Opinions expressed are those of contributors or the editor and do not represent the official positions of The Bronfman Youth Fellowships in Israel.

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We are grateful to The Samuel Bronfman Foundation for their ongoing support and vision.

Check www.byfi.org for calendar updates as new events are scheduled.
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It’s no secret that BYFI’s summer Fellowship program is somewhat cerebral. Our fellows are uniformly bright, intellectually curious, high achievers. The program itself is heavy on text study - be it the poetry of Yehudah Amichai, the Chassidic parables of Rav Nachman of Bretslev, an essay by Gershom Scholem, or a passage from the Talmud - and full of high level conversation on political and social issues with leading intellectuals, artists, activists, and politicians.

It is also no secret that the Jewish people are somewhat cerebral, placing study (preferably Torah study, but, apparently, other disciplines will do) right at the top of our list of values. And yet, one of the Rabbis of the Talmud, Rabbi Shimon the son of Gamliel, in Pirkei Avot (The Ethics of the Fathers), tells us that lo hamidrash ikar ella hama’aseh, it is not study which is the main thing, but, rather, action. As central as Torah study is, it is what we do, rather than what we know, that is important. It is for this reason that what excites me most about BYFI’s strategic direction is our ongoing and expanding focus on supporting Bronfmanim to apply their talents to benefit the Jewish community and wider world, highlighting, in particular, the BYFI value of social responsibility.

From its inception in 1987, BYFI has been committed to engaging our Fellows in both the cerebral as well as the more practical aspects of Jewish tradition and life. As we have evolved, we’ve added new elements to our programming and activities which inspire, encourage and enable our alumni to take their talents and use them for the greater good, in ways which are unique and exciting, and which continue to have a wide impact. You will read about some of them in this, our second edition of Bronfmanim, the BYFI alumni magazine.

I am especially gratified by the inclusion of a number of articles by our Amitim - Israeli Fellows. In 1998, we created the Amitei Bronfman Fellowship program. Parallel to BYFI, and meeting for a mifgash (encounter) with their American counterparts during the fellowship summer in Israel and in the US during their Chanukah trip to America, the Amitim have become a part of our alumni community, interacting with their American counterparts in a number of ways, including meeting with some of them in Washington DC and New York, and volunteering together in Jerusalem during gap year programs which our American and Israeli Fellows have initiated. We hope to continue to integrate our Israeli alumni into the greater alumni community, as we continue to work to help the entire community get out there and make a difference.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Shimon Felix

Rabbi Shimon Felix, Executive Director
Our oldest alumni turned 40 this year. We say this not to make anyone feel old! – but rather to celebrate the maturity and depth of our community in our program’s 24th year. We are a multi-generational, pluralistic and committed network of talented Jews. Our ongoing initiatives aim to encourage, inspire and enable Bronfman Fellows to apply their talents and passion to strengthening and serving each other, the Jewish community, and the wider world.

The Jewish community is looking for leaders in this time of tremendous change. The Bronfman alumni community is a talent bank for the Jewish people. The BYFI summer program develops Jewish leaders who value pluralism, Jewish learning, engagement with Israel, and social responsibility. By partnering with organizations in the broader Jewish community, we are helping our alumni to serve as innovators, volunteers, professionals and board members. Our alumni are bringing BYFI’s core values to the larger Jewish community.

We are strengthening our alumni network, not only in North America but also in Israel with our Amitei Bronfman peers, to serve as a model for open, stimulating and respectful dialogue. We are an open-source environment for skill-sharing, ideas sharing, collaboration and mutual support. Through the work of our Alumni Advisory Board, our current and upcoming alumni initiatives impact the community in the following ways:

- **Networking & community building** – opportunities for alumni to network, interact, and share resources. We are in the process of customizing a detailed alumni database and revising our alumni web spaces including our Facebook group and byfi.org.

- **A supportive network** – in the fall, we matched our second round of 26 Alumni Advisors to serve as guides to our 2009 Fellows with their Ma’aseh Action Projects, where Fellows create service projects that bring Bronfman to their local communities. We are hosting our first ever day of learning to support career and personal growth for college-age alumni and recent graduates led by older alumni. Our weekly emails continue to highlight opportunities for jobs, internships, fellowships and professional development.

- **Investing in social innovation** – the BYFI Alumni Venture Fund provides a platform for alumni to support their peers’ cutting-edge initiatives and projects. This year, in addition to our fundraising and grantmaking, we are creating team coaching opportunities so alumni with professional and volunteer expertise can support alumni leaders who are making a difference.

- **Content and ideas** – BYFI remains a resource for quality content, thoughtful discussion, and stimulating Jewish learning, both online with regular commentary of the weekly parsha and lively listserv discussion and in the real world. Through intimate events like salon discussion groups that alumni can lead locally, Jewish learning with faculty and alumni educators, and our successful Alumni Venture Fund Speakers Series, we hope to inspire alumni and spark conversation and action.

Together, as a voice of pluralistic young Jews, our network is shaping North American and Israeli Jewish life. Thank you for your engagement and commitment. Please contact us with your questions or concerns or if you’d like to deepen your involvement.

Best,

Elijah and Becky

Becky Voorwinde, ’97, BYFI Director of Alumni Engagement

Elijah Dornstreich, ’92, President of BYFI Alumni Advisory Board

“The Bronfman alumni community is a talent bank for the Jewish people.”
There’s no formula for creation, no one way to successfully start a business, launch a non-profit, write a book or a screenplay. But one common thread runs through the stories told by the scores of Bronfman Fellows who have done those things, who have in one way or another gone forth and conquered: Many can peg their impulse toward innovation to a single experience. While an idea may have been brewing for weeks or, in some cases, years, that one event made them realize that the world as it is doesn’t need to be that way, and they could be the ones to change it.

Jeremy Hockenstein, a 1988 Bronfman Fellow who co-founded out-sourcing company Digital Divide Data, was surprised at how simply he came upon his idea. Later, he would also be surprised to find out that this was not exceptional: When he was awarded the Skoll Award for Social Entrepreneurship in 2008, Hockenstein expected to “learn” how to be a social entrepreneur from the other, more seasoned winners. “I just did it by accident,” he said. Apparently, so did everyone else. They saw an opportunity, did a bit of research, and took a leap.

Hockenstein’s opportunity came during a work trip to Hong Kong and Cambodia in 2000, when he found himself more interested in the native people than in Angkor Wat’s temples. (Though those were nice, too, he said.) He was impressed that local organizations were teaching computer skills to uneducated and unemployed people from the area, but was dis-appointed that they didn’t do much to translate the training into good jobs.

The following year, Hockenstein and five friends returned to Phnom Penh to find out what they could do to help. Building on the model of Indian call centers, they created Digital Divide Data, which provides computer training by translating print media into digital texts. (The company’s first project was digitizing a few years of the Harvard Crimson.) Local employees attend university part-time with the help of company-sponsored financial aid, and once they graduate the company helps place them in jobs higher up the pay scale.

While the trip to Angkor Wat provided his ultimate inspiration, a more personal experience – his mother’s birth in a concentration camp – gave Hockenstein his initial drive toward tikkun olam. “I had some sense that it was a miracle that we were alive,” he explained. “What can we do other than help the world?”

Hockenstein kept a foot in the (slightly) more financially secure consulting world until two years ago, when he finally took the plunge and devoted himself entirely to Digital Divide Data. Sure, it was a risk, he says, and his salary shrank a bit, but he saw no alternative. Starting with a class of 20, the firm now has 600 employees in Cambodia and Laos, with a long-term goal of 1,500.

Far from southeast Asia, in a Colorado classroom, Deb Dusansky decided she needed to change something when she realized she didn’t like Hebrew school. The 1987 Fellow, for years a director of religious schools at synagogues, had watched too many children study for their Bar and Bat Mitzvahs only to return to homes that had little or no Jewish identities. “I just got really disheartened sitting with kids, by themselves, and never seeing the parents,” said Dusansky, a counselor who founded...
the Boulder branch of Jewish Family Services. Just because the kids were preparing for a major Jewish life event, she found, it didn’t mean they were partaking in any major – or even minor – religious or spiritual activities at home.

Knowing that a significant portion – nearly half of North American Jews, according to some sources – are either unaffiliated or members of interfaith families, Dusansky launched Boulder Stepping Stones, an educational program that provides up to two years of religious education classes and Shabbat dinners to a few hundred people a year. She explains her mission with a sense of urgency: “If we’re going to marginalize people from interfaith backgrounds, or people who are unaffiliated, it’s going to kill Judaism.”

Dusansky’s program is not meant to convert non-Jews or force people to join synagogues, she says: “We must embrace families where they are.” Her main focus is to expose families to Judaism and provide resources for those still figuring out where they belong, even if that doesn’t end up being Hebrew School.

David Zvi Epstein’s "a-ha!” moment, which would also target those on Judaism’s outer reaches, cluttered up his apartment for months before any solid plan took form.

It was 2007, and the ’04 Fellow was working with Montreal’s Ghetto Shul, which happened to be looking for a new home. He offered his apartment as a place to store the shul’s books, which left him surrounded by complicated texts and study guides for nearly six months. “I got to see very close how people would come in wanting to learn something but not knowing how,” he said, and he grew frustrated that he couldn’t just point to a single book and say, “Start here.”

Epstein’s step-father gave him the final push by asking why he didn’t make a book like that himself. So he did.

Collaborating with his fiancé, Epstein started crafting a non-traditional Gemara – a compendium of rabbinic commentary on Jewish law – that allows people who don’t read Hebrew to engage in Torah study. “The original thought was to create a book that inspired people toward Jewish learning and Judaism in general in the same way that an inspiring teacher or an inspiring Jewish event could do that,” Epstein said. He included English translations of biblical texts alongside the Hebrew, as well as English commentary from traditional sources like the rabbinic commentator Rashi. But he took the project – named Adashot, Hebrew for “lenses” -- a step further, including passages from Franz Kafka, Yehuda Amichai and even Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance in order to embrace people more familiar with an English literature class than traditional Jewish text study.

Epstein received a BYFI Alumni Venture Fund grant to help defray some start-up costs for the project. But he says support from the Bronfman organization extended far beyond the financial. Alums acted as sounding boards and far-flung members of the Jewish community have reached out expressing interest.

Epstein is still looking for a publisher, but groups such as Brandeis University’s Beit Midrash and Limmud France are already using sections of the book, parts of which are available online at adashot.com. Taylor Krauss also needed a physical push before founding Voices of Rwanda.

Working on the Ken Burns World War II documentary, The War, Krauss spent much of 2003 rifling through hundreds of hours of film reels and stacks of photos in Washington’s National Archive. “It was almost as if, in the office every day, our team was re-experiencing the war,” the 1997 Fellow said of his immersion in material about the war and the Holocaust. When he lifted his head from that footage, contemporary newspapers were chronicling the ravages of another genocide, this time in Sudan.

“In the interest of studying how genocides continue to happen,” Krauss said, he went to Rwanda on the eve of the 10th anniversary of that country’s devastating civil war, but a film that developed out of that visit didn’t quite satisfy him. Krauss said he realized that even if the film reached an audience on public televi-
finishing work on The War, Krauss turned Voices of Rwanda into an official non-profit by 2006. Aided by a grant from the BYFI Alumni Venture Fund, the group has now translated and transcribed about 1,000 hours of testimony.

Like Krauss, Ilana Lapid wanted to engage an audience. But just a few years ago, she didn’t even know she wanted an audience.

The 1994 Fellow had always been inspired by film. The Macedonian movie Before the Rain, which tells of ethnic conflict between Albanian and Macedonian villages, moved Lapid to study international relations when she attended Yale. But it wasn’t until years later, when she stood face-to-face with a film crew at the doorway of her apartment in Romania, that she understood the extent of the medium’s power.

To rewind: Lapid was in Transylvania on a Fulbright Scholarship, working on an art project with Gypsy children. Her apartment, in the capital city of Kuj, overlooked a cinema. One day, she saw people gathering for what turned out to be the first-ever Transylvania International Film Festival. A group of filmmakers knocked at her door, hearing she had some extra space for them to crash, and over the ensuing days she learned of their passion for an artistic form that was once all but forbidden under communist rule. “Thirteen years after the revolution, they have the possibility to tell stories through cinema that nobody had been telling,” Lapid recalled. “They felt personally responsible for bearing witness to history.”

Lapid was moved by their stories and realized that she, too, had some important ones to share. She enrolled in the University of Southern California’s MFA program in film and television production upon returning from Romania. Red Mesa, her thesis film about a young woman in New Mexico torn between her love for an illegal migrant worker and for her family, premiered this summer at the New York International Latino Film Festival.

Having grown up in Jerusalem, Ottawa and New Mexico, Lapid says she is particularly interested in nomadic cultures. Her films span the Mexico-New Mexico border region, Transylvania and even Afghanistan. She is currently working on a documentary tracking her effort to bring a mate to the only pig in the Kabul zoo.

People standing behind movie cameras fit the bill of innovators. Those in suits and ties, not so much. But 1987 Fellow Joel Hornstein isn’t any old suit. Hornstein took the skills he acquired over years on Wall Street to launch a creative boutique asset management firm, Structural Wealth Management.

Hornstein attended Harvard College and Yale Law School and worked at Goldman Sachs, McKinsey & Co. and then at Citigroup, where he rose quickly through the ranks and was seriously considering that job, that he got his final nudge toward the unknown. He and his wife were listening to Ayn Rand’s The Fountainhead in the car. The parallels to Rand’s character Peter Keating, the miserable man who lives as others tell him to, were disconcerting. It didn’t help that his wife kept pausing the iPod to tell him, “This is you, Joel.” By the end of the drive, Hornstein realized he didn’t want to be “the guy who climbs the ladder to nowhere.” He was ready to become his very own Howard Roark.

Four years into running his own company, Hornstein said, “I’ve never been more proud of what I’ve done.”

Four years into running his own company, Hornstein said, “I’ve never been more proud of what I’ve done.”

Military Service as a Formative Experience: Reflections from Bronfmanim

Military service, with its trials, frustrations and hard-won personal victories, is nearly always a formative experience for those who undergo it, voluntarily or otherwise. The experience remains seared into the memory of the Amitim and Bronfman Fellows who have spent time in uniform, long after they return to civilian life. In these essays, Israelis and an American who served in the Israeli Defense Forces write of what they learned and what they taught, and of how the military changed them or others for better or for worse.

Matti Friedman ’94 grew up in Toronto, was a Bronfman fellow in 1994 and moved to Israel the next year. Since then, he has been a dairy farmer, soldier, university student and reporter. Today he works as a correspondent in the Jerusalem bureau of the Associated Press. He is married to Naama and has twin boys, Aviv and Michael.
Eating Dirt in the Desert

Michael Grumer (BYFI ‘04)

When I made aliyah in 2007, I took the obligation of service on myself. I could have waited a few years to move to Israel, at which point my age would have exempted me from the draft, but I decided that that wouldn’t be right. Everyone does their time in the army, and after they resume their lives they benefit from others serving and keeping them safe. I felt I needed to serve my time to feel right about continuing to enjoy that protection. I have spent nearly the last two years in an infantry unit – the 50th Battalion of the Nahal Brigade.

I ended up in a platoon with a number of other Americans. The Israelis all had similar reactions to us: they could not figure out why we would want to leave our cushy lives behind to eat dirt with them in the desert. Each one of the Americans had his own story, mostly to do with ideology and Zionism and wanting to serve Israel. Most of the Israelis eventually came to admire this, while others remained convinced we were crazy.

