

# Avi Schaefer Fund 2014 Highlights



## ASF continues to impact students and young adults with innovative and highly effective programs. Here are some of the highlights of 2014:

**Our Fourth Annual Jerusalem Symposium** was the best yet with standing room only! On March 20th, Ari Shavit, journalist and acclaimed author of *My Promised Land: The Triumph and Tragedy of Israel*, set the perfect tone for our topic: "The Israeli Palestinian Conflict in Our lives, How it Impacts our Values, Culture and Identity." Over 300 young participants took part in the program, which included an opening panel session as well as workshops with distinguished speakers.



*Jerusalem Symposium, registration*



*Speakers and ASF team, North American Symposium*

**The Inaugural North American Symposium** in partnership with Mechon Hadar and hosted by Columbia Hillel in New York City on February 9th was a tremendous success. We were honored to partner with Mechon Hadar, a prominent Jewish learning institute in New York City, in creating this exciting day of learning and engagement with world-renowned scholars on the topic of "Jews, Judaism and Power."

**Avi Shabbat** held on over fifty campuses across the US and Canada. Students from across faith communities and political affiliations broke bread together and engaged in authentic conversations within the three areas of interest:

1. Promoting open and respectful discourse within the Jewish community, specifically surrounding conversations about Israel
2. Fostering interfaith understanding and cross-cultural encounters
3. Engaging with students on all sides of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict

Hear the powerful feedback from participating students:

University of California Berkeley: *"Our Avi Interfaith Shabbat was one of my most meaningful experiences I have had at Cal."*

University of Wisconsin Hillel: *"Ultimately, students had an opportunity to meet and interact with students from another faith and culture building bridges and developing positive relationships in Avi Schaefer's memory."*



*Avi Shabbat, University of Calgary*



*Williams College spring break trip to Tuscaloosa, AL*

Through our **Innovation Grants Program** ASF supports campus activities through imaginative programs like these:

- Alternative spring break interfaith trips to help rebuild communities after natural disasters Virginia Tech and Williams
- Students and staff in small group workshops, learning together, focusing on how to connect across differences in relation to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict. Stanford Hillel