

Northern Virginia Leadership Cohort 2026-27

Participants



Jamie Flesch

Jamie Flesch is an attorney at Greenberg Traurig, LLP in Tyson's specializing in real estate and digital infrastructure.

Throughout her career, she has developed a reputation for thoughtful leadership, sound judgment, and a practical, collaborative approach to complex matters. Jamie is excited to join the NOVA cohort where she looks forward to contributing her professional and personal perspective to enhance the

objectives of the cohort. Outside of work, Jamie enjoys spending time with her family, including her two young children. She also has a strong interest in real estate, traveling, community development, and discovering creative activities and experiences for her family.



Jenna Friedberg

Jenna Friedberg is a community affairs and public engagement professional specializing in transportation infrastructure and stakeholder relations. As Community Affairs Director at the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority, she works with elected officials, local governments, community organizations, businesses, and residents to advance major passenger rail projects across

Virginia. Her work focuses on building meaningful community partnerships, communicating complex infrastructure projects, and creating effective public engagement strategies. She is also personally committed to the community, volunteering as a docent at the Virginia Holocaust Museum in Richmond, and as an active volunteer at the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. Jenna holds bachelor's and master's degrees in American Studies from The George Washington University.



Ryan Gardiner

Ryan hails from New Jersey, where he attended Rutgers University before commissioning as U.S. Naval Officer. He served six years, four of those deployed at sea as a Surface Warfare Officer on a Guided Missile Cruiser. Upon completion of his military service, Ryan began working for the Department of Homeland Security where he remains today. In a decade living in the DMV, Ryan has been an active volunteer and

member of the DC and Northern Virginia Jewish communities, tutoring DC resident GED candidates Grammar and Arithmetic, serving as a board member at the Pozez JCC, and most recently a member of the DC Community Security Service initiative protecting synagogues and Jewish events. In his time off, Ryan enjoys playing hockey, landscaping, and chasing his toddler.



Adam Gray

Adam Gray is a dedicated Financial Advisor at Acela Wealth Management, based in Washington, DC. Originally from Potomac, MD, Adam pursued his higher education in New Jersey at Rutgers University, where he earned both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees, graduating Summa Cum Laude in both. During his time at Rutgers, he was a proud member of the Varsity D1 golf team, where he also earned the

Big 10 Scholar Award, and participated in Habitat for Humanity, demonstrating his commitment to excellence academically, athletically, and charitably. Adam is an active member of the Greater Washington Board of Trade and The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington. Adam passed the CFP® examination in July 2026. In August 2026, he is expecting to officially receive the designation and use the CFP® marks. Adam's passion for strong client relationships is at the core of his professional ethos. In building lasting client relationships, he finds immense satisfaction in supporting them throughout the various stages of their personal, professional, and financial journeys via comprehensive financial planning. Celebrating client growth and success motivates Adam every day.



Bob Greene

Bob Greene is the CEO and Principal Consultant of RCG Workgroup, a nationally recognized business advisory and sales strategy firm. He graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in Political Science and Organizational Leadership, later earning executive certificates from MIT Sloan and The Wharton School, deepening his expertise in negotiation and intercultural analysis. Bob's work focuses on sales enablement, leadership

development, and crisis management training and consulting for the private sector, federal government, and U.S. military. A dedicated community leader, Bob has served as PTA President at Mantua Elementary School and Club President of the Rotary Club of Fairfax. He currently serves as Roundtable Commissioner for the Burke Lake District of Scouting America, as well as Board Member and Security Committee Chair at Temple Beth Torah in Chantilly. He is the father of five and grandfather of two, and lives with his wife in Chantilly.



Barry Hemmerdinger

Barry grew up in Old Bethpage, New York, graduated from MIT, and moved to Northern Virginia in 1991. He later earned a master's in electrical engineering from Virginia Tech and works as Chief Engineer at Argon ST, part of The Boeing Company.

