democratic future, Hartman's **Center for Shared Society (CFSS)** empowers Jewish and Palestinian Israeli change agents to advance equality, equity, and justice, especially in the face of profound national trauma and deep societal divides.

The Center's three core programs, **Min HaBe'erot** for Israeli Jewish and Arab educators, **Deraya** for Arab Israeli student leaders, and **Lighthouse Leadership Initiative** for Arab and Jewish students at teachers' colleges, reached nearly 250 Jewish and Palestinian Israelis passionate about building a shared society.

In October, the Institute hosted a day-long bilingual (Hebrew-Arabic) **Min HaBe'erot Yom Iyun** (Day of Study), giving forty-five senior Jewish and Arab educators a rare space for reflection, ethical inquiry, and support during a particularly complex national moment. The current cohort of 126 Jewish and Arab principals, gifted-program leaders, and regional school partners will join a network of 650 alumni from over 200 schools.



Rachel Goldberg-Polin speaking at the Yom Iyun with Director of Min HaBe'erot Merav Ben-Nun about leading with humanity and hope.

A Serious Platform for Palestinian Israeli Voices



As questions of identity and belonging in Israeli society grow more urgent, the Center for Shared Society launched the Institute's first Arabic-language podcast, ***Wasel wa Fasel***. The name, *Conjunction and Disjunction*, reflects its focus on the points of connection and divergence that shape Palestinian Israeli identity and the broader pursuit of a more cohesive, equitable shared society for all Israelis, Jewish and Arab alike.

Hosted by Hartman Vice President and CFSS Director Rana Fahoum, each episode features a leading figure in politics, thought, or academia and examines how identity and belonging are formed through nuanced, civic-minded dialogue.

Empowering Liberal Israeli Jewish Identity

In a landscape where Jewish lifecycle ceremonies are controlled by the Orthodox Rabbinate, the **Merkaz HaTekasim** (Ritual Center) advances an inclusive, liberal Jewish identity by empowering Jewish Israelis of diverse backgrounds to shape their own ritual lives. The Center's website is the first and only initiative in Israel to include rituals and officiants from across the Jewish spectrum. Since launching in 2024, the website has expanded to nearly 600 rituals, prayers, texts, and ceremonies drawn from Jewish traditions.



In 2025, the Ritual Center, in partnership with the Institute's Judaism and State Policy Center, developed "wedding kits" for Tel Aviv's Marriage at City Hall Initiative, challenging the Orthodox monopoly and supporting LGBTQ+, interfaith, and secular couples excluded from religious marriage.

Reshaping Israeli Public Policy

The **Judaism and State Policy Center (JSPC)** advances a pluralistic approach to religion and state in Israel through applied research, policy development, coalition building, and public advocacy. In December, the Center presented a policy paper on cultivating diverse Jewish identity in Israel's public schools.

In preparation for Israeli elections—when the religious public is expected to play a decisive role—JSPC launched the **Caucus of Moderate Religious Zionist Knesset Members**, uniting five political parties around a values-based vision for public life. In May, nearly 300 people attended **Outlines of a Jewish-Democratic Policy**, a conference convened by the JSPC that brought together senior political leaders including Yair Lapid, Yair Golan, and Avigdor Lieberman to grapple with what it means for Israel to remain both Jewish and democratic as it faces a deepening constitutional crisis and a pivotal election.



Former Prime Minister and current Leader of the Opposition Yair Lapid speaks with Hartman Vice President Ronit Heyd at the May conference on Jewish-Democratic policy guidelines.

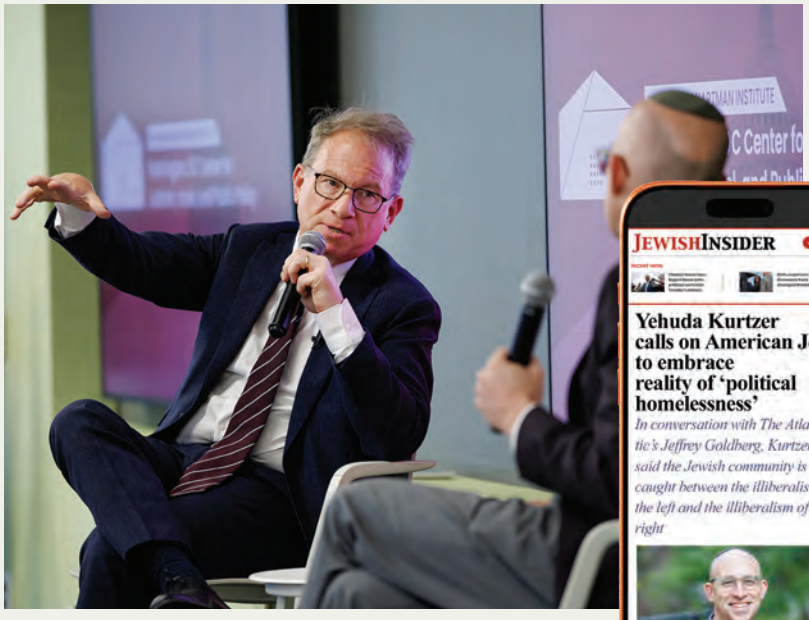
Advancing Morally Serious Discourse on Israel and American Jewry

