



**ALMA HOME FOR HEBREW CULTURE
REPORT TO THE MATANEL FOUNDATION
ON THE MATANEL FELLOWS PROGRAM IN 2023-2024**

In the 2023-2024 academic year, the Matanel Fellows at Alma had between 22-23 participants, drawn from emerging leaders in the world of arts and letters in the widest sense of the term. The program's impact on its participants emerges unequivocally from the satisfaction surveys conducted at the end of the program.

The program consists of 2 semesters of 13 weeks each, and 10 hours of study in each week spread over 2 meetings. The choice of 2 educators to teach the Beit Midrash classes are deliberate: it exposes the students to disagreements and a dialogue between them, and this is complemented by the fact that for part of each study session, the students themselves study in predetermined pairs, introducing them actively not only to the unique language of the Talmud but to the special study process that is a Beit Midrash.

In the first semester of the 2023-2024 academic year, the courses taught were:

- Talmud Beit Midrash – Tractate Sanhedrin, Part II, taught by Dr. Yaakov Meir and Neria Shapira
- Readings of the Works of Karl Marx, taught by Yiftach Goldman
- Reading barefoot: the book of Genesis, taught by Tuvia Gera
- Beit Midrash with various guest lecturers
- Presentations of their world to their colleagues by the various students in the program

In the second semester, the courses were:

- Talmud Beit Midrash – Tractate Ta'anit, taught by Dr. Ruth Calderon and Neria Shapira
- "This Bundle of Fears is Me": A small collection of angels and monsters – a joint reading of Gothic literature and its analysis, an exercise in translation and the role of language and the translator in culture, taught by Dr. Oded Wolkstein
- Introduction to political philosophy, taught by Dr. Jeremy Fogel
- "Pages bigger than Air that cannot be Grasped," the Basics of Kabala, taught by by Dr. Netta Sobol. Discussions on poetics and science, and the relationship between language, man and time
- Presentations of their world to their colleagues by the various students in the program



Participants

Amit Ulman
Ohad Cabri
Sigal Armoza
Haim Lapid
Galia Shoshani
Asa Rikin
Gili Eizikovich
Alon Arad
Eden Orbach Efrat
Kerem Shemi
Sonya Beider
Liav Mizrachi
Maayan Levi
Bar Gold
Dafna Levy
Aya Tseiger
Tomer Shaked
Yuval Friedman
Inbal ben Ya'akov
Tslilit ben Navat
Alex Friedman
Eyal Balabin

Evaluation Findings

- 66% of the respondents reported that the program met their expectations to the highest possible degree.
- 95% of the respondents replied that they were eager to study in the program for a second year.

Pictures

We attach, in one pdf file, five pictures of the participants, together with an illustration drawn by Eyal Balabin, inspired by the study of Tractate Ta'anit, and a poem written by Alon Arad, inspired by the study of Tractate Sanhedrin. These pictures are also attached as separate jpeg files.

Looking Forward

The program is due to continue in the 2024-2025 academic year, and we are deeply appreciative of the Matanel Foundation's ongoing support for this important program.