



Welcome to **Tel Aviv**

Everything you need to know!

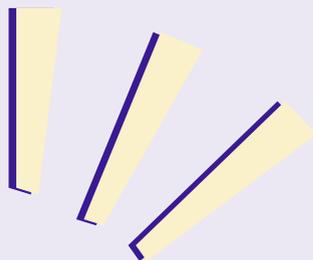
M.D. Katz JLIC at TAU
2025-2026

WELCOME!



We are thrilled to have you in our vibrant community. This welcome packet is designed to help you with all the essential information you need to settle in and make the most of your new home.

We wish you good luck and hope this packet will help you feel right at home!



WHAT IS JLIC?

JLIC's mission is to create a movement of vibrant Jewish life among emerging adults aged 18 to 30 through transformative leadership development, innovative educational programming, and meaningful engagement opportunities. We empower the next generation of leaders who will inspire and strengthen the Jewish community worldwide. JLIC operates on many campuses in the US and is now present on most university campuses in Israel.

The M.D. Katz JLIC at TAU serves all international students at the University, no matter what your background or current affiliation, you are welcome in our community. Our openness and inclusivity is one of our key strengths as we aim to create a truly international community. Crucially, the Phillips family aims to provide a home away from home for international students.

M.D. Katz JLIC at TAU is named in memory of **Dr. Mordecai (Morty) Katz, z"l**, who passed away at 88 in March 2021. Dr. Katz, the husband of Dr. Monique Katz, was a pillar of the Jewish community. Dr. Monique Katz, an Englewood radiologist, was herself a medical student at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the 1960s, before the advent of JLIC programs and a time when there was no campus synagogue or rabbi. Appreciating the importance of JLIC and its programming, Dr. Monique and her family helped create the program at TAU.

WHAT WE OFFER

Community

Above all, what JLIC provides is a vibrant and active community; friends and peers with whom to share celebrations and challenges, milestones, holidays and Jewish life, especially for those far away from home.

Under the leadership of our rabbinic couple, Elana and Eitan Phillips, and a dynamic board of student leaders, JLIC runs daily programming, including Torah learning opportunities, a spirited Shabbat atmosphere, social events and volunteering opportunities. This year we are privileged to be running the Sacks Fellowship in partnership with the Sacks Legacy Trust, for those that wish to engage with Rabbi Sacks' vision for Judaism, morality, and leadership.



Shabbat

One of our major functions is Shabbat. All students must have a place to go for Shabbat at Tel Aviv University! Most Friday night meals are hosted at the Phillips home, whilst some will be at the Greenhouse (24 George Wise). Importantly, we offer an “adopted family” model where students can sign up to be placed at families across Ramat Aviv for meals throughout the year, and never have to be left without a meal. There are also meals organized by students at the dorms, which JLIC is happy to help with. There is a kiddush on campus during semester, with cakes, food and great company.



Torah Learning

One of the most important parts of Jewish community is Torah learning, take up one of our opportunities to add meaning to your week:

- The Sacks Fellowship (Tuesday night) is a unique opportunity to immerse yourself in deep thinking about contemporary Jewish life, hear from world class scholars, transform your Jewish learning, grow in leadership skills and form a tight group of fellows.
- Grill the Rabbi, with Rav Eitan @ Brosh (bi-weekly)
- Thursday Lunch and Learn. Come in between class and come away with a thought to take you through the week and most importantly... pizza!
- Thursday Women's breakfast chabura (Torah group) for women only. Enjoy breakfast and coffee before class and start the day with some spirituality!
- Want to learn with Elana or Eitan one on one or in a group? Get in touch with them, they are always interested in deepening connections with students! Or.... learn together with another student!

Debating club

We have an active and engaging debating club that hosts numerous debates a semester. Become part of the debating teams and perfect your public speaking skills.

The Sacks Fellowship at TAU

The Sacks Fellowship at Tel Aviv University is a prestigious 10-week program for outstanding students who want to explore the big questions of Judaism, morality, and leadership in today's world. Inspired by Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, a global public intellectual, moral voice, and bestselling author. The fellowship brings leading scholars and thinkers to campus for weekly seminars, special events, and a closing Shabbaton. Fellows will have the chance to learn, grow, and join a community of peers committed to



Chesed/Volunteer Opportunities

Our flagship programs include weekly visits to Mishan Old Age Home, right behind the Einstein dorms. Residents eagerly await the smiles and energy our students bring, and by coming consistently, you'll build real connections and make a meaningful difference. In addition, students will volunteer with Save a Child's Heart (SAH), an incredible organization that provides life-saving heart surgery for children from around the world. Through bi-weekly visits to the children's home, students will play, create, and bring joy to young patients awaiting treatment.



Did You Know?

Eitan has spent almost 300 days in a tank since Oct 7th



MEET THE LEADERSHIP!

