The scientist, statesman and political philosopher Francis Bacon (1561–1626) is the philosophical founder of modern high-tech society. Bacon proposed that the aim of science should be not just to enlighten those who happen to study nature (as in the pre-modern tradition he inherited) but to “conquer nature” for “the relief of man’s estate” (that is, to co-opt nature for the revolutionary task of eradicating human suffering and enhancing humans’ material well-being) and that society should be guided by this aim above all. Bacon summed up his detailed, wide-ranging project in a literary parable, *The New Atlantis*—a philosophical dialogue that reworks the ancient myth of the lost island of Atlantis (as told by Plato) into a shiny picture of a rosy, well-ordered high-tech utopia realizable in our foreseeable future. The pivotal figure in the dialogue is a Jew aptly named Joabin, who might remind 20th–21st century readers of, say, Henry Kissinger or Bernard Baruch. I will show how Bacon’s Jewish figure is indispensable for the overall project we have inherited from him.