Barry is a longtime member of Olam Tikvah (OT) Synagogue. At OT, He helped launch ABBA, a social group for young Jewish men, and organized events for several years. He joined the OT

Men's Club board in 2018, served as president in 2022. He is now a VP on the synagogue's executive board. Barry also advises the Seaboard Region of FJMC. Barry, his wife Karen, and their three kids are active in the local Jewish community. When he's not working, volunteering, or advising, you'll find Barry out photographing birds.



Amit Hickman

Amit is excited to represent Capital Camps and Retreat Center as a part of the NoVA Leadership Cohort! Amit's three children (a 15-year-old and 13-year-old twins) have been attending camp for 7 and 5 years respectively, and their love for camp prompted Amit to join the Parent Committee a few years ago. Professionally, Amit works as the Early Childhood Education

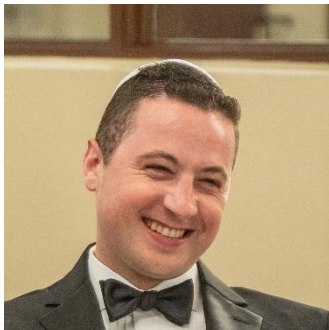
Director at the Pozez JCC, and she provides individual and couples therapy through a private practice. Amit has her MEd and MSW from George Mason University, but her heart belongs to the University of Pittsburgh where she did her undergrad (LET'S GO PITT). Amit is currently serving her second term as a School Board Member for the City of Fairfax. In her "free" time, Amit enjoys reading, spending time with family, walking her dog, and traveling.



Tony Johnson

Tony Johnson was called to the Torah for his bar mitzvah in 2020, taking the Hebrew name Jacob Nathaniel ben Yoel (יעקב נתנאל בן יואל), given to him by his dearest friend and father-figure, Joel. He and his husband, Juan, are active members of Temple Rodef Shalom in Falls Church, where Tony chants Torah during the High Holy Days, sings with Koleinu, and serves as an At-Large Member of the Leadership Council. He serves on the

DC Regional Board of the American Jewish Committee, and previously advised Israel Policy Forum's IPF Atid program, helping develop the Charles Bronfman IPF Atid Conveners Fellowship for young North American Jewish leaders on Israel-focused policy and security issues. He writes about faith, Israel, and citizenship on his Substack, Reconnecting the Republic. Professionally, Tony has spent three decades advising senior Pentagon leaders on national security, most recently as Intelligence Advisor to the Deputy Secretary of Defense. His graduate studies at Georgetown focused on the U.S.-Israel security partnership; he's a Non-Resident Senior Scholar at Georgetown's Center for Security Studies and a U.S. Navy veteran. Tony is thrilled to join this cohort and looks forward to connecting across Northern Virginia's Jewish community.



Aaron Lippman

Originally from Fairfax, VA, Aaron now resides in Arlington with his wife. After graduating from Cornell University in 2020, Aaron worked in the investment banking / private credit industry for six years. As of summer 2026, he started his own business, known as Maten's. Maten's is an out-of-home entertainment concept providing customers with access to a place "to gather" with amenities such as shuffleboard tables, foosball, billiards,

lounge areas, beverages and more. The first location is at a 4,500 square foot retail site in Bethesda, MD, adjacent to the metro station. Previous Jewish leadership positions include

being the recruitment chair at Alpha Epsilon Pi Jewish Fraternity during college as well as currently being active in the Federation's Ben Gurion Society. Outside of work, Aaron's favorite activities include watching movies, playing chess, and taking his french bulldog for walks.



Amy Lummer

Amy Lummer serves as Family Engagement and Community Partnerships Director at the Pozez JCC, where she connects families to Judaism and to each other through year-round programming for families raising young children. Building partnerships across Northern Virginia's Jewish community organizations is a passion at the heart of her work. Amy also volunteers at Gesher Jewish Day School, where she served as PTO President for 5 years, is currently on the Board of Trustees, and is an active member of Congregation Adat Reyim. She holds a Masters of Education from George Mason University and lives in Springfield with her husband Dory and their children.



Jennifer Meyers

Jennifer is a board member at Temple B'nai Shalom in Fairfax Station, VA. She moved to Virginia after receiving a bachelor's degree in political science from Tufts University. She recently retired after a 30-year career in national security with the federal government. In her free time, Jennifer loves watching the Yankees, Caps, and Nats and loves spending time with her husband, two children, and their dog, Scout. She loves being a temple board member and strives to build engaging and meaningful Jewish relationships within her congregation.