I chose combat service because I felt, and still feel, that it is the best way for me to give back to this country, to learn more about Israelis and Israel, get to know the land (mostly by marching on it), and to really become a part of Israeli society.

I chose military service because I know that while I am in uniform, there is one more soldier who acts with a moral compass and exercises the IDF’s value of purity of arms.

I chose military service because today one in four Israeli 18-year-old boys does not go into the army. I hope some of these boys notice me or others like me and realize that they shirk their duty to their country and people, others leave their lives behind to serve.

Ideology is one thing, of course, and actually living it is another. Serving in a combat unit is trying, mentally and physically. I have thought many times, “how did a kid from the Bronx end up running around in a Middle Eastern desert with an assault rifle?” At the same time, the challenging experiences forged friendships that will prove to be lifelong. Every soldier eventually realizes that he depends on everyone else and everyone else depends on him. You don’t make friends like these in college.

On the State of the Military

Zvi Benninga (Amit ‘02)

As any military expert will tell you, in order for an army to work well it has to work in
It cannot have dissenters and free thinkers among its ranks. It cannot accept soldiers who question the authority of its commanding officers or their judgment of a situation. Military training is therefore devoted to a large extent to displacing personal impulses and replacing them with the ability to follow orders, an ability which is not learned until it is internalized. As Elias Canneti, the writer and Nobel laureate, wrote, “No one can truly be called a soldier until he has intensively incorporated into himself this whole body of prohibitions,” until he recognizes himself only within the orders of others. Archimedes discovered that an object submerged into a full bath will displace water in volume equal to its own. A similar phenomenon can be viewed when training soldiers – their ability to follow orders and believe in the judgment of their superiors is directly proportionate to the degree to which they reject their faith in their own ability to fully understand a situation and decide upon a proper course of action.

Israel is a military state. We have been, legally, in a state of emergency since the inception of the state, and this mentality has trickled down into the frame of mind of its citizens – the Jewish ones, that is – who believe we are constantly on the brink of extinction. The school system devotes a lot of time and money not only to preparing teenagers for their military service but to enhancing the military ethos, the heroism, the sense of calling in their wards from a very young and impressionable age. In adulthood many men continue to serve in the reserve corps, and when strangers meet they often appraise each other’s worth according to their military experience. I fear being dismissed as just another liberal, guilt-ridden, self-hating Jew, so allow me to state: Israel is my homeland and my home. I am not a pacifist. I have served my full military duty and still serve in the reserves. I truly believe the army is a necessary part of life in Israel. However, just as an organism in which one of the organs swells beyond proportion is diseased, so is my country, which has lost itself to the stranglehold of the military. Since my release from the army I have started to reassess the state of my country. I have seen what happens to those who live under military occupation and I have seen what happens to those who occupy them. I see a state obsessed by violence and devoured by hate.

I have seen what happens when the entire population is composed of soldiers who have forsaken their ability to criticize their commanding officers, and I have seen what happens to those few who have retained a critical and independent view of the country: they are labeled self-hating Jews and are considered traitors in our midst. As a country we have lost the ability to accept criticism, since it is always perceived as an unjustified attack; we have lost the ability to change, to grow. Unless we regain these, our hopes for a better future will be lost.

Zvi Benninga (Amitei Bronfman ’02) - After finishing a year of community service with the Amitei Bronfman Garin (group), three years of military service, and a short stint of travelling, Zvi is now studying Medicine and Liberal Arts at the Hebrew University.

**Strength and Modesty**

**Daphna Ezrachi (Amitah ’05)**

I never decided to join the army – it was a simple fact of nature since I was born. My father was a pilot, my sister an education officer and my brother an infantry soldier. As I approached army age the only question was where I would serve.

About thirty years ago the army set up a project whose importance was more social than military – drafting delinquent youth with the hope that time in the military would help them become better citizens. I can say with certainty: these are the toughest soldiers in the Israel Defense Forces.

That’s where I ended up, a 19-year-old girl from a middle class Jerusalem family – as a commander of these recruits. I found myself standing opposite a group of 13 men at a base in northern Israel and telling them what to do. Each one of them had his own terrible story, things I had never been exposed to. I spent one Shabbat on the base with a soldier who started having a mental breakdown, crying and hitting himself. I stuck to him and didn’t let him hurt himself until it passed.

Slowly, I began to understand that I was the commander. That for these soldiers, I was everything. The responsibility was overwhelming. That goes for every commander in the army, but with these soldiers there could be nearly no margin of error – every mistake you make can have a much greater effect on a soldier who is less stable than a typical recruit.
The amazing thing is that I, the commander, went through a process of learning and change just like the soldiers.

As a girl who was given everything I needed to succeed in life, when I faced a boy my age whose mother died of cancer in his arms, whose father wouldn’t speak to him, who had been paying his own way since he was 15 and who had a criminal record, I learned something about modesty and about how lucky I am.

I learned about being strong. I saw soldiers dealing with the most difficult things, like being ordered to stay at the base when one of their brothers was being threatened because he owed money to some gangster. Their emotional strength stunned me.

I saw soldiers undergoing incredible change: soldiers who stopped swearing, who found they could deal with challenges instead of running away as they had always done before, soldiers who discovered after a grueling day in the army that they were actually succeeding at something for the first time. My soldiers are now scattered throughout the regular army – some are combat soldiers in the Givati Brigade, one is a mechanic, another is a driver, one runs the storeroom at the military radio station.

I know that I taught every one of them at least one thing, even if it was something little. And I also know that they taught me a lot. Some of them are doing well in the army, and some aren’t, but they have all changed since being drafted. So have I.

I love my soldiers and I will always be their commander. Even now, when I call them, they laugh and call me hamefakedet – “sir.” I can tell that it is still important for them to tell me how they are doing. I may not be in uniform anymore, but I will still be here for them when they need me.

Daphna Ezrachi, (Amitei Bronfman ’05) was born and raised in Jerusalem. She is a graduate of the Reform Movement’s pre-army Mechina program in Yaffo. After serving in the IDF, Daphna plans to work in NYC before travelling to South America in July 2010.

“Because of You We’re Alive”

By Yair Agmon (Amitei Bronfman ’04)

I am now in infantry officers’ training, on my way to becoming a commander of new recruits. My job will be to educate them – but toward what goal?

I’m trying to remember why I signed up for a combat unit. I didn’t have to. I was not supposed to.

Children of bereaved families and only sons need their parents’ permission to join frontline units. I am the only son of a single mother who for her whole life feared and anticipated the moment her son would come to her and ask her permission to join a combat unit.

When that day arrived, we went together to the local army office to sign the release form. Unfortunately, and in typical army fashion, they didn’t have the “only son” form. So they took out a “bereaved family” form and erased the title with white-out.

Then they lost the form. So we came again.

A few days ago I got a call from a soldier who was under my command for eight months, from the moment he joined the army until he left for commanders’ training. He is now commanding recruits himself. He told me that he hung up a picture in his own soldiers’ tent – the very same picture I hung up in his tent when I was his commander.

It was Hanukkah, and the freezing recruits under my command had received packages of sweets from kids all over the country. In every package there was a note: “Brave soldier, thank you for protecting us,” “Don’t be afraid my soldier, I’m with you and I love you,” “Thank you – because of you we’re alive.” In every letter there was a telephone number written by a child who was waiting for a brave soldier to call. As commander, I made my soldiers call these kids to say thank you, and I put the drawings in a picture frame and hung it up in their tent.

“What’s that picture, hamefaked?” they asked, using the Hebrew equivalent of sir.

Yair Agmon

It’s so that you remember why you’re here."

It’s not for no reason that those children were thanking my soldiers. This land, which I am learning to protect, is the great love of my life. I love to touch it, to study it, to see it. I love the people in it: the Jews, the Arabs, the rich and the poor, the Yemenites and the Anglos. I love this land because it protects me and people like me.

It seems to me that there is no more tangible expression for this love than significant service in the army. For me, and for the country, a soldier standing with an Israeli weapon, on an Israeli frontline, and fighting the enemy, is someone who loves the country and is doing something about it. But it’s not enough to be there. You must also educate others and get them to dream of being there too. You must give others the opportunity to become addicted to the love of this land, in the most significant way, in uniform, with a rifle, facing an enemy that must be defeated or facing soldiers who need to be taught.

That’s why I’m a commander.

Yair Agmon (Amitei Bronfman ’04) was born in Jerusalem. He is serving in the Israeli Defense Forces in Southern Israel and training to be an officer. This year, he published a book in Hebrew, entitled “Hapash.” The book includes the discussions Yair and his soldiers had about the weekly Torah portion; the second printing is coming out soon.
What Do We Need from Our Leaders?

By Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld

This essay was written by Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld for The Samuel Bronfman Foundation “Why Be Jewish?” Conference, in May 2009.

Let me begin by stating the obvious. When we speak of leaders, we are speaking about human beings. This is a self-evident but elusive fact of life; we know it and yet we consistently expect or imagine our leaders to be superhuman, and we are disappointed when they are not.

It is natural, when discussing leadership, to focus on what makes leaders exceptional. I want to begin our discussion of leadership, instead, by focusing on the shared humanity of those who assume leadership in a given situation, and those who are looking to others to provide leadership.¹

Why is this important as a starting place for our conversation about leadership?

Because it reminds us of what leaders can and cannot offer.

Leaders cannot offer perfect guidance, certainty, or control. As human beings, we must stand humbly before the mystery of life and of death. We cannot anticipate the future, of course; but more than that, we cannot even hope to grasp the full meaning of what has passed, or to understand the infinite complexity of the moment in which we live. These are aspects of the human condition that we all share, though we experience and respond to them in different ways. To make matters worse, we are each uniquely imperfect vessels, limited and flawed in our own particular ways. Our effectiveness as leaders depends, to a great extent, on our capacity to see, understand and respond compassionately to our own limitations and the limitations of others.

What, then, can a good leader offer? Leaders can help awaken, respond to and give direction to the basic human need for meaning and connection. There are questions that beckon to each of us throughout our lives. Who am I? To whom am I responsible (or, who do I love?) What is my purpose? At times, we are prepared to face these questions; at other times, for one reason or another, we may flee from them. But, for those who wish to engage in authentic and effective leadership – particularly religious leadership – the willingness to hear and respond to these questions with an open heart is essential. By asking these questions, not just once but repeatedly, at critical junctures in our lives, we enhance our capacity to act with integrity and to effect positive change in the world and in the lives of those around us. We also invite others – through our example and influence – to engage in their own process of purposeful reflection and action.²

This is what I have come to understand as the essence of good leadership. Ultimately, a leader is defined not by the exceptional qualities that she may exhibit, but by the positive qualities and actions that she inspires in others. A brilliant artist may be unappreciated during her lifetime, and only later recognized as a creative genius. But the standard by which a leader’s success must be measured is, by definition, relational. What matters most about a leader is what she brings out in others. The greatest leaders are not those who wield the most power, or even those who demonstrate the most impressive talents, but those who are able to elicit and inspire the very best in others.
Two models of leadership take shape in the early chapters of the biblical Exodus narrative. Pharaoh represents one model: absolute in its assertion of power, breath-taking in its arrogance, life-denying in its rejection of all paradox and ambiguity. Moses represents a radically different model: a model founded on humility, interdependence, ambiguity, and an affirmation of the sanctity of human life.

Moses owed his life to Pharaoh’s daughter, who – with courage and compassion – saw the Hebrew child and “drew him forth” out of the waters of the Nile River. “She [Pharaoh’s daughter] named him Moshe, explaining, ‘I drew him forth’ from the water.” [Exodus 2:10] It is this act that constitutes one of the most important elements of true leadership – the act of seeing another and “drawing him forth” so that he can not only live but give new life. It is this act that gives Moses his name, and it is this act that ultimately defines his life’s work: to bring the people out of slavery, not only in order to survive, but to serve and contribute to a greater purpose.

We are living in a historical moment of increasing scarcity and decreasing communal resources, but our human resources are as abundant as they have ever been – that is, endlessly abundant. The Jewish community can no longer afford to squander the enormous talent, creativity, and diversity that exists among us.

When I think about what it means for a leader to have vision, I think about two things: Can you see beyond what is to what might be, and can you see the person standing right in front of you? We need leaders with this kind of double vision. We need leaders who can see what each person has to offer and can help “draw them forth”, inspiring them to become creative contributors to the Jewish people and to the world.

Footnotes:
1 I hesitate to use the terms “leaders” and “followers” because I suspect that these categories are too static to capture the dynamic nature of these relationships. In one aspect of my life, I may act as a leader, while in another aspect, I may be a follower; we are not only one thing or the other.

2 I am grateful to Dr. Bernard Steinberg, the Director of Harvard Hillel, who helped me appreciate the human value of leadership education by teaching me to think about it in this way.

Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld has been Dean of the Rabbinical School at Hebrew College since 2006. Prior to assuming this position, she served as an adjunct faculty member at the Rabbinical School and then as Dean of Students. She graduated from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in 1990, and subsequently spent 15 years working in pluralistic settings as a Hillel rabbi at Tufts, Yale and Harvard. She has been a rotating summer faculty member for the Bronfman Youth Fellowships in Israel since 1993. She is the co-editor of two volumes of women’s writings on Passover, The Women’s Seder Sourcebook and The Women’s Passover Companion.
The BYFI Alumni Venture Fund enables alumni of the Bronfman Youth Fellowships to support their peers’ cutting-edge initiatives with funding and technical assistance. Since launching our fundraising campaign in 2005, donations from alumni and their families have enabled us to award grants to 47 innovative alumni-led projects that are helping to shape the Jewish community and the wider world.

The $92,100 distributed in small grants is only part of the story. More exciting is the way the BYFI Alumni Venture Fund brings alumni together to share their technical skills and expertise through informal mentorship and collaboration. In the coming years, we will continue to create opportunities for grantees to share successful strategies with one another and for alumni working in all disciplines to offer guidance that helps grantees grow their initiatives and organizations.

All members of the BYFI alumni community are eligible to apply. Grants support projects that seek to promote BYFI’s core values of Jewish learning, pluralism, engagement with Israel, social responsibility or a combination of the above.

Here are profiles of four Bronfman Fellows who are making an impact.

**Victoria Neiman** grew up in Buenos Aires and moved to the United States to attend Yale University, where she received a BA in Theater and Art History. She currently lives in Brooklyn and is pursuing a career in Theater and Graphic Design.
Julie Geller (BYFI ’91)
Step Into Shabbat & Minyan Na’aleh

Julie Geller (BYFI ’91) is a multitalented performer and religious trailblazer. Though Julie has been singing and writing music since high school, it wasn’t until last summer that she made the difficult decision to leave her job as a public policy researcher at the Colorado Forum and transition to full-time Jewish folk-singer.

This year, with the help of a BYFI Venture Fund grant, Julie collaborated with her BYFI summer counselor and long-time friend Deb Dusansky ’87 to create a CD entitled Step Into Shabbat. This project is intended to guide listeners of all ages through a unique Shabbat experience that focuses on music, stories, prayer and a celebration of Jewish traditions old and new. Proceeds from the CD served as a fundraiser for Boulder Stepping Stones, an interfaith inclusiveness organization led by Deb. The experience allowed Julie to combine her love of music and commitment to Judaism. “At the time, I felt like I was jumping off a cliff, leaving a job with a salary, so it was miraculous to be able to go right into a project - and a fun and meaningful one at that,” Julie reflects.

