This year we celebrated 15 years of our Israeli Bronfman community, Amitei Bronfman. Today we can proudly say that Israeli Bronfmanim can be found in some of the most crucial and creative intersections of Israeli society. From the Israeli Supreme Court to an underprivileged highschool in Beer Sheva, from innovative theater in Tel Aviv to medical research in Rehovot, from the secular elites to Orthodox yeshivas – and most interestingly in the growing creative middle space of “non-denominational” Israeli-Jewish identity – Israeli Bronfmanim are deepening the discourse, enriching people’s perspectives and creating new solutions. It’s been riveting to watch, and the comparisons to our North American community abound.

One of the questions constantly on our minds is how we bring these two adult communities to learn from and be inspired by each other? Of the many things we do, this is perhaps our most challenging task. Our earliest years of the American fellowship did not include an Israeli counterpart. And when Amitei Bronfman was created it took many years before the Mifgash with Israeli Bronfmanim was anywhere near as impactful as the rest of the Fellowship experience. It is not easy to bridge cultural divides and language differences in ten days... not to mention as adults where the other community might feel even more distant.

Yet the potential is huge. We have an enormous amount to learn from each other, and it often resides outside what the organized Jewish community tells us about the other. It is a daunting task, but we believe that as long as we strive for relevancy, authenticity and mutuality in the Israeli-American Bronfman relationship, we can achieve a surprising impact. We have begun this process with our two Alumni Advisory Boards, and plan to expand the collaboration further in the coming years.

When Edgar Bronfman founded the Fellowships in 1987, the big rift in Judaism was denominational, and it was there that pluralism, learning and mutual understanding were most needed. Today we believe it is the Israeli/American Jewry relationships that can benefit most from “Bronfman values”.

We are only at the beginning of exploring this new way of thinking about the relationship, and welcome your thoughts, questions and ideas. This magazine, which opens a wider window into the lives of Israeli Bronfmanim, is part of that endeavor. We’re excited to bring our communities to bear on this challenge, and look forward to doing it with you.

Yours,
mish and becky

Rabbi Mishael Zion, Rebecca Voorwinde
Co-Directors, The Bronfman Fellowships
Amitei Bronfman in Numbers:

1998 Year of first Israeli Bronfman cohort

20 Amitim selected each year

8 Fellowship Year Seminars,

consisting of

43 Days of speakers, learning, group experiences across Israel and including

12 Days spent on the America seminar

300 Amitim Alumni since 1998,

ranging from

18 year olds to

32 Age of oldest

Amitim

10 Members of the Israeli Alumni Advisory Board
A Blank Page
Playwrights in Conversation

Lior Soroka (Amitim ’99)
and Itamar Moses (Fellow ’94)

Lior: What are you working on these days?

It's a musical adaptation of a novel "The Fortress of Solitude" by Jonathan Lethem. It's about a friendship between two boys, one white and one black growing up in the Gowanus section of Brooklyn in the 1970's. The author looks at how the neighborhood transformed over the years and the different styles of art and music that emerged in the neighborhood during that time. It's a 400 page novel so we had to throw out tons and tons of scenes and characters and still adapt to the essence of the story and make it work.

So you're doing the workshops now?

We'll do some public presentations because when you are working on something for so long and you're so close, it's hard to see clearly what you still need to fix. So it's good to put in front of people.

Do you always find yourself in the characters you are writing?

I think that everything that I write, and I suspect that this is true for a lot of writers, has to be in some way autobiographical. That is, it could be literally true, something that really happened to you, or something that is emotionally or psychologically autobiographical. Otherwise you are writing from the outside in, it's harder to give characters life that way. But even if you're writing about something that really happened to you and is completely autobiographical, it's usually a mistake to stick to exactly what happened because it will probably not work as a story.

The biggest difference is that when working for television, I've always been on the set of someone else's show. I have never had the privilege of creating my own. I had someone telling me what to do, which is very different. You're writing about characters someone else invented, about a universe someone else created and then you come up with your own ideas for stories that can happen to those people in that universe. We are all sort of thrown together in the writers room, everyone contributes an idea and then we decide what the best stories are. By the time you begin to write, you have an outline that 5-6 people created together. You're a player on a team. You figure out how your skill can best contribute to helping the team win. Which is great and actually why I like alternating between the two. It's good for the ego to spend some time working for someone else.

Where do you usually write?

When I'm at home I almost never write at my desk. The place where I am officially supposed to write is the hardest place to write. I'll write while lying on my couch. For some reason it's easiest to write when you feel like you're getting away with something. Like you're not doing what you're supposed to be doing.

Some say the hardest part is to start- sitting in front of blank page. Where do you start?

It depends, I think sometimes it is easiest to start with whatever part of the script I am most excited to write. If I know there is a very exciting thing that is going to happen in scene three and I can't wait to get there- just write that first. Sometimes I don't know what the first scene of the play should be, or what should happen in it until I finish. Just write what you're most excited about. As I move through, I don't know what happens in the next five pages, but I do know what's happening a bit later. So I just skip to that point and write the next thing you're sure of. Sometimes, you're surprised that things you're sure of start to line up and you don't need as much in between as you thought.

When I wrote my first play I found it really interesting meeting the actors; they had a lot of new ideas, things that they thought I should add and change. What is this like for you?

It's always interesting. Everyone will have ideas, and sometimes those ideas can be very good and sometimes less good. The better your understanding is of what you want to do with the play the easier time you will have distinguishing between the useful ideas and the not useful ideas. You have to be very careful making sure that everyone is contributing to the same vision. An idea might be a good one, but not a good one for the play overall...

How do you decide when you are done writing a play. With other arts- like painting- there is a time when you know you won't touch it anymore, but with writing it seems endless. It can be, especially with theater. I guess once the play has been published and produced then you say- I should stop working on it. Almost never because you actually think it's perfect. After enough time goes by, I find that I have grown enough as an artist, not that I have gotten better, I have gotten different, and then I play begins to feel like it was written by somebody else and I am not interested in working on it anymore. If you're the writer there is always going to be something you are not satisfied with. You can work obsessively on one play and never write anything else. You need to tell yourself you'll come back to it later, but move on at a certain point.

Do you see a new wave of young Jewish writers in America?

It's funny because three of the writers associated with this wave, Jonathan Safran Foer, Dara Horn and I were all on the same BYFBI year. Like in every generation of young American writers, a bunch of them are Jewish. It doesn't seem like a new phenomenon- every culture produces its artists. Unlike the other writers in that group I didn't write very directly about Jewishness or Israeliness. But after I wrote about baseball players, pipe organists and scientists, maybe I'm finally ready to write about my Israeli parents.

Do you always find yourself in the characters you are working on for television, and someone who is not. When I wrote that play, I was very young, I was questioning if I could do work as great as I dreamed, though right now I'm just worried about getting work done at all. Just to finish and get it out there. Does that mean it's autobiographical? I don't know. But I think any good play will wrestle with the question the writer himself is wrestling with.

Do you find them to be different?

You're writing for different mediums, television and theater. Do you find them to be different?

The argument is that incorporating pure creativity, in spite of all the things that happen to us in our lives, is what distinguishes someone who is able to create great work and someone who is not. When I wrote that play, I was very young, I was questioning if I could do work as great as I dreamed, though right now I'm just worried about getting work done at all. Just to finish and get it out there. Does that mean it's autobiographical? I don't know. But I think any good play will wrestle with the question the writer himself is wrestling with.

So the answer is always sort of yes and no. It has to be some combination of autobiography and invention. Peoples' understanding of what is autobiographical tends to be really shallow, they look at the most obvious signs. If I would write a play about a writer who acted totally differently then me and does things I have never done, I would be asked all the time if it was autobiographical. The answer would be yes, but in a deeper way.

It's similar to your play "Bach in Leipzig", I read it and I thought "What the hell!" It's so far from you, but can you still find yourself in it?

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Developed first in the classroom. My frustration with my understanding of domestic violence and sexual assault year as a BYFI-Repair the World Campus Ambassador.

The program provides a safe space where volunteers and women can develop their own voice and offers journals, share life stories, and discuss poetry and prose. The main meeting space of The Women's Safe House to women of all ages and backgrounds congregate in the living in a domestic violence shelter. Every Monday night, the program has finally found its wings. There has been an explosion of interest in the project and our number of volunteers this semester has almost quadrupled, growing from six to 22 volunteers, not counting many more interested and supporting the project from the outside. Since joining the Campus Y last fall, The Writing Shelter now has an infrastructure to rely on and a means of sustainability. This program has grown far beyond me.

Louisa Kornblatt | BYFI 2009

The Writing Shelter at the Women’s Safe House

The Writing Shelter merges two different populations: students from Washington University in St. Louis and women living in a domestic violence shelter. Every Monday night, women of all ages and backgrounds congregate in the main meeting space of The Women’s Safe House to journal, share life stories, and discuss poetry and prose. The program provides a safe space where volunteers and women can develop their own voice and offers transformation for women who have suppressed their narratives of abuse in order to survive. Each session includes an introduction of sorts, an examination of a text, and a writing activity. Mentors are both active writers and trained in the sensitive topic of domestic violence. I began working on this project in the summer of 2011 during my year as a BYFi-Repair the World Campus Ambassador.

My understanding of domestic violence and sexual assault developed first in the classroom. My frustration with structures of oppression quickly rose and encouraged me to expand my learning beyond the classroom. I encourage the use of sensitive discourse, but ultimately I stress the need to get up and volunteer. Scholarship must be paired with service. We cannot isolate ourselves within a classroom just as we should check our service work off a to do list with no reflection.

Personal Challenges:

My personal privilege has been enemy ever since the beginning of this project. When brainstorming I was intoxicated by the big ideas swarming around in my head. However, I often worried that my dreams were only going to reinforce stereotypes. I was worried that my mainly white, middle-class, female, young volunteers would not be able to connect with the population at the shelter who are primarily African American, lower-class, and vary in age. However, I set up a system in which we embrace diversity instead of trying to pretend like we are all exactly the same. Every person sitting around the table comes from somewhere distinctly different and as a result has something unique to say.

After two years of pushing to get The Writing Shelter fully off the ground, the program has finally found its wings. There has been an explosion of interest in the project and our number of volunteers this semester has almost quadrupled, growing from six to 22 volunteers, not counting many more interested and supporting the project from the outside. Since joining the Campus Y last fall, The Writing Shelter now has an infrastructure to rely on and a means of sustainability. This program has grown far beyond me.

* Layman’s terms

The Power and Control Wheel: The power and control wheel was developed by DAIP (Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs) in Duluth, Minnesota in 1984 and illustrates the range of experiences in abusive relationships. The misconception is that domestic violence (DV) or intimate partner violence (IPV) is only about physical violence. However, this wheel demonstrates that DV is about power and an abusive partner may use any of these tactics to manipulate and control.

Intersectionality: This term was coined by Kimberlé Crenshaw in 1989 and revolutionized the way feminists understand the relationship between identities and oppressive systems. Crenshaw used the word to describe how race oppression and gender oppression interact. An African American woman experiences sexism in a unique way because she is both a woman and is black. It is impossible to separate one identity from another. Oppressions do not act independently, but instead connect to create a system of oppression.

Structural violence: Dr. Paul Farmer explains, “Structural violence is one way of describing social arrangements that put individuals and populations in harm’s way... The arrangements are structural because they are embedded in the political and economic organization of our social world; they are violent because they cause injury to people... Structural violence is visited upon all those whose social status denies them access to the fruits of scientific and social progress.”

The term is used to refer to institutions such as the legal system or the health care system that victimize and oppress marginalized populations. There is no visible agent because the infrastructure of the institution itself prevents an individual from gaining access, getting assistance, or expressing an opinion.

Inspirations – people, places, or moments

My parents are and have always the most important supporting force in my life. They are my cheerleaders, encouraging me to do good and listen to my instincts. My father—an elementary school teacher, a children’s book author and playwright, a film maker, a musician, an artist, an actor, and a joker—has taught me to be passionate, creative, and not take myself too seriously. My mother—a Russian Literature Professor, a previous dean of the University of Wisconsin-Madison’s graduate school and chair of the Slavic Department, and now a nursing student—has taught me how to handle all kinds of personalities, be reliable, see projects all the way through, and put up with my father.