Molly Niznikov

Jewish community has been central to Molly Niznikov's life for as long as she can remember. Growing up in Virginia Beach, she was an active BBYO kid (serving as council president), continued that involvement through Hillel at UVA, and has carried it into adulthood and now parenting. Molly is a Principal, Client Success at Veho and graduated from the

University of Virginia with a degree in English Language and Literature. Today, she and her husband Joe — who was active in Hillel at Virginia Tech — live in Arlington with their three children, Lucy (11), Nora (9), and Harris (5), and belong to Olam Tikvah. Lucy and Nora attend Capital Camps each summer, and Harris will join as soon as he is old enough. In her free time, Molly loves to run, read, cook, and spend time with her family.



Steven Nossal

Steven serves on the Board of Trustees at Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation. Steven and Jennifer Nossal joined NVHC in 2012 when their twin daughters, Emily and Natalie, started in the Tot Shabbat program. Today Emily and Natalie serve as NVHC Madrichim. Professionally, Steven operates Fairfax Collegiate, an education services business he started in 1993. Steven grew up in Bethesda, MD and graduated from

Walt Whitman High School and Yale University, where he earned a B.A. in Economics. Steven was a member of the 2004 Adult Bar Mitzvah class at Adas Israel Congregation in Washington, D.C.



Caitlin Murphy Pine

Caitlin Murphy Pine is co-founder and Head of Grantmaking Services at The Kendrick Arts Group (KAG), a nonprofit supporting the performing arts through foundation services, grant stewardship, and support to composers, performers, and organizations that fund them. A classically trained violist and arts administrator, Caitlin leads grantmaking for foundations supporting contemporary concert music, overseeing grant

review and distribution while providing capacity-building services for arts philanthropy. Before co-founding KAG in 2026, she was Head of Grantmaking Services at Alter, Kendrick & Baron, LLP, and earlier Grants and Development Coordinator at Chamber Music America. Caitlin holds a bachelor's degree in Viola Performance from Oberlin College and Conservatory of Music, with further studies in business, endowment finance, and foundation practices at NYU School of Professional Studies. A committed community leader, Caitlin brings synagogue governance experience to her role as VP of Development at Congregation Beth Emeth. Her prior leadership at Sutton Place Synagogue in NYC included Chair of Young Professionals Programming and VP of Development. Caitlin is also

active on the fundraising committee of her children's elementary school PTO. Caitlin has lived in Reston, Virginia for four years with her husband and two children. She enjoys cooking, Crossfit, soccer, and attending concerts.



Sara Pollack

Sara has been an active part of the Northern Virginia Jewish community since moving to NoVA 20 years ago. She graduated from the joint program between the Jewish Theological Seminary and Columbia University with degrees in Jewish History and Sociology. After a career in the non-profit world (including working as Youth Director for a congregation), Sara found her professional calling in the classroom and is currently a high

school Business & IT teacher. She focuses on building community and connections in her work, including serving on the board of Temple Beth Torah and as a J Family Ambassador for the Pozez JCC. In her free time, Sara loves to read, needlepoint, play mahjong, and spend time with her family and dog.



Sam Pozez

Sam Pozez grew up in Washington D.C. and attended Georgetown Day School from K-12. Sam earned his undergraduate degree with a major in Business Management and a double minor in Spanish and Latin American Studies at Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana. Since moving back to D.C in 2016 he graduated from American University Washington College of Law. Professionally, Sam works at

Uniwest Commercial Realty in the leasing and sales of commercial properties and the expansion of the third-party property management business. Sam first got involved in the DMV Jewish community by attending a DC Young Professional Birthright trip in 2014 and has been serving on the board at the Pozez JCC since 2019. Sam continues to look for opportunities to expand his role and meet new people with similar interests. Sam currently resides in the Georgetown neighborhood of Washington D.C. When he is not working, he enjoys volunteering, golfing, grilling, traveling, and spending time with his family, especially his wife Alina, son Louis and fluffy golden-doodle Frida.



