NATIONAL YOUNG LEADERSHIP PROFESSIONAL TEAM

David Kessel, Associate Vice President, NYL & Next Gen Engagement
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David works with both NYL Cabinet and builds the pipeline of Next Generation Jewish experiences across the movement:

- Provides guidance for local Feds to support their Cabinet members
- Manages and cultivates high-potential Cabinet members (including Legacy)
- Partners with Cabinet & Young Leaders to grow our impact on next gen
- Liaises with large next gen Federation communities
- Coordinates next gen partnerships (BRI, Moishe House, PJL, Hillel)
- Provides thought-leadership/training on next gen engagement

David (aka, ‘RDK’) held senior leadership positions in BBYO and worked as Executive Director of the Texas Hillel Foundation at UT-Austin, where he led a $10 million capital/endowment campaign. David was ordained from Hebrew Union College and is pursuing a Doctorate of Education in Organizational Leadership at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York.

Shayna Kreisler, Senior Director, National Young Leadership Cabinet
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Shayna leads the overall NYL team and focuses on the following areas:

- Designs and implements the Cabinet program + new curriculum
- Liaises with NYL Leadership Team, to reach goals and provide leadership development and training
- Cultivates current/future NYL lay leadership
- Positions and creates awareness of the Cabinet brand across the Federation movement as the best option for leadership development geared toward high potential volunteers.
- Strengthens Cabinet ‘customer satisfaction’ and program quality + retention
- Oversees distance learning and mentoring initiatives
- Oversees the “Community Impact Project” for Cabinet members in years 4 +5

Shayna has held various senior leadership positions throughout her career in the Jewish world; she most recently served as the Associate Executive Director at the 14th Street Y in Manhattan where she led the programmatic transformation of the community center during a time of extreme growth. Previously, Shayna coordinated leadership experiences with BBYO International, building their International Convention into one of the largest annual Jewish gatherings, including agency partners, funders, board members, community stakeholders and teens from around the world.
As Associate Director for NYL Cabinet, Dana is responsible for growing the impact of Cabinet within the following ways:

- Designs and implements a 12-month Cabinet annual campaign plan/a culture of year round philanthropy in partnership with NYL Vice Chairs for Philanthropy
- Builds the young donor pipeline from BGS to Cabinet & major gift societies
- Manages new member recruitment and engagement in partnership with Vice Chairs for Membership and by providing relationship based customer service with the local professionals
- Builds the Cabinet community through communication, affinities, etc.
- Oversees the Cabinet Ambassadors initiative to local communities
- Coordinates the annual Study Mission in partnership with Global Education Vice Chairs and the Missions Department

Dana has a background in fundraising and program development, and is most passionate about leadership development, stakeholder engagement, and relationship building. She has vast experience in Jewish communal work, and most recently served as the Director of Community Engagement at BBYO. She hopes to provide meaningful opportunities for young leaders throughout North America through their Cabinet experience.

Sarah works with the entire NYL team to support and strengthen our program experiences, communications and general operations. In her role, Sarah is focused on:

- Managing the logistics + operations for NYL conferences and events
- Managing the recruitment + communications/social media for NYL experiences and events
- Managing registration and customer service for NYL experiences and events
- Assists with selection of program presenters and speakers
- Supports and manages all Cabinet Social Media channels
- Managing current + alumni data and distribution lists
- Acts as the point of contact for the Joshua Society

Sarah is from Minnetonka, Minnesota. She graduated from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign where she majored in Communications and Jewish Studies. Formerly, Sarah worked as a Development Fellow for AIPAC's Northeast Region in New York after interning at AIPAC for two summers in Chicago, IL and Baltimore, MD. She spent time studying at Tel Aviv University where she completed her certificate in Jewish Studies. Sarah is currently a Shapiro Fellow though the UJA Federation of New York and involved in AIPAC’s Young Leadership Division.
Helena Bondar, Senior Program Associate, National Young Leadership Cabinet
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Helena focuses on the educational and training strategy for members of Cabinet in the final years (fourth and fifth years) of the program and strengthens ‘graduating’ and alumni cohorts. Specifically, Helena:

- Manages and executes planning of Retreat and the Domestic Mission/SLX
- Implements and administers the “Community Impact Project” across Cabinet – engaging professionals and Cabinet members in years 4+5.
- Works with Alumni as part of the Community Impact Project
- Manages and trains our “Cabinet Connectors” – a group of Cabinet members who serve as mentors working with the incoming class in small groups

Helena comes to JFNA from Limmud NY where she was the Program Manager, and prior to that served as the Program Associate for the Limmud NY 2018 conference. Before making the switch to the Jewish nonprofit world, she worked at a tech company in Washington, DC. Helena majored in International Studies at the American University in DC. She is an alumna of Avodah’s Justice Fellowship, Nahum Goldmann Fellowship, and several JDC Entwine trips. She also spent a year in Israel at the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies.

Eva Stern, Director, Next Gen Engagement
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Eva focuses on these Next Gen areas:

- Oversees the Next Gen Jewish Federation Fellowship: a new educational and leadership development initiative, creating a robust pipeline for leadership, and a laboratory in which to incubate new Next Gen initiatives
- Coaches and consults with local Federation professionals to strategize around Next Gen engagement, and to identify and share best practices in the field
- Develops and implements training for professionals, including Communities of Practice
- Manages JFNA’s partnerships with key Next Gen organizations and innovators, including OneTable, Moishe House, Birthright Israel, and Repair the World
- Oversees content and networking for Next Gen professionals at Conferences, including Cabinet Retreat and Pros’ Institute
- Runs JFNA’s Birthright Israel Pilot
- Manages special projects and partnerships around Next Gen Engagement

Eva comes to the NYL team with extensive experience in outreach and engagement, having most recently served as the New York Engagement Officer for PJ Library, at the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. Previously, Eva was the Senior Director of Training at Big Tent Judaism/Jewish Outreach Institute, where she spent 12 years equipping Jewish communities throughout North America with strategies to find, welcome, and engage thousands of unengaged Jews and intermarried families in Jewish life each year. She is a sought-after trainer and speaker, leading motivating workshops that impart the critical skills to build more dynamic and inclusive Jewish communities to organizations of all kinds. Eva holds BA and MA degrees in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies from Brandeis University.