

Julian "Jules" Silver

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Education

Hillbrook School (San Jose, CA), GPA: 3.97/4.00 Graduation 2027
11th-grade Student Council Rep, Founder of History Club, and of Jewish Affinity Space

Foothill College (Los Altos, CA) Fall 2025
Introduction to Archaeology (Grade: A)

Michigan State University (East Lansing, MI) 2025- 2026
[Certificate in Geographic Information Systems \(4 courses, 420 total hours\)](#)

Vanderbilt University, Gifted & Talented (Nashville, TN) Summer 2024
Archaeometry (Grade: A+). Studied material dating, fossil/bone DNA extraction, and isotopic dataset interpretation from tooth enamel to reconstruct childhood water consumption patterns in Classic period Kaminaljuyu and Teotihuacan.

Research and Independent Projects

everlastingwitness.com 2024- present

Finalist, [Diller Teen Tikkun Olam Award](#), 2026

Founder & Digital Archivist, Everlasting Witness:

Created a project to digitally map neglected Jewish cemeteries, preserving evidence of communities lost to the Holocaust. Built a digital cemetery of 250,000 memorials, creating permanent online records that preserve evidence of communities erased by the Holocaust. Researched archives, photographed graves & worked w/ local communities reclaiming heritage & healing trauma for descendants.

- [Thank-you letters from families](#)
- [Video thank-you from librarian Ivonna](#)

Photographed and added memorials from Jewish gravesites in Singapore and France.

Grave Restoration and Cemetery Care with [Maceva](#), Lithuania Summer 2026

Cleared overgrowth and cleaned old graves at the Nemenčinė Jewish Cemetery outside Vilnius, using cleaning solution and brushes to reveal forgotten family names buried under dirt and forest growth ([Photos](#)).

The Pueblo Revolt of 1680 and Cultural Resurrection	August 2025 - May 2026
The Pueblo Revolt State Finalist & Santa Clara County Champion, California State National History Day, 2026. Surviving Colonialism: The 1680 Revolt and Pueblo Cultural Resurrection : archaeological research with Professor Thomaidis, Princeton University. Argued that the revolt was both a political uprising and a catalyst for preserving cultural heritage.	

Colonial Extractions and the Cairo Giniza Stanford Humanities Institute (Palo Alto, CA)	August 2025 - May 2026
A Call for the Repatriation and Restitution of Sephardic Jewish Stolen Culture. Researched the Cairo Geniza and the ethics of repatriation, using the Book of Ben Sira to argue that sacred Geniza texts merit physical repatriation, while secular documents should be digitally reunited in a centralized location.	

Methylmercury Dynamics in San Francisco Bay	April 2025 to July 2026
Legacy mercury, reservoir dynamics, and dredging effects on methylmercury in San Francisco Bay. Published in the Journal of Emerging Investigators (JEI). Science Publication, 2026 Investigated the influence of legacy mining, reservoir dynamics, and sediment dredging on regional MeHg concentrations to better understand these ongoing environmental risks.	

Ward Map Georeferencing	2023 - present
Georeferenced 800 historical Sanborn fire insurance maps of the cities across the United States as part of an online group dedicated to this research. Map	

Analysis of Veteran Census in San Jose, CA	2024
Compiled and extracted census data to map the prevalence of veteran homelessness in Santa Clara County, identifying root causes such as physical and mental disabilities.	

Resilience Through the Lens of the Holocaust	2026
Documentary 1st Place, Elie Wiesel's National Holocaust Commission Contest 1st Place, National Weinberger Competition, 2025.	

Runner-Up, National History Day, 2025.

Adela Bay was 1 of 500 out of the 50,000 people entrapped in the Vilnius ghetto. After surviving the camps and marches, she made it to America, where she became a chemical engineer and famed pianist.