Andrew Selznick

Andrew Selznick is a Senior Product Manager at Capital One, where he develops cybersecurity products focused on secure, AI-assisted software development. Previously, he spent nine years at Amazon as both a software engineer and technical product leader, building large-scale platforms used by hundreds of engineering teams. Andrew holds an MBA from Carnegie Mellon University and a degree in Computer Science from the University of North Carolina - Wilmington, where he also played Division I baseball. Originally from Shelby, North Carolina, Andrew now lives in Arlington with his wife, Peri, their 9-month-old son, Hershel, and their two dogs. He is interested in entrepreneurship, software development, and emerging technology. Andrew is excited to become more involved in the Northern Virginia Jewish community, build meaningful relationships with other local leaders, and help strengthen connections among Jewish families across the region.



Rachel Shor

Rachel Shor is the Vice President of Ticket Sales and Service for the Washington Spirit, where she leads the club's ticket sales and service efforts with a focus on delivering exceptional fan experiences and building lasting relationships. Originally from Richmond, Virginia, Rachel moved to the Washington, D.C., area in 2024 and has enjoyed becoming part of the region's vibrant Jewish community. Throughout her career, Rachel has been passionate about connecting people through sports and creating meaningful experiences for fans. Her dedication to relationship-building, leadership, and community engagement has led her to her current role with the Washington Spirit, where she is committed to growing the club's fan base and supporting the continued growth of women's soccer. In her free time, Rachel enjoys traveling, reading, working out, attending sporting events, and spending time with family and friends.



Adam Stein

Adam Stein is the co-founder and managing member of BridgeWater Real Estate Brokerage, a multifamily investment sales and advisory firm specializing in affordable housing and development across Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia. He oversees all aspects of the firm, from sourcing and underwriting opportunities to structuring deals and guiding clients through acquisitions, dispositions, and financing. He

has deep experience in affordable housing and mixed-use development. Adam is the founding Member and Treasurer of the Board for The REED Center for Ecosystem Reintegration. The REED Center advances food-focused ecological restoration and community resilience through hands-on ecosystem rehabilitation, education, and training that reconnects people to the land by demonstrating the scalability of regenerative permaculture agricultural systems. Adam seeks to pair BridgeWater's multifamily and affordable-housing expertise with The REED Center's permaculture practice. He aspires to develop affordable housing sited within labor-intensive, regenerative agro-ecosystems that provide on-site homes for new-age farmers who live and work the land, and to build hyper-local, healthy food systems and broad food-and-land education for urban and suburban affordable-housing communities to increase access to nutritious food and strengthen local economies.



Joel Taubman

Before joining the Brandeis Center, Joel served as an Assistant Attorney General in Virginia's Office of Civil Rights, representing the Commonwealth against landlords, employers, and schools violating Virginia law. Joel's team won the largest jury verdict in the history of the Virginia Fair Housing Law. He also led Virginia OCR's K-12 investigations and was appointed to Attorney General Jason Miyares' Antisemitism Task Force. Joel serves on

the board of the American Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, volunteering as the Jewish voluntary bar's Director of Student Engagement. Joel is a graduate of The George Washington University Law School, where he was a Brandeis Center JIGSAW Fellow and Law Clerk. While at GW Law, Joel was also a member of the International Law in Domestic Courts journal, the Alternative Dispute Resolution board, and founded a law student group fighting for Uyghur human rights. Joel studied law after a career zoning, permitting, and

constructing cellular towers at Crown Castle. He has a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Virginia.

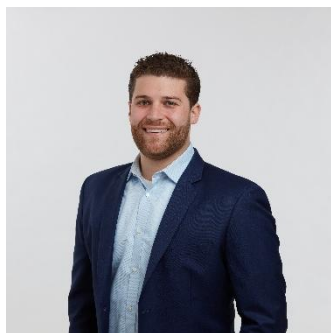


Stacy Weiner

Stacy is a business development and marketing professional at the law firm Thompson Hine, where she works closely with attorneys and firm leadership to build relationships, develop strategies, and support the growth of the organization.