In 2004, after living in Boston, Israel and San Diego, Julie returned to her hometown with her husband Josh and their two children and set up residence next door to her childhood home, where her parents still live. But this move came with its downsides. “Because the Jewish community in Denver is smaller than those in other American cities, we couldn’t find every single shade of Jewish life here,” Julie explains. So Julie and Josh teamed up with another couple to create Minyan Na’aleh, an open and independent Jewish community which meets monthly to pray and provide support to its members. “We decided to start something that had the feel of an Orthodox shul and the openness and egalitarian bend of a Conservative one,” Julie explains.

Minyan Na’aleh has grown significantly in its five years, beginning as a monthly potluck and quickly expanding to offer holiday gatherings and family retreats to the Rockies that include prayer, singing, hiking and yoga. The nature of the organization is such that it grows in accordance with the needs of the Minyan community. “Because we’re supplemental, we don’t have to focus on bigger issues like children’s education or having a rabbi for weddings and funerals,” Julie notes. Nonetheless, Julie has worked tirelessly to ensure Na’aleh’s success, including helping the minyan secure support from the BYFI Alumni Venture Fund during its early years. “We would like to offer more educational and social action programs,” she says, though budgetary restraints have made this difficult to achieve. She and her team of volunteers are currently applying for more grants and soon hope to hire an administrator to manage the increasing workload.

Julie remains committed to Na’aleh while working hard to forge her own music career. She performs in many contexts both in the Jewish community, other religious communities, and folk-oriented venues. “So many people support and help me but it’s ultimately my deal, my path,” Julie adds. “When it comes down to it, if I don’t do it, nobody will.”

For more information visit http://naaleh.weebly.com & http://www.juleiegeller.com

Noam Pianko (BYFI ’90)
The Kavana Cooperative

Noam Pianko (BYFI ’90) is entering a period of change as he finishes the final edits on his first book and he, his wife Rabbi Rachel Nussbaum (BYFI ’93) and their two year-old daughter, Yona, prepare to welcome a new addition into the family.

Noam and Rachel also served as faculty in 2003 and 2004. On these two occasions, they were able to experience the program as educators and further appreciate the innovative approach taken. “The Bronfman program is unique among high school Israel programs in its willingness to expose Fellows to a wide range of perspectives on the issues facing Israel. Being part of these conversations, as both Fellow and faculty, has been invaluable in pushing me to constantly evaluate my own understanding of the difficult political and social dilemmas the country faces,” Noam reflects.

After serving as a Bronfman faculty member in 2003, Noam joined the Jackson School of International Studies at Washington University, as its first full-time professor of Jewish Studies. “This gave me the opportunity to help shape our program and curriculum,” he says. “It was exciting to have that kind of responsibility.”
While at the University of Washington, Noam has researched and written on issues pertaining to Modern Jewish political thought. His upcoming book, entitled “Zionism and the Roads Not Taken,” will be published this spring by Indiana University Press. The goal of the book is to take a fresh look at the diverse expressions of pre-state Zionism, especially those that challenged the centrality of territorial sovereignty in defining Jewish nationhood. “As the global Jewish population settles into two equal centers in the United States and Israel, we will need to reopen difficult questions about the relevance of Zionism for Jews living in the Diaspora. It is my hope that the forgotten paths I explore in the book will help us critically reassess the meaning of Jewish peoplehood past, present, and future.”

In addition to debating this subject in his book, Noam will be leading one of six sessions in a discussion series on modern Jewish identity organized by The Kavana Cooperative, an independent Jewish community based in Seattle that was founded by his wife Rachel as an alternative to the more traditional synagogue structure. The development of the series was funded, in part, through a BYFI Alumni Venture Fund grant.

“For the series, we wanted to provide an environment for Kavana participants to discuss controversial topics about Israel in an open and safe setting,” Noam says. “In a sense, we want to create the type of conversations we were fortunate enough to have on the Bronfman Fellowship here in Seattle.”

Noam hopes to continue exploring modern Zionism personally and academically through his teaching and collaboration with Kavana. “I feel that addressing these realities of modern Judaism with honesty will ultimately foster a closer relationship with Israel,” Noam concludes.

For more information visit www.kavana.org

Sara Bamberger (Yozma ’97-’98)
The Bay Area Learning Initiative (BALI)

Sara Bamberger (Yozma ’97-’98) is familiar with the challenges of launching new ideas into the North American Jewish landscape. After graduating from Yale with a degree in Religious Studies, Sara spent two years as a Yozma Fellow, an internship program run by the Bronman Youth Fellowships in the late ’90s. During that time she helped launch Gann Academy: the New Jewish High School of Greater Boston. She later spent four years serving as the first full-time director of The Curriculum Initiative (tcionline.org), an organization that offers professional development counseling, school presentations and extra-curricular programming to promote appreciation of Jewish culture and identity throughout the nation’s independent high school network.

Today, Sara is, once again, at the forefront of pluralistic Jewish education as the lead professional launching an adult Jewish learning program called the Bay Area Learning Institute (BALI).

“I was inspired to create BALI by the realization that there was a dearth of opportunities for serious pluralistic Jewish learning in the Bay Area,” Sara explains. After gathering a group of friends to brainstorm, they realized, “if my friends and I wanted to have an institution that could facilitate the learning and teaching of Torah, we’d have to build it ourselves.”

In partnership with the General Theological Union, BALI will provide the resources and training to a select group of dynamic and accomplished adults to study classical Jewish sources. Students will then lead Jewish learning and discussion groups within Jewish communities in the San Francisco Bay Area. The ultimate goal is to provide an intellectually engaging environment where individuals can delve into Jewish texts that may otherwise be inaccessible to them.

Sara has gained valuable experience through the many challenges of starting a non-profit organization, particularly in this economic climate. “Fundraising and grant writing take enormous amounts of time and effort, which gives us less time to focus on building the organization itself,” Sara explains.

Additionally, she recognizes, “it has been very hard to chisel our grand ideas down to a manageable human scale.”

After nearly two years, Sara’s leadership and her team’s hard work are finally paying off. BALI educators are already teaching some informal text study sessions for young Bay Area professionals. In June a group of BYFI alumni and their friends enjoyed an engaging session organized by BALI and several BYFI alumni have offered to continue hosting similar events in the future.

In addition to some financial support from the BYFI Alumni Venture Fund, BALI was selected this past spring as one of the five projects to be supported by Upstart Bay Area, a new incubator for Jewish social entrepreneurship. Upstart seeks to nurture pioneering Jewish groups with the goal of fostering strong Jewish identity in the Bay Area and beyond through innovative religious and cultural engagement activities. “Upstart has been invaluable at giving me an intensive course in social entrepreneurship and nonprofit management,” she reflects. “It has helped fill in some gaps in my professional experience.”

Sara hopes that BALI will be a center that “builds the future of text-based Jewish learning in America.”
Hannah Rabinowitz (BYFI ’07) is a sophomore at Washington University in St. Louis, where she majors in Earth and Planetary Science. With plans to continue as director of WashU’s chapter of Challah for Hunger, which she founded in 2008, and organizing a weeklong pluralism activity series on campus this November, Hannah is keeping herself active on campus and in the Jewish community.

Hannah is a St Louis native and though she and her family currently live in Albuquerque, New Mexico, the choice to return to her hometown to attend WashU was not a difficult one. “It was natural for me to come back to St Louis and I was particularly attracted by the fact that I could find a larger Jewish population here than back home,” she explains.

It was both this sense of community and her prior interest in Challah for Hunger that inspired her to open the organization’s 11th chapter at Washington University. The premise is simple: Students gather weekly to bake around 120 loaves of challah and sell them on and off campus in order to raise money that they donate in equal parts to the AJWS Sudan Relief and Advocacy Fund and another charity of their choice - in this case the Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry. However, the actual logistics of finding volunteers, sufficient funding for materials and a proper space for baking that complies with the Department of Health’s standards for food preparation are far from simple.

“We applied for the AVF grant to help us meet administrative costs, but our main goal is to purchase electric mixers,” Hannah says frankly. “Kneading 120 loaves-worth of dough can be very time consuming, let alone staying for another few hours to braid it into challah.” Indeed, with better equipment, the whole process can be faster and more enjoyable, which ultimately translates to more volunteers.

Generating interest from volunteers does not seem to be a problem for Hannah or her team. “I believe our chapter has the greatest Hillel support of any other nationwide,” she says proudly. “It is very rewarding to have students come together for a cause that is so essential, regardless of religious or social background.” Then she adds with a laugh, “I also just love to bake!”

Since her 2007 BYFI summer, Judaism and social action have grown increasingly important to Hannah. “The trip really changed my views on Judaism and as a result I made the decision to become more observant and active with my faith,” she says.

Donate to support innovative projects through the BYFI Alumni Venture Fund: www.byfi.org/donate
“Judaism allows me to feel history vibrantly and urgently in my body”

Among the Bronfman alumni community’s diverse members are two professional dancers, Jesse Zaritt (BYFI ’95) and Asya Zlatina (BYFI ’04). Interested in how their art interplays with their Judaism, we asked them to email one another and let us in on their experiences. Here are some excerpts...
On feeling Jewish history in your body

Asya:
“I remember dancing to the theme from Schindler’s List. I was the only Jew, surrounded by Catholics. In rehearsal, I was crying from the moment I heard the quivering strings of the violin. I couldn’t stop. There were young kids in the group. I wondered if these kids even knew about the Holocaust. It took about seven or eight replays of the music before I pulled myself together. At the competition, we were dressed in rags with smudges on our faces. As the music faded out with the heart-wrenching violin, I ran off the stage crying. Everyone accosted me, wanting to know what had happened. How could I explain to them that the Holocaust had just happened? ‘It’s because I accidentally hit her at the end,’ one girl said.”

On a Jewish upbringing

Asya:
“To be frank, Judaism and dancing are truly the two defining parts of me. They both have actually also been in conflict with each other at times and have left me torn. It’s odd, to put it mildly, growing up in a modern orthodox/black hat community and still be dancing at age fourteen…in public…in leotards. Shabbos and performances were also an issue.

And yet no one has ever discouraged me, at least to my face. Everyone usually marveled at the fact that I dance. I will not even consider, at this point, giving up dance. And having come to the wonderful United States as a refugee fleeing Soviet anti-Semitism, I will never ever relinquish, or even be indifferent to my Jewish identity. I fight having to choose between the two. I want it all.”

Jesse:
“In reading your writing, I was struck by how powerfully your body is connected to the history of the Jewish people. This is a point of connection between us. As a dance artist, Judaism has taught me that through practice – prayer (binding, bowing) and ritual (the Passover Seder, fasting) – it is possible to relive historical narratives. Judaism allows me to feel history vibrantly and urgently in my body. This embodied relationship to an imagined, but deeply felt past enriches my craft, giving me performative and creative power. I am not alone when I stand before an audience, I represent more than just myself.

As a young adult, a central frustration surrounding my experience of Judaism was what I felt to be a radical and totalizing emphasis on the thinking, verbal mind in opposition to an intuitive, unpredictable body. It is with relief and optimism that I watch (or discover what has always been happening…) as the North American Jewish world embraces and seeks out a blurring of this mind/body divide. The Jewish world is expanding, and the experience and knowledge of the body have a vital place within an increasingly accessible tradition.”

Jesse:
“Like you, the history of my engagement with Jewish life and texts is always present in my body, in my consciousness - forming one lens (among many) through which I view and interact with the world. However, my connection to Judaism is less a daily ritual practice and more of an accumulated context..."
“Although I was raised in a traditional Conservative Jewish family, I am no longer observant. While I grew up acutely aware of the divide between my aspiration to be an artist and the expectations and limitations of my family’s (and community’s) observance, the nine years I have spent working professionally as a dancer, choreographer and teacher, two of them in Israel, have calmed this opposition. While not wholly resolved – I like to feel a little bit like an outsider in both my Jewish and dance communities – I am increasingly comfortable with the ways in which my dancing informs my Jewish practices and with how Judaism informs and shapes my artistic life."

On Jewish tradition

Asya:
“As for me, Judaism only finds its way into my dancing every day and every time I dance. It seems like forever that I’ve been fighting with myself about ballet class on Saturday afternoons, attempts to take it easy when fasting, and what kosher food to pack with me on tours. After internal battles about those issues, I needed, to the best of my ability, to give directors/teachers/friends a “logical” explanation for my limitations."

Jesse:
“In my creative process, it often feels correct and inevitable to conduct research into the mythic, historic, and spiritual narratives of Jewish texts. Most recently, my interest in identifying situations in which opposite emotional and physical states exist simultaneously in the body led me to study sacrifice in the Bible, specifically the narrative of the binding of Isaac and the texts surrounding the Yom Kippur scapegoat. The spaces of silence within these texts offer me the possibility to imagine how violence, tenderness, devotion, resistance, ecstatic abandon and fear might meet in a single body."

Bios

Jesse Zaritt ’95 received an MFA in Dance from the Hollins University/ American Dance Festival in August 2008. Jesse is an artist in residence at the 14th Street Y in Manhattan, and was commissioned to create an evening length work for the LABA Festival of the 14th Street Y in May 2009. He has presented his own solo work in Israel, Mexico and New York City. Jesse has recently taught at Hollins University (VA, Spring Semester 2009) the American Dance Festival (NC, Summer 2008, 2009), and taught/choreographed for the Seminar HaKibbutzim College Theater Department, and the Acco Theater Festival (Israel, 2006-2007). Jesse was the recipient of a 2006-2007 Dorot Fellowship in Israel, which enabled him to develop a method for teaching movement to individuals with physical disabilities, and to conduct research on the relationship between political conflict and choreography. Jesse spent five years as a dancer with the Shen Wei Dance Arts Company (NYC 2001-2006), and spent a season dancing with the Inbal Pinto Dance Company (Tel Aviv 2008). Jesse graduated Cum Laude in 2000 from Pomona College (CA).

Anastasiya Zlatina ’04, of Moscow, Russia, immigrated to the United States in 1992. She trained throughout the DC/Baltimore area and graduated in May 2008 from Goucher College with a BA in Psychology and a BA in Dance. At Goucher, she had the privilege of working with talented coaches, as well as notable guest artists such as Ann Hutchinson Guest, Tiffany Mills, Michael Vernon and Nilas Martins. In spring of 2008, she had the opportunity to perform at the DiCapo in New York City with the Nilas Martins Dance Company. She has also performed at various venues, including the Kennedy Center, with the ClancyWorks Dance Company of Silver Spring, Maryland. She is currently an apprentice with Koresh Dance Company for the 2008-09 season.
BYFI Class Notes

YOZMA
SARA HEITLER BAMBERGER. I’m living in Berkeley with my husband, Ken Bamberger, and our four children, Max (6), Isaiah (4), Niva (3) and Ezra (1). I direct the Religion, Politics and Globalization Program at the Berkeley Hal David School of Law at the University of California, Berkeley (where I also earned my Ph.D.). I’m also in private practice in counseling. This past year, I was so blessed to have not “left the nest” so to speak. I can’t only a half day program for these guys. I spent upon the day, our district still has a private practice in counseling. This past year, I've also spent much of the last few years helping to expand opportunities for pluralistic study of classical Jewish texts in the Bay Area. My nascent organization, the Bay Area Learning Institute (BALI), was an honored recipient of an AVF grant this year.

SARON JEDDEL (Yozma 1996-1997) has been living in Chicago since 2006. She is working as a clinical psychologist at Rush University Medical Center and also has a small private practice.

