

Avior Eyal Amrani. I was born in '75. I grew up and was educated mainly in KiryatArba. Before joining the army, I studied Judaism and learned about the Israeli society at the TheBnei David pre-army IDF preparatory yeshiva, in Eli. After 3 years military service in a combat unit that included training new recruits,I decided that I want to continue working in the educational field. My first working experience with the Jewish Diaspora wasas a counselor of the “Ramah” high School program of the Conservative movement. Lateron I led groups from the diaspora as part of the JNF summer programs. A year later, when I wished to be involved in a more meaningfulproject, I had the privilege to volunteer as a 'Shaliach' for a year of the Jewish Agency to Florence, Italy. During that year I was teaching Judaism, learning an important lesson about the Jewish community life andabout being a Jew outside the Israeli bubble. I became involved in the community in an emotional way that lasts until today. This experience shaped me as no otherexperience has done before. I came back to Israel enriched and inspired, feeling connected to the Diaspora Jewry for good.

I'm happily married and a proud father to two angels. Together we have chosen to live in Tekoa, an excellent example to a tolerant and colorful community.

For the last decade and a half I've worked in different fields. I was specialized in cultural tourism to Italy in particular and to Europe in general; I was part of a team that designs and builds the Jerusalem Light Railnetwork, and in the last three years I combine two of my favorite worlds: I run Jewish heritage tours in Europe on behalf of Israel Experience, a subsidiary of the Jewish Agency and a leader in the educational tourism field in Israel. My main target

audiences are English-speaking countries, but gradually I've started working as well within the Israeli society.

In 2014, I was called upon to take part in founding a new Zionist movement - "Over the Rainbow". The organization runs in eight countries around the world, and seeks to strengthen Zionist activity locally, embrace Jewish communities, as well as fights the delegitimization spreading through the world towards Israel. The movement currently runs for the World Zionist Congress elections. I operate voluntarily as a director in the organization.

Further to what I mentioned above, I feel that the state of Israel should recognize our brothers and sisters who choose to live abroad, and treat the Jewish communities as their target audiences. Israel is strong enough to embrace them; nevertheless it should build a pro-active relationship with them, even if they, including many Israelis, do not choose Israel as their home. I believe our focus as individuals and as a nation must also be directed towards Jewish communities overseas. We should recognize their story, their beliefs and lifestyles. Connecting to the Jewish nation that does not live in Israel is a big challenge that I am grateful to take part in.

Uriel eldad. 32, Happelly married +4 (and one on the way...) Born and raised in KfarAdumim, a settlement that both religious and secular Jewish families are living together. At the end of his military service he began to work in educational activity for a few years in which he guided the project "Taglit" and "masa Israeli", at that time he also establishing and played in outdoor theater. In the past 6

years he founded four military preparatory programs for youth from the periphery. Owens a B.A. in bible and the history of Israel.

Orna wolf-levy. Orna was born on Moshav Nahalal in Izrael valley; she is a granddaughter of one of the founders of Nahalal – the first moshav in Israel. Today she is a member of the community in Kfar Azza, on the border with Gaza. She is married to Tzachi, a director of the Shlichut program at the Jewish agency, and a proud mother of Oz, aged 7, and Bareket, aged 6. Orna has a B.A in Special Needs Education from The Kibbutzim College and a M.A in Education and History from Tel Aviv University. Orna has been an educator for nearly 20 years. This is a love that she inherited from her mother, who was also a teacher. But her real passion in education is developing educational programs and resources. Among the various positions that she has held Orna has developed a unique educational approach for a learning center for youths at risk; she has written a unique history learning program for the IDF (10th grade graduation) and trained education-NCOs on the program. Orna has trained teacher in a language program Hila. She has also taught English and literature in e-learning . In 2003 Orna went on Shlichut to Manchester, England. There she managed the Jewish Resource Center for Informal Education. Orna wrote learning and training programs for the Jewish school and youth movements, she also trained and consulted teachers and youth workers on these programs. When Orna returned from her Shlichut she met her husband Tzachi, who had been a Shliach in the United States, in a Shlichim reunion . After their marriage they went on Shlichut together to Johannesburg, South Africa. There, Orna taught

Hebrew in The King David Jewish School. Working on Jewish connection was and still is her prime goal. After she returned from the Shlichut, Orna looked for a way to continue the long lasting dialogue between Israel and The Diaspora and thus she initiated a school twinning program between her school in Sha'ar Hanegev and the San Diego Jewish Academy.