Carla Falasco—she volunteer coordinator of The Women’s Safe House during the incubation and creation of The Writing Shelter—has been my biggest advocate. When I was searching for community partners she immediately expressed interest and has stuck with me these past few years. She has given me a voice within the bureaucratic shelter system that can be resistant to change and supported my lofty plans. She is an idealist like me and has kept me grounded, while always pushing me to think big. I am so grateful for her guidance and friendship that she so willingly offered from the start despite my naivety and lack of experience.

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Layman’s Terms

Three Bronfmanim share terminology and inspirations in their fields of action

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Over the course of the past year, I received an AVF grant to lead a project to complete the construction of an elementary school in rural Ethiopia under the auspices of Engineers Without Borders. I had already spent time working in Ethiopia after my army service, and knew that this school was begun six years ago and never finished. The school is in Waaree, a tiny village two and a half hours drive on a dirt road from the nearest town, Harar, and a further ten hour drive from Ethiopia’s capital, Addis Ababa.

We spent two months planning the strategy for our project so that we would be able to bring six people to Waaree and finish the building within a month. We would plaster the existing walls, add a tile floor, build an acoustic ceiling, paint the entire space, and equip the classrooms with desks, blackboards and shelves. We also planned to add solar panels on the school roof to provide electricity so that the school could have night classes for adults. Lastly, we devised a plan for a system to collect rain water from the school’s roof, as the village has no running water.

Unfortunately, as we all know too well, good intentions and planning do not always mean that we succeed. Two of us arrived in Ethiopia early in order to liaise with the local government and obtain the appropriate permits for our work. However, the office of the local governor ordered us to stop working, claiming that we did not hold appropriate licenses for humanitarian work in Ethiopia. Over the course of a month we tried to work with various bureaucratic agencies, but had no success. It turned out that the company I had previously worked for in Ethiopia was worried about us doing independent work in the region, and had persuaded the governor’s office that our work wouldn’t be advantageous for the residents of the region. We were subsequently returned to Israel and are currently reevaluating our plans and goals.

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Most cells of the body have finite, defined jobs, but stem cells are those cells that can still decide what to do when they “grow-up”.

Bone marrow transplantation (BMT) makes use of transplanting blood stem cells (Hematopoietic stem cells) by essentially substituting diseased cells of the patient with healthy stem cells from the donor. In some cases, the patient can act as his/her own donor (i.e. autologous transplantation), mainly prior to chemotherapy or radiation treatment, where after treatment stem cells can be re-infused. However, in many cases separate donors are used (i.e. allogeneic transplantation), which requires matching of patient-donor tissue types. Any mismatches will increase chances of the graft being rejected and of graft-versus-host disease. Graft-versus-host disease (GVHD) is unique to BMT, it occurs because the bone marrow graft contains immune cells as well as stem cells. When the tissue of patient and donor are mismatched the immune cells of the donor recognize the patients’ body as foreign, like they would a virus, and start attacking the body of the patient. This illness can often cause death. The process of finding a match is tedious and it takes months to find a matched unrelated donor in different registries. About 20% of patients do not find a match and many patients die waiting.

After finding a good donor, and collecting stem cells, the patient must undergo conditioning therapy – using either high dose of chemotherapy and/or radiation to kill unhealthy cells. After the transplantation, to prevent rejection of the graft, medications to weaken the immune system (i.e. immunosuppressant) are used as well. These treatments are very harsh and leave the body of the patient very vulnerable to different diseases. Some older or very sick patients are not eligible for transplantations because their bodies cannot withstand these treatments. I’ve conducted research at the Weizmann Institute of Science for the last 5 years, and am currently in the 3rd year of my PhD. The ultimate goal of our studies is to transfer bone marrow without tissue matching, meaning anyone can be your donor. My studies aim to solve the two problems raised here:

1. The need for tissue matching
2. The harsh conditioning prior to BMT.

Luckily we have been successful at overcoming the need for tissue matching in our experiments in mouse models and are now beginning translation into humans. In these experiments we transplant bone marrow from a completely mismatched mouse donor into a conditioned mouse host, mimicking what would happen in the clinic. In order to prevent GVHD, we remove the immune cells from the graft before transplantation. Our main innovation is the transplantation of uniquely engineered immune cells. These cells have the capacity to promote tolerance to the graft but do not cause GVHD, even though they are immune cells. Moreover, we have been successful in transplanting mismatched bone marrow under reduced intensity conditioning, so that the patients’ immune system remains intact and the patient is less vulnerable to infections. We are improving our protocols to make them safer for treatment of less severe illnesses, such as anemia.

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Becky was born in Connecticut until age 12, when she moved to Massachusetts with her mother and stepfather. Her parents divorced when she was 5. Every other Shabbat, at her father’s, was an Orthodox one. Her mother, who was born in Israel but grew up in the US, led a secular life. During her Bronfman summer, she could suddenly answer questions from both perspectives. It was both exciting and confusing. She studied at Barnard, a women’s only college, which she loved. Her senior thesis was about Jewish American Identity and the New York Teachers’ Strike of 1968, which was led by Jewish teachers.

Mick (Michael) grew up in Australia in a town by Melbourne, in a devout Christian home with a Dutch father and an American mother. Works as an Engineer. Currently planning a new Subway line. In his free time, he enjoys working with wood and mountain biking.

They met at a social event on a boat (they do that kind of thing in Australia). There was an immediate connection. She went back home at the end of the semester. A year later, he came for a two month visit. After college, she moved to Australia. Five years later, they were married. Before the wedding they backpacked for six months in South America.

The Move
The American symbols of success had no meaning in Australia. She had to be herself – a humbling experience. As far as Jewish life was concerned it was difficult for Becky, which is why they came back to New York in 2006. The Community in Australia wasn’t creative and their identity was based largely on the Holocaust. Also, it is important for Becky to live close to her sister who has Down Syndrome.

Becky worked at an NGO that advised businesses and government agencies about Employee Diversity.

The Question at hand
Where is Home? For them, Home is comprised of several factors – being close to their family, a meaningful job and living in a just and equal society. The first two criteria exist in New York. But the third is lacking – money plays a huge part and the social gaps are growing all the time. Since Miriam was born they’ve become much more politically active, which surprised them. They suddenly feel there’s someone who will inherit the reality they leave behind.

Living in Australia is a confusing alternative. The need for a creative Jewish community alienates them from there. Besides, America has more models of interfaith marriages. It’s important to them that they have decided to raise Miriam as a Jew and that Mick isn’t planning on converting. Miriam calls Becky Ima and Mick Dad.

A typical Friday
There’s always a Shabbat moment – They light candles in candlesticks Becky got from her Grandmother, who Miriam is named after. Sometimes there is a quiet prayer or a silent family moment.

Specialty of the house
Pasta – can’t mess it up. Everyone works late and the house is vegetarian.

How Mick defines Bronfman in one sentence
The Bronfman Youth Fellowships allow precocious young Jews to explore their identity and realize their potential through an enduring dialogue with a dynamic and diverse group of their peers.
After four years of marriage they moved to New York. Ilana
nine years later, it seems to have worked.

When they were teenagers. Ilana and Mish were dating
neighborhood, always close to the author Agnon' House.

Mishael (Mish)
Mish grew up in a number of homes in the Talpiyot neighborhood, always close to the author Agnon’ House. The area is an important part of his family’s heritage. Rabbi Moshe Sachs, Mishael’s grandfather, was a Relief Officer for the Haganah movement during the War of Independence. When Agnon refused to leave his home in Talpiyot during the war, Moshe was sent to protect him. When Moshe died, his family found an old Passover Haggadah which Moshe had put together and Agnon had edited. Mish studied at Maaleh Gilboa Yeshiva for three years, and then served for three years in the army. He enjoyed his time at Yeshiva, but the army was difficult. This was mostly because he was in a position that, at first, sounded interesting, but ended up being disappointing - the Foreign Forces Liaison Division. After his military service, Mish co-authored “Night to Remember: The Haggadah of Contemporary Voices” with his father.

Ilan
Ilan is originally from Haifa, where her mother made history by becoming the first environmental movement in the city. She began her crusade again pollution because her daughter had asthma. Ilana served in the intelligence unit. She is older than Mish and was a first lieutenant while Mish was only a first sergeant. After they moved back to Israel, she started a cognitive research laboratory at Bar Ilan University.

How they met…..
When they were teenagers. Ilana and Mish were dating other people. Their boyfriend and girlfriend happened to be neighbors, so they also got to know each other. They met again during their army service. Mish had to spend a year a half trying to convince Ilana to be his girlfriend. But nine years later, it seems to have worked.

New York
After four years of marriage they moved to New York. Ilana began a post-doctorate in neuroscience. Mish started Rabbinical studies at Yeshivat Chovevei Torah. They always blamed one another for leaving Israel. Now they blame each other for returning. Their first apartment was in Harlem – tiny with brown walls and windows facing their neighbors. Two years later they moved to the Upper West Side.

Returning to Israel
They moved back to Israel last summer. The label “return” is quite irritating – mainly because the years in New York were good ones. When they were deciding to move back, it was like they were standing in the middle, looking at themselves living both lives. In the German Colony, where they live now, Mish has memories of every street corner and he knows exactly where you will be able to smell jasmine during the summer. But, sometimes, they wish that they were in a new, unknown, place that they could explore and discover.

Question at hand
How to keep an open household, bringing in guests and interacting with the outside world, while still creating a strong nuclear family. Can you keep the door wide open and still make sure that the walls of the house are thick and protective?

A typical Shabbat
They only just returned so nothing is typical yet. Friday night they pray at home or at synagogue, but they like it best when they pray at home. When they’re not home, they divide their time between the three different synagogues.

How does Ilana define Bronfman in one sentence?
Great program, great people, she is especially fond of the educational director. If only she could understand what type of Rabbi he is….
Yigal and Dor’s Home

Daphi (24), project coordinator at Amitei Bronfman, Amitim 2005. Yitz (25), BYFI 2005

Jerusalem

Yigal

Yigal was born and raised in Kfar Saba. He was a student at the Nachshon pre-army academy. His time at the academy was a formative one, when he was exploring his identity and coming out as gay. After graduating, he served in the Nahal Infantry Brigade and then in field intelligence. After completing his military service he hiked the Israel National Trail and then returned to the Nachshon academy, this time as a counselor, for two years. He then studied law at Hebrew University and he is currently completing a legal internship with the Deputy Attorney General. He volunteers for the Hoshen (Education & Change) Organization, an information center for the LGBT community.

Dor

Dor was born in Kryat Bialik but spent most of his childhood and adolescence in Rishon Lezion. He served in the Nahal Infantry Brigade, and after completing his military service he hiked the Israel National Trail. Over the course of his trip he realized that he wanted to be involved in education and teaching. When he returned began his degree at the Ofakim Program for Educational Academic Excellence at Tel Aviv University. For the past two years he has taught Bible and Israeli culture and been a home room teacher at a middle school.

The Ezrahi – Landes Home

Daphi (24), project coordinator at Amitei Bronfman, Amitim 2005. Yitz (25), BYFI 2005

Jerusalem

Yitz

Yitz was born in the United States and grew up in Teaneck, New Jersey. It was pretty much a shetel, 60% of his neighbors were Orthodox Jews. Even the deputy mayor is Jewish, even though the shetel rabbis “would have been disappointed by this show of materialism and the capitalism”. He wants to go to a fantastic elementary school with an open floor plan where they encourage artistic creativity and informal play. He played the saxophone, sitar and the bass. He went to High School at Ramaz, in New York City, which had a stricter framework. He even had to wear a tie every day. When everyone around him was completely stressed about college, he already knew he wanted to go to Israel. He decided to study at the Havat Hashomer basic training army base, for soldiers with serious behavioral problems. His service was a “difficult and amazing” time. After the army, he took a bartending course, took odd jobs, and travelled in North and South America for eight months. After she got back, she began working at Amitei Bronfman in a variety of roles. She’s also studying History at Hebrew University. In her spare time she volunteers for Encounter, organizing meetings between groups of Israelis and Palestinians (with the help of the Alumni Venture Fund Grant she received last year!). She also works with a clinic run through the Jerusalem “Open House” that tests for HIV and leads an interfaith youth group.