Rabbi Eitan & Elana Phillips

Directors, M.D. Katz JLIC at TAU

R. Eitan: 054-2107364 | **Elana:** 050-9322283

Eitan grew up in London and has been in Israel for most of the last decade including serving in the IDF. After learning at Yeshivat Hakotel, he studied Jewish history and Politics at Hebrew University. He then completed his Masters at Haifa University, whilst receiving Smicha from Mizrachi Musmachim (Rabbinical Ordination). Eitan then worked in high-tech and was the youth director at Shivtei Yisrael in Raanana for two years, prior to establishing the program at Tel Aviv University. Most recently Eitan served in the IDF reserves during the Israel-Hamas war post Oct 7th, serving close to 300 days. Eitan can often be found in the library, Cafe Neto (his fav spot for coffee) or Coffee Star (in his opinion the best salads on campus). Eitan talking about Israel and current affairs, as well as playing and watching football (soccer).

Elana made aliyah at age 7 from New York to Efrat. She did Sherut Leumi in a home for children at risk and then was a Madricha at Midreshet Moriah, while studying for her BA in Psychology and Education at Hebrew University. Elana was also a youth director in Raanana for two years. Elana worked in high tech for a year and completed her MA in Educational Psychology and now works in schools in Tel Aviv as an educational psychologist. She loves spending time with her family, swimming and dancing.

Together Elana and Eitan have 3 children, Yakir (6), Oriyah (4) and Naveh (1).

Both Eitan and Elana are available and would love to get coffee to chat or learn something together! Do not hesitate to reach out



M.D. Katz JLIC TAU Board



Lily Posner-Hess
President



Tamar Rosenwald
Social Media



Mikayla Bruschansky
Social Events



Nadav Margalit
Debating President



Chloe Gad
Chessed



Naomi Trau
Chessed



Did You Know?

We have had over 20 languages spoken at Eitan and Elana's Shabbat table!



JEWISH RESOURCES

➔ Kosher food on campus

All food on campus is kosher certified. This is a law of the State of Israel and there are no exceptions on the campus itself. There is a wide choice from meat, milk and vegetarian options. There is a kosher McDonalds and coffee available all around campus. However, please note that the Japanika outside the main gate of the university is not Kosher. Not all the restaurants at the bottom of Broshim are required to be kosher and therefore it is important to check. Currently, Burgerim and Aroma at Broshim are kosher certified.

➔ Dorms on Shabbat

There is a shabbat key to gain entrance to the dorms on shabbat without using an electronic chip or card. Please request from the building administration and they will provide this for you! There are lights that turn on automatically in the hallway, this is permissible and one does not need to worry about these lights on Shabbat. Please speak to Rav Eitan for information

➔ Mezuzah and Judaica

All students may request a mezuzah from maintenance. If one wants to buy their own or buy any Judaica there is a Judaica store in Ramat Aviv Gimmel, at Shuster Center.



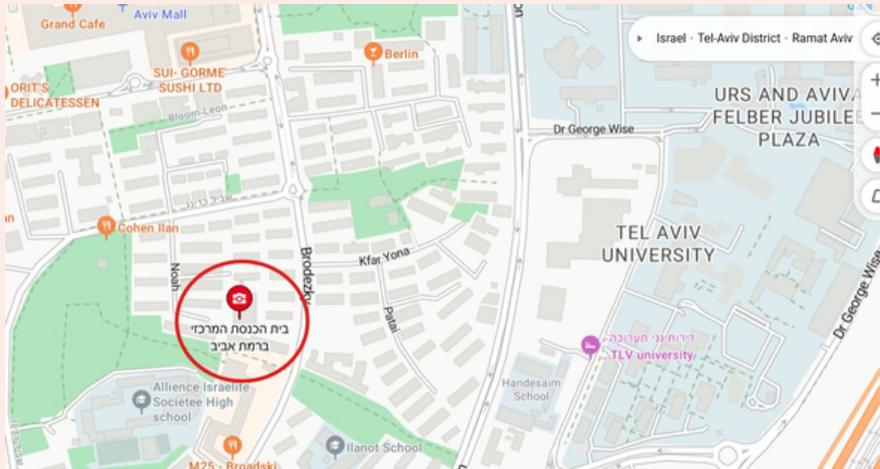
➔ Minyanim

During the week there are many minyanim (prayer services) each day. At the Cymbalista synagogue on campus, Shacharit is at 7:10. There are two options for Mincha, a longer minyan at 13:30 and a shorter one at 13:55. Maariv is at 18:10 (even in the summer).

The campus does not have a minyan on Shabbat. Depending on demand, there will be a Friday night minyan at Shai 20 as often as is possible. However there are multiple synagogues in the area. The closest to both dorms is Noach 20 (see **circled in red** on the map on the next page). Their Friday night minyan starts at the same time that Shabbat starts and on Shabbat morning is at 9:00.