In September 2025, the Institute established the **Washington, DC Center for Judaism, Israel, and Public Policy**, a hub for values-driven Jewish engagement in the capital's political and policy landscape.

Drawing on Hartman's scholarship and principled voice, the Center convened small groups of policymakers, scholars, Jewish congressional staff, emerging leaders, and professionals from multinational and international institutions, empowering them to speak and act in the public square with greater knowledge and moral imagination. It also presented four public programs on key issues, including Judaism in America, antisemitism, Israel and Zionism, and pluralism and democracy.







SHAPING THE PUBLIC DISCOURSE

We dramatically expanded our public presence across multiple media platforms over the past year, providing leaders and change agents with the ideas and insights they need to lead with courage. By bringing big ideas into the public square, Hartman is meeting people where they are and shaping critical conversations.

New Initiatives

Through **Pathways to Hope** (Netivim Shel Tikvah), emerging Israeli changemakers—young students building community, emerging leaders defending democracy, spiritual innovators creating a Judaism for all Israelis, and bold thinkers imagining new paths for shared society—are advancing their vision for a vibrant future through conversations in cities across North America, on our podcasts, and in op-eds, articles, and videos.



The **Hartman Beit Midrash for America at 250** explores how the remarkable success of Jewish American life, together with Jewish wisdom, can inform how we respond to today's challenges and imagine the next chapter. Drawing on Jewish texts, values, and experiences, this initiative offers serious Jewish thinking about democracy, belonging, and responsibility in American life.





Hartman Vice President Ronit Heyd and alumni of the Hazon Leadership Initiative discuss how they are building a stronger Jewish democratic future in Israel.

Podcasts

Rethinking Prayer, Reclaiming Judaism

In November 2025, we introduced ***Thoughts & Prayers,*** a limited podcast series delving into the complex relationship between religion and modernity through the lens of Jewish prayer. By weaving together personal stories, classical texts, and conversations with rabbis, scholars, and educators, the series poignantly explores what prayer can still mean—and why it matters.

Best in Class, Podcast Series, 2026 RCC Awards

In May, we launched ***Shlosha She'elot al Hayahdut Shelanu*** *(Three Questions About Our Judaism),* a podcast series that takes on urgent questions of contemporary Judaism and its relevance in Israeli society today.

> "My rational brain has long struggled with the very concept of prayer and so I'm deeply grateful to … Hartman for grappling with this complex issue in such a beautiful and meaningful way."
>
> —***Thoughts & Prayers*** **listener**

Our award-winning English podcasts, ***Identity/Crisis*** and ***For Heaven's Sake***, continually rank among the most listened-to Jewish podcasts worldwide, offering moral clarity and critical thinking on Israel-Diaspora relations and North American Jewish life during one of the most turbulent periods in Jewish history.

Two episodes of *Identity/Crisis* were recognized for excellence by the Signal Awards, and 'The Season of Reckoning' from *For Heaven's Sake* was recognized by the Religion Communicators Council (RCC).



Yehuda Kurtzer and Harvard President Alan Garber recording *Identity/Crisis* live at the historic Vilna Shul in Boston, December 2025.

In the fall of 2025, we relaunched ***TEXTing IRL*** where host Elana Stein Hain and leading practitioners wrestle with the big dilemmas of our time through classical and modern Jewish texts.

Our Hebrew language podcasts continue to impact Israeli society. ***Lema'an Hashem*** *(For the Sake of Heaven)* features Donniel Hartman in conversation with alternating co-hosts. ***Bein Kodesh L'chok*** *(Between the Sacred and the Law)*, hosted by Tani Frank, Director of the Institute's Judaism and State Policy Center, features bite-sized insights on key issues being addressed by the Center.