The wedding

In May 2013. The discussions about the wedding began with a difficult conversation about Halacha that take place on the banks of the Hudson River, New York. They both decided that they wanted to have a home that incorporated Halacha with sensitivity and compromise. They had trouble finding a ceremony that would mirror these ideas, so decided to build one themselves. Though the ceremony wasn’t completely comfortable for either of their families, Yitz’s family felt comfortable Halachically and Daphi’s family felt that their values were being represented. Daphi and Yitz felt that they had created something significant.

Question at hand

What community should they belong to, if any? Yitz “I knew that this question would come up after the wedding, and it has, big time”. There is a problem of Americans going to Israel for a short time and creating insular communities. They argue if and where to pray. In any event, they either started living together after dating for eight months.

A Typical Friday

Clean the house, finish cooking for Shabbat and then talk to Yitz’s parents on the phone. Daphi lights the candles and Harmikash 18. They love tuna cutlets, potatoes and sweet potatoes cooked in the oven in a bonfire style. Yigal says that Dor is a fantastic cook. Lately they have tried to eat fewer animal products – so tuna cutlets haven’t been on the menu so often.

How does Dor describe The Bronfman Fellowship in one sentence?

It’s something Yigal was involved with when he was in high school and now he’s involved with its alumni committee. Basically – he has no clue.
1987

Adam Davidson
Jen Banbury, my wife, and I had a son, Asher. He’s now 18 months.

Ben Lowenstein
Still enjoying our recent move to the Portland, Maine area working as a Cardiologist in Brunswick, Maine. Enjoyed catching up with Hal, Joel and Lauren at the reunion - as well as reliving some fun memories with Joe Reimer and Rabbi Paley!

Deb Duansly
My daughter Chava had her bat mitzvah last June and is headed to high school! My little guy just finished 3rd grade and is ranked in Colorado for gymnasts his age-top 20!!! Larry Wexler and I married in Austin, Texas on Nov 3rd! I am still running dirt! Completed the trans zion- 50 miles across Zion national park in 14 hours...Oh and am still enjoying retirement from Jewish communal work after 20 years and my private practice is full and busy!

Hershl Berman
I work as a home palliative care physician, and it’s the best job I ever had satisfaction-wise. The kids are starting senior kindergarten and grade 1, both in French immersion, and training up to become the first 2 socialist half Chinese half Ashkenazi prime ministers of Canada...

Lauren Roth
My baby is 4, my eldest just turned 20 (I remember being 20 like it was yesterday!!), we are building a new house, and I love my work as a therapist specializing in marriage and parenting. I’ve been writing for Aish.com and for a magazine which has wide circulation in the world-wide Orthodox community (it’s called Ami Magazine). It was great to see Joel, Hal, and Ben at the reunion!

Michael Colson
I'm happy to announce the birth of our second child, Daniel Kenneth Colson, on Feb. 12, 2013.

1988

Randi Cairns
Still not acclimating well to this whole parenting a grown up, and the world of dating, driving and other heartache that entails... With child number two to follow just next year (and then another decade before the cycle repeats itself). Randi is alternating between deep breaths and lots of prayers. Hubby sitside for now much to our delight. Home Front Hearts continues to proudly serve military families...

Scott Landman
Last fall I moved to Portland, OR. Despite enormous peer pressure I have not gotten tattooed, pierced, or grown facial hair. Nor have I taken up beer drinking, coffee cupping, or nighttime bike riding in the rain. After a raucously good summer exploring the national parks of the mountain time zone, I hurt my foot just walking around city streets and the lengthy recovery period has made my appearance more "prosperous" than normal.

Sheila Jelen
I was appointed the Director of the Program in Comparative Literature at the University of Maryland, my oldest child Malka started high school, my youngest Meirav started pre-school, Akiva and Nava started elementary and middle school respectively. I am enjoying my scholarship on “salvage poetics” or the ways in which turn-of-the-20th century fiction and photography are read and viewed as ethnographic testaments to the world of Eastern European Jewry...

1989

David Seligman
We had a second child on June 24th, a girl, Rebecca Rose Seligman. She joins her older brother Jack and our dog Zee! I went on an AJC mission to Portugal in March and met with the Prime Minister’s office, the Foreign Ministry, and members of Parliament. In April, Portugal’s Parliament passed a law allowing Sephardic Jews to become naturalized Portuguese citizens, as part of the amends for the Inquisition. Are the two events connected? You be the judge!

Deby Kanner
This past year has been mixed with blessings and challenges. The blessings are my family - Evan, Claire 4, Maximilian 23 months, my parents and siblings.

Jonathan Tepperman
For once I do have news: I married Alexis Wrochnowski in June!

Juliet Headrick
I have at last emerged and am studying for my masters in poetry composition at Lehman College, with a side dish in teaching college writing.

Maya Fischhoff
We moved to Ada, Ohio, in August, as my husband took a job at the university there. It should be an adventure as the village of Ada is 2500 people, surrounded by farms. We have enjoyed our sojourn in Canada (in London, Ontario this year) but are looking forward to exploring new terrain.

Zvi Shimon
We (Ruthy and I) are grateful for the birth of Elhanan Abraham (thank God, sixth child for the Shimons).

Amir Karger
We’ve been in Sharon, MA for 9 years. It’s wonderful to put down roots. The good news: we finally got nice counters in the kitchen. The bad news: everything else in the house has been around long enough to break. Deena started Maimonides school, alma mater of many Bronfmanim. She has the same math teacher I did, but I tell her the painted and postered walls are nothing like the concrete of my youth. Noam, has read some 8,000 pages of Hardy Boys (!)
Angela Buchdahl  
In the past year we celebrated my oldest son Gabriel’s becoming Bar mitzvah. I continue to serve as the Senior Cantor at Central Synagogue, and on the board of the Avodah Service Corps and Auburn Theological Seminary. Living time with my three kids and husband in NYC.

Charlie Buckholtz  
For the last 4 years I’ve been living in Jerusalem with my wife Sara. We’re both freelance writer-editor. A year ago I was rushed to the emergency room with what turned out to be a stroke. Now I’m better and we’re expecting our first child. My various writings and musings can be found at my blog “The Bad Rabbi”, and my next book, Are You Not a Man of God?: Devotion, Betrayal, and Social Criticism in Jewish Tradition, coauthored with Tova Hartman, is coming
did not attend.

Idit Klein  
After 12 years of building Keshet, the organization I direct, I enjoyed a wonderful three month sabbatical this summer and early fall. I spent a month in Sedona hiking every day, reading, loving the beauty and desert stillness. I’m married to Jordan, and we bought a house so I did some nesting and home decorating. I see Bronfman in Daniel Kamin, Judith Rosenbaum, and Susan Wolf Drikoff in Boston and am always glad to meet new folks in town.

Jon Duke  
Just had a new baby, Ezra William Duke, 8lb 7oz, born May 14th. He is joining daughters Lila 5 and Naomi 3.

Scott Savitz  
My big news is that my wife and I had twins last December; their names are Penelope Sara and Sebastian Maximilian (Penina Sarah and Shmuel Menachem). I continue to enjoy Austin, TX with my wife, Rabbi Rachel Kobrin, and our two children (Noa, 9, and Adin, 5).

Shawn Ruby  
We left B’rannah for a new life in Mal’e Gibo’a, a kibbutz in the north. I left my engineering job (where I had been for almost 15 years) and started studying for the rabbinate, while consulting a couple of days a week to pay the rent. The kids are adjusting well, and Tammy and I are loving the rural lifestyle. I have some writing projects in the works, and I hope to devote some more time to them in the coming year.

Leah Mundell  
We’re still in beautiful Flagstaff, Arizona, where I work as an organizer with a broad-based community organization and teach at Northern Arizona University. Gabriel started kindergarten and Madeleine is in 3rd grade. We’re excited to be spending David’s sabbatical next year in Cape Town! Much of my work in Arizona has focused on immigration, and I’m looking forward to doing comparative research on migrant organizing in South Africa. We’d love to connect.

Michah Gottlieb  
Michah Gottlieb was awarded tenure at NYU.

Megan Lewis  
All is well. I started a new job as the Legal and Policy Director of Mayors Against Illegal Guns. It’s extremely exciting and challenging. My family is doing well (kids are 9, 6 and 2) and that’s all the news!

Rick Brody  
I continue to enjoy Austin, TX with my wife, Rabbi Rachel Kobrin, and our two children (Noa, 9, and Adin, 5). I’m the rabbis of Congregation Kol Halev and also work as a curriculum analyst and reviewer for the Institute for Curriculum Services, which works nationally with social studies textbook publishers to ensure accuracy of Jewish content. My wife Rachel is the associate rabbi of Congregation Agudas Achim and the kids both attend the Austin Riverdale NY.

Dana Weinberg  
This year we are celebrating the Bat Mitzvah of my daughter. I have become a full professor of Sociology at Queens College - CUNY. I am engaged in very absorbing research on books, writing, and publishing in the digital age, and I am about to publish a serial thriller about the Russian mob on Brighton Beach under the pen name D. B. Shuster. 1990

Daniel Silverberg  
we just had our 4th child, Sam Gershon Silverberg, in September. I was recently promoted to the General Counsel to the House Foreign Affairs Committee. All is good.

Deborah Kovsky-Apap  
In August we celebrated my oldest daughter Elishewa’s bat mitzvah with a trip to Israel. It was the kids’ first time there, and it was so amazing seeing everything through their eyes! I was recently elected to the partnership of Pepper Hamilton LLP and have been keeping busy with the City of Detroit’s bankruptcy case. I continue to serve on the boards of the ADL and JARC. We just moved “across town” to Huntington Woods and would welcome

Jessica Zellner  
My husband, Jason, and I were thrilled to welcome our twins, Rebecca Charlotte and Joshua Brian, on May 6, 2013. My news is that in September I took a new job as the Director of PR and Development at Kishorit, a kibbutz for adults with special needs located in the Galilee. The job is both challenging and fulfilling. Our daughters (aged 13, 10, 8, and 8) continue to delight and inspire us.

Joshua Meyer  
My daughter, Liora celebrated her bat mitzvah here in Cambridge. Trying our best to navigate all of our family and friend’s religious proclivities made me think back frequently on my Bronfman summer. Also, I have a big exhibit “Rustle, Sparkle, Flutter, Float” coming this November in San Francisco at the Dolby Chadwick Gallery (dolbychadwickgallery.com), and the gallery is publishing a nice book on the occasion with essays by Allegra

Julie Geller  
I just released my fifth CD, “Year Round: New Songs Inspired by the Jewish Holidays.” I have a feeling this is going to be the last physical CD I press. Moving fully into the digital age…

Shira Reifman  
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1991

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1992

Elijah Dornstreich  
I got married on September 22nd to Gennifer Miller Dornstreich.

Nahanni Rous  
This year I feel especially blessed and delighted to share the news of our son Omri Avi’s birth. At 9 months old, he is thriving. His big sister Shahah is six and dotes on him, as do we all. We also bought a house this year (and now have plenty of room for visitors!). My shuppah business with Nahanni FabricArts is growing, and I am enjoying the balance of family that I love and work that I love.

Rena Nickerson  
Big news for me is a new role (a promotion): I’m now the Director of Marketing for Coffee at Kraft Canada. I’m responsible for the Maxwell House, Nabob and Tassimo businesses — a very large chunk of Kraft Canada sales and growth. I am also stepping down after 2 years as VP at my synagogue but will remain on the board. I’m also joining the board of my children’s school, Netivot HaTorah. Our daughter Tiferet starts high school in the fall.