Assaf Gamzou. Attended the "Ofakim" Scholarship program at Tel-Aviv University, where he majored in Jewish Philosophy and Comparative Literature. Upon graduation with honors and accepting a teaching certificate, he started teaching Jewish Philosophy and History to High school students. Has taught courses at Tel Aviv Univeristy on Media, Philosophy and Education. In 2014, he was appointed curator of the Israeli Cartoon Museum.

Arik Liderman. Arik is 32 years old, married to Alisa and lives in Jerusalem. Arik was born in Kiev, Ukraine as the only child of Galina and Yuri Liderman who made Aliyah in the summer of 1990. They moved to Israel as part of the wave of immigration that followed the collapse of the Soviet Union. In his senior year in high school, Arik began volunteering at the Welfare Department of Herzliya'smunicipality where he worked with elderly man and women for over a year. Arik enrolled in the IDF in February 2003. He completed his basic training with honors and was transferred to the General Staff Elite Commando- Reconnaissance Unit to work as a signal operator. Later on, Arik enrolled in the IDF Officers Training School where he graduated with honors. Arik continued his service in IDF's Officers Training School as a Platoon and then Company commander in the Maoz and Nahshon Battalions.

After receiving the rank of Captain, Arik was transferred to IDF's MikveAlon base where he became a Company commander of hundreds of new "OlimHadashim" from more than 25 different countries. Later on Arik was promoted to Deputy Battalion commander and then promoted again receiving the rank of Major and becoming a base commander responsible for army preparation course (GADNA) for thousands of students. Arik received his Bachelor's degree in Political Science from The Bar Ilan University.

David Laor. 52-year-old native of Mexico, immigrated to Israel in 1990 and currently living in Modi'in. I was raised in a normative family, surrounded by Mexican and Spanish culture, but member to a conservative community in Mexico City, for English speakers only: Beth Israel Community Center. Two aspects integrate my life: The material and the spiritual. On the material I am a person of science and technology, holding a BA in Computer Science with an experience of 25 years in the IT field. On the spiritual, I am currently finishing rabbinical studies on behalf of the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism, at the Hebrew Union College (HUC) in Jerusalem. I am also the creator and manager of a Spanish speaker's web site, built up in 2010 that teaches Judaism through videos. The site has become an unexpected success. The amount of registered members reaches over 6,000 students from various countries in South America and Spain. Today in the High-Tech world I'm working as the Tech Support team leader at Starcom Systems, having customers from all over the world. In the spiritual face, I am part of the rabbinical team at Yozma community in Modi'in, responsible for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah project

&ceremonies. The congregation of Yozma has a constant and meaningful brotherhood links with similar communities in the United States, and twice a month the community hosts Shabbat services &dinner to guests and many friends from the USA. I was interested in the Rodermanprogram, to expand my knowledge of the culture, history and various aspects of the Jewish communities in the United States –with whom we work intensively through the Yozma congregation; communities that areas well a vital and most important link for the development of the Progressive Judaism in Israel.

Yehuda Lahav.35 years old, living in Haifa, Married to Avital and father to Ben and Adam.I was born and raised in Kiriat Bialik, a suburb of Haifa. Iv'e served in the Israeli Navy as a C&C officer for 4 years and after my discharge I've enrolled to study Law at the University of Haifa. I've graduated in 2007 and began a one year internship in the Magistrate Court in Tel Aviv. Towards the end of my internship I've realised that I had not satisfied myself with academic studies so I've enrolled to a Masters program in the University of Haifa and a Doctoral Program in philosophy of Law at the University of Turin, Italy. I've handed my doctorate on the topic of Israeli, German and South African interpretation of the concept of human dignity in 2012. In parallel to my academic studies and in between Israel and Italy I've worked as a course assistant in several courses at the Faculty of Law in Haifa, during which I was exposed and interested in the American legal and political system, especially during its foundation and the first 100 years. In 2012 Ive decided to focus more on the younger generation so I've started

working as an educator and a civic studies teacher at the Hebrew Reali School in Haifa, my place of employment to this day.