Throughout her career, Stacy has been drawn to opportunities to bring people together, build meaningful connections, and turn ideas into action. Stacy is also an active lay leader at Beth

El Hebrew Congregation in Alexandria, where she has been involved in board leadership, rabbinic transition, strategic planning, and strengthening connections within the congregation. She is currently a Vice President and on the Executive Committee. Her Jewish leadership is deeply personal, and she is passionate about creating a welcoming, connected, and vibrant Jewish community for future generations. She is excited to join the Jewish Federation leadership cohort to learn from other emerging leaders and explore new ways to contribute to the Northern Virginia Jewish community. In her free time, Stacy enjoys spending time with her husband, Mark, and their two daughters, Samantha, a senior at Lake Braddock, and Alexa, an eighth grader at Lake Braddock. Between driving her daughters from one activity to the next, she enjoys listening to audiobooks, reading on her Kindle, going to the theatre, and, most importantly, making memories with family and friends.



Alex Willner

Alex Willner is a retail commercial real estate broker with KLNBN, where he advises landlords, tenants, and property owners throughout the DMV. His work focuses on helping businesses identify new locations and guiding clients through the leasing, acquisition, and development process. He enjoys the relationship-building side of the business and helping clients find the right opportunities to grow throughout the region.

Originally from Baltimore, Alex now lives in Fairfax, Virginia with his wife, daughter, and dog. Outside of work, he enjoys spending time with family and friends, trying new restaurants, traveling, and cheering on the Baltimore Ravens. He's looking forward to meeting new

people, building new relationships, and becoming more connected to the Northern Virginia community through the program.



Gabrielle Witkin

Gabrielle Witkin is a real estate agent with TTR Sotheby's International Realty, serving Arlington, McLean & Falls Church. She grew up in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, and moved to Washington, DC for college, where she played soccer and studied Biomedical Engineering. Before real estate, she built her career as a technology consultant at a leading global firm.

Today Gabrielle guides busy professionals and growing families through some of their biggest decisions, and she brings that same care to her community. A Jew-by-choice, she is driven to help build a warm and vibrant Jewish life across Northern Virginia. She wants families to feel a real sense of belonging, and children to have a joyful place to gather and grow. Her connection to Israel and to future generations runs deep. Gabrielle lives in Arlington with her husband, Barrett, their daughter, Vera, and their two cats, Seb and Poppy.

Facilitators



Rae Ringel

Rae is a certified executive coach and founding President of The Ringel Group. For more than 15 years, she served on the faculty of the Georgetown University Institute for Transformational Leadership, where she was the founding director of the certificate program in the Art of Facilitation and Design. Rae is now the director of the newly launched Certificate in Facilitation program at the University of Virginia |

Northern Virginia, and she also serves as adjunct faculty at the UVA Darden School of Business. She is a frequent contributor to Harvard Business Review. Rae is in high demand as an innovator in coaching, facilitation, and learning design across sectors. She works with leaders in Fortune 500 companies, nonprofits, foundations, and government agencies, enabling them to become more effective managers and stronger communicators with a formidable leadership presence.



Vanessa Sax

Vanessa Sax is the Senior Director of Strategy & Community Building for Northern Virginia at the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, a role she has held since December 2025. Prior to joining Federation, Vanessa spent more than 20 years in commercial real estate, leading high-performing leasing teams, developing strategic initiatives, and managing complex stakeholder relationships. She is also an ICF-certified

leadership coach. In her role at Federation, Vanessa leverages her expertise in strategic planning, leadership development, and community engagement to strengthen and advance the Northern Virginia Jewish ecosystem.



Melanie Schaeffer

Melanie is the Associate Director of Northern Virginia Community Outreach at The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington. She graduated from the University of Delaware with a degree in Elementary Education but soon moved into the Jewish non-profit space. Prior to her work at Federation, Melanie worked at Jewish Women International and GatherDC in roles focused on building community and supporting Jewish

20's and 30's. Her desire to build meaningful relationships has led her to her current role supporting the Northern Virginia Jewish community that she cares for deeply. In her free time, Melanie loves to read, go on walks, and spend time with friends and family.