Tamar Gordon  
My boys, ages 5 1/2 and 1 1/2, are delicious, and my private practice is busy. Josh is enjoying teaching at the Solomon Schechter School of Westchester, and we continue to live in the Traditional-Egalitarian Mecca of Riverdale NY.

Warren Braunig  
I was made partner at Kelar & Van Nest, a law firm in San Francisco... I work on an interesting variety of intellectual property, white collar criminal defense, and complex commercial litigation. My sons Ike and Toby are now 5 and 2/1.
### 1993

**Avlana Eisenberg**  
I’ve been on faculty at Harvard Law School for the past two years and am currently affiliated with Harvard’s Safra Center for Ethics, studying criminal justice issues. On the musical front, I’m beginning my second season conducting the Boston Chamber Symphony and I have a new CD — it features violin soloist Zina Schiff and includes concertos by Sibelius and Barber along with the orchestral premiere of Israeli composer Ben-Haim’s “Ten Years.”

**Joshua Goodman**  
My wife and I welcomed into our lives Sofia Mo Goodman last August. Reflecting what will surely be a cross-cultural upbringing, she has three passports: from Brazil, where she was born, and from her parents’ homes of Colombia and the U.S. Also, after more than five years at Bloomberg News in Brazil, I’ve decided to leave the job to become bureau chief of Colombia, Venezuela and Panama for The Associated Press.

**Max Strassfeld**  
I graduated this summer with PhD in Rabbinics from Stanford University, and am now in Ann Arbor for the year with a fellowship with the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies at Michigan.

**Wayne Jones**  
I’m now living in the San Francisco Bay Area, and looks forward to connecting with Bronfmanim on the West Coast.

### 1994

**Alisa Mall**  
My husband, Ari Rosenberg, and I welcomed our daughter, Avrin Sonja Rosenberg, into the world August 23. She was born a lean, mean 5 lbs 4 oz, a big surprise given our 6’5” and 6’1” statures. She is getting taller and more beloved every day.

**Ariel Adesnik**  
This year will mark the 10th year in operation for Chai Ayalah, the organization my mother founded to provide free, accessible High Holiday services to the New York Jewish community. My daughter Clara turned 2 and my wife, Susanna, presented her first oral argument in federal court. I’m currently a Council on Foreign Relations International Affairs Fellow for 2013-2014.

**Dara Horn**  
Brendan and I welcomed our fourth child, a boy named Ronen. He is 1 year old and is living his life as though he were an only child: his three older siblings (Maya, 7; Ari, 6; and Eli, 4) haze him daily. My fourth novel, A Guide for the Perplexed, was just published. My children were illiterate for my previous books, but for this one I did make partner at my law firm this past year.

**Jacob Sadikman**  
We’re doing well, girls are happy, work is intense, and I am taking on a new role as ED of 100Kin10, a national effort I founded while at Carnegie to respond to President Obama’s call for 100,000 excellent STEM teachers over ten years.

**Matti Friedman**  
I’m living happily in Jerusalem with Naama, our two-year-old daughter Tamar and twins, Aviv and Michael, who just started first grade. I had the pleasure of speaking to the 2013 Fellows at the Israel Museum in the summer, and felt old.

**Nadya Rashkovetskaya**  
My three-year-old girl, Hannah “Harrowka,” will be starting a Jewish pre-school which is a part of Rockwell Academy in Cincinnati this fall. I am thrilled that I am able to provide her the opportunity that did not exist for me in the former Soviet Union. My work as a medical monitor for Eli Lilly pharmaceutical clinical trials has kept me on the road quite a bit. I am monitoring everything from neuroscience, to urology, to orthopedics, to endocrinology.

### 1995

**Rache Gordon**  
Rache Gordon: Living in Toronto this year and teaching in the history department at the University of Toronto. Would love to hear from other Bronfmanim in Canada!

**Sara Meirowitz**  
I was ordained as a rabbi by Hebrew College Rabbinical School in June, and am now a brand-new teacher at Gann Academy, the pluralist Jewish day school in Waltham, MA. I live in Brookline with my spouse, David Finkelstein, and we had a beautiful baby boy in November.

**Alyshea Austern**  
We just moved from Brooklyn to Shanghai! The plan is to be here for about 5 years. We’d love to hear from any Bronfman alum in the “neighborhood.”

**Michelle Sternthal**  
Zeke (my partner) and I joyously invited a baby girl, Myla Sally Sternreich, into our lives on December 1, 2012. We are reveling in this new world of parenthood!

**Ruth Kaplan**  
I’m happy to share the news of the birth of my son with the Bronfman community! His name is Samuel Jacob Kaplan-Fay, and he was born in August 2012.

### 1996

**Dan Smokler**  
Our little son, Shalev just turned 2. We are, God willing, expecting another next week. October 15, 2012. We are still working at NYU Hillard, and now completing my dottorate in Education and Jewish Studies. I hope to be done in the summer. My wife Erin is finishing her PhD this winter, and continues to teach at Yeshivat Maharat and the Drisha Institute.

**Michal Scharlin**  
I’ve begun working as a therapist at the UCLA student counseling center and have also started a private psychotherapy practice.

**Miriam Schiffer**  
My husband Simon Blander and I welcomed twins Ronen and William on October 17, 2012.

**Sheila Nazarian**  
It’s hard to believe it has been 17 years since we were in Israel together and a lot has happened since then. I now have 3 children: Leila (8 years old), Arya (5 years old) and Alisa (2 years old). I graduated from USC’s Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery residency and have started an independent practice in Beverly Hills. I am spending 10% of my time at the county hospital, however, to help the less fortunate and teach the residents hand and general reconstructive surgery.

**Tali Griffel**  
I am pregnant as a housewife with kid #3. We are still in Jerusalem, always happy to have guests! I’m mostly translating and spending time with my girls, Shaked and Gillie, right now. I just saw Ariel Weiner (nee Groveman) at the Amitim 15 Bash, which reminded me of how much I would love to see all of you crazy “96ers.”

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1997

Becky Voorwende  
We recently moved apartments, but lucky for us, our new place is still in Park Slope. Miriam is now two years old and she loves to sing and run around the dining table in circles. My work with Bronfman continues to fulfill me as I learn new things every day!

David Wolkenfeld  
In June I completed my fifth and final year directing, together with my wife Sara, the Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus (JULC) program at Princeton University. In July I became the rabbi of Anshe Sholom (Enai Israel Congregation), a dynamic and diverse modern Orthodox shul in the Lakewood neighborhood of Chicago. Our children, Noam, Aiksa, Hillel, and Sophie are adapting well to life in the Midwest.

Eli Battalion  
Declares himself generally up to no good with his hands tied up in numerous projects, including co-writing the music and lyrics for the feature film musical Stage Fright; consulting in the consumer tech, media and entertainment industries, and prepping the YidLife Crisis, a web-based video series which aims to address the modern Ashkenazi Crisis: what is your identity when you’ve brought up with elements of “old country” Yiddishkeit, for those who have never been to the Lower East Side.

Jeff Frekin Gordon  
Our big news is that my wife Sara and I welcomed our son Eli Samuel into the world on the evening of Oct 20th 2012 - which happened to be smack dab in the middle of the BYFI 25th anniversary Saturday night gala. Thankfully these two events coincided only in time and not in space. We were sorry to have to miss the BYFI celebration, but we are looking forward to introducing Eli to everyone at the next reunion!

Jonathan Gribetz  
I just finished my second year at Rutgers, teaching Jewish and Middle Eastern history. I am currently putting the finishing touches on my book on conceptions of religion and race in the early Zionist-Arab encounter. I just finished my second year at Rutgers, teaching Jewish and Middle Eastern history. I am currently putting the finishing touches on my book on conceptions of religion and race in the early Zionist-Arab encounter. I am in the middle of my second year at Rutgers, teaching Jewish and Middle Eastern history. I am currently putting the finishing touches on my book on conceptions of religion and race in the early Zionist-Arab encounter.

Tova Serkin  
Last September I joined the BYFI professional team as the Director of Israel Operations - I’m so excited to be a part of the Amitei Bronfman program and continue to think about the connection between Israelis and North American Jews. Another big plus - working with Ava and Becky and the rest of the amazing staff. On Pesach eve, Yair, Noam and I were delighted to welcome our second little boy, Gil Michael and we are recently moved to Herzliyya.

1998

Amit Friedman  
I am currently the head of the Center for Cooperative Development in the North and a founder of the lighting and sound cooperative “Shom’im Hazak.” My wife, Adi, and I are expecting our first daughter.

Ani Zionit Bernov  
I live in the Western Galilee Kibbutz of Kabri. I have served as a CPA for the Naama Naot Group for the past three years and invite you all to visit the Teva Naot shoe factory. My husband Michael and I have two children.

Ari Weisbard  
My partner Rebecca Ennen and I decided to get married next Spring. We are planning a Jewish ceremony, but are holding off on civil marriage in part out of concern that we have not yet realized full marriage equality.

Asher Auel  
On September 22, 2012 my son Noa was born. This year, both my wife, Jennifer Raab, and I had postdoctoral research fellowships at NYU University; mine was at the Courant Institute for Mathematical Sciences and my wife’s was at the Institute of Fine Arts. In the Fall, she started a tenure-track assistant professorship in the Department of the History of Art at Yale University; I started as a postdoctoral associate in the Department of Mathematics at Princeton University; I started as a postdoctoral associate in the Department of Mathematics at Princeton University; I started as a postdoctoral associate in the Department of Mathematics at Princeton University; I started as a postdoctoral associate in the Department of Mathematics at Princeton University; I started as a postdoctoral associate in the Department of Mathematics at Princeton University.
Aaron Orkin
News? Why of course! Julia and I welcomed Violet Aviva Orkin into our world on April 7th.

Avital Yefin
I work on the local council as the coordinator of youth activities, and volunteer at the women’s Playback theater in Kedumim. My husband, David, and I have two adorable twins, Nevo and Aluma.

Brett Lockspeiser
Joshua Foer and I have been working together on an ambitious project to bring all Jewish texts online in an interactive way. We’ve got a lot of work still to do, but we’re off to a good start and are happy to share our progress so far: www.sefaria.org

David Plunkett
I just finished my first year as an Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Dartmouth College.

Erin Scharff
Josh and Erin now have a son, Philip Micah Scharff-Bendor! He’s fabulous, beautiful, and they are having tons of fun.

Hadassah Ben-Haim (Shanit Kadosh)
I have undergone a year of changes – I changed my name, got married, moved to Beersheba, and have started to teach theater at high school.

Hillel Shalev
My wife Tal and I a cute son named Ido. I’m currently the head of Gal-pre-army gap year program in Acre.

Judd Kessler
I got married to a wonderful woman named Ilana Turko on September 22, 2012 in Shelter Island, NY. We are living in Chelsea in NYC and I work as an Assistant Professor of Business Economics and Public Policy at The Wharton School.

Lara Kfir
I am a clinical social worker and a psychotherapist and opened a private clinic in Ein-Hod. Uri and I have an son who is almost one year old, Eytai.

Lev Nelson
In January, Elana and I welcomed our first child, Barzilai Khalil Meirowitz Nelson, into the world. He is a total delight, though the fact that he can crawl now has made life substantially trickier. In June I was ordained as a rabbi, following in the footsteps of my BYFI classmate Joseph Berman, and started work as Director of Education at Truah, The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights. We’ve relocated to Park Slope, in Brooklyn, and I turned 31 in June.

Lior Soroka
I graduated from the Nissan Nativ Actors’ Studio in Jerusalem and the Theater and Media program at the University of Tel Aviv. I’m going to be part of Dan Wolman’s upcoming film, “The Director’s Anxiety”.

Liz Seymour (formerly Liz Kilstein)
I am glad to let you know that I married Peter Seymour on March 17. Dianne Cohler-Esses officiated, and it was an incredible day.