Videos

Video has become a critical medium for bringing Jewish ideas into the wider public conversation. Since launching in late 2024, our English YouTube channel has grown into our largest social media platform, reaching 13K subscribers with 40% under age thirty-five.

At the same time, we expanded Hebrew short-form video production, reaching nearly 14 million views across multiple social platforms and engaging a growing younger demographic.

Journals

The Institute's two respected long-form journals, ***Sources: A Journal of Jewish Ideas*** (English) and ***Ofakim*** (Hebrew), continue to amplify important voices and engage audiences on the pressing issues of the day.

Recent issues of *Sources* explored topics like belonging and Jewish identity, the post-10/7 reality, and Jewish learning and education—while *Ofakim* addressed working toward peace, building consensus and unity, and the Jewish leadership crisis.





Hartman Voices in the Media

Our Israeli scholars are regularly sought out as moral voices in mainstream media. During the war with Iran, Vice President Ronit Heyd spoke on multiple TV broadcasts, urging a renewed vision for Israel built on a shared future, while Hartman scholars have written widely about the need for Zionism to move beyond survival mode toward a more inclusive Israeli society.



Hartman Vice President Ronit Heyd appears as a commentator on KAN 11 TV.

Hartman scholars in North America are also shaping Jewish and national discourse, with a dramatic increase in visibility across prominent news media outlets.

Donniel Hartman and Yossi Klein Halevi appeared on NPR's Morning Edition in January 2026 to discuss the moral challenges facing Israel and the steps necessary to move toward a better future.

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>
> —**Sherri and Marty Zigman,** Kamas, Utah

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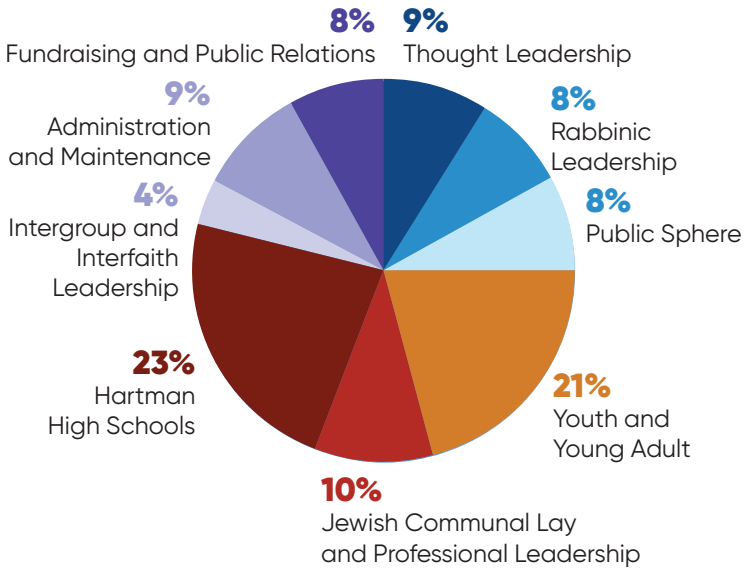
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2025 FINANCIAL REPORT

Expenditure by Area of Activity

(USD in Thousands)

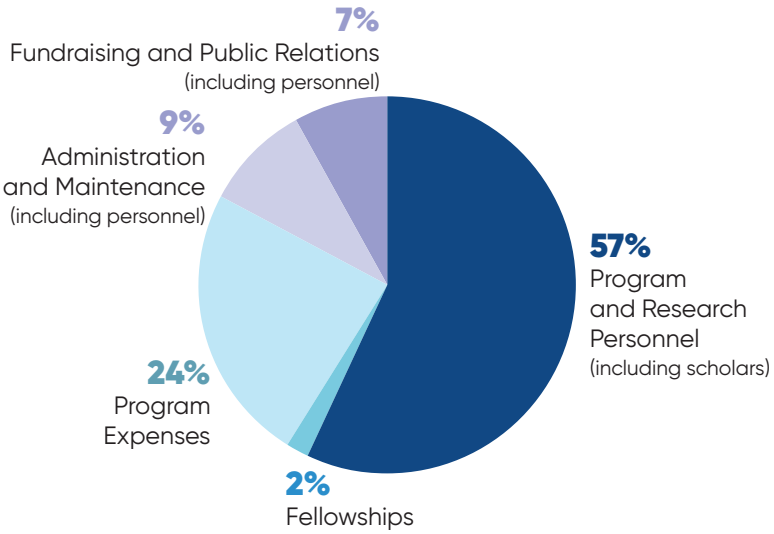
Thought Leadership	$4,058	9%
Rabbinic Leadership	$3,809	8%
Public Sphere	$3,976	8%
Youth and Young Adult	$9,740	21%
Jewish Communal Lay and Professional Leadership	$4,415	10%
Hartman High Schools	$10,829	23%
Intergroup and Interfaith Leadership	$1,690	4%
Administration and Maintenance	$4,108	9%
Fundraising and Public Relations	$3,620	8%
	$46,245	100%