1987
HERSHEL BERMAN. Well, this year I became the second alumnus to hit the big 4-0. I celebrated it with my wife Xuan (as of this fall we’ve been married 3 years). We now have 2 children, Eden Rachel and Yehin Kuper Berman is 2 years and 3 months. Chan Shaye Isaac Luc Yin Fai Kuper Berman is approaching the 10 month mark, and both are the same size. We managed to take a couple of trips per days is driven by cost containment but a modern tendency to Israelify everything (ie. Yom Hashoah). Old Jewish people still marvel when my mother speaks in Yid- dish to her Asian looking grandchildren, and require medical assistance when they hear their granddaughter answer back in her mother (well, father) tongue. I’m still practicing Internal Medicine at Toronto General Hospital, and Palliative Care (home visits) through Mount Sinai hospital. Having spent 6 years there it’s the longest job I’ve ever held. Despite all the kids and the work, we’ve still managed to take a couple of trips per year, and are living life to the fullest. And for the first time since I can remember, Canada’s leader is an idiot and the US’s is awesome. Well done, America. Our home is always open to any fellows pass- ing through.

DEB DUSANSKY. Another year here in Boulder, Colorado. I have now been the director for 5 years of an independ- ent practicing organization. I also have a private practice in counseling. This past summer I was the Judaic director at Camp Interlaken in northern Wisconsin. The kids and I had a blast! I worked a ton.

RANDI CAIRNS. Undergoing a minor midlife crisis as I send my littlest off to kindergarten. Fortunately (or un-) dependent upon the day, our district still has only a half day program for these guys which means I get to pretend for half the day that my four year old has still not “left the nest” so to speak. I can’t believe that eight years ago I thought I was sending my last munchkin off to school and that I was so blessed to have my family grow in the time since then.

My husband is safely home from deployment and working full-time for the Army. In the time since last year’s update I completed my Masters in Human Services with a specialty in Nonprofit Manage- ment at LaVerne and I’m renegotiating the rest of my life at the moment while also continuing to move forward with Home Front Hearts, the nonprofit I started to serve and sup- port military service members and their families. I would love to have your input and involvement from the Bronfman community to this end and very much hope to have you all offer your unique skill sets accordingly!

JOEL HORNSTEIN. Not sure if I re- ported our third son, Solomon, born in December. We intend that he be the last of our brood; meantime, his older broth- ers are growing up so fast: Jacob is now reading (a bit), and Benjamin just started preschool. Professionally, I just handed off the CEO reins at the company I started four years ago. Mostly thrilled with the transition, which lets me focus on the parts of the company I enjoy most, but it’s a further reminder of how quickly the things I father (or mother) take on a life of their own.

SHEILA JELEN. I am on Sabbatical leave from my position at the University of Maryland researching a new project on popular ethnography and nostalgic per- ceptions of pre-Holocaust Jewish life in Eastern Europe as based on lit- erature, photographs, and cinema in the US and Israel. I am enjoying working at home and spending more time with my three children: Malka (11), Nava (8) and Akiva (3), and am expecting another baby in mid-January.

SARAH LARSON. Aidan (6) and Julia (3) continue to keep us on our toes while we juggle careers and Rob’s PhD studies. My consulting practice is managing the recession and working through January on a merger integration. My principle area of exper- tise is still leadership development and large scale organizational change. Sadly, most of the change out there these days is driven by cost containment but a few of my clients are still investing in talent development. Whew.

Next summer we’re thinking about taking a break from our work and renting an apt somewhere abroad for 6 weeks while we add a room onto our house. Europe...Israel...still TBD. Always welcome calls/visits from BYFI alum.

DANIEL JACOBSON. I’m still living in Jerusalem with my family, Gush Etzion, in the Gush Etzion Hills, working as a psychologist in private practice from home and in Jerusalem. Also the Director of Student Services at Yeshivat Shlomo HaTorah, a Modern-Orthodox yeshiva for post high school boys spending a gap year in Israel, housed in the Goldstein Youth Village. Recently spent Shabbat with Dassi and our kids, Tehila (13), Roni (almost 9), Yehuda (7), Tami (5) and Noam (almost 3) in the very same building at Goldstein where we spent much of the summer of ‘87. Re- cently co-authored a book, Flipping Out: Myth or Fact: the impact of the Year in Israel (Yasher Books), based on my doc- toral dissertation. Would love to host any Bronfmanim passing through these parts on the other side of the Atlantic (contact me at dbj114@gmail.com).

SCOTT LANDSMAN. I have developed a new spicy/salty peanut-almond-sun- flower seed brittle recipe that will take over the world. Seriously, it’s accidentally vegan and cannot be beat for taste, texture, and universal appeal. I am secretly in talks with the American Dental Association to widely promote it to teens. Still no job, marriage, baby, or academics. And after breakthrough to repro status and got stuck up to my thigh on one leg in a snowbank on an Austrian high plateau in June. That was exciting for about 20 seconds. Broke off one of my trekking poles getting out. From November 08 through May 09 I was volunteering two days a week for the Alliance for Climate Protection but then they closed the west coast office to concentrate grassroots and lobbying for us in DC. It was a great opportunity for an organization to leave me and not the other way round. Do I win a prize for being the oldest Bronfman legally able to marry who has not?

MISSI (RUBENZIK) ROSENFIELD. I am doing great, still practicing anesthesia in Toronto, Canada’s leader is an idiot and the US’s is wonderful. Ethan is in 2nd grade at Pardees Jewish Day School and a master of paper airplanes and lego Star Wars. Will start fencing next month (I also fenced in college)! Elle is in pre-K at the Jcc, a cheerleader, yoga student, and wonder- ful little girl. My husband is also an anes- thesiologist here @ Mayo and in a rock band. We went to Israel this summer and it was incredible! I hadn’t been in 10 years! We traveled to Cesaria, Masada, Ein Gedi, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem. It was so much more modern and tourist-friendly. Surprisingly my Hebrew wasn’t half- bad...Everyone we met made us feel at home. Hope to return very soon. I just turned 39 and got a composer for my birthday - trying to be greener. Read Ju- lie K. Powell, that whole vampire series, now reading David Sedaris book. Hello to Sarah, Dan, Hal, Adam, Joel, Reba, Debbie and all the Bronfman. Wishing you a happy and healthy New Year!

1988
LAURA LIEBMANN-ALPERSON. I’m lov- ing my work as the Major Gifts Officer at Albany Law and passed the NY bar last year (hopefully the last one I’ll ever take)! My sons are wonderful – Yoav just turned three and Matan is 16 months. And I get to see Ava Chane on a pretty regular basis which is an additional plus to my living in the Albany area.

MAYA FISCHHOFF. I am still in East Lansing, working at Michigan State (until the state’s wretched budget hits homes). I am still very engaged, to Zach (herself), who is a champ. We plan a summer wedding on a farm, appropriate to our deindustrializing State (or state).

AARON HENDELMAN. My wife, Chris- tina and I live in Mercer Island, WA (next to Seattle) with our three kids Tessa (age 9), Akiva (age 7), and Eli (4). I live the only person of our generation to essentially still have my first professional job—I continue to be an intellectual property lawyer with Wilson Sonsini, a Silicon Valley-based law firm. We’re active in our Jewish community (particu- larly our local JCC) and local schools.

DEBY KANNER. Claire Alexandra Ambridge Kanner was born on May 18th, 2009 in New York to me and my husband Evan Ambridge. Her Hebrew names are Genya Nesi.

MICHELLE LYNN-SACHS. I live in Ft. Greene, Brooklyn, with my husband, Steve, and our daughter, Phoebe. I’m on the faculty at the Jewish Theo- logical Seminary, in the Jewish educa- tion department.

JOE MENASHE. Deborah Mushrie, my wife, and I are raising all the joys and chal- lenges of raising children. Molly is 4 and Gabriel is 2. I am still happily working as a rabbi with a congregation in Dallas, TX.

JOSH WALLACK. My wife Liz and I had a son, Hugo, in January, and we are hap- pier spending our weekends pushing his stroller around our neighbor- hood. It is fun. I am still working for Mayor Mike Bloom- berg on economic development and affordable housing issues.

1989 Collected by Amir Karger
AMIR BAR-LEV married Jennifer Bleyer in July 2008, and in June 2009 their daughter Yoel Zephyr Bar-Lev was born. They live in Brooklyn, where Amir directs documentaries. His latest, on the foot- ball player turned soldier Pat Tillman, is due to premiere in early 2010.

DAVID BERNS. My wife Lee-Anne and I have twin boys, Aaron and Sam, who will be five in October. Since early 2008, we’ve been in Cairo, Egypt where I’ve been working at the U.S. Embassy cover- ing human rights. Lee-Anne is an attor- ney and has been working in Cairo for a British law firm.

STEVEN BIRNHOLZ. Moved to Tampa to become the Florida Council of 100’s Research & Issues Director. (The Council is a membership organization of Florida’s top CEOs.) Wife Kristan and I have two twin girls, Maya and Kennedy, 7, who love living near their grandparents and other family in Tampa.

ANGELA WARNICK BUCHDAHL. I’m living in New York City with my hus- band, Jacob and our 3 kids. 2 boys, Gabriel and Eli, who are at the Heschel school. And my daughter, Rose, who is in preschool. I am the Senior Cantor at Central Synagogue, in midtown Man- hattan. Because of my close proximity to the Seagrams Building and the beau- ty of my hometown, Angela has asked me to host young Bronfmanim every year as they come back for their follow-up program in New York. Seeing them all brings me back! When I retire from this life, I aspire to open a spiritual spa as a rabbi/cantor/yogi/slow food evangelist/spiritual guide.

JOHN DUKE. My wife (Susan) and 2 year-old girl (Lila) moved to Indiana last summer for my fellowship in Medi- cal Informatics at Indiana University. It has been an amazing experience and we have been unexpectedly delighted with the Midwest. I have been having a great time doing research involving electronic health records, visualization
of medical data, and improving patient safety through information technology. My wife continues to work in advertising and is due in November with our second baby. We miss our family back in Atlanta, but it seems like little distance can prove a healthy thing!

JESSICA GREGG. Zoe is 5 and Sasha is 12 months. We live in Charleston, SC. High end hand-fabricated jewelry is slow and I'm looking into new career beginnings. Taking a psychology class at the Citadel—public military school where cadets march around in line and sing.

RACHEL COHEN. News on our end is pretty much the same last year—the only new piece of info is that we added another kiddie to the crew. Her name is Natalie Eve and she is 1 and lots of fun to dress up in dresses and bows. That makes 3 kids for the Cohen clan. Other than that, we still live in Stamford, CT. Ephraim (who, like Amir K., recently had a "mid life crisis" and bought a guitar and is now our budding math ability. He has been planting trees all over our back yard, building a fire pit (also in our back yard) and then roasting a turkey on a spit, taking our boys on camping trips, and as always making his world renowned pizza. Yummy. Adam, our oldest, is 8 and going into third grade at the local Jewish day school. He loves karate, math, and sometimes the guitar, too. Benjamin is 4 and is going into pre-k at the local Chabad nursery. He loves trains and airplanes and we have spent way too many hours at the local airport watching airplanes and we have spent way too much time upside down than right side up it seems. There is also a budding author and world traveler in our household. Noam, our youngest, is 8, and is defying all genetics by being really into sports. At Elana's Bat Mitzvah, I dusted off my old guitar skills and led a sing-a-long pre- Shabbat Carlebach Kabbalat Shabbat. I can still play (somewhat). Tammy, Elana and I also started singing in a choir, which has been a lot of fun. We love living in Israel, although we can't discuss politics at home anymore, as I get more left-wing by the year, and Tammy gets more right-wing. Recently Jon Bell was in Israel to visit his brother, and we got together for lunch. I would love to see anyone else coming through the holy land for a visit.

SCOTT SAVITZ. Since earning my Ph.D. in chemical engineering, I’ve spent much of the last decade roaming the world on behalf of the U.S. Navy. Most of my focus was on counterterrorism issues (particularly in relation with the logical/radiological sort) and defenses against naval mines. I now support the Department of Homeland Security in a similar capacity. Far more importantly, I am now married to a wonderful woman, Natayla. We live in Arlington, just south of Washington, DC.

RENEE STEIN continues to live in the Atlanta area with her husband Gregg Shapiro and son Sam, age 2 years. She is the curator for the Michael C. Carlos Museum at Emory University where she oversees the treatment and preventive care of the collections, including antiquities and ethnographic objects. She also teaches for the University and supervises student interns.

MIKAEL WOLFE. I finally finished and graduated with my Ph.D. in history from the University of Chicago in August 2009. I have a postdoctoral fellowship at the Center for US-Mexican Studies at University of California-San Diego for the years 2009-2010. I have also completed a manuscript of my dissertation titled “Water and Revolution: The Politics, Ecology and Technology of Agrarian Reform in Mexico.”

1990 Collected by Diana Bloom
DIANA BLOOM. Still living in Tampa Florida and holding out hope that eventually 1990 fellows will give in to the mouse ears and visit. Just celebrated my 10th wedding anniversary to Gail and our twins Elana and Gil 5 1/2 just started kindergarten. I am still working for Watchers International as a facilitator, public relations ambassador, and am still working for Mike Scott and Associates as an efficiency and productivity consultant for companies all over North America.

JON BRESMAN. Jonathan Bresman and his fiancée, Nellie Zupanic, are getting married in the spring, so he’s pretty excited about that. On the work front, he is consulting for Hasbro these days (the toy company, not the hospital), and he’s also still in grad school part time at Teachers College, Columbia, and, in particular, our 3-year-old, Abe, is Conserving for the Michael C. Carlos Museum at Emory University where she oversees the treatment and preventive care of the collections, including antiquities and ethnographic objects. She also teaches for the University and supervises student interns.

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BRETT KRICHER. Our daughter Sierra is now three and clearly running the house. We have just finished her Potty training and, just completed her dissertation on Positive Psychology and the Jewish Holidays. I’ve started my second year at UCLA Hillel, and the three of us are taking full advantage of being in LA this summer - the beach, the traffic, the theater, the traffic, the parks, and of course, the traffic.

KIM VAN NAARDEN-BRAUN. We moved to Westfield, NJ about a year ago and so far so good. Josh is work-

ing at Morristown Memorial Hospital as a Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist and also has a private practice in Summit, NJ. I’m still with the Developmental Disabilities Branch within CDC (hard to believe!) and we are working with autism and cerebral palsy, in particular, is keeping me very busy (look for new results by the end of the year, hopefully soon). The kids are great. Sophie is 4 1/2 starting kindergarten next week and Sam is 2 1/2 and going to preschool. They are both precious (I’m very objective) and keep us on our toes.

1991 Collected by Julie Geller

The 91’s have been up to some great stuff!

