



# J I M E N A

**Jews Indigenous to the  
Middle East and North Africa**

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## Introducing the Senior Jewish Educators Cohort in the Sephardic Leaders Fellowship

JIMENA is thrilled to launch the inaugural cohort of the Sephardic Leaders Fellowship, specifically designed for Senior Jewish Educators!

This cohort will explore a broad spectrum of subjects from JIMENA's [Sephardi & Mizrahi Education Toolkit](#). Participants will benefit from the expertise of leading Sephardi scholars, rabbis, and JIMENA educators, including our new [Educator in Residence, Adam Eilath](#).

Each fellow is charged with creating a high-quality lesson plan that will be added to JIMENA's Mizrahi and Sephardi Education Toolkit, further adding to and enriching the valuable resources available to educators.

JIMENA is proud to collaborate with these exceptional educators, who represent the following schools and educational institutions:



**Liana Wertman**  
Founder and  
Executive  
Director, The  
Torah Studio and  
AJU Maas Center,  
Los Angeles, CA



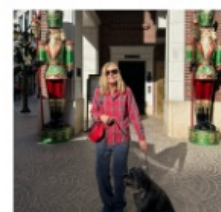
**Julie Schimmel**  
Jewish Educator  
and curriculum  
writer, Pressman  
Academy of  
Temple Beth Am,  
Los Angeles, CA



**Inbal Mazar**  
Associate  
Professor at  
Drake University,  
Des Moines, IA;  
Jewish Federation,  
Des Moines, IA



**Esther Tokayer,**  
Associate  
Principal, Barkai  
Yeshivah High  
School,  
Brooklyn, NY



**Esther Rute,**  
Head of the  
International  
Section in the  
Guiding  
Department of  
the International  
School for  
Holocaust Studies  
of Yad Vashem.  
Research &  
Teaching  
Assistant at The  
Hebrew University  
of Jerusalem,  
Israel

**Erica Allen,**  
Middle School  
Judaics Teacher  
and Curricular  
Chair, Krieger  
Schechter Day  
School, Baltimore,  
MD

**Shirie Eshel,**  
Instructor in  
Hebrew and  
Judaica at  
Oakland Sinai,  
Oakland, CA,  
Peninsula Temple  
Sholom,  
Burlingame, CA,  
and Peninsula  
Sinai  
Congregation,  
Foster City, CA

**Rabbi Tarlan  
Rabizadeh,**  
Vice President at  
American Jewish  
University,  
Director of Maas  
Center & Miller  
Introduction to  
Judaism, Los  
Angeles, CA



**Yafit Shriki  
Megidish,**  
Senior Director of  
Jewish Learning,  
JCC East Bay,  
Berkeley, CA



**Yael Krieger,**  
Associate Head  
of School,  
Oakland Hebrew  
Day School,  
Oakland CA



**Adi Barel,**  
Associate Director  
of Jewish Studies,  
Bialik Hebrew  
Day School,  
Toronto, Canada



**Ariella Darsa  
Amshalem,**  
Founder & Lead  
Educator, La  
Famiya Sefaradi  
and Striar  
Hebrew Academy  
& Young Israel,  
Sharon, MA



**Sonya Basseri,**  
ElevatEd  
Community  
Manager, Jewish  
Federation of  
Greater Seattle,  
WA



**Deborah Stokol,**  
Upper School  
English, Spanish,  
and Journalism  
Teacher,  
Newspaper and  
Student Advisor,  
Milken  
Community  
School, Los  
Angeles, CA



**Dr. Tamara  
Beliak,**  
Middle School  
Judaic  
Studies/Humash  
Coordinator,  
Dean of the Beit  
Midrash, WBBM  
Coordinator,  
Oakland Hebrew  
Day School, CA



**Caley Adams,**  
Judaic Studies  
Teacher, Oakland  
Hebrew Day  
School, CA



**Chani Gotlieb,**



**Lynne Mindes,**



**Janine Edmée**

Adult Education  
Instructor;  
Orthodox Union,  
Manhattan High  
School for Girls,  
Manhattan, NY  
and YDE School -  
Yeshivat Darche  
Eres Inc.,  
Brooklyn, NY

Religious School  
Educator Temple  
Sinai of Sharon,  
MA

**Hakim,**  
Founder and  
President of  
Coventry,  
Bainbridge, NY



## JIMENA Welcomes Adam Eilath as Educator-in-Residence

JIMENA is pleased to announce the appointment of Adam Eilath as our new Educator-in-Residence. In this role, Adam will provide essential support for our newest Senior Jewish Educators Cohort as well as offer ongoing support for educators involved with JIMENA.

Adam Eilath brings a wealth of experience in Jewish education and leadership. Currently serving as the Head of School at Ronald C. Wornick Jewish Day School in Foster City, Adam is known for his commitment to Jewish values and innovative educational approaches. He has played a significant role in fostering a learning environment that celebrates Jewish diversity and heritage, particularly focusing on

the Sephardi and Mizrahi traditions ([Distinctions Journal](#), [JWeekly](#)).

Adam's educational background and experience in Jewish studies make him an invaluable asset to JIMENA's mission. He has previously served as Dean of Jewish Studies and Hebrew at the Jewish Community High School of the Bay in San Francisco. His work has consistently emphasized the importance of connecting Jewish education with the experiences and histories of the Jewish communities from the Middle East and North Africa ([JWeekly](#))([eJewishPhilanthropy](#)).

"We are thrilled to have Adam join us as a Educator-in-Residence," said Sarah Levin, Executive Director of JIMENA. "His expertise and dedication to Sephardic education and culture will be instrumental in supporting diverse educators and administrators seeking to better integrate Sephardi content into classrooms and learning spaces, nation-wide. JIMENA receives a constant stream of requests from Jewish day schools and educational institutions seeking support in strengthening school culture and content and we are happy to have Adam on board to support this critical work."

JIMENA is excited to work with Adam to further develop educational initiatives that empower and inspire educators and students alike, ensuring that the unique narratives and contributions of Sephardi and Mizrahi Jews are recognized and celebrated.

For more information about JIMENA and its programs, please visit [JIMENA's website](#).

Let's make this school year one of growth, inclusion, and learning for all.

Warm regards,

Ty Alhadeff

Director of Education,  
Sephardic Leadership Institute and Journey to the Mizrah  
JIMENA: Jews Indigenous to the Middle East and North Africa

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[Give Today](#)

Checks can be written to JIMENA and sent to  
P.O. Box 6872, San Rafael, CA 94903  
TAX ID: 26-2893844



JIMENA's mission is to achieve universal recognition of the heritage, history, and rights of the one million indigenous Jewish refugees from the Middle East and North Africa and their Mizrahi and Sephardi descendants.

September 3, 2024 | 30 Av, 5784



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