YEHONATAN TOKER. 28, from Jerusalem. I am the CEO of the political movement- "Wake-up Jerusalem". The movement holds four seats in the city council, among other responsibilities, we hold the Youth office, the business office, the economic development office, and the young family's office as well. The goal of the movement is to enable cultural and social shared life for the religious and secular people of Jerusalem, and to improve the living and working opportunity for young Israelis in the city. In addition to the political position, I teach a number of informal education organizations in the field of secular Judaism and Israeli society issues.

Yuval Harel. I was born on 11/9/1982 (yes, I know 11/9 but I was first). I was raised in Kibutz Regba in the western Galilee. Today I live in Kibutz Hanaton which was established 25 years ago by the Jewish conservative movement. I am happily married to Dana and father to my two daughters Oren and Ofir. Throughout my life education was my main occupation from boarding schools, youth movements etc. today I am an educator (it's my fifth year) and also teach history 10th - 12th grades at Rogozin high school in Kiryat-ata. I have finished my B.A degree in History of Israel and Leadership policy in education, in Haifa university and obtained my teaching diploma from T.F.I .

Yonit Tzor. My name is Yonit Tzor; I'm 26 years old, originally from Tekoa currently living in Tel Aviv. BA graduate in Middle East and African studies from Tel Aviv University. Both of my parents moved

to Israel from the U.S and even though they integrated well into the Israeli society I grew up in a bilingual and multicultural home where the American culture and English language were extremely dominant. Thus, My interests in the program can be explained by my American background, and by my growing interest in change's occurring in the U.S.A today with a focus on the North American Jewish communities. I hope to deepen both my bond and knowledge through this program.

Yael Zegelstein. was raised in Raanana, and lives today in Jerusalem. She graduated a Bachelor's degree from the Land of Israel Studies program of Haifa University. As a certified tour guide, Yael is involved with numerous educational tourism endeavors, including Taglit-GoKeshet coordinator. Yael worked in different educational positions in the URJ Israeli office. A former Jewish Agency Shlichah (emissary), and a current staff member of the Summer Shlichim Program. Yael sees the Ruderman program as a unique opportunity to study the nature of the relationships between the American and Israeli Jewish communities, and to explore the various Jewish identities that grow within those communities.

Yael Lerner. Married with three children, has a BA in communications and management, a member of the team that founded the newspaper "Israel Hayom", and a journalist for 15 years. Serves as personal assistant to the editor in chief, and writes the paper's "On the map" tourism section in the weekend supplement. I occasionally write opinion columns on current events, as well as feature articles on various subjects. I chose to focus on tourism, which has always been my passion. Travel for

me is, first of all, love for humanity, an exciting discovery of new places and new cultures. It involves education, politics, economics and public discourse. In fact, it is the best form of dialogue among people, nations, communities and cultures. In my capacity as a journalist, I have had the chance to host delegations, ambassadors and politicians from Israel and abroad and often feel as an ambassador representing Israel and its diversity. I became fascinated with The Ruderman Program right from the start, when I began reading about it. I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to combine my tourism roles with other activities in Israel and abroad. I believe tourism can precipitate tremendous growth and bring people together from around the world.

Lea Zazon. I have been a teacher for the last 23 years. This year I am the administrator of 11th grade's pupils (153 pupils), I teach history and civics in Ironi Gimel high school, Haifa. I have two M.A degrees from Haifa University – M.A at Jewish history, and M.A at Germany and modern Europe. In addition, I have a degree of high school's management. I have always loved learning, and I would like to continue my studies at Ruderman program in order to enrich my knowledge and to endow it to my pupils.

Meira Efraim-Volkovich. Works as an Educational coordinator at the International school at Oranim Academic College. At her work, she facilitates encounters between Israeli and American Jewish youth and students exploring Jewish identity and Jewish Peoplehood in Israel and outside of Israel. During her studies for her bachelor she coordinated a project for students to volunteer at a local boarding school for youth at risk and took part in many different projects with Jewish students from the U.S.A, Through

Oranim and the Jewish agency. Meira has a B.Ed. in Informal Education, and a Teaching Certificate in Jewish Thought from Oranim College. She taught Jewish Thought and Bible at the Emek Hefer Middle School, and served as a Jewish educator and Counselors leader at Camp Yavneh in New Hampshire for five summers.