SHIRA REIFMAN writes that “eight months ago my wife started having my beautiful baby girl, Ruthi Shoshana. She is our fifth daughter and first saba. We made aliyah two years ago and we live in Yad Binyamin, a community about 40 minutes West of Jerusalem. We have just taken over as the Executive Director of Maayan Maayan, a gap year seminary for girls from a wide range of backgrounds, located in Hod HaSharon. Mazel tov to DANA WEINBERG who recently renewed this year! REBECCA MIZER writes that, although she works as a rabbi educator at a central agency for Jewish education in Chicago, “most of my energy and brain-power goes to my family in general and, in particular, our 3-year-old, Abe, and our 12-month-old, Hannah.” We are pleased to say that Rebecca reports that “Life is splendid in Israel. Amir K’s daughter - she spends more time upside down than right side up it seems. She is also a budding author and world traveler in our household. Noam, our youngest, is 8, and is defying all genetics by being really into sports. At Elana’s Bat Mitzvah, I dusted off my old guitar skills and led a sing-a-long pre-Shabbat Carlebach Kabbalat Shabbat. I can still play (somewhat). Tammy, Elana and I also started singing in a choir, which has been a lot of fun. We love living in Israel, although we can’t discuss politics at home anymore, as I get more left-wing by the year, and Tammy gets more right-wing. Recently Jon Bell was in Israel to visit his brother, and we got together for lunch. I would love to see anyone else coming through the holy land for a visit.

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etun continue to live in movies and Emily is working on a graphic memoir about growing up Native American and Jewish. Etan just started a Wexner Heritage Fellowship, which has allowed him to attend the Northeast Regional Public Health Leadership Institute.

JULIE GELLER lives in Denver with her husband Josh and two kids and is enjoying life as a full-time musician. Now that she gets to work whenever she wants, the only thing she misses from her years on the payroll is her bike commute. MARTA WEISS and husband Alex are still living in London. His latest is his role as Curator of Photographs at the Victoria and Albert Museum and they are eagerly awaiting the birth of their first child this fall. DANIEL SILVERBERG is still with the foreign affairs committee. His wife, Sarah, started a presentation skills training business for nonprofits, which is just taking off. He writes that if anyone is looking...
for someone to conduct training on making great presentations, “she’s your person! www.greenroomspeakers.com.” His son Matan just started at the local Jewish community school.

1992 Collected by Elizabeth Dornstreich ELIJAH DORNSTREICH. I have been in touch with a number of alumni over the past year, including Warren Braunig, who has recently served on BYFI’s Alumni Advisory Board, and David Pinot, who’s about to start! For my part, I just returned from a 2-week vacation in Israel - much needed R&R. I promptly quit my job at the mortgage bank I had been working at for a year (it had been a while coming), and am starting off on my own in a start-up marketing company, doing residential mortgages, small business loans, and other consumer financial products. In addition, I’ve pitched my parents on the idea of a business plan for a small town business, and am working with our local bank to help fund my idea. I am living with my parents and leading a country life. I am still working with Just Vision part time, getting my chuppah making business started, and spending my free time as I can with Joshua, who is two and wonderful. We are only an hour from Boston, and welcome visitors.”

TAMAR GORDON is “still living on the Upper West Side (not completely, but still here) with my husband, Josh, and son, Jonah. Joshua Cohen (very happily), and am still blessed with a wonderful son named Elisha, born 11/26/07. My private practice is going well and keeps me sane when my clinic supervisor job is rather more insane. Josh recently published a benthic that some of you may want to check out www.yedidnehafish.net. It is beautifully written, beautifully illustrated, has all new translations and commentary by Josh, and, possibly for the first time ever in a bacher, has transliteration that can actually be useful to a non Hebrew reader. Hence, it is quite nice for those of us living in families with mixed levels of Jewish knowledge and comfort. Our hope is to move to Chicago at some point where I would continue my practice psychology and would like to open an egalitarian Ye- shiva, similar to the Kolel he started 7 years ago at Camp Ramah in WI. Unfortunately, the economy crashing has put a temporary halt on our plans. Our hospital and university in the mid-West has a hiring freeze, making it rather difficult for me to find work, or, for that matter, for Josh to find donors!”

JEREMY PERLMAN writes that he is “still out in LA and just got engaged in April. My fiancee is Vietnamese and is planning to convert to Judaism (which may delay our wedding for a while, since I understand the conversion process takes some time). She is a dental student and is having the National Health Service Corps pay for her tuition. This means that in four years we’ll be heading out to the boonies somewhere (as in Northern Exposure) to serve the under-served. Eventually we’d like to do work in international health care. For my part, I have worked as an Anesthesiologist at Cedars-Sinai Hospital here in LA. I haven’t seen many Bromfinians lately, but hopefully we can arrange another west-coast get-together soon.”

RENA (DAVID) NICKERSON is “still living in Thornhill, a suburb of Toronto (actually in the City “Above Toronto,” as my New York parents like to jibe) with my husband Yehuda and my 2 kids, Tiferet (10) and Gavriel (5). Last spring, I moved from Campbell to Kraft, and am now Senior Product Manager for Maxwell House coffee. At least my product is not under current U.S. military threat; presumably it is threatened due to their affiliation with the U.S. and are seeking resettlement here or international refugee status with the U.N.

JOSHUA GOODMAN is living in Rio de Janeiro as a reporter covering economics and politics in Latin America for Bloomberg News.

WAYNE JONES will likely take the role of Alumni and Family Advisory Board for next year and is excited to be part of the agenda of alumni activities. His work continues at Oracle as Senior Director of Business Services, with a scope of responsibility that covers market intelligence, sales enablement, knowledge management, and other enabling services for all revenue-generating teams in North America.

ANDY KATZMAN recently married Sarah Cowan, BYFI’97. He also started a new job at Wharton, where he’s running operations for business development.

YEHUDA KURTZER and his wife Stephanie are still living in Brooklyn MA with their two boys, Noah (age 3) and Jesse (1). Stephanie is a real estate attorney with a big Boston-based firm, and Yehuda is beginning his 2nd (and final) year at Brandeis as a Visiting Professor under the auspices of the Charles Bronfman chair. “The position has given me a greater flexibility, to think, write and teach, and this past year has been exciting and productive,” he says. He is currently teaching a graduate course on Jewish leadership and thinking a lot about memory and the ways in which traditional Jewish theological categories - awe, love, faith - can be selectively reappropriated for contemporary Jewish identity. He is also working with the Washington Square Minyan, which has proved to be very fulfilling.

TALIA MILGROM-ELCOBT celebrated daughter Oren’s second summer (she turned one July 4) with trips to Park City, Utah and the San Juan Islands; with new tastes (blackberries picked on the side of the road in San Juan) and touches (pine needles on hikes in Park City) and lots of playtime with her cousins. Also some early mornings as she transitioned to west-coast time. Talia continues her work in urban-education reform funding strategies to get great teachers and principals into high-need schools. Husband Aaron Dorfman just became the vice president for programs at American Jewish World Service, overseeing its grantmaking, service, advocacy and education work. In December, Talia and Aaron attended the well-worn path to Park Slope, Brooklyn, to a lovely duplex with a big backyard near Prospect Park.

RACHEL NUSSBAUM is happy to be living in Seattle and working as the rabbi/executive director of the Kavana Cooperative (www.kavana.org), a dynamic and pluralistic Jewish look at important global events that would otherwise go unreported or remain hidden from scrutiny,” he says. He is also working part-time as a corporate attorney and representing Iraqi translators for the U.S. military who threatened with deportation due to their affiliation with the U.S. and are seeking resettlement here or international refugee status with the U.N.
TATYANA TRAKHT lives in NYC with her husband David and son Isaac (3.5 y). Tatyana and David are both lawyers at large NYC firms.

HEATHER SOKOLOFF is living in Montreal, her hometown where she begins each day by walking daughter Talia to preschool at the Talmud Torah synagogue and then taking son Jacob (14 months) to play in the park. Jacob and Oren, the daughter of Talia Milgrim-Elliot, were born on the same day July 4th 2008; Talia and Heather are in touch supporting each other as mothers. She occasion-ally writes for the Globe and Mail, a Canadian daily. Her husband Lev Bukhman recently underwent surgery for thyroid cancer and is happily on the mend. She would like to host any Bronfmanim visiting Montreal.

1994 Collected by Rachel Farbierz
In May 2009, ARIEL ADESNIK married Susanna Chu in a ceremony performed by her father, Rabbi Judith Hauptman. “Afterwards, we had wild simcha dancing, as well as a fearsome dance of two lions, presented by the Wong People Lion Dancers.” Susanna and Ariel are usually bought their food, in northwest Washington D.C. Ariel is back at the Institute for Defense Analyses (a federally-funded research institute that supports the Pentagon) finishing two “sobering, but intellectu-ally exciting” projects on counterin- surgency. The first is a broad historical look at 40 different insurgencies and the second is focused on current efforts in Afghanistan to exert influence without using force. Ariel is “always glad to hear from other Bronfmanim with an interest in the subject.”

JUDY BATALION. On Sept 9, 2001, I went to London for an 8-month fellowship and somehow ended up staying for 8 years. At first I worked as an art historian and curator, but slowly moved to working as a freelance writer and performer (mainly combining the two), living in the UK ended up being an incredible (and fairly traumatic) learning experience about the craft and British culture. In the past couple of years I’ve done a lot of traveling (mainly Asia and Eastern Europe - my husband is very involved in restoring houses in the former Yugoslavia). Indeed, earlier this year, I waddled a spiffing British Jew. We just moved to NYC a few weeks ago where I am now re-acclimating and reverse-culture-shocking while waiting for work papers. I look forward to catching up with you all! As for being in my 30s: extreme physiotherapy, sleep clinics, and like zero tolerance for liquor.

DARA HORN is a correspondent with the Associated Press in Jerusalem, where he lives with his wife, Naama, and their twin boys, Michael and Aviv (2.5).

RACHEL GORDAN is currently a fellow at the Center for Jewish History in NY where she’s researching her dissertation on “Post-WWII American Judaism: How Judasim Became An American Reli-gion.” Rache reports: “Dissertating has been more fun than I’d expected, and yet, not nearly as interesting as speak-ing the real, live, Post-WWII Jews who are Bronfmanim!”

EMIL KLEINHAUS. Following eight years in New Haven (college, law school, clerkship), Emil has been practicing law for five years in New York at Wachtell Lipton, focusing on bankruptcy matters. In 2006, Emil married Joanna Mazur and in May 2009 they welcomed daughter Sara Georgina. He’d love to reconnect with Bronfmanim alumni!

After spending three “glorious years at Stanford Law,” followed by a few in his hometown of San Francisco, ALISA MALLISEN is now a estate lawyer for work at Tishman Speyer in NY. She now works at the Carnegie Corporation of NY overseeing the en-dowment’s real estate portfolio. Though she misses her family and struggles at times with “life in the big bad city” she loves her job and colleagues—and still manages to do several triathlons a year! Alisa reports that she is: “Very happy in my personal life, but no significant ‘life cycle events’ yet…”

TAMAR MOSES has spent the past ten years in NY, the last five of which he’s been living in Park Slope. Itamar’s plays have been produced throughout the US—and once in Saskatchewan, “which is apparently in Canada.” He doesn’t “know who did the transla-tion,” but “is told the word sounded okay even with all of its vowel sounds changed.” Itamar’s plays are also pub-lished, by Faber&Faber and Samuel French, which he mentions “mainly in the hopes of boosting my Amazon ranking.” Itamar further reports: “Also, sometimes I am forced to fly at a mo-ments notice to Hollywood to have meetings about a film or TV project that is coalescing with terrifying ur-gency so I have to get in the room now now now, oh wait, it fell apart, never mind. There was a time when I thought about giving up writing, but that was at 8:30 this morning, and I’m over it now.” After completing medical and graduate schools, NADYA RASHKOVSKAYA now works as a medical monitor at a Cincinnati pharmaceutical company. This year, Nadya’s “parents’ dream came true, the birth of a “nice Jewish boy” whose parents immigrated from Ukraine about the same time as her own. They’ll be honeymooning on a cruise in the Mediterranean this fall.

ITIA (SHIMIDIAN) ROTH is happily residing in Brookline, MA where she lives with her husband Menachem and their two children Emma (4) and Joshua (2). Itia practices labor and employment law.

JACOB SADIKMAN lives in Toronto with his wife Samara and their two daughters Yaffa (2.5) and Navah (8 months). He practices estate and infra-structure law at a large firm where he’s been since law school. Jake reports that he’s “very much content in (and grateful for) my family and professional life. 1993.

ALYSHEA AUSTERN. Big news is that we’re expecting our first kid to arrive in February! We’re pretty psyched. Otherwise things are pretty much the same – we’re in Brooklyn, both working for law firms.

LISA EXLER. I recently took on the position of acting director of education at American Jewish World Service. Elie, Maytal and I moved to Washington Heights (otherwise known as upstate Manhattan) a year ago and are loving our views of the Hudson River.


ILANA KURSHAN. I spent this past summer teaching the 2007 fellows -- I taught a class on scenes of seduction in the Talmud, and had the opportunity to relive my Bronfman summer fourteen years later. I am living in Jerusalem (for five years now), where I work in book publishing and study and teach Talmud.

JESSICA MEED. I am currently living in Chapel Hill, NC where I am finishing a Ph.D. in Mental Health Policy. My focus is on Mental Health Policy for American ser-vice members and their families. I have also just started work at a program called the Citizen Soldier Support Program (CSSP), which is trying to build supports for members of the Guard and Reserve who live away from mili-tary bases. Over the last year I have made myself busy trying to keep my professional skills from getting rusty while I am “stuck” in school. I spent 4
months working on disaster relief with the public health service, followed by a semester internship with the North Carolina State Senate. I would love to have any Bronfman over for Shabbat if you happen to be in Chapel Hill.

SONJA SCHNEIDER. Sonya lives in Seattle, Washington with her husband, Stuart, and their fun-loving daughter, Cali- lope Pearl, born October, 2008. She continues her playwriting pursuits; she is currently at work on her new play, Boy Lies, and will be adapting The Optimist’s Daughter for Book-It Repertoire Theatre this fall. Sonya and family just returned from Alaska, where they spent a week on the Kenai Peninsula, fishing for halibut and salmon, bears and majestic bald eagles.

MICHELLE SERTNHAL. I’m doing a post-doctorate fellowship at Harvard School of Public Health, focusing on racial disparities in health. Living in Bos- ton, with my fiancé, Joel Kline (96) on organizing young Jews for Jewish justice.

1996 Collected by Matthew Rascoff There is joy to report from the 1996 Bronfman: an engagement, new ba- bies, new jobs, all the things that make these columns a pleasure to read (and to compile).

JONATHAN WACHTER “got engaged to a nice lady named Rachel Fliesher from Wayne, NJ on May 25. We’ll be getting married in October.”

ADAM MAGNUS and his wife Laura had a daughter, Nettie Sage Magnus (born 7/29/09).

YONI ENGELHART, his wife Tali, and two children Yakira (2) and Nadav (6 months) are living in Brooklyn, MA while he just began the second year of his MBA at Harvard.

SHEILA NAZARIAN MOBIN is “en- joying one more year off from plastic surgery residency at USC. She is lov- ing time with Leila, 2-years-old, Arya, 9-months-old, and her husband, Far- dad. She is keeping even more busy researching at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles and obtaining a Masters in Medical Management at USC Marshall (a wonderful program she recom- mends to any doctor).”

MIRIAM SHEINBEIN is “now a second year resident in family medicine. Liv- ing in SF with husband and 20 month old. Yaron just signed a lease on a commercial property on 24th st in the Mission with plans to open a sandwich shop. Overall we are doing really well.”

TALI GRIFTEL wrote that “we moved back to Jerusalem and I’m a physical therapist (finally).”

