

Tikkun Fellowship 2020- Projects in Progress

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Tanya Raytman - Baked by Babushka



Tanya Raytman is a 26- year-old currently working as a Financial Analyst for Ulta Beauty. Tanya graduated from Loyola University Chicago in 2016 with degrees in Finance and Marketing, where she was involved in Hillel on campus. She has been involved in various Jewish organizations since she was 12 years old. These organizations have always been an important and fundamental part of Tanya's identity. Tanya hopes to connect with people in the community to learn more about her Jewish roots through stories that are similar to her own.

Baked by Babushka is a project by Tanya Raytman and a group of her friends. Tanya's team has been collecting recipes from RSJ families to compile an RSJ cookbook, in the process running an Instagram page with recipes, giveaways, and fun posts.

Arsenii Kibenko - What Did I Bring With Me?



Arsenii Kibenko was born in Sverdlovsk, USSR (now Yekaterinburg, Russia) in 1989. He studied Filmmaking (BA) and Philosophy (MA). In Russia, he used to work as a University Instructor at Ural Federal University, teaching Religious Studies subjects. He was involved in many educational and cultural activities in cooperation with the Jewish community in Yekaterinburg. Arsenii moved to the US in 2017 with his family. Arsenii's passion is facilitating social, cultural, and educational activities. In Chicago, Arsenii conducted contemporary Religious Studies research

exploring the life of different communities using sociological methods and alternative ways of research, such as filming and audio recording. Arsenii's other interests include bicycles, road trips, books, playing music, and meeting new people.

“What Did I Bring With Me?” is an exhibition being compiled by Arsenii Kibenko. The goal of the project is to document RSJ family stories by discussing the special, unique, and sentimental items RSJ families brought with them during their immigration.

Yana Polonsky - Jewish Women’s Circle



Yana Polonsky was heavily involved in Russian Hillel, assisted in organizing events and weekend retreats, and taught a School of Madrichim class. Yana graduated from the RAJE program back in 2019 and is currently in the RAJE 2.0 program.

Yana Polonsky put together a discussion circle for Jewish women, which began in person and moved to a virtual setting when the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Meetings have ranged in topics from relationships to spirituality and one’s Jewish journey.

Irene Keselman - My Name is Manya



Irene Keselman was born and raised in Wheeling, Illinois. Her passion for performing in talent shows, recitals, and concerts started at a young age. In 2017, she joined “Bravo” Community Theater, which allowed her to learn the art of acting and apply her musical and dancing talents to become a better-rounded individual. Participation in plays produced by “Bravo” Community Theater and “By The Way” Community Theater allow Irene to express herself in different, creative ways. In addition to growing her creative side, Irene also learned to connect on a deeper level with multi-generational, diverse communities through distinctive volunteering efforts. Collaboration with assorted organizations and interactions

with a broad spectrum of individuals equipped Irene to lead a meaningful life serving others through learning, justice, and faith. Currently studying at Loyola University Chicago in a dual degree program to earn her Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Administration with a Business Administration Minor and an MBA, Irene hopes to continue growing as an individual and inspire others through the various ways in which she engages with the community.

Irene Keselman planned a theatrical performance of "My Name is Manya", a Russian play with Jewish themes and traditions based on a story about life before and after war. While the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly affected Irene’s project, she has continued to work to

make the performance possible once in-person events are safe again. Irene has been working with Bravo Theater, which began work on the play in September 2020. The casting took place virtually, and the cast is now full, consisting of 12 actors. While it is hard to predict when it will be safe to perform the play in person, the cast has been rehearsing virtually on a regular basis and will continue to rehearse in person once safe.