

## Preparing for the “Yoms” with Dr. Benji Davis

As we approach the "Yoms", it's worth pausing to consider the deeper vision we bring to these days — especially now. There is a meaningful difference between standing with Israel and being part of Israel. The first expresses support; the second expresses identity. At this existential moment for the Jewish people, our goal as Jewish educators should be to close the gap of distance — to help our students feel not like observers of Israel from afar, but as members of Am Yisrael for who live and breathe Israel as something of their own.

Practically, this means three things. First, give students genuine agency in the planning of these days — not just performative leadership roles, but real ownership, because producers develop a sense of purpose and meaning far more deeply than consumers. Second, ground the content of your programming in the living, dynamic material coming out of Israel right now — texts, music, art, news — so that Israel is present as a living people and land, not a distant subject of our support. Make the Yoms “Yom-Yomi.” And third, make the experience emotional and embodied. Let's empower students to experience what it means to be meaningfully part of this historic moment for our people.

To hear more, take five minutes to listen to or watch a short recording by Dr. Benji Davis expanding on this vision — or better yet, reach out directly at [benjamin.davis@yu.edu](mailto:benjamin.davis@yu.edu) to brainstorm how to put these ideas into practice in your school. We'd love to think through this together.