After living, working, and studying in Israel for a year, ADINA GERVIER is now back in New York. Starting in September 2009, she will begin studying in the Dri- shah Scholars Circle and participating in the Drisha Arts Fellowship, as a creative non-fiction writer. I set up Adina Gerv- er Consulting before I went off to Israel a year ago with the hope that I knew if you know anyone in need of writing (includ- ing grant-writing), editing, or tutoring help. I would especially love to tutor beginners – adults or children – in Torah and Rabbinics, or to tutor middle or high school students in writing, English, history, social studies, etc.”

RACHEL LOWE opened Two Elle, a boutique clothing store in Nashville, TN. She is bringing a little bit of your city, visit her at www.tweelle.com.

MARGIE KLEIN “is entering my sec- ond-to-last year of rabbinical school, and still running Moishe House Boston: Kovod Jewish Social Justice House, which is a really exciting com- munity to be a part of right now. I’ve been dating a wonderful guy named Shalom for the past couple years – intro- duced to me by none other than Marissa Harford (96).”

MICHAEL SCHARLIN “recently began a year-long fellowship in palliative care (read: Edith Panel) at the Veteran’s Health Administration in Los Angeles.”

JAMES DAVIS and Stephanie “have relocated to Hollywood, FL so that she can be close to her family. She is now a fully trained orthodontist and gives a wonderful new meaning to ‘zoket keffu- fim.’ I’m doing General Surgery resi- dency at Jackson Memorial Hospital.”

MATT RASCOFF “graduated from Harvard Business School in the spring and have spent the summer interviewing for jobs in education and technology and doing a consultant study for a non-profit, called the Tobin Project, that is chaired by one my pro- fessors. Where I will settle is still TBD: the top candidate cities are New York, Washington DC, and Seattle.”

1997

ELI BATALION is trying to work out whether he belongs in Montreal or LA. He appears in and helped create a Coke short filmcommercial entitled “Material Stuff,” which won this year’s Coca-Cola Refreshing Filmmaker’s Award and which will appear on 21,000 screens across the US this fall. People can check it out at www.ccrfa. com (click on 2009 winner).

In May, ANDY KATZMAN (’93) and SARAH COWAN (’97) got married.

“My Bronfman were there in at- tendance – Becky Voorwinde, Warren Braunig, Matthew Rascoff, Ruth Kaplan and Avlana Eisenberg — and many more in spirit. That’s the biggest news of 2009 as a member of the sum- mer, and is living in Dupont Circle. I unfor- tunately missed SARAH BELLER on my visit, but in response to my email, she wrote: “I am getting married this weekend. Looking forward to being in touch!” We’ll have to wait until next year’s magazine for the full story (I promise it’s a good one—I introduced the bride and groom). But in the meantime, let’s all wish Sarah a col- lective Mazel Tov!” ByFI ’98 in fact saw two August weddings. EMMA KIP-PLEY-OLEGO and now married, now living at Hebrew College in Boston married Benj Bam on August 23rd. Our year has done Dianne, Jim, Shimon, and
Susan very proud, with several members of the group dedicating themselves to the study of the Jewish tradition and to careers serving the Jewish community. RACHEL KORT writes: “I’m still teaching at the Wisconsin Free School with my husband of three years, Dan Steigant. I’m in my 6th and final year of rabbinic school at Hebrew Union College. I took an extra year at HUC to pursue a master’s degree in Religious Education. Along with school, I work as the rabbinic intern and family educator at the Reform Temple of Forest Hills in Queens. My rabbinic studies have taken me all over the world; I have served communities in Arkansas, Central Pennsylvania, Long Island, Ukraine, and India. I was in Senegal this summer under the auspices of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. I’m currently service learning with 24 other rabbinic students from across the Jewish spectrum (very Bronfmanesque).” On the academic side, ELI SACKS reports: “I live on the Lower East Side in New York, where my girlfriend moved to the South, y’all. First to Win my girlfriend and I are in law school. I’m in court every day, and I’m a consumer rights defender, and absolutely love my job...”

Hebrew writings of Moses Mendelssohn are in law school. I’m still enjoying life in Brooklyn and working like to cook and read fantasy novels. An intense thunderstorm this past year my grandmother as well) and I feel like home for me. Thank you! 1999 Collected by Liz Kilsstein Soon-to-be-Rabbi JOSEPH BERMAN reports: “I’m going in to my fifth (and final!) year at Hebrew College rabbinical school in Boston (where I get to see Lev Nelson every day!). As a community organizer, I recently co-founded a Jewish-Muslim Leadership Team, am helping create a student government at Hebrew College and work on a campaign in Jamaica Plain (my neighborhood) for affordable housing. It’ll be a busy year as I’ve also got a number of rabbin gigs: a rabbinic internship at Temple Shalom in Newton, student rabbi at the University of Vermont Hillel, and I’ll continue to work with Interfaith Community Boston as a family educator. I get around the city on my bicycle and when I’m not working like to cook and read fantasy (Octavia Butler anyone?)...”

Hebrew College, second-year rabbinical student LEV NELSON is marrying Elana Meirowitz in November! He lives in Brookline, MA and the couple will be in Israel for the next academic year. Mogul RACHAEL WAGNER has moved and shaken her way back to New York City. She wrote in: “About a year ago, I left my job at Blackstone, a big, conventional finance firm, to help open the New York office of Lion Capital, a smaller, somewhat less conventional private equity firm headquartered in London. It’s been great to be in a more entrepreneurial environment, and because the new firm specializes in investments in retail and consumer businesses, I get to count time spent window-shopping at my favorite stores at a salary! The highlight so far has been spending four months this spring in the London office, getting to know the team there. London was a blast but it’s nice to be back in NYC, where I’ve just moved in with Sam Abrams, my boyfriend of five and a half years. In a very happy surprise, he asked me to marry him just after Rosh Hashanah. A very sweet New Year indeed!”

Meanwhile, AARON ORRIN is headed to the UK; he graduated from a family medicine residency program at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (Thunder Bay, Ontario) just a few months ago. He spent the summer in the wilderness, traveling for 42 days over 2,000 km by canoe with one other person. They saw 11 people the whole summer, with a stretch of 21 days without seeing a soul (or rather without seeing a human soul). He is now practicing family and emergency medicine in Fargo, North Dakota. This fall, Aaron will begin MSc studies at Oxford in the History and Philosophy of Science, and Technology. His partner, Julia, a pediatric resident, will also be studying at Oxford. He would love to connect with any BYFI folks romping around Oxford!

Closer to (my home), SUSAN PULT-MAN is starting her second full year at Widener University studying towards a Masters in Social Work and Masters in Education in Human Sexuality. Her fieldwork this year will be at University City High School in Philadelphia, working at the Health Resource Center. She’ll be doing pregnancy and STD testing and all of the counseling and education that goes with it. Susan is also the Director of Marketing and Programming for The Collaborative, a social organization for Jewish 18-30-somethings in Philadelphia. Over the summer, Susan trained for her first triathlon. An intense thunderstorm sadly shut down the race after she completed 2 out of 3 pieces, but we know that she would have finished strong.

Congratulations to ELIZABETH CATE, Esquire on her graduation from NYU Law. Elizabeth writes: after graduating from NYU Law School in May 2008 (has it really been over a year??), I received a fellowship from a New York law firm, Dewey & LeBoeuf, to work at the Legal Aid Society’s Juvenile Rights Practice in Brooklyn, New York. I have begun working at Legal Aid this November 2008 as a juvenile public defender, and absolutely love my job. I’m in court every day, and I’m a complete sucker for all my clients (especially the puppy ones!). My fellowship is finished in January 2010, after which my whereabouts are TBD. Though I work in Brooklyn, I live in Manhattan, so enjoy a reverse commute and the family and friends I’ve gained in Brooklyn, and I look forward to being a local at after-work happy hours. If any of you Bronfmanim are in NYC anytime soon, drop a line if you’d like to grab a beverage and/or stay at my place (my couch is very comfortable -- ask Joe Fishman or Erin Scharff!).

Another lawyer in our ranks is TERRI GINSBERG. After two years teaching in Edison, NJ, Terri went back to law school at Georgetown. She’s just begun work as a 1st year associate at Sutherland, Asbill and Brennan in DC. Editor’s note: Terri manages to balance an associate’s life with being full-time awesome.

DAVID PLUNKETT is working on his PhD in Philosophy at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He lived in a cabin in Jackson Hole, Wyoming last winter and will be returning there again in January. Sometimes he goes to Finnegans’s Wake reading groups with Brett Lockspeiser in San Francisco; plays with David Mahfood’s giant American flag in Brooklyn, or sends Shira Simon text messages in Cambridge. He aspires to learn how to run long distances barefoot and eat more food on the run. By the way, in October, see David on Goldberg.

JOSH FOER recently moved to New Haven with his wife Dinah, who is a first-year at Yale Medical School.

HANNAH SARVASY’s work on a dying language documentation project in remote villages of Sierra Leone has been picked up by the NY Times and the Village Voice! The July 28, 2009 New York Times article was accompanied by a video of Hannah’s role in the project.


JERUSAH BROWN and Rachel KORT are in London. It’s been great to be window-shopping at my favorite stores, listening to the local music, and managing to balance an associate’s life with being full-time awesome.

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LIZ KILSTEIN. I am a second-year law student at NYU, where I often see Erin Scharff, Moses Sternstein (100), and Stephanie Kantor (102). I sometime even catch glimpses of Professor Sam Roscuco in the hallway. I am Co-Chair of the Jewish Law Students this year, so if any other Bronfman alumni are lurking among NYU Law’s ranks, please be in touch!

2000 Collected by Danny Greene Liva and Micah are engaged!

DAVE COHEN. I just started medical school at Penn and am drowning, for the most part enjoyably, in science. I live in Philadelphia.

HANNAH FARBER. I am in my second year of a PhD program in American history at UC Berkeley and will be marrying Derek Miller next summer. Derek is also getting a PhD, in performing studies, at Stanford. We live in Berkeley.


MICAH FITZMAYER-BLUE is in LA, running a new media production company (543 Media). When he’s not writing or waiting patiently for Liva to come home from London, he’s...
procrastinating via gardening, gourmet cooking, and ping for a puppy.

YAKOV FRYDMAN-KOHL. I just got married to a lovely lady named Sarah Nemzer (first cousin of Sarah Brodbar-Nemzer, BYYF 2001), we are living in Jerusalem, and I will be in my final year of law school at Hebrew U this year.

MICHAEL GENSHEIMER. I’m in my last year of medical school at Vanderbilt in Nashville, Tennessee, and do research on using medical imaging to assess response to cancer therapy. I’m applying this year for radiation oncology residencies.

DANNY GREENE. For two years, I’ve been living in beautiful San Francisco, working at Current TV, Al Gore’s TV network and web media company, which got our journalists back from North Korea earlier this summer.

ALLISON LAUTERBACH. I’ve embraced a life of academic masochism in my third year of a PhD program in history at USC. I’ll be writing my dissertation on the history of American foreign policy pertaining to family planning and population control, from the Marshall Plan to the Global Gag Rule. In my free time, I am applying to law school to do a joint degree.

ELAN LIPSON. Last year I moved from Manhattan to West LA to begin a 3-year master of architecture program at UCLA. This summer I spent recovering and recuperating, designing and modeling an unusual Japanese ski resort with a friend from my office in NY, and discovering the world of LA minus UC.

ANAT MAYAT graduated from Boston University School of Law and finally moved back to NYC (after eight long years away). I took the NY Bar Exam in July. Otherwise, I’m enjoying being back in the city. I work at a small trials/investigations firm, cooking/baking, running, and dating a Jewish republican.

REBECCA (RUBINS) NOECKER. I’m in Pune, India working as a recruiter with Teach For India (based on the Teach For America model). I spend my time traveling around and the country making presentations at various colleges and corporations to recruit outstanding young people to join the movement. Got married to Shane Noecker a year ago (hence the name change).

JOSEPH NUSSSBAUM. I spend my days largely in Brooklyn, where I have resided for several years. When I’m not singing songs about the southland, I enjoy amassing large student loans and, on occasion, studying the law. I finish after this year.

GISSEL REVAH. I am still living in Toronto ( ผมๆๆๆๆๆๆๆๆๆๆๆๆๆๆๆๆๆๆๆๆๆๆๆฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฯฃครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครครคร克里斯ต์น

YONINA MURCIANO-GOROFF. I’m in the final year of my doctorate at Oxford, after which I’ll be heading back to Harvard to complete my M.D. My dissertation is on the history of international collaboration in the fight against cancer.

BEN MAGARIK. After two years commuting to Southeast Asia from the East Village, Ben left Digital Divide Data in June. He’s working most of the time in Central/Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean, with an extended stop in Israel to participate in RO120 and visit Bethlehem with Encounter. Since getting back to the states, he’s been working on a business plan for a non-profit intern placement agency and planning to move to Washington, D.C.

ELIZABETH OCHS is living in Provence, RI, serving as the Editor of Street Sights newspaper about homelessness in Rhode Island, and coordinating the homeless legal clinic at the Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless.

ERIKA ROYAPORT. Personal: Last year my wife, Sondra Renee Rapoport, and I were married. We have a beautiful baby boy, Julian Ezra Rapoport, now one year old. We are all very happy. Professional: I left the world of Industrial Automation early this year and accepted a position developing Automated Trading strategies at a well established - and highly influential - market-making firm dealing mostly in currencies/commodities.

RAPHAEL ROSEN. Helping build a solar power start-up company in Manhattan. No babies. Loves dogs. Still writing fiction.

LIZ SHRIER. Liz graduated from Johns Hopkins in 2008 with a Masters in Arts and Teaching, lives in Baltimore with her husband, Donn Engelhart. She currently teaches 7th grade at Alfa Public Charter School, a Baltimore City public school committed to physical fitness, nutrition and academic excellence.

CHANA SOLOMON-SCHWARTZ. After three years in Washington, DC, Chana Solomon-Schwartz has decided that it’s time to move on! This fall she attended a PhD in political science at George Washington University and is finding out just what grad school is all about. She has spent the past few years at the Saab Center for Middle East Politics at the Brookings Institution. Chana has recently become a soccer fan, where she is a proud supporter of Manchester City, and took a driving tour this summer through West Virginia, Kentucky and Ohio for a pre-grad school hurrah.

RAYSH WEISS is finally back in Minneapolis (after a three-month itinerary: Krakow-Univ-Berlin-Amsterdam-Dallas-LA-Chicago-Minneapolis-West Orange-too many places to list in Israel, entering into her third year of the PhD program in Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies at the University of Minnesota. Aside from her studies and teaching at the university, this year she looks forward to playing lots of Klezmer and Batucada and starting a havurah in Minnesota. Give her a holler if you know of anyone who might be interested in participating! Raysh especially enjoyed seeing so many Bronfmanim at the National Havurah Community institute this summer during her time as an Everett Fellow. 2002 Collected by Naamah Paley.

DAVID “GATES” BACK graduated from Princeton University this summer with a BA in Economics, and is living in New York where she continues to pursue her passion (also referred to as “obsession”) for food, cooking, and hospitality. She works at Eleven Madison Park restaurant during the summer, and enjoys building and riding bikes.

ABBY FRIEDMAN. After two years as an economic research assistant in Cambridge, MA, Abby returned to school this fall as a doctoral student in the economics track of Harvard’s Health Policy Ph.D. Program. Plans to focus on the intersection of demography, development, and health, with a particular interest in low-cost, high-yield interventions geared towards improving maternal, child, and adolescent health in developing regions.

BINNY KAGEDAN is currently pursuing an M.A. in Jewish Thought at the Jewish Theological Seminary, and living on the Upper West Side of Manhattan.