Expenditure by Use

(USD in Thousands)

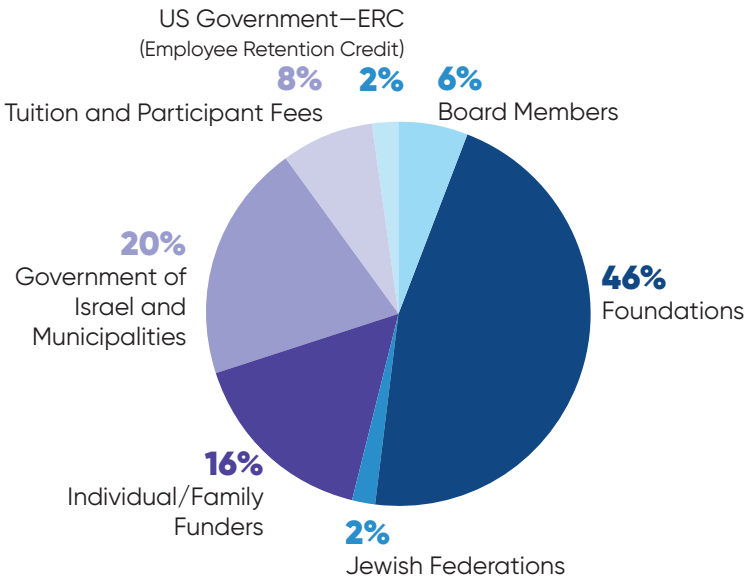
Program and Research Personnel (including scholars)	$26,534	57%
Fellowships	$967	2%
Program Expenses	$11,016	24%
Administration and Maintenance (including personnel)	$4,108	9%
Fundraising and Public Relations (including personnel)	$3,620	8%
	$46,245	100%



Income by Type of Funder

(USD in Thousands)

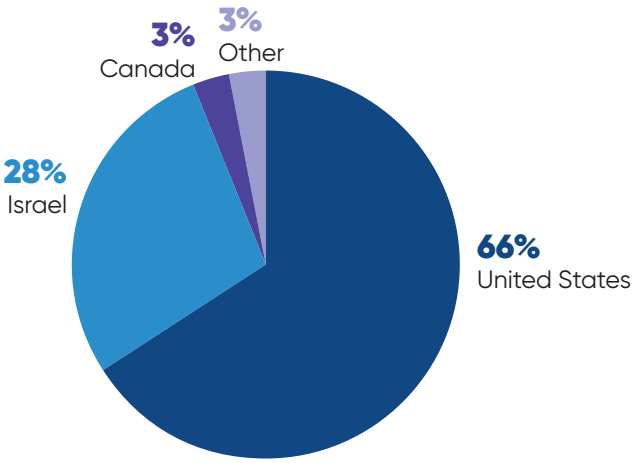
Board Members	$2,952	6%
Foundations	$21,097	46%
Jewish Federations	$1,141	2%
Individual/Family Funders	$7,190	16%
Government of Israel and Municipalities	$9,328	20%
Tuition and Participant Fees	$3,715	8%
US Government—ERC (Employee Retention Credit)	$859	2%
	$46,282	100%



Income by Country

(USD in Thousands)

US	$30,535	66%
Israel	$13,019	28%
Canada	$1,217	3%
Other	$1,511	3%
	$46,282	100%



LOOKING AHEAD



Every investment in the Shalom Hartman Institute strengthens a global community committed to serious Jewish thought, principled leadership, and a more democratic and liberal Jewish future in North America and Israel. Your gift helps equip the next generation to navigate complexity with integrity and ensures that Jewish ideas continue to shape our lives.

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