Directions to Noah 20 (Beit Knesset Hamercazi)



Campus Map



Scan here for full interactive campus map



WE HOPE WE HELPED!

Wishing you much success and happiness settling into this most special and vibrant city, studying at Tel Aviv University and being part of this community!

We can't wait to meet you!

The M.D. Katz JLIC Professional Team
and Communal Leadership



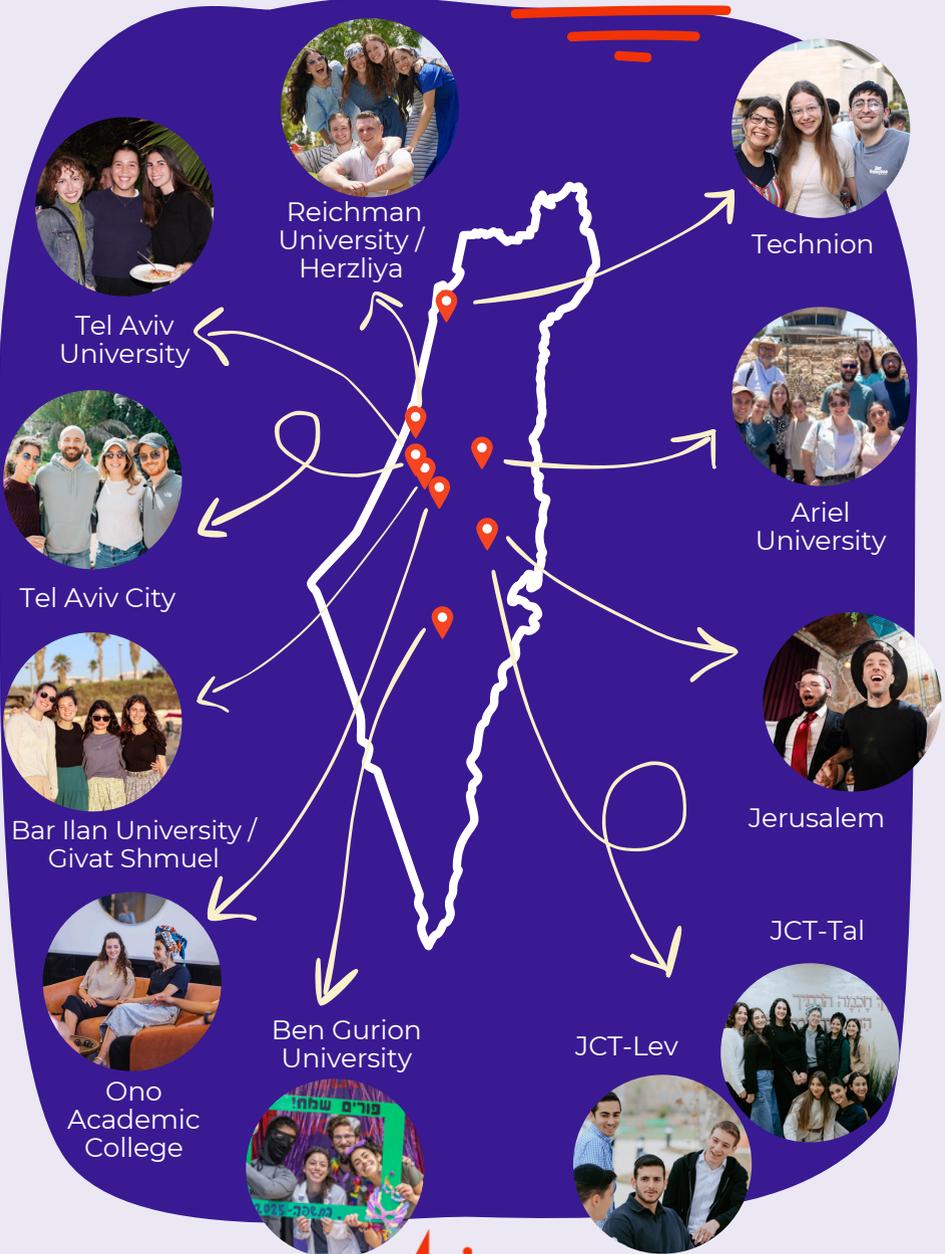
Stay in touch with M.D. Katz JLIC! Whatsapp Groups to Join:

- **Name** - Chat group for all B.A. students on campus, including dual degree: bit.ly/JLICTAU-BA
- **Name** - Chat group for all M.A. students on campus: bit.ly/JLICTAU-MA



Follow us! @mdkatzjlictau

CHECK OUT ALL OF OUR JLIC ISRAEL COMMUNITIES!





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