TALYA KAGEDAN is living in New York, in her second year of a doctoral program in School Psychology.

YONAH KRAKOWSKY is living in Toronto, where he began his third year as a medical student at the University of Toronto.

ANYA MANNING writes, “Soo...big news first...I got engaged to Elie Lehmann! Long time bff of 4 years. In more boring news, I am in my 2nd year of the Schusterman Insight Fellowship where I work at 3 Jewish non-profits in NYC for 7 months each. I am currently working for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee developing curriculum.”

SARAH MARCUS is currently a poetry MFA candidate at George Mason University where she was awarded a Teaching Assistantship. She currently resides...
in Bethesda, MD. She spent the past two years working for The Israel Project and The American Jewish Committee’s Project Interchange.

HANNAH MAYS writes, “I’m currently on the go, but working hard to be mindful in each moment. Hopefully spending the upcoming few months in Nepal working with the Israeli NGO Tevel B’Tzedek (and apparently not the first Bronfman to be joining that team!).”

NAAMAH PALEY recently returned to her proud home town of New York after many years away, primarily in Michigan and in Israel. For a change of pace, she made the exodus from Manhattan down to Brooklyn, and is now looking for work somewhere in the field of education policy.

YONI POMERANZ is spending a second year in Israel, this time at Yeshivat Ma’alé Gilboa.

NICK RENNER lives in Philadelphia where he’s in his second year at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. He’s also the Jewish Students Adviser for UArts, an arts school in downtown Philly.

KATE ROSENBERG lives in Washington, DC. She works months for Defenders of Wildlife in the Climate Change and Natural Resource Adaptation and Conservation Law programs.

JACLYN RUBIN is also in New York, working for Mechen Hadar. She is transitioning from an administrative role to more full learning at Hadar, and really enjoying it.

BEN SALTZMAN is currently in his second year at Harvard Law School. Ben spends most of his time working at the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau providing legal assistance to low income members of the Boston community. Ben is especially proud of his mother, who was one of the rabbis on this year’s Bronfman Youth Fellowship Program.

BEN SIEGEL writes, “I’m plowing away at a history Ph.D. at Hah-vard, and split time between Boston and Delhi. Hannah paid me a wonderful visit a few months back, and David Back skipped my big garden party / kegger this past weekend.”

ELI TERRY is doing well, living in NYC, and generally enjoying himself. He just started his third year as an elementary school teacher in the Tremont area of the Bronx.

ALANA WEISS lives in San Francisco and works on the Learning & Leadership Development team at Google.

2003 Collected by Anna Hutt Fredman

SARAH BARENBAUM. I just moved back to Philadelphia to begin the Bryn Mawr post-baccalaureate pre-medical program. It’s going to be an intense year of pre-med classes, but the entire process is extremely exciting. I am looking forward to connecting with the Bryn Mawr Bronfman!

BEN BOSKER. I just graduated from Yale in May - my major was called Eth, Politics, and Economics. Now I’m starting a five-month program called Eco-Israel on an ecological farm near Modi’in, Israel, where we work on farm- ing and sustainable building and study applied ecological design.

ALANA KINARSKY. After five years of studying, working, and biking in Chicago, I am leaving this wonderful city. Come October, you can find me in Guj- rat, India working as an American Jew- ish Student Adviser for the World Partnership with Drish’s presence and lending a hand in completing a book and updating their website. I am thrilled to have this opportunity and look forward to sharing my experience with all of you.

NOAH KIPPLEY-OGMAN. I am living in and working for a non-profit organization serving local people with a local non-profit serving children and families on the city’s chronically underserved southwest side. I am currently in the middle of several ambitious amateur construction projects including a Buckminster Fuller designed bookshelf and a bicycle that I use for transportation. I look forward to an as-yet-untitled adventure in the city for two years - graduate study in Education Policy and a move to Shien- zhen are possibilities. I was also very excited to celebrate the wedding of my sister Emma (BYFI ’18) this summer.

DEBORAH BETH MEDDOWS. I am in my second year at Boston University School of Law.

HANNA SUFRIN. After a summer of farming in India, I am beginning my second year as a Yale-China Teaching Fellow in Guangzhou, where I am teaching about American history, politics, and culture to Sun Yat-Sen Univer- sity students.

In Memoriam… JEFF EISENBERG (Composed by Alana Kinarsky, Selvy Mullen, and Noah Kippley-Ogman) In February 2009, the Bronfman com- munity mourned the passing of Jeffery Eisen- berg, 27. The 2003 Bronfman fellow and faculty will forever remember Jeff as a thoughtful and inquisitive friend. He took seriously the questions of Jewish identity and faith that he first encountered on his Bar Mitzvah, and he refused to sacrifice intellectual honesty or thoroughness while finding his own answers. Jeff was a Chica- go native - he attended Francis W. Parker High School and then the University of Chicago, and he ultimately graduated with a degree in Philosophy from Loyola University of Chicago in 2008. He was pre- paring applications for graduate school to further his studies in philosophy and work- ing as an office manager at a Chicago valet company. Before his untimely death, other Chicago fellows enjoyed Jeff’s company at punk bars and upscale diners and had continued to enjoy the company of his father (HaMakom yenachem – May G-d bring him comfort). Jeff is a dear friend and will forever be missed.

2004 Collected by Hannah Kapnick

NICKI BRODY. I started medical school in Israel this year. I’m at the Medical School for International Health at Ben Gurion University in Beer Sheva. I love the school because it is the only medi- cal school in the world dedicated exclu- sively to the study of global health and I love the perspective it offers and the people it attracts! I’m learning a lot and also enjoying the adjustment to life in Beer Sheva, and to life post-undergrad!

DANNY COHEN. At the moment I’m en- joying my senior year at Penn, and along with our growing contingent of Bronfman alumni, am actively involved in social justice work and educational initiatives in and beyond the Jewish community. I spent an amazing semester last fall learn- ing at Yeshivat Maale Gilboa and being back in Israel, and also enjoyed learning this summer at Yeshivat Hadar and living in the Columbia Bayit, a pluralistic israeli co-op. I’m hoping to spend some time next year pursuing graduate stud- ies in Positive Psychology, perhaps also education, and whatever else calls me. In general I want to learn more and be ac- tive in living, implementing, and teaching about spiritual growth, critical pedagogy, contemplative practice, service learning, and other Jewish stuff. I also hope to spend some time traveling and working in the developing world before I make aliyah and work towards realizing my dream of becoming a teacher and building an ideal school. Be in touch if you’re interested, and also if not.

BENJAMIN EPSTEIN. I am going into my senior year at MIT studying biologi- cal engineering, and I am planning on applying to graduate programs in the general field. I just finished a summer at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel doing research in a cancer biol- ogy research lab.

DAVID ZVI EPSTEIN. David Zvi is en- gaged to Yael Richardson. They are both currently working on adashot.com.

HANNAH KAPNICK. I’m finishing up at Wellesley College where I’m studying Jewish Studies and Art History. I am planning to attend nursing-midwifery graduate school after a year or two of adventuring post-college. I just spent an amazing summer at Yeshivat Hadar in New York and camping and hiking in the Colorado Rockies.

ARIEL POLLOCK. I spent the summer doing thesis research in South Africa and Israel. In Israel, I worked at Al-Qa- sem College, an Israeli Arab college with and then as a researcher. In the belief in interfactional relations, in Baqa el-Ghbaria. Both were incredibly rewarding and formative experiences.

MICHAEL POMERANZ. I am about to move to New York to begin a New York City Urban Fellowship, in which I will work 4.5 days a week in a to-be-deter- mined office and once a week will learn in seminars with other Fellows and city commissioners, etc. I’ve already been in touch with some Bronfman genom involved in city government and politics and would love to hear from more! I’m also moving to the Upper West Side (of course), with some thanks to the Bronfman housing list.

HANNAH RICHMAN. I’m beginning my senior year at Brandeis University, double majoring in Sociology and Studio Art with a focus in painting. For the past two summers, I have been involved with BIMA and Genex, working first as an Intern and then as a researcher. In the coming year I hope to continue living...
and working in the Boston area, despite the terrible cold weather!

NOA SILVER. I have just begun my senior year at Harvard and will graduate in May 2010 with a BA in English. Last year I studied photography as well as working as a dramaturg for a student production of The Hypochondriac. I spent the past few summers traveling, and hope to spend some time abroad in the coming years after graduation.

2005 Collected by Sarah Rapoport
ARIELLA ROTHSTEIN is about to start her final year at Yale, and just completed a teaching job in the Children's Defense Fund's Freedom School Program at the Maya Angelou School in Washington, DC. She spent her previous summer in Spain and is looking forward (anxiously?!?) to graduating from Yale, and getting a job teaching high school somewhere in the United States.

ELISHEVA GOLDBERG is currently studying (and enjoying her time) abroad in Rabat, Morocco for the first semester of her Junior year at the University of Pennsylvania. She spent her past summer in Egypt on a Critical Language Scholarship from the State Department and will be spending her next semester (after Morocco) in Israel at the Israel Academy for Leadership in Ein Prat where she will be participating in their post-army/college program while simultaneously researching Israeli theological discourse. She is currently working for Undergraduate Research and Fellowship's Gantz grant.

YITZ LANDES is currently a platoon sergeant in the 7th brigade of Israel's Armored Corps. His current assignment is working with recruits in what is called "advanced training". He spends most of his days performing numerous tank maneuvers with his soldiers and, when he can, gives them lessons on everything from combat ethics to diesel powered tank engine repair. When he finishes his service in the IDF in October, Yitz plans to return to Yeshiva to study until the end of the school year. This summer he has been lucky enough to host Ariel Fisher and Andrew Kibert (BYFI '05) in his home in Jerusalem.

RACHEL COHEN currently attends the University of Pennsylvania with other '05 fellows Ariel Fisher, Elisheva Goldberg and Andrew Kibert and is very excited for Penn to host the collegiate reunion! She just returned from a semester abroad at Cambridge University and is lucky enough to have spent the past summer traveling, and hope to spend some time abroad in the coming years after graduation.

2006 Collected by Inna Aleksandrovich
MATEO ACEVES, a junior at Brandeis, is studying political science, Near Eastern and Judaic studies, and Hebrew and currently preparing for the LSATs. He is also interning with Barney Frank and spent last summer recently got two baby ducklings. He will be an editor this fall. He spent the summer newspapering across America, interning at The Seattle Times and St. Petersburg Times and is a Jewish Life Fellow for his residential college.

ISAAC ARNDSORF, a senior history major at Yale, plays trumpet in the band and writes for the Yale Daily News; he will become an editor this fall. He spent the spring newspapering across America, interning at The Seattle Times and St. Petersburg Times and is a Jewish Life Fellow for his residential college.

GIDEON FINCK is studying architecture and religion at Wesleyan. His specific interests include the relationship between religious architecture and modernism. He has also been working on a documentary film with two other ‘06 Bronfmanim about woodworkers in New England.

PRISCILLA FRANK, a junior at Berkeley, is studying rhetoric, which a professor recently described as a "critique of the western philosophical notion of an unchanging Truth." She is the editor-in-chief of the Berkeley Poetry Review and working at the Johansson Projects art gallery in Oakland. Most importantly, she recently added two baby ducklings.

NATHAN GARDENWARTSZ. After studying German, Nat completed an internship at the Neue Synagoge in Berlin this summer. Currently a Sophomore studying economics at Princeton, Nat will begin studying Mandarin and hopes to make it to China in 2010.

GABE GREENWOOD will concentrate in philosophy and receive a certificate in neuroscience at Princeton. This summer, he spent a month in upstate New York at Zen Mountain, working and meditating and spending the rest exploring the area. He will soon direct a play called "Proof," to be staged at Princeton's Theatre Intime, which will open Sept. 24.

WILLIAM HERLANDS, a senior at Williams College in the College of Social Studies. He is currently working as a Campus Entrepreneur at Cornell University, participated in the NYU Bronfman Center Collegiate Internship Program where he facilitated ongoing group therapy and implement a career development workshop for mental illness and substance abusing adults. ELIOT ABRAMS, a Sophomore at The University of Chicago will be working as a Campus Entrepreneur Intern for the Newberger Hillel. Other fellows are making transitions from life in Israel to campus life: JULIE MEYER, ARIELLE LEWIS, EITAN LEFKOWITZ, NOAH LINDENFELD, AND HODY NEMES all studied at Yeshivot last year. ROBERTA GOLDMAN participated in a machshiva program with Israel last year, this year she is taking a year break between school and the army. ALI FITCH also spent her year in Israel volunteering through Young Judaea Summer Course. In addition, ELIANA GOLDSING and ELYSSA KAPLAN will spend last year in the Bronfman Bayit. All of these fellows have begun their years at their respective universities as members of the class of 2013.

2008 Collected by Torah Aukland
BYFI alumna Torah is full of Big Ideas and the country, long phone calls, debates about religion, politics, and life, and the insanity of senior year. ‘08 has left our lives in LA, Kansas, or New York, to new people and places from Berkeley, to Ireland, to Israel, and to New York. Some of us are now over 7500 miles away from each other, but in the words of SHIRA TELUSHKIN, who spent the summer as a fellow at Yeshivat Harad, is not taking a gap year to study at Migdal Oz, and next year will be going to Yale with a prospective major in cultural anthropology, "our best friends in the world and despite being apart, that despite a lot of frequent visits or phone calls, you can still talk about anything with." Though ZACH BLEMMER would argue with most things, after organizing a reunion at his house and driving to Cape Cod and Westchester for two more, we can safely say this is a concept with which we would agree. He is headed to Amherst College, looking forward to his first real studying since his 5th grade project on ecosystems, and is hoping to major in Philosophy and Economics. As far as majors go, SERENA COVINK, who is spending the year at Midreshet Lindenbaum in Jerusalem, is still changing her mind daily, but luckily she has some time before she starts at University of Pennsylvania next year. In the meantime she has been wandering around Jerusalem, going back to Goldstein, and seeing all the many Bronfman fellows and Amitim (and Shimon) there. Far from the streets of Jerusalem, ELIE PELTZ is at Yeshivat Ma’ale Gilboa in Northern Israel for the year after graduating from Lower Merion High School and completing a senior project focused on Yiddish language and culture in today's Jewish Community. After spending the year immersed in Israeli society and Torah study, Elie will be attending the University of Pennsylvania. Only slightly surpassing Elie’s fluency from his senior project, DANIELLE SCHAECHT spent a week this summer at Yiddish Vokh after coming back from Camp Ramah Nyack where he was a counselor. He is now in the old city of Jerusalem at Yeshiva Orayta, and will (very unrealistically) be attending University of Pennsylvania next year. We can say, however, that ALI KRIEGSMAN and JAKE SPINOWITZ certainly stand out as, at least one can always compare to AARON WEINBERG. He is spending the year on Kivunim, a conflict resolution program that focuses on Diaspora Jewish Communities, and will visit India, Morocco, Greece, Bulgaria, Spain, Turkey, and Germany! Next fall he will come back into exile to attend Brandeis University. Near Brandeis, JACOB HUTT and REBECCA MARGOLIES are at Harvard University. Rebecca started recently over committing herself to every performing arts and journalism related club. In the state of Connecticut, which ANDREAS ROTENBERG, who is attending Princeton University in order to work on his croquet skills, highly disapproves of, SAM TELZAK is at Yale University after spending (some of) the summer working at a law office instead of going down south. After working as a research intern at the Anti-Defamation league, TOBAH AUKLAND is currently at Wesleyan University, spending a lot of time sitting on the beautiful hill reading, talking, or stargazing, and hoping to major in the College of Social Studies.