Nerlya Cohen
Hodaya and I live in the Shapira neighborhood of Tel Aviv, with our three children. I just finished my internship at the High Court and am now teaching History and Bible studies.

Noa Kavertate-Avronah
I’m an attorney and a graduate research student in Law. I’m living in Kfar-Saba, and am married to Uri. We have one child, Bikur.

Noa Marom
I’m completing an English graduate study program focusing on Pragmatics and Translation. I’m engaged to Ohad.

Rotem Rosenberg Robbins
I’m an attorney at the Chief Public Defender’s office and am starting a doctorate in law. My husband, Adam, and I live in Jaffa.

Tom Mittelman (nee Ben-Yosef)
I just began my graduate studies in Integrated Design after quitting my job as a graphic designer. My husband Amir and I have a 7-month-old son, Noam.

Tom Shai
I’m working as a teacher and taking students to Poland as a tour guide and IDF sightseeing guide. I live at an urban education Kibbutz with 24 others who work in education.

Yoav Rotem
I work as a tour guide and am currently developing projects related to food and wine tourism. I live happily in Jerusalem.

Yonatan Zion Moses
I am working as an attorney in the High Court division of the State Attorney, while completing a Master’s degree in Law. My kids are Noami and Yahel and my wife is named Heftzi.

Allison Lauterbach
My essay, “The Voice of Los Angeles” was published in Rooting for the Home Team: Sport, Community, and Identity. Thank you to the many people on this listserve who helped when I was first brainstorming. I also married Conor Dale. Moses Sternstein and Danny Greene (’00) were there to celebrate with us and played prominent roles in lifting us up during the horah! Conor and I live in Berkeley with our ever-energetic puppy, Rory. I’ll be Allison Lauterbach.

Amitai Hendler
I got my Bachelor’s degree in Visual Media from HIT and am now studying Computer Science. My wife, Miriel, and I are expecting a baby.

Anna Farberov
Since I got my BA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics, I have been working at the P&G law firm. My husband, Ra’anan, and I are soon going to be parents (knock on wood).

Avishay Kraus
My wife Na’an and have a son named Nadav. I’m an attorney at the High Court division of the State Attorney and am very happy.
Danny Greene: I finished my MBA at UCLA Anderson and started a new job at Propper Daley, a Social Impact Agency in Los Angeles.

Elia Dadush Gopes: Elia Dadush Gopes: I’m married to Gabi and the mother of Yeael and Einat (5, 3). I teach at Amrit Kama girls’ high school and am working towards an MA in Conflict Resolution and Management. I’m currently serving as a counselor for a group of Jewish and Bedouin youths.

Eric Trager: Eric Trager: I finished my Ph.D. in political science from the University of Pennsylvania in May, and then spent the summer interviewing Syrian Muslim Brothers in Turkey and witnessing a coup (or not a coup) in Egypt live from Tahrir Square.

Illana Reichman (Nixon): I just got an MA in Conflict Resolution at Georgetown in DC, and am starting to look for a job. My husband is Itay and we have one daughter, Ammi.

Leah Rosenthal: My husband, Ben, and I moved to Monterey, California last spring with our son, Eli, so I can complete my MA in Desert Agriculture. Our second son, Roi, was born last month.

Leon Shofotinsky: I returned to Israel after four years of working abroad, primarily as a flight instructor. Now, I’m dividing my time between working in travel stores and taking care of my brother, who was diagnosed with cancer.

Lior Zalmanson: I’m finishing up my PhD in business. My second play was just performed, and Amos Oren (’02) was one of the actors!

Micah Dadush Gopes: I’ve got some good news. My to show, FELT premiered in May and was written up in the New York Times!

Neta Rotem: I’m working as a kindergarten teacher, and continuing my political advocacy for social justice. I live happily with my partner, Lotan, working to build a space for communal living in Haifa. I’m growing an especially cute baby in my belly!

Roi Hasson: I live in Tel Aviv and work in technical sales at a tech company dealing in video broadcasting technologies. Over the past year the company has grown significantly and started working with major broadcasting networks such as NBC, BBC, CNN.

Shahed Appelboim: Recently, I’ve studied medicine in Bucharest, travelled to China, Nepal, India and Thailand and completed an internship at the Hadassah hospital. This year, I’ll start an oncology residency and marry Matan Bilig.

Yigal Avrahami: I’m an intern in the Department of Legal Advice and Legislation at the Ministry of Justice and volunteer for a LGBT education center. I’m the Chairman of the Alumni Va’ad. I live in Tel Aviv with my partner, Dor.

Alex Prushin: I survived my first year as a Math teacher and am going to start teaching at a public school which believes in project-based teaching. This summer, my home will just about double, and we are dreaming of an even bigger cooperative urban community.

Amiad Abrahams: I live in Tel Aviv, with my wife and am about to begin studying for a Master’s degree in Medical Psychology. I am writing this before the birth of my son and I imagine that by the time this is published he will already have become the center of my world.

Ariel Gino: After serving as a combat officer in the IDF and sustaining a serious injury in the Second Lebanon War, I began studying in a Nofra school. I am currently preparing for rabbinical ordination. I live in Jerusalem with my wife, Mira and my children, Sarah and Yakov.

Ben Giddo: I’m currently in Ethiopia working on an amazing project with “Engineers Without Borders.” I live in Revohut with my fiancée and am studying at the Faculty of Agriculture.

Ben Margarik: Came back from a trip to Central America to discover that I’ve been living in Washington for four years. Still in Dupont Circle; left Opower in January to build a sustainability practice at MSCI to help companies improve their environmental, social, and governance practices and reporting.

Der Kedar: I married Dana and we are living in Jerusalem. I work with journalists and diplomats who are stationed in Israel and connect them to cabinet ministers, Knesset members and other experts on military issues, social issues, etc.

Eli Braun: I’m clerking this fall for Judge Corinne Beckwith on the D.C. Court of Appeals, having just finished law school at the University of Michigan. I hope to be a public defender.

Elizabeth Cohen: I finished my PhD and began a new job, teaching Humanities to 6th grade honors students at Booker T. Washington, a public middle school in New York. My husband and I are enjoying New York very much.

Esther Meir: I got married this summer to Taylor Ellowitz! And started a Master’s in Education. I still work as the Expanded Learning Opportunities Coordinator at Central Falls High School in Rhode Island and this past year I had the pleasure of serving as the Education Consultant with BYFI in the second year of its College Ambassador program.

Eyal Avir: I am now working as a high school teacher in Tel Aviv, where work with students with serious learning and behavior difficulties, as well as teaching Bible and Literature. I live in Haifa with my fiancée Noam and my daughter Abigail.

Idit Ben-Or: I work as a production and foreign relations coordinator at the international book fair in Jerusalem. I’m still working on completing my graduate studies in History.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Text</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jonathan Reiner</td>
<td>I live in Tel Aviv with my wife Rachel and our daughter Ahinoam (six weeks). As a Doctorate student at the Weizmann Institute I’m helping to establish a new laboratory for atomic-scale physics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liel Sapir</td>
<td>I’m conducting Doctorate research in Chemistry, entitled “Biological Molecules in Complex Solvents.” I know, sounds crazy and cool. That’s how I roll.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liz Shrier</td>
<td>Donni and I had another baby boy, his name is Tlan Shalom.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mahalat Abuna</td>
<td>Six months ago I was relocated to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to establish a branch of the Israeli engineering company I work for. I have been blessed to build a home here with my partner Mula.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maya Esther Weidberg</td>
<td>We live in Jerusalem, and are raising four sweet boys. My main job is as a full time mom, during the mornings I work in computer programming related to medicine. We divert most of our efforts to raising our children with the values of the Torah.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michal Geiser</td>
<td>It has been 16 months since we became “Mom and Dad!” I am amazed at the wonder that is the growth of our sweet Amit. I am working on completing my graduate thesis in Medical science.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raysh Weiss</td>
<td>After successfully defending my PhD in Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies, I finished my first year of Rabbinical School at the JTS, where I met my wonderful soul-mate, Jonah Rank. Jonah and I got married in August and are heading to Jerusalem for the semester. And a shout-out to the amazing alumni, including Lissi Birzen, Adina Gever, Yon Pomerantz, and Dan Smolker; with whom I’ve had the pleasure of reconnecting via the Weiner.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ronnie Wach</td>
<td>My small family and I have lived in Nir Etzyon on the Carmel mountain for five years. My husband Eli is a career soldier in the Navy. We have two sons, Re’em (4.5) and Dror (2.5). Next year I am due to begin graduate studies in Educational Counseling.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uri Safrai</td>
<td>I’m writing my Doctoral thesis in Jewish Philosophy and our little Eliya is two years old.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yaniv Tross</td>
<td>I recently married Amit, and we live in Tel Aviv. I followed my dreams and opened my own branding business for startups and digital media management.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adi Livni</td>
<td>Last year I got married to Ron and we were supposed to move together to Berkley, California for his Doctorate studies. Thanks to the American immigration authorities I spent last year waiting for my visa. Meanwhile I worked as a teacher in a Los High school, teaching kids with attention disorders. Now I am finally here in Oakland, California. I am hoping to start my Doctorate studies in History next year focused on post-war Germany.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amos Oren</td>
<td>I studied Literature at the University of Tel Aviv and am an actor at the Nissan Nativ acting studio.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anya Manning</td>
<td>After a year working with grassroots women’s rights organizations on the Thailand/Burma border and in Kenya, I’m excited to return to Massachusetts and start a job at City Year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aviva Negosa</td>
<td>I finished my acting studies and am working at a few different theaters while also writing a one-person play about the struggle with identity (Jewish? Israeli? Ethnic? Racial?). Ariel and I will be getting married soon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Back</td>
<td>I am starting a company in Bangalore. So obviously if any Bronfmanim are passing through, they should let me know!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eldad Rachamim</td>
<td>I’m in my fifth year of medical school at Ben-Gurion University, while also working as a teacher. I still don’t know what I want to be when I grow up but I am enjoying the present.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hadas Wolf</td>
<td>I began teaching Bible studies, Jewish philosophy and literature in a high school. A decade after finishing the Ameilim program, I returned in a completely different role and now guide this wonderful program along with Shira, this will be our second year. In my spare time I sneak in some Flamenco dancing for body and soul.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hannah Mayne</td>
<td>Ori and I are living in Lakeview, Chicago (with a relatively large number of other Bronfmanim!). Ori is at UCChicago, and I am doing a bit of writing and figuring out what the future holds for me.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jadyn Rubi</td>
<td>I finished three years in the Matan Talmud program in Jerusalem this past spring, completing private semikhah as well. I just started a Master’s in early childhood education at Boston University, and I’m looking forward to combining my Jewish studies with my educational training to teach young Jews. Anyone want to help me start Bronfman for the three to six demographic?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonathan Laufer</td>
<td>I am married to Sandy and we have three sweet children. After my military service in Shimshon I returned to study in a Yeshiva for four wonderful years. I am still living in E1 and am combining Yeshiva studies with a Psychology degree.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kate Frommer Cik</td>
<td>I’m the School Psychologist at Bi-Cultural Day School, in Stamford.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kate Rosenberg</td>
<td>I got my Master of Public Policy degree (with a focus on Environmental Policy) from Georgetown in May. I’m now working on water policy at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, DC.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meital Saar</td>
<td>My husband, Jose, and I live in Puerto Rico. I’m addicted to the eternal sunshine, the beaches that stretch as far as the eye can see and the Caribbean ambience. I am a third year student in Industrial Engineering and Management.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nati Hallwa</td>
<td>I have lived in Jerusalem for four years with my partner Neta and am due to complete my degree in Speech Therapy. I work at a school which integrates low-to-medium functioning autistic children with normal children, which is an extraordinary emotional and professional experience. My partner and I are getting married and are planning on leaving the holy city in the not-too-distant future.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Omer Azriel</td>
<td>Last year I finished my undergraduate studies in Occupational Therapy. I am now living in Tel Aviv and working as an occupational therapist at Beit Levinstein, in the children’s rehabilitation ward.</td>
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2003

Adin Epstein
I completed my Economics degree and am currently an economist for a security manufacturing tech company. I live in Jerusalem and love life.

