

# 15 Aspiring Leaders Join Second Education and Advocacy Cohort

After a community-wide search, a second Maurer Koach Program class has been named. Meet the cohort and their reasons for being involved in the program.



The Maurer Koach program (Koach means “strength” in Hebrew) is experiential and will provide exposure and experiences that will equip you with tools to educate, lead, and advocate for yourself and others. During the 8 monthly interactive sessions, local, national, and international leaders will address current approaches to understanding and combatting antisemitism as well as provide insights into Jewish life, leadership, and social justice.



**Melanie Abrahams**

I have worked in the Jewish community for most of my adult life and I would love to be more engaged in the social justice and anti-Semitism in Indianapolis. I have 3 little girls who I would love to grow up feeling safe and appreciated.



**Sasha Joyner**

Having a once in a lifetime experience to learn more about my heritage. I want to improve my education in a way that I can connect to and be able to share that with others as situations arise.



**Jessica Mallah**

The opportunity to learn more about my Jewish heritage and to be able to feel it. Also to meet others with the same interests.



**Max Newman**

I find a connection with others in the community mostly through synagogue and HHAJ affiliation. I would love to widen my community with those who may feel more connected to this particular pillar.



**David Tulkop**

My deep interest in the Maurer Koach Program is rooted in its commitment to addressing and combating antisemitism, coupled with its dedication to equipping participants with the tools to lead, educate, and advocate against this pervasive issue.



**Amber Comer**

As the granddaughter of a Holocaust survivor (who helped raise me), I am painfully aware of the effects of antisemitism. As a result of growing up hearing the stories of the atrocities of the Holocaust, I developed a strong desire to advocate for social justice and fight for those who are unable to fight for themselves.



**Blake Kaplan**

I feel strongly about being present in the international Jewish community and doing anything I can to battle antisemitism.



**Isaac Mervis**

I am eager to embark on this transformative journey and am grateful for the opportunity to be part of a community of young Jewish professionals dedicated to building a more inclusive and just world.



**Monica Townsend Allardt**

I am passionate about education and serving my Jewish community.



**Marla Wald**

Raising my children in today's environment motivates me to work harder and continue my growth to change minds and educate against antisemitism... I welcome additional tools to help educate and inform to combat antisemitism. Education has always been my best tool.



**Jillian Hastings**

I am interested in gaining tools to fight against antisemitism and to advocate for myself as a Jewish woman and professional, and for the hundreds of teenagers and young adults that I work with each summer at Goldman Union Camp Institute (GUCI).



**Michael Kaplan**

My wife was in the first cohort and had an incredible experience. As a parent, I want to be on the same page as my partner about how to have some of these difficult conversations about antisemitism.



**Marissa Missan**

I want to grow as an advocate for the Jewish people and combat antisemitism in my workplace, community, and beyond.



**Daniel Reyzman**

I think at the end of the day, we are stronger together, and so I want to continue the journey of getting more in touch with my Jewish identity, both for myself and for the community.



**Natalie Weiss**

I have always felt a deep connection to my Judaism and to those who were in the Holocaust. With the attack that occurred on October 7, I now feel a sense of urgency to see for myself the atrocities committed against the Jewish people in the 1930s and 1940s. I hope to develop skills to effectively fight antisemitism and make sure it never happens again.