BYFI Class Notes

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1998

ANNE BAR-NOV (formerly Tsonit)
I’ve been married for four years and we have a daughter, Ayala, who is one year and three months old. I received my BA from Haifa University in economics and accounting and working as a CPA at KPMG, and live in Naharia.

MATILDA DIAS Last year I finished a double B.A in Psychology and general studies at the Hebrew University. I plan to continue my studies when I decide what I want to study. For the past five months, I’ve been doing a shlichut (1 year of volunteering) with the Jewish Agency in the Jewish community in Santa Fe, Argentina.

SHLOMI HAR-LEV I am now completing an MA in Business Management, and have spent the last 6 months as a civilian, after 8 years in the army, with the rank of major. I’ve moved to Moshav Givat Yefrini next to Mevasseret Zion, just outside of Jerusalem. I am currently working for a company called Effec-tiv, working on organizational consulting and executive training.

TSACHI MADGAR Last February I finished a degree in law and economics at Tel Aviv University. I am now doing my articling, and have survived swine flu. Zohar Nevo (formerly Neuman)– I am married to Lior, and we combined our names to a new last name – Nevo. After completing a law degree, I am now working as a legal intern at Nevo. After completing a law degree, I guided in Israel and toured South Africa. I am now finishing my BA in International Studies and Israel Studies at Hebrew U., working as a tour guide in Jerusalem and for youth and students groups from abroad all over Israel.

LIOR SORROCA I’ve completed my studies at the Nathan Nativ acting studio in Jerusalem. I work as an Arabic translator in the Prime Minister’s Office, and as a waiter, while I go to auditions.

2000

SHAKED APPLEBAUM I am now in China with my boyfriend Raphael. For the last four years, I’ve been living in Bucharest, Romania. I am studying general medicine there, and will soon start my fifth year.

IGAL AVRAHAMI I’m in Thailand, coming back in October.

ELIA GOPES DADASH I finished my BA in political science at Hebrew U. two years ago. I am married to Gabi and we have a daughter, Yael, who will soon be one. We’re now living in Be’er Sheva, where I am a student. I teach a class of 9th grade girls in Yerucham, where I also teach history and civics. I’m loving every minute.

AMITI HANDLE After the army, I crossed Mexico by bike and am now working on climbing as a hobby. I am starting my third year in Visual Communications in Holon and working at a sales company.

ROY HASSON After 6.5 years serving as an intelligence officer in the IDF, I’m leaving the army and moving from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem to study Political Science and East Asia studies at Hebrew University.

ILANA NIXON (formerly Reichman) I’m not Reichman anymore; my new last name is Nixon after marrying Lai last May. I will get my BA from Hebrew University in Jerusalem after I give in to my two last papers. I hope to start my masters in the US next year, studying political science.

LEON SHOFATINSKI After a year of volunteer service as a guide with the Society for the Protection of Nature, I was drafted into an anti-terror unit in the army. After the army, I worked for two and a half years as the national sales manager for Gravity-Israel, a camping supply firm. I am now learning to fly in the US.

LIOR ZALMANSOHN I’m serving in the Air Force’s programming unit, which I was made a first lieutenant two years ago, and am now a project manager; one of my projects was to set up a unit of Chareidi soldiers working as programmers. I am finishing my master’s thesis on the topic of social networks in Tel Aviv University’s Department of Management Studies, and am considering going right into work on a doctorate. I’m a member of the board of the Reform Movement in Israel, and recently got back from a mission to reform communities in Australia and the Far East. This year I wrote a short play called “Yingele”, which was chosen for the Act 2 Festival which will take place in November in Haifa.

2001

EYAL AVIV I got out of the army a year and a half ago and, after traveling in South America for six months, began studying civil engineering at the Technion, in Haifa, where I am starting my second year.

IDIT BEN OR I’m starting the third year of my BA in history and political science at Ben Gurion U.

YAEF EFRATI I’m finishing my BA in Behavioral science at Ben Gurion U., and starting my MA in health psychology at Tel Aviv-Yaffo College. In between, I will travel to Spain and Portugal.

MICHAL GEISER I served in the army as an education officer, and am now completing a BA at Tel Aviv U. which combines medicine and Life Sciences. I plan to travel and work this year, and then start work on my MA.

Ariel Gino After three years of surgeries in Israel and abroad and rehabilitation from a serious wound I received in the second Lebanon War, I married my dear wife Maya. I now live in Jerusalem, and spend my days studying Talmud in a Yeshiva. RONI KRAUSS I married Eitan two years ago. We have a wonderful son named Re’em. We live in Nir Etzion on Mt. Carmel. I completed my BA in Jewish History at Hebrew U. and am now working on a teacher’s degree at Michlelet Oranim.

ESTHER MEIR After the Amitim program, I was in the first Garin Amim (year of voluntary social action) with Amitim of my year in the Kiryat Menachem neighborhood of Jerusalem. I served in the army as a kind of social worker for soldiers. I am currently studying in Hebrew U.’s Revivim program, in which I completed a BA in Bible and Jewish studies, and got a teacher’s degree. I am now in my final year of a Masters program in the Hebrew Literature department. I teach Bible and Jewish Thought in the Givat Gonen High School, and facilitate groups for the organization Mi’mirazh Shemesh.

ALEX PARUSIN I’m studying for a B.Ed and teacher’s certificate at The David Yellin College for Education. I am also a coordinator of a Russian-speaking project at the Women’s Coalition for a Just Peace, and an activist for ending the occupation of Palestinian people. I also work in the Jerusalem LGBT community.

YONATAN REINER Two years ago I finished my military service in the Golani infantry brigade, which I did along with studying in Yeshiva (Ma’aleh Gilboa). Since then I’ve been studying physics and math at Hebrew University and am happy with the courses. I just got back from a short trip to Georgia – I recommend it!

MAYA WILDBERG (Shapiro) Three and a half years ago I married Nir Yitzchak. God has blessed us with two sweet boys, Yaakov, two and a half, and Naftali Tzvi, 1. I finished my BA in computers and cognition at Hebrew U., and I work as a programmer in the field of medical equipment, and live in Bayit Vegan, in Jerusalem.

2002

REUT BAREL I am in the middle of studying for my BA at Ben Gurion University in Be’er Sheva, and am taking a break to do a community shlichut in Cleveland, Ohio.

ZVI BENNINGA After finishing a year of community service with the Amitei Bronfman Garin (group), three years of military service, and a short stint of travelling, I am now back in my home town of Jerusalem, where I am studying Medicine and Liberal Arts at the Hebrew University.

ROTEM BLAU I just got my B.A in theater from Tel Aviv University and...
am now living in a small apartment in Jerusalem with my boy friend, trying to make it in the theater world.

NAVI CHALIVA After almost two years of hard work at Intel in Kinyat Gat, I will be moving to Jerusalem in November, in order to share an apartment with my girlfriend, and study communication disorders at Hadassah College.

Eddie FREIMAN After the army, I went to Florida as a shaliach (emissary) of the Jewish Agency, where I met my fiancée at Hillel. She’s made Aliyah and we are planning to get married later this year. I am finishing my third year of international relations and political science at Hebrew U.

URI ROSEN At the end of my military service I flew to the States as a ropes & hiking guide at a summer camp. Later I took some SATs, traveled in South America for too short a time, and am now starting Medical school at Ben-Gurion University in Be’er-Sheva.

Eldad RACHAMIIM I’m studying medical school at Ben Gurion U. in Be’er Sheva, and am therefore moving to the Negev. I am tutoring students for the SAT’S in the south.

IRENA SHUCHMAN I completed my army service in the Intelligence Corps, and have started work on a BA in physiotherapy at Tel Aviv U. I am studying Arabic, knitting Kippot, and trying to set up a volunteer project in my hometown, Sderot.

HADASS WOLF I’m starting my third year of the Revivim teachers training program at Hebrew U., and teaching Bible at the Zv High School in Jerusalem. I’m also doing a little flamenco dancing.

2003

YONATAN DANIEL Since the Amitim program I did Garin Amit with other Amitim from ’03, then studied at the Midrasha in Elon. I was then drafted into the army, have done an officers’ training course, and just signed up for another two years.

DAVID FRISCH I live in Ma’aleh Adumim. I finished a BA in economics at Ben Gurion U. I am now in the army, where I intend to stay for a while.

YARDEN GAL I’m starting my third year of study for a BA in psychology at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, working as a guide in the Science Museum and as an academic staff for the Border Patrol. I will then start studying for my psychometric exams (like SATs).

SAVION MEDALLION After my army service as an intelligence officer, I spent a meaningful year as a community “Slichim” (emissary) of the Jewish Agency in New Orleans. In October, I will start studying communication and history at the Hebrew University.

NIR SABBATO After years of hard work in the Israeli military, I am starting to study law at Hebrew U. in Jerusalem.

RACHELI SHUKRUN After the Amitim program I did a year of voluntary community service with Garin Amit, and then served in the Intelligence Corps. I am now starting my second year of medicine at Tel Aviv University.

2004

YAIR AGMOM I am in Army Training Base #1 right now, working on becoming an officer for new recruits. A few months ago, I published a book of discussions on the port of which I’ve had with my soldiers, the second printing is coming out soon.

LIMOR ALON After a year of voluntary service with the Amitim’s Garin, and my army service, I traveled for six months in South America. When I got back, I started working at Hadassah College, and am moving to Be’er Sheva, where I will start studying psychology and cognition.

GAL ARAD I just got out of the army after serving the country for four years. This coming year will be all about fun, having a rest, and recharging the batteries.

MAAYAN CARLEBACH AMITAI I am married, living in Tekoah, fighting for my right to live in the Land of Israel. In my spare time I’m a tour guide, I ride in the desert, paint, and practice the flute. I miss cutting computer classes in high school, and I keep smiling.

TIL FISHER Since Bronfman, I’ve studied at the women’s Yeshiva at Ein Hanatziv and at Midreshet Lindenbaum. In the army, I served as an officer in the Intelligence Corp, and met my husband - we were married just under a week ago. I started medical school at Tel Aviv University.

RON MILUN After I finished high school, I started learning in a yeshiva in Otnei (between Hebron and Beer-Sheva). On March 2007, I began my army service in the Intelligence force. A year ago, I finished the army and came back to yeshiva where I’m intending to be for another year.

LISA SCHEFFER (Rogoff) I got married almost a year ago, and am now Lisa Scheffer. I still live in Jerusalem, and work as a youth coordinator for the Progressive Jewish Movement at Kehillat Kol Haneshama. I am putting off university for now.

2005

Yossi YESHAYA I am still in the army - but not for much longer, I hope - after my year of community service with Bronfman’s Garin Amit IV.

NAAMAH DONEVITCH I was in Garin Amit #5 (the Amitim’s year of voluntary service before the army), and then went with a few other members of the Garin to a Garin in the army, which does education in difficult neighborhoods. In another two months I will finish my role as sergeant in a combat unit of men and women who serve together on the border. I will then do eight months of educational work back with my Garin, in Tel Aviv.

Daphna Erazhchi I finished the Army almost two months ago. Right now I’m working, getting ready for a trip to the States and South America, and also studying to be a Bartender.

Chana Kupetz I finished my two year service in the IDF teaching Hebrew to immigrants, and am now in NYC studying at Yeshivat Hadar starting in September.

Rotem Rosenthal I got out of the army four months ago; I was a teacher in a course for high school equivalents and conversion. I’m about to start studying at Midreshet Migdal Oz (a women’s Yeshiva).

Yael Shir Suissa I will finish my army service in four months. I serve as an educator in a course for company commanders in the combat engineer corps. Before the army, I did a year of community service in Garin Amit V, and then studied community leadership at Midreshet Elon.

2006

IRIT FEINGOLD I am in the army, working with soldiers who have not finished high school, helping them get their high school diploma. I coordinate classes in Jewish history and Basic English. I am serving with Michal Shendar (’06) who was in the Amitim garin with me, how great is that?!?

Yulia Furschik In November I will finish my army service, I have been an educational instructor with the Border Patrol. I will then start studying for my psychometric exams (like SATs).

Tomer Yechekel A week ago, I finished an officer’s training course in the Navy. I am in Ashdod, responsible for the coast off of the center of the country. I am considering getting involved in an educational project next year, and plan to study communications and international relations.

2007

Yarin Abudraham I finished 12th grade, and in a few days I will start a shnat sherut (year of community service) before the army with the organization Acharai (Follow Me), living in a commune in Jerusalem.

Dan Dubin At the start of July 2009, I completed a year at the pre-army Machina of the Movement for Progressive Judaism in Yaffo. At the end of the month, I was drafted as a military correspondent to the army’s radio station – Galgal Zedek and am now taking a basic journalism course, at the end of which I hope to be made a correspondent at the station.

Leah Gesundheit I am now finishing my first year of national service, and going into another year with the same job - a Bnei Akiva youth group coordinator in Aderet, a moshav in Emek Ha’ela.

Pluah Gilles I completed a year of study at the women’s Yeshiva Migdal Oz, and am now returning there for another two months of study before I am drafted into the intelligence corps. I am now in London, working at an oncology lab.

2008

Lior Dekel I finished high school, and will be drafted in February, 2010.

Omer Even Paz I live in Carmei Yosel, near Rechovot. This year I’m delaying my army service to study in the secular yeshiva in Tel Aviv.

Maxim Fumin I began my army service in June ’09, in the "Talpiot" unit of the ministry of defense. This is a special intelligence unit, aimed at training leadership in the area of technology, research, and weapons systems.

Dor Tsuraya I worked on my Kibbutz this past summer, and also worked with “One Family Fund”, an organization which helps families of victims of terror attacks. In a few days I will start the year at Yeshivat Ma’aleh Gilboa, along with Eli Peretz (Fellows, ’08).

Orit Yavnieli I just graduated the religious girls’ high school “Amana” in Kfar Saba. I am now doing National Service as a madricha (counselor) of groups from overseas for the organization “Yeladim” (children).

Opinions expressed are those of contributors or the editor and do not represent the official positions of The Bronfman Youth Fellowships in Israel.

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For more information about the Bronfman summer fellowship: www.bronfman.org

For more information about the Amiti Bronfman program: www.amitei-bronfman.org

For more information about BYFI alumni: www.byfi.org

For alumni-related inquiries contact us: Becky Voorwinde, Director of Alumni Engagement: The Bronfman Youth Fellowships in Israel 375 Park Avenue, 17th Floor New York, NY 10152-0192 Email: becky@byfi.org Tel: (212) 572-7148

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Summer Fellowship

November 2009

NEW YORK, Nov 1-3 – 2009 Follow-up Seminar

January 15-2010

Summer Fellowship Application deadline For more information: www.bronfman.org

JULY 5-10

Summer Fellowship begins, through Aug 11

November 2010

NEW YORK, Follow-up Seminar – Nov 6-8

Venture Fund

MAY 17, 2010
Deadline for BYFI Alumni Venture Fund applications

October 15, 2010
Deadline for BYFI Alumni Venture Fund applications

Check www.byfi.org for calendar updates as new events are scheduled.

Alumni Israel Seminar
JULY 4-5, 2010

For the first time, BYFI will bring together American alumni visiting Israel, their partners and families for a 2-day program of great speakers, outstanding text study and Israel site visits.

For more information contact shimon.felix@byfi.org