Alex Reef
I'm finishing my graduate studies in public policy at the Hebrew University but continuing my study saga by starting screenwriting studies at Sam Spiegel. I'm still working at the Ministry of Economy at the office of the Deputy CEO of Employment.

David Frisch
After two years at Yeshiva, I joined the army and have served in the Air Force since then. For the past four years I have lived in the Negev, and am married to Tal.

Deborah Beth Medows
Howdy, Bronfmanim! I'm writing from Albany, where I am now working (in addition to being Ava's neighbor). I recently started a new job as an Assistant Counsel at the New York State Legislative Bill Drafting Commission. I'm happy to be part of the AAB, and if any of you are in Albany, feel free to give a shout out.

2004

Rotem Blau
I received my BA in Theater and have appeared in several production including one at Habima theater that was filmed in a TV series which will be broadcast soon. Over the past few years I have also worked as a kitchen designer and live in Jerusalem with my partner of ten years.

Rotem Kaplinski
I am at a crossroads in my life – maybe even a roundabout with no exits. My degree finished with disappointment, a wedding does not seem likely anytime soon, and it feels like my résumé goes straight to the junk mail file at all the major firms. And yet I still woke up this morning happy with my lot in life, waiting to see how I'll feel in the afternoon.

Sarah Marcus
My first collection of poems, BACKCOUNTRY, published by Finishing Line Press, came out this summer.

Tal Feingold
I got married a year ago and I live with my partner, Michael, in Nataf. I work as a social worker in a youth village with 30 young 11th and 12th graders – which fills my world... During my free time I work with children and youths who have been affected by terror.

Uri Rozen
I will be starting my fifth year of medical school at Ben-Gurion University (together with Eldad Rachamim!). I'm also working at Milbershit Israel Journeys and enjoying the Negev.

Yishai and Adi Gezundheit
Three years ago we moved to Retamim in the Negev. We have two children – Yiftach (7) and Yonatan (4). Yishai teaches Talmud in Beersheba, and Judaism studies at “Kama” – a girls’ high school in Yeruham. These days he is completing his thesis in Jewish philosophy at Ben-Gurion University. Adi is studying for her Bachelor’s degree in Philosophy and Politics and Government at Ben-Gurion University. She is a graphics creator and photographer.

Zvi Baninga
After three years glancing at Jerusalem out of the corner of my eye while living nearby, I moved into the city itself. I’m in my 5th year of medical studies.

2005

Keegan Haid
I'm around California's coast trying to avoid sharks at all cost.

Leah Jordan
I just received semicha this July from the Leo Baeck College in London and am now working as a Student Chaplain. Me and my fiance, Benji Stanley – now a rabbi at West London Synagogue – got married this October in my hometown, Kansas City. Me, Benji, and a fellow co-organizer received a generous grant from the Bronfman Alumni Venture Fund this year in support of the fourth summer of the cross-communal mitzrah learning program.

Nadav Gildy
I live in Ben-Giora in the Jerusalem mountains with Hadassah and Odeya (2 years old). This year I completed my social work degree and – God willing – I am due to begin working as a kindergarten teacher with Hadassah, at a private kindergarten in the area.

Nadav Penn
I received my Bachelor's degree in PPE at the Hebrew University and beginning my graduate studies in Urban Planning after a five week trip to Nepal.

Nerissa Clarke
I recently got a new job as a Research Associate at the Peterson Foundation, where I will be analyzing fiscal/ economic issues and managing a portfolio of grants. In May, I completed my first half-marathon when she ran all the way to Coney Island to eat a (kosher?) Nathan’s hot dog. I'm currently living in Park Slope, Brooklyn and loving every second of it.

Rachel Shukrun
I married Sharon about 6 months ago and we live in Tel Aviv. I started the final year of my MD/PhD program and I hope to combine medical work and research in the future.

Savion Medallion
After three enriching years in Jerusalem studying for my BA in History and Media, I moved to Tel Aviv. I recently finished working as spokesperson for head of the Opposition Sheli Yehimovich and for the Labor Party, and I plan on remaining in this field.

Talia Karasov
I am still chugging through my PhD in genetics at the University of Chicago. I long for sunnier and warmer weather post-PhD, but overall life is good. I live in Hyde Park Chicago with my boyfriend Mike, and little cattle-dog Laika.

Tomer Kramer
I live in Givatayim, starting an internship after completing Law studies.

Yarden Mendelson
I married Gal, and we have two wonderful daughters – Tamar (2) and Or (6 months). I received my BA in Psychology and my MA in Clinical Psychology. I am due to begin a clinical internship and a Doctorate really soon (my thesis concerns youths dealing with a traumatic environment – Jerusalem during the second Intifada, occasionally Israel in general – and the impact of parenting styles on their struggle). I am also studying Therapeutic

Yehonaten Daniel
I am starting my second year at the School of Government and Strategy at IDC Herzliyya. I am currently working at a tech company which develops security-oriented technologies.

Zili Pelzenstein (nee Haled)
I am married to Eitan and we have two mischievous children, Hever and Dagan. I work in informal education as head of the children's society at Kibbutz Revivim.
Aaron Krivitsky  I'm working on a mobile app for Yeshiva University. I also participate in a big Bro big six program now through the
SF public schools; anyone in the Bay Area looking to work with children should feel free to contact me about this.
I've started work on a novel with a friend that we'll be turning into a multimedia ebook - imagine reading along to a
finely tuned soundtrack and pictures that you can interact with. Anyone interested in writing music or coding

Ariel Pollock Star  My husband Michael and I are still living in Chicago. Our son Yosi turned one and is entering toddler-dom. I have
just begun a graduate program in Applied Linguistics, and am particularly interested in experiential/immersive
education, as well as second language teaching in underserved and new immigrant populations (with an eye
just begun a graduate program in Applied Linguistics, and am particularly interested in experiential/immersive
education, as well as second language teaching in underserved and new immigrant populations (with an eye

Benjamin Epstein  It's sort of a "no news is good news" kind of time for me right now - I'm still living in Berkeley and in the middle of
my PhD in bioengineering at UC Berkeley UC San Francisco. There was an SF Bronfman event with Mishi a couple
of months ago before Pesach that I went to, and it was great to see and meet so many of the local Bronfman
folks. Passing my qualifying exams in the next few months and proceeding to official candidacy will be my next

Daniel Zirolnikov  I serve with the Military Advocate General. I was assigned a legal advisor position in the international law
department, and since then I have served as an officer and a lawyer in various positions, and now proudly hold
the rank of captain. The challenging service has provided special opportunities for me to strengthen the security
of the state. For six wonderful years I have lived in Haifa with my girlfriend.

David Zvi Kalman  Yeal gave birth to a beautiful 7.2 pound baby boy, Ariel, on June 13th. All are very happy.

Gal Arad  I was delighted to finish my undergraduate studies, and have started what is affectionately known as “the journey
to the couch,” attempting to get into graduate programs in clinical psychology. I am hoping to work this year as
a rehabilitation counselor for the

Hillel Nadler  My wife Tova gave birth to our son, Yosef Shimon, in December. mentally handicapped, and also have some time
off from university, which is always nice.

Limor Alon  After completing my studies in Cognitive Science in Beersheba, I moved to Tel Aviv (expensive and humid but
happy) for my graduate studies in Clinical Psychology. I’m now starting my second year and looking for time to
use my wasted gym subscription.

Lior Haskelberg  I finished my undergraduate studies, and I now spend most of my time painting and am developing an idea for
an organization combining village art and agriculture. I am planning a trip abroad with my partner for vacation
and study.

Lisa Sheffer  I am beginning my third year of a Social Justice education program. I work at an amazing place called the Sudbury
Democratic School in Jerusalem. My son Noam is 3, and I dream of moving up north and of a trip to New Zealand
in search of my roots. In 2011, together with Shani Ben Or, I founded the “Tnula” program at the HUC. The
program is dedicated to developing young leadership and entrepreneurship in the Jewish pluralist milieu.

Michael Pomeranz  I’ll be graduating from Yale this spring and will clerk from September 2014 to September 2015 in Louisville,
Kentucky for Judge Danny J. Boggs of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

Nicki Brodie  I graduated from medical school at the Medical School for International Health of Ben Gurion University in Beer
Sheva. I started residency in pediatrics at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children in Philadelphia in June!

2004

2005

Nea Silver  I DO have good news :) I’m engaged! To Jack Cohen (Danny Cohen’s brother).

Ofer Appelboim  I live in Rome and am trying to be a medical student. Meanwhile I am trying to get used to the crazy idea that one
day people will tell me how they feel and I will nod my head in sympathy.

Smunit Baraban  I’ve been living in Jerusalem for a while and I am still thinking about my relationship with the city. Meanwhile I
dance, teach, and I am supposedly meant to complete my degree in Social Work.

Tali Fisher-Yosef  I’m beginning my fifth in medical school. I am happily married to Dvir, whom I met in the army, and we have a cute
little boy named Shaked. I am currently on vacation with my two loved ones in Thailand, which is the farthest west
I have ever travelled.

Yair Agmon  I am currently finishing my second year of the Revivim program at the Hebrew University and beginning my
graduate studies in the Jewish History. During the past two summers I worked with the American Bronfman
Fellows as a guide, security officer and logistics coordinator. I am still happily living in Jerusalem.

Ariela Rothstein  I’m starting my fourth year of teaching at East Brooklyn Community High School, first as a tenured teacher, and
a part of Coro New York’s Immigrant Civic Leadership Program this year working on a project to get a resource
guide to educators and schools who work with undocumented students.

Chana Kopach  Chana lives in Boston with her wife Abby. She is currently in the midst of her undergraduate studies in Psychology
at Northeastern University and misses the Israeli Bronfman community.

Dafna Ezrachi  I live in Jerusalem with my husband Yitz. I’m studying History and at the Bronfman Amitim program. I also
guide an interreligious youth group at the JCJCR and volunteer at the Open House clinic for HIV tests.

Eliezer Goldberg  I moved to Israel and began working as an international relations analyst and editor for Molad, the Center for the
Renewal of Israeli democracy. I now live in Nachlaot, Jerusalem.

Itamar Azar  I study Psychology and Literature at the University of Tel Aviv and work at "Bina" the secular Yeshiva as a social
activist coordinator. I miss burekas and Shimon’s stories.