Moran Karov-Tzabary. I am 31 years old, married and live in Moshav Yinon. I am a horseback riding therapist and a western horseback riding instructor, in addition to being an animal-assisted therapist. I have a Bachelor's Degree in social sciences. Within the B.A studies, I took a course on the subject of U.S Jewry, which is how I was exposed to this field of knowledge in an academic form. In my military service, I served in the 'Caracal' unit as a combat soldier and a Hummer driver. As part of a bonus which was granted to me due to my excellence in the position I served, I was sent to accompany and participate in guiding a group of American Jews, as a part of the Birthright Israel ('Taglit') project. That was my initial acquaintance with the American Jewish population. For the past 5 and half years, I have been working as a flight attendant at the "El -Al" airline and I am frequently positioned on the U.S. - Israel line. I have travelled a lot around the world, have lived for extended periods of time in Ireland, Australia and India, and have always found myself naturally dealing with public diplomacy, specifically having to do with the relations between Israel and the Diaspora. Zionism, Jewish identity and love of Israel are all values that I am naturally passionate about, and I express them wherever I go as a goodwill ambassador. As someone who was brought up in an atheist environment, I have found my path to Judaism, after

prolonged searches and am now connected more than ever to my roots.

Nir Boneh. married to Shani and lives in Alon Hagalil. Bachelor of Education and the Studies of State of Israel at Ben Gurion University. For years worked as a Hiking guide in for schools in Israel and as instructor on various educational projects of Jewish-Zionist identity. Nir and Shani recently returned from a mission of two years for the Jewish Agency in the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County in Florida. As part of the Shlichut they were Israeli educators, organized big community events and led delegations from Israel to Palm Beach and Palm Beach to Israel. Currently Nir is working as a living bridge coordinator of the Jewish Agency project “Partnership Together” as part of a partnership between the community in Safed, Rosh Pina and Hatzor Haglilit and the Jewish community in Palm Beach, Florida.

Ainav Michaely.I was born and raised in Israel. I received my undergraduate degree in English Language, Literature & Art from the University of Haifa. In addition, I received an EFL Teacher’s Credential from The University of Haifa. I have been an EFL teacher for the past eleven years. I have been teaching in the same school, The Keshet Democratic School in Zichron Ya’acov, Israel. Both America and Israel have always been a central part of my life and of who I am. My mother was born and raised in the United States and made Aliya from California in 1970. As a child I lived with my family in Fort Worth Texas for three years. When we returned to Israel, I remember telling my friends that while living in the USA, we would go to synagogue every week. I was always appalled that my friends’ asked me if my family was religious. As I

grew older, I understood why my friends reacted in that manner. I realized that many people in Israel do not know very much about the lives of Jews living in the USA. As an EFL teacher in Israel, many of my students ask me if I was born in the USA and if I am Jewish. When I tell my students that I am Jewish and that many Jews live in the USA, they are surprised. I am honored to be part of this program. It is very important to me to expand my knowledge of the American Jewry which is part of my family roots. I am anxious to learn in depth about the relations between Jewish communities in the USA and The State of Israel. As a teacher, I strive to strengthen and educate Israeli children of the importance of building and maintaining our relationship with the USA Jewish communities.

Inbal Briskin – Pery. Lives in Moshav Beit-Yitzhak, Emek Hefer. Married to Tal, and a mother to 3 girls. A certified group facilitator and B.A in Special education and general studies in Tel-Aviv University. A graduate student in "Amitim" program, Kolot pluralistic Beit Midrash, SUGiyot Chaim program of the Hebrew Union College, Jerusalem and a community leadership course in Hamidrasha Be'Oranim. Running the business "Klas" (www.klas.co.il) - leading team building and ice breaking workshops – children games to adults. Group leader and ceremonies facilitator in "Zayit" organization for Jewish- Israeli culture, Emek Hefer. "MekoRock" project coordinator – youth create Rock, inspired by Jewish sources – In Israel and across the world. Leading Parent-children Beit Midrash, as part of "Yahalom" organization. Leading groups of Elderly and youth in meeting along the year. Since 1998 – serving as an Israeli shlichah

in Jewish summer camps in USA and Europe. In the last 4 years, Spends all summer with her entire family in Camp Young Judaea Sprout Lake, NY, as Head of performing arts.