Archaeological Fieldwork

Hillbrook School Dig Project (Los Gatos, CA)	August 2025 - Present
Spearheaded research and an archaeological dig at the historic Hillbrook School under the mentorship of Stanford University Archaeologist Garret Trask and Foothill College Professor Sam Connell. Excavated the former school site for wards of California State in the early 1900s and presented research showing that many of the children at the school were frequently sick at Foothill College's Research and Service Leadership Symposium 2026.	
Fairfield Foundation (Gloucester, VA)	Summer 2026
Conducted several digs at plantations, investigating the daily lives of enslaved individuals. This included drone surveys, ArcGIS mapping, GPR analysis, and artifact analysis. Restored more than 50 formerly enslaved individuals' names in a database .	
ArchaeoSpain (Cuenca, Spain).	Summer 2025
Conducted 120 hours of field excavation on the 4th-century AD Roman fortress of Pulpon. Contributed to the end-to-end artifact process, from collecting and cleaning to classifying and documenting finds in a database. Learned technical research skills, including stratigraphic analysis, photogrammetry, and 3D reconstruction.	
Earthwatch Institute (Lisbon, Portugal)	Summer 2024
Studied cultural and technological shifts of Mesolithic and Neolithic societies by conducting fieldwork through excavation of materials and lab work, including analysis of recorded data and paleobotany samples.	
Exploring Joara Foundation (Morganton, NC).	Summer 2023
Discovered and analyzed artifacts, including pottery, arrowheads, and bone fragments, while excavating The Berry Site, a 16th-century settlement of Native American and Spanish origin.	

Leadership and Community

Hillbrook History Club, President	Aug 2022 to present
Managing genealogical and archival research for 20+ classmates and faculty by creating detailed family trees with historical context. Attended RootsTech 2025 to learn new investigative research techniques through DNA.	

Congregation Kol Emeth, Paid Teacher's Assistant/Aide (Palo Alto, CA)	. Aug 2022 to present
Assisting teachers by organizing activities, teaching curriculum, and supervising 20 kindergarteners, and providing one-on-one aid to a neuro-atypical student during weekly Shabbat services.	
Bay Area Friendship Circle, Volunteer Special Needs Aide	. Sep 2024 to present
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Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness, Volunteer	Fall 2024
Created and organized community-building activities for residents transitioning from homelessness. Designed and led activities including bingo, basketball, trivia tournaments, and holiday-themed contests for 20 to 40 participants.	

The Trash Punx, Volunteer	Fall 2024
Volunteered in community clean-up events focused on waterways, parks, and streets to promote environmental sustainability.	

Creative Work

Studio Art Projects, Trash to Treasure

- [Juke Box](#)
- [Sewing Machine Bike](#). Honorable Mention, 2026 Scholastic Arts Competition

Writing

- [A poem about the collaboration between Black and Jewish people during the civil rights movement](#)
- [A creative writing piece about an archivist](#). Topical Winner, National Poetry Contest, Winter 2026

Skills and Abilities

Technical: ArcGIS, drone survey, GPR, photogrammetry, 3D reconstruction, stratigraphic analysis, Canva, Inkscape, Photoshop, MS Office, Google Workspace, and PhyloView

Genealogical: Ancestry, MyHeritage, JewishGen, FamilySearch, and JRI-Poland

Awards

- National Finalist, [Diller Teen Tikkun Olam Award](#), 2026
- First Place, [Elie Wiesel's National Holocaust Commission Contest](#), 2026
- Finalist, California State National History Day, 2026

- [Certificate](#)
- Champion, Santa Clara County National History Day, 2026. Website exhibit: [The Pueblo Revolt](#)
- [Certificate](#)
- Topical Winner, National Poetry Contest, Winter 2026
 - Certificate
- Honorable Mention, Scholastic Art Contest for Sculpture, 2026
 - [Certificate](#)
- Published in the Journal of Emerging Investigators, 2026
- Santa Clara County [Runner-Up, National History Day Individual Documentary](#), 2025
 - [Certificate](#)
- First Place, National [Weinberger Competition](#), 2025
 - [Certificate](#)
- University of Pennsylvania/Scott Center/Schoolyard Ventures Fellowship, Fall 2023 to Spring 2024
 - [Certificate](#)

TITLE

LINK TO PAPER, AWARD

DISCRIPTION