Irena Shuchman  I’m now a licensed physiotherapist and I dream of going back to work at Beit Levinstein because neurological
rehabilitation is the goal.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jodi Fried</td>
<td>Charlie and I gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, Gilah, in December, and she has added so much joy to our lives. We are still living in Bozeman, MT, working on a gourmet caramel factory, and would love to be in touch with any alumni coming through Yellowstone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan Hirsch</td>
<td>This summer I worked in Dallas for two law firms: Vinson &amp; Elkins and Haynes &amp; Boone. I completed my BA in Government at IDC Herzliyya. I also recently began work as the coordinator for the “Yesh Atid” party in the Knesset, along with my job as content manager at the Jewish Heritage Fund.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee Shalev</td>
<td>I just completed my BA in Government at IDC Herzliyya. I also recently began work as the coordinator for the “Yesh Atid” party in the Knesset, along with my job as content manager at the Jewish Heritage Fund.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leon Fuchtgott</td>
<td>Leon and Deborah welcomed a baby girl, Alice Freda, on July 17. I work at the BaKehila foundation with youths who are in their voluntary service year and at Bina (secular Yeshiva) with soldiers. In my spare time, I’m active in Israeli unions. I hope to study Ceramics and Writing this year and am beginning a degree in Arabic and Literature.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neta Pulitzer</td>
<td>I completed my undergraduate studies in Biology in September and am stuck working at my student job as a guide at the zoological gardens, and looking for a grown-up job. I hope to fulfill a childhood dream study Veterinary Medicine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orli Schiber</td>
<td>I am a third year student of Psychology and Sociology. I’m married to Eyal Shahar (’04). We have lived in Tel Aviv for three years. I spend my free time in pottery classes and drinking coffee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rachel Cohen</td>
<td>I’m living in New York City, happily engaged to Zach Eilon, currently working in clinical research at Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, and making my way through the interminable med school application process. New York is made even more enjoyable by all of the Bromfiram around and I would love to hear from any fellows passing through!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Racheli Shachar</td>
<td>I’m starting a PhD in English at Berkeley, where I am tending a garden, commuting by bike, washing dishes in the Bay, and generally living the dream. I’d love to meet Bromfiram alumni in the Bay.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raffi Magarik</td>
<td>I am married to Amir Rotem (yes, yes…). I am due to complete my undergraduate studies in Psychology and Jewish studies and am considering my future. I am hopping from job to job and God willing we will have our first son after Hanukkah.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotem Rosenthal</td>
<td>I am a member of the program’s alumni committee, and I still love beer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shaked Tzin</td>
<td>I live in Tel Aviv, and am due to complete my graduate studies in Law. I will be an officer in the army for the next three years. I am a member of the program’s alumni committee, and I still love beer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shay Shalev</td>
<td>I have been married to Avital for a year and we recently returned from a two month trip to Central America and New York. I am due to begin studying Government, Diplomacy and Strategy at the IDC this coming October.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shir</td>
<td>I live in Yaveh and am due to begin my final year of Behavioral Sciences while working as a therapist for children on the autistic spectrum. I am looking for an apartment and a roommate in Jaffa—any takers?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sally Franco</td>
<td>I completed the first year of my Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program at Long Island University. There I am working towards earning my PsyD, with the hopes of eventually working as a psychologist, providing therapy and conducting assessments for individuals in crisis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yael Swissa</td>
<td>Soon to be Swissa-Cohen. I am marrying Avi in two weeks. I just began my third year of Medical school and I really miss our circles and group discussions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zohar Atkins</td>
<td>A few of my poems were published this year in the literary journal, Wave Composition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benjamin Steiner</td>
<td>I am entering the second year of my master’s program at JTS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dana Eliz</td>
<td>I am completing my MBA while still in the Army Intelligence Corps.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emma Sokoloff-Rubin</td>
<td>My father and I have been doing field research together for the past ten years, and our co-authored book was published by Duke University Press in February. We wrote “Sustaining Activism: A Brazilian Women’s Movement and a Father-Daughter Collaboration” in alternating voices, offering a window into our collaboration as well as tell the story of a movement that transformed women’s lives across southern Brazil.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ido Telem</td>
<td>I’m beginning my second year of my Philosophy and Comparative Literature Degree, having just returned from a trip to India. I live in Jerusalem with Omni Livni (Amitim ’06).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irit Feingold</td>
<td>I lived in Gondar, Ethiopia for a year working as a coordinator in the Jewish Agency’s “Ten” program, dealing with special education. I’m now travelling in East Africa, and then we’ll see what happens...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonah Fisher</td>
<td>After completing the Dorot Fellowships in Israel, I worked as a campaign manager for the Yerushalmim party in the Jerusalem city council elections. I recently began work as Program Coordinator for Core18, a new international Jewish social entrepreneurship fellowship. I live with close friends in a rooftop apartment overlooking the mahaneh yehuda market in Jerusalem.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michal Shender</td>
<td>I wandered and worked around Africa before returning to Tel Aviv and working in a kindergarten. I’ll soon settle down and devote myself to History and African studies at the University of Tel Aviv. Until then I’m back in Rwanda, volunteering in a small school in the capital, Kigali.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mira Marmor</td>
<td>I’m a Sociology, Anthropology and History of Art student at the Hebrew University. I live in the German Colony and work as a waitress and as a guide for Birthright groups at the Israel museum. I am active in the Telamim community (the youth movement for Reform Judaism) and in a group of artists and creators working for social change.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tomer Yechezkel

I've served in Golani for four years and I will for at least one more year. I am currently a deputy company commander.

Avigal Ben Or

I'm in my second year as “logistics coordinator” at Amitei Bronfman, and trying to figure out what life has in store for me.

Roni Medallion

I'm starting the second year of my degree at the Music Academy. I work as a tour guide for Israeli and foreign youth. I'm currently on a trip to Africa following around my good friends from Bronfman—Itti and Michal.

Rachel Merzal

After taking a year off of school, I started the Ph.D. program in the University of Michigan Chemistry Department. I also recently got engaged! My fiancé Micah is a second year law student at the University of Michigan Law School. The wedding is set for next May (2014) in the Philadelphia area. We are very grateful and excited.

Priscilla Fran

I recently moved from Brooklyn back home to sunny Los Angeles and I'm working as the arts and culture editor of the Huffington Post. This summer I've been learning to paint and trying to spend as much time underwater as possible.

Avi Shulman

I work at a small family startup in Harzilia, working on information security.

Re'em Malul

I've just been released from the army after four intensive years of service. My heart lives in Beit Shemesh, but I

Shay Luraz

I work as an R&D officer in the Air Force, and will soon begin my graduate studies in Government and Public Policy. I also guide scouting classes for the Society for Protection of Nature in Tel Aviv.

Tzion Avuna

I'm starting my graduate studies in Economics and I am finally leaving home for an apartment in Tel Aviv. I sorely miss my two younger brothers.

Yasha Magarik

I was accepted into the Leichtag Foundation’s Jewish Food Justice Fellowship in Encinitas, CA. I’ll be helping to develop a 67-acre ranch in line with Jewish, communal, and agriculturally sustainable principles, as well as working on food education or food justice advocacy through a placement with a local host organization. We’ll also have the chance to visit two foreign countries, including Israel—which I haven’t visited since BYFI. As you can imagine,
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Background and Recent Achievements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aaron Weinberg</td>
<td>Spent the summer as an intern at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem and this fall I started an M.A. in Jewish Professional Leadership at the Hornstein Program at Brandeis University.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Karassik</td>
<td>Has been traveling like a maniac since graduating from college with the L.A. based Yiddishkeit &quot;Helix Project.&quot; The program explored Jewish history and cultural life throughout Belarus, Poland, and Lithuania. Currently I am stationed at the well-known and loved Isabella Freedman retreat center as an illustrious TEVA environmental educator.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assaf Zagrizak</td>
<td>I interned over the summer for the State Department at the Regional Security Office at the US Embassy in Quito Ecuador and graduated a semester early from UPenn this semester. I am also doing research at a degree in Management and Sociology-Anthropology. This year I participated in the StandWithUs Fellowship Program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ali Kriegsman</td>
<td>I graduated Penn with a degree in modern middle eastern studies and creative writing and moved to New York City to start my job as a marketing coordinator for Conde Nast!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assaf Schaechter</td>
<td>I returned from a 9-month trip to the East and am now working as an online marketing manager and office manager for a small dance studio. I live with my boyfriend in Mevaseret Zion. In December I will begin studying to get into university and will start a degree next year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Itlov</td>
<td>I am currently in the middle of my graduate studies in Mechanical Engineering and I am due to join the Navy in March, before which I plan on traveling to Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Taroya</td>
<td>After a brief hiatus in my military service (dedicated to 4 months of studying at the Yoshiva in Maale Gilboa), I started an officers' training course. I am now in supplementary training in the Armored Corps, and, God willing, I will become a commander of a platoon of tanks in October.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gad Keter</td>
<td>I was discharged from the army six months ago, where I served as a combat commander in the Paratrooper Commando unit, and then travelled the Israel Trail from Elrat to Dan – an amazing and challenging journey where I met the unique people and landscape of our land. I am now working and saving for another trip.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gal Assaf</td>
<td>I completed my officers' training course and I now serve as an officer in 8200 in the North. I am engaged in Judaism and group life a lot more than I expected (I oversee a diverse group of soldiers – from religious Jews to non-Jews). I'm attempting to combine values with never-ending work, with mixed results. When I'm not wearing my uniform, I try to manage to visit a new stream and try new Hummus every weekend.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grace Wallack</td>
<td>I am working at the Brookings Institution as a Research Assistant, and my senior thesis, Eat Dirt: Understanding the Local Food Movement Through the Stories of Philosopher Farmers recently won the Mita Prize and will be published through Georgetown.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Aliza Gans
The most exciting news from me is that I received a fellowship to go to Varanasi, India for two months this past summer. And this past semester at Brandeis University, I started a cross-community drum circle group called Brandeis Beats.

### Daniel Zohar
I serve in the Intelligence Corps, dealing in the Arabic language. I also teach classical piano and sing good old Israeli folk songs for fun. God willing, I'll finish my service in March, and begin to travel - starting with the Israel Trail and ending with the mysterious plains at the edge of the world.

### Elian Siani
I am currently a boot camp commander in the Paratroopers and will soon be taking leave from active service and return to the Yeshiva in Yeruham for four months, after which I will start an officers' training course.

### Elazar Simon
After a year of voluntary service and 18 months at the Hesder Yeshiva in Otniel, I was drafted to the Nachal Brigade and am currently finishing my training. I will soon be starting a commanders' training course.

### Genya Harpinov
I've served for a little over two years as a combatant in the Nachal Brigade. I'm close to the end of the first part of the combat officers' training course and will be starting the supplementary training for infantry soldiers. After my service (that's still a long way off...) I'll work as a youth counselor and film director.

### Josh Rubin
After spending the summer as the speechwriting intern in the State Department’s Office of the Secretary of State, I'm back at Yale for senior year. I'll graduate in May 2014 with a B.A. in Global Affairs.

### Justin Cuperfain
I'm back at Yale for senior year. I'll graduate in May 2014 with a B.A. in Global Affairs.

### Lihi Sherwin
I finished voluntary year of service at Tzameret together with a wonderful group of Amitim. I served as a commander in the education corps helping at risk soldiers get their GEDs.

### Louisa Kornblatt
I studied abroad in Santiago, Chile over the Spring semester.

### Nadav Wachs
I'm currently serving in the Intelligence Corps in Safed and enjoying my work. I play the trumpet and try to eat at as many Hummus places as I can while I'm still in the north.

### Naomi Meishi
I was discharged from service in the Air Force about four months ago. I spend last summer at a summer camp in the USA through a program run by the Jewish Agency. Justin Cuperfain is back for his final year at McGill, where he studies Middle East Studies and Economics -- although he likes to joke he studies oil. He is excited to be back in Montreal and to put his snowshoes back to use.

### Noy Sabag
I've been living abroad for two years, and am currently in London where I work in sales. I'll start university next year.

### Ofer Yitzhaki
I've been serving in the Intelligence Corps for almost two years and I am mostly enjoying it. In my free time I like to dabble in cooking and baking, and I travel a lot. After my army service I plan on sailing to Antarctica and working in education.

### Phil Hoffman
I finished my junior year at Tufts, where I'm majoring in Middle Eastern Studies and Arabic. I was fortunate to lead a student delegation on a research trip to Turkey this past January, as well spend this past spring semester in Jordan.

### Shira Atkins
Over the summer, I worked at the Robin Hood Foundation in NYC, an organization that fights poverty in NYC. I spent last summer as a JCC fellow teaching at Jewish summer camps in Ukraine, and spent the following semester studying and doing research in Moscow. I continue to teach yoga on a regular basis, and am passionate about modern American poetry and 19th and 20th century Russian literature.

### Sophie Wiegeling-Brown
I spent the last year studying in Buenos Aires and Oxford, and working for one of my Alaska senators in DC. I'm excited for my senior year at Stanford and very, very uncertain about what comes next. Here’s hoping, it’s more travel.

### Tamar Weisblitt
I'm currently an instructor officer in the Engineering Corps Training Camp with one year of service left.

### Yael Hoffsberg
I serve in the Intelligence Corps in the Jerusalem area and I’m currently at Training Camp 1 for an officers’ training course. The few vacations I get are dedicated to travelling around the country, meeting friends near or far, and enjoying my coffee kit.

### Yarden Paz
I’m currently studying Jazz at the Tel Aviv Conservatory, in a joint program with the New School in New York. Music is the central focus of my life and I’m trying to enjoy it and the people who create it every moment. I dream of getting to New York sometime during the next few years...