Rotem Weiner Shapira. Rotem received a B.Ed. in Democratic Education from the Seminar Kibbutzim College of Education Technology & Arts in Tel Aviv with a specialization in history, literature and Israeli heritage. Rotem served as an emissary at Camp Ramah in New England summer camp. Following graduation, she was a community emissary of the Jewish Agency to the Jewish community of Pittsburgh, PA. Rotem is a member in the R O I Jewish Community Leaders Worldwide. She graduated from the International School for Jewish Peoplehood Studies course for Jewish Peoplehood educators. She also graduated from the Beit Midrash Kolot Fellowship 2 year Program. Rotem is currently the director of the Lion of Judah Israel, which is affiliated with a worldwide women's philanthropic non-profit organization Lion of Judah. Rotem is married to Yaron and mother of Idan and Hila, and currently lives in Ramat Gan, Israel.

Reut Noyman. I'm 30 years old, originally from Kfar Ma'as and today I live in Haifa. I've served as an officer in the Armour Corps in the IDF.

I was introduced into the world of American Jewry when I worked as a "Shelicha" in Jewish summer camps (Unit head and supervisor, Head of International Leadership Program, head of the Israeli delegation and Assistant Summer Camp Director) in the United States on behalf of the Jewish Agency for Israel for 6 years. I finished my B.A. with honors in Education, Concentration on Communications and Informal Education from "Oranim

College". During that time I also was the vice chairperson for the Oranim college student body. And Program Coordinator of an unique program working with youth at risk of dropping out of school. I also worked for The Movement for Progressive Judaism (Reform), "Yachdav" Program. Facilitated workshops in Jewish identity for elementary school-aged children in conjunction with partner schools in the U.S. And Leadership seminars on Jewish peoplehood - Jewish Diaspora Museum. Today I work as a teacher and educator in the Hebrew Reali School in Haifa where I lead student delegations to the United States, teach Communications, Public Diplomacy, Information Technologies. In addition to that I head an international leadership program for youth. I also a Project Director, At-Risk Youth Center in Haifa on behalf of the Israeli Scouting Movement. And pursuing Master's Degree in Alternative Education in Haifa University.

Shoshana Becker. A true Jerusalemite, born to British Olim. I have a BA in Archaeology and Geography from the Hebrew University. For the past 20 years I have been working in the *Jewish World* in various capacities, including leading groups both in summer camps in the USA and of groups of Jewish teens visiting Israel from around the world and later as senior staff in various summer camps. Between 2000-2004 I served as the Community Youth and HabonimDrorShlichah (Emissary) in the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit and the Midwest Region of HabonimDror, including senior staff at Camp Tavor. On return from the USA, I took the position of the Israel Director of OTZMA, a former Federation 10-month leadership development program for post-college in Israel after which I moved on to work for the

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee in Donor Relations for the former Soviet Union. In the past 4 years I served as Director of the English Speaking Countries Division at the Israel Experience, working with groups coming to Israel from all around the world. I recently started working in Resource Development for the Society for Advancement of Education. Since 2009, I've been volunteering for Desert Queen as supervisor and leader in the screening process; I have led trips to China and Laos and am part of the training team for new trip social leaders.

Shani Boneh. Shani is married to Nir and lives in Alon Hagalil. Bachelor of the Studies of State of Israel and Multidisciplinary studies at Ben Gurion University. Shani is working since 2007 as a registered tour guide qualified by the Ministry of Tourism. During her work, Shani led various types of groups - youth trips, Birthright, Bar Mitzvah tours, family trips, pilgrims trips and more, mostly from North America. Shani and Nir recently returned from a two years mission of for the Jewish Agency in the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach Florida. As part of the Shlichut they were the Israeli educators, organized community events, gave different lectures and led delegations from Israel to Palm Beach and Palm Beach to Israel.

Tamar Gur-Krause. A Reform rabbinical student, active in the renewed Jewish world in various frameworks. A group facilitator of pluralistic Torah study programs and guides lifecycle rituals. A cantor of liberal prayers across the country. Engaged in instilling the values of social equality and pluralism. Graduate of the program "Kriat Kivun", which prepares excellent young people to

integrate in public government offices. Graduate of the “president Peres forum” for social issues.