### Yuval Nossan
I am soon due to finish my training course in the Nachal Brigade’s Orev unit. Most of my time is spent navigating around a hill / conquering the hill / kitchen duty (on level ground). You know how it is. I’ll be starting a commanders’ training course soon.

### Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen
Just completed a summer of intensive baroque opera study, funded by Princeton, and am excited to report that I was recently elected to serve as one of 6 national leaders of J Street U, the 50+ chapter strong pro-Israel, pro-peace student movement.

### Dan Verhakov
I'm in my 2nd year in the IDF “Tzameret” program at the Hebrew University in Ein Kerem. Before that I was at a pre-military academy and volunteering on a Kibbutz in the Arava region. I’ll be studying a lot in the coming year, but hopefully doing other things too.

### Danielle Ellison
I spent a wonderful summer in Israel, interning in Tel-Aviv for Lawyers Without Borders and the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society. I’m now a junior at Yale University, double majoring in Political Science and Economics.

### Elliot Mamet
Finished sophomore year at Colorado College. This summer, interned at the ACLU National Prison Project, and am spending spend junior year at London School of Economics (LSE).

### Gal Oz
After a year of training I’m serving as a commander in a Medical Organization Officers’ Course, and in a Paramedics supplementary training. I’m due to be released from service in March 2015, and despite all the medical stuff I do now, I’m still planning on working in foreign relations.

2010
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Story</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yonatan Migdal</td>
<td>I served in the IDF Spokesperson Unit at the Kirya and spent a year before the army in a year of service. After I'm discharged next August, I hope to study at the Hadar Yeshiva.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naama Peretz</td>
<td>I recently moved to Tel Aviv; and am still getting used to it…</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Omri Sarig</td>
<td>I was recently discharged from army service after two years in the Spokesperson Unit. I'm studying for the test to get into university but I'm not sure what I'll do when the course is over – hopefully working in agriculture or travelling abroad.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orli Major</td>
<td>I recently transferred within NYU to the Gallatin School of Individualized Study in order to study Social Entrepreneurship. This past summer I worked as a project assistant at an organization called A World at School, working directly for the UN Special Envoy for Global Education. I am currently interning at Werby Parker and I am serving on the NYU Hillel board as the Director of Traditional Religious Life.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rafi Bildner</td>
<td>I am a commander of immigrants, minority and Special Population soldiers in the Upper Galilee. I'm currently in an officer's training course and am due to become a platoon commander.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Ababa</td>
<td>I work as a commander for a course on Zionism and Jewish identity, which is the basis for military conversion procedures. Before the army I did a year of service.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamar Shalem</td>
<td>I serve in the IDF Spokesperson unit at the Kirya and spend a year before the army in a year of service. After I'm discharged next August, I hope to study at the Hadar Yeshiva.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yishai Perziger</td>
<td>I currently serve in Golani. After high school I spent a year doing service and studied for a few months in a Yeshiva. My family recentlyjust recently moved to Tel Aviv, and am still getting used to it…</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yonatan Migdal</td>
<td>I serve in the Intelligence Corps and live in Gvattayim with friends. I'm planning to travel to Georgia at the beginning of September and to start an instructors' course in February. Enjoying life!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hannah Acheson-Field</td>
<td>I finished up my second year at Brown and recently declared my major: Computational Biology. I spent the summer researching at Cornell and am looking forward to a year abroad at Oxford. Come visit! Hannah Duncan is also studying at Oxford and I am looking forward to travelling with her and Eliot Mamet who will be at LSE.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Yedid Botton</td>
<td>Throughout this year, I was a rower for the Emory University Rowing Club in which I won various medals for fastest times, including the Atlanta Erg Sprints. In addition to rowing, I am on track for completing an Applied Physics degree, which I intend to focus on Aeronautical Engineering and Military Reconnaissance development. I eventually plan to pursue these goals at Israel’s Institute of Technology (Technion) and further research cutting-edge applications of computer simulations I developed of the Crab Nebula.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naama Goykman</td>
<td>Recently, as a Sophomore at Drewel University, I was accepted into the graduate Creative Arts Therapy Program at Drewel University College of Nursing and Health Professions. I'll be receiving an M.A. in Dance/Movement Therapy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noa Abstein</td>
<td>I am a graduate of the pre-military academy in Ein Prat and am near the end of a military paramedics’ course. Hopefully I’ll study medicine after being discharged.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ariel Shender</td>
<td>I finished a year of voluntary service at Kfar Refael, a rehabilitation community in the Beensheba area and will be starting the army soon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ayelet Ekstein</td>
<td>I started my army service in August, and in about a decade I’ll become a civilian again (I am part of the “Chavatzalot” program). The soldier who will sign my release form is currently in the fourth grade.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eliya Blumenthal</td>
<td>I completed a year of voluntary service at Harduf Kibbutz therapeutic home. I like Hummus and I am color blind.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gony Dayan</td>
<td>I was a student at Tavor preparatory academy and am due to begin army service shortly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Text</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guy Melamed</td>
<td>I’m currently studying at Maale Gilboa Yeshiva and raising donkeys. I enjoy emergency medicine and running. High-quality dark chocolate makes me happy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ilai Cohen</td>
<td>Last year I spent a voluntary service year at Ayanot youth village, and met interesting peoples of all shapes and sizes. Now I’m at Kibbutz Neot Smadar which is like being abroad, just in Israel. I’m pretty happy about things.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Itai Solomon</td>
<td>This year I studied at the Shiluv Seminary and am now a soldier in the Nachal Brigade’s 50 Battalion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee Amram-Eilat</td>
<td>For a year now, I’ve been spending all my money on good food in Jaffa, near IDF Radio where I serve as an online news editor and as a producer for news editions and current events shows.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naftali Oppenheimer</td>
<td>This year I studied at the Natur Beit Midrash in Mevo Hama, and am now studying at the Yeshiva in Maale Gilboa (which is basically the same thing, just that the view is less breathtaking). I’m awaiting my army service which begins in March. I live on chocolate milk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noa Avraham</td>
<td>I recently completed a year at Ein-Prat preparatory academy in Kfar Adumim. I’ll soon be joining the army; I don’t know which unit yet – fingers crossed for positive results!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oded Mazal</td>
<td>This year I studied at Beth Israel preparatory academy and learned to sing Memorial Day songs beautifully. I was so good at it that I decided to stay for a second year. I’ll be joining the army in March.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamar Chin</td>
<td>Since Bronfman I’ve been hopping around from one pluralist program to the next. The main was the Shiluv seminary of Natur in the Golan. I will soon (too soon) be joining the Intelligence Corps; meanwhile I’m a housewife.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uri Zahav</td>
<td>I’m a Golani soldier and former party promoter. When I was younger, my parents told me I was special, and when I grew up they admitted they were wrong.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ariel Grossman-Bak</td>
<td>During the summer I went on a two-week trek with friends to Bulgaria. This year I’m spending a year of voluntary service at Malkishua in the Gilboa – a youth village for rehabilitation from drugs and alcohol.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avital Bam</td>
<td>In August I completed a year of guiding with the “Diller Fellowship” program in Haifa. This year I am studying and living at Nov Seminary in the Golan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bar Fischer</td>
<td>At the end of August, I signed up to work at a foundation which operates social education projects for disadvantaged youths together with several other Amitim.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

2012
I’ve spent the recent weeks doing intensive work with former MK Carmel Shama-HaCohen who is running for the position of Mayor of Ramat Gan. Sometime during the year I’ll join the army, but I am not sure where yet…

At the end of August I started a year of voluntary service with “BaKehila” foundation along with three other Amitim from my year. I’ll then join the army, but I’m not sure where yet…

This year I am spending a year of voluntary service on behalf of “Tzameret” in Arad.

This year I’m studying at the “Bnei-Zion” pre-military academy and living in Tel Aviv.

I’m spending a year of voluntary service at Kibbutz Lotan – an ecological Reform Kibbutz in the Arava region.

I’m in the midst of a voluntary service year at “Garin Re’im” and living in Beit She’an, on behalf of the Scouts movement.

I just began my freshman year at Yale University, where I intend on studying economics and history. I was recently accepted onto the Yale Debate Association, which gives me the exciting opportunity to compete on America’s top-ranked college debate team.

I’m married to Ruti and the father of Yehonatan. I’m a teacher and educator, currently completing a course for school principals. I miss community life, which may convince us to wander north or south and see whether there is life outside of Jerusalem.

I’m the career development administrator of the Jerusalem area employment services. I’m married to Amihai Kaplan and we have a four month old daughter, Noa. I’m currently trying to fathom the significance of combining a home and a career.

I was ordained as a rabbi in December of 2012. See: “Free Range Rabbi” at www.huffingtonpost.com/vanessa-l-ochs/free-range-rabbi_b_2716209.html

During the summer I started my first year in the High Yeshiva of Mitzpe Ramon.

I’m in the midst of a voluntary service year at “Garin Re’im” and living in Beit She’an, on behalf of the Scouts movement.

I just began my freshman year at Yale University, where I intend on studying economics and history. I was recently accepted onto the Yale Debate Association, which gives me the exciting opportunity to compete on America’s top-ranked college debate team.

We are in a year of adventure in New York. I teach Talmud at Maharat Yeshiva, which ordains Orthodox women. I’m also independently completing my studies for Smicha, and imagine Bronfman Amirim on the subway…

I’m running around schools in Jerusalem teaching Torah and other topics, sometimes even successfully.

I’m the head of the “Truifa” social entrepreneurship training program with a Jewish Pluralist vision, and the coordinator of the education and professional development department at HUC. I am completing my graduate studies in Jewish-Pluralist Education at the Hebrew University.
When I founded The Bronfman Fellowships in 1987 to bring Jewish teenagers in America and Canada to Israel, my goal was to provide an unprecedented educational opportunity for the best and brightest young Jewish minds. By engaging deeply with Israel, I hoped they would learn about themselves as Jews and form the basis of a lifetime of committed Jewish learning. When we began the Amitim program 15 years ago, I had similar aspirations for young Israelis -- a concept perhaps even rarer for young Israelis than their American counterparts.

What I have come to find among the most rewarding aspects of the Fellowships, is the exchange between these two groups. Judaism is a global enterprise and each of us in our complexity as a Jew has a stake in the outcome of that endeavor. The scroll of the Jewish people's story continues to unfurl before us. The greater our understanding that we are interconnected, and are invested in that connection, the more rewarding our continuing story will be.

I have been asked to write a blessing for you to commemorate the past 15 years, but the truth is that you have been the blessing to me. As a Jew who does not believe in God, but very strongly believes in Jewish peoplehood, the idea of a prayer or blessing does not resonate in a traditional sense. For me, a blessing is a statement of intention of purpose and an expression of gratitude.

It is traditional for Jewish parents to bless their children each Shabbat with the words: [Hebrew] “May the Lord bless you and keep you, shine his light upon you and give you peace.” When I reflect upon those words, they are less about the prayer and more about the communication of love and pride. Each of you has given me much cause to be proud, and you have also taught me a great deal in my conversations with you over the years. Thank you for being my teachers. In gratitude for that, here are my blessings for you:

May you be a blessing to every person you encounter with your compassion, curiosity, wisdom and ability to seek truth and justice.

May you bless Israel with a strong sense of what is possible through the practice of Jewish pluralism and provide an example through your actions for what it means to live together in mutual respect.

May you live to infuse Judaism with vibrancy, creativity and vitality. May you ask questions and use them as a source of growth and not as a basis for alienation.

May you expand the boundaries of Jewishness for all and do it from a place of informed and thoughtful consideration.

May you be blessed to experience a lifetime of connection to each other, your communities, and the Jewish people as you grow throughout your lives.

May you be confident in the knowledge that you always have a place in the tent of the Jewish people no matter where life's journey takes you.

May you be blessed in claiming that place and creating it for others.

And I, in turn, will be blessed to see you thrive.