



# PLC 2019

Professionals & Lay Leaders Conference  
Philadelphia, USA

*Meet Everyone*



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## Professionals & Lay Leaders Conference 2019

Welcome to the 2019 Professional & Lay Leaders Conference in Philadelphia. We thank you for your partnership, building together the next generation of committed Jewish leaders.

This year's Professionals & Lay Leaders Conference will once again bring together over 120 individuals who are actively engaged in building and strengthening connections and collaboration within and across Jewish communities worldwide. By bringing together our global partners from across the 32 Diller Teen Fellows communities in Israel, the United States, Canada, South Africa, Australia, South America, and the UK, we hope to learn from and be enriched by the experience, insight, and expertise that is abundant in our community of colleagues.

This gathering provides a unique opportunity for partnership communities to work and learn together while gaining a profound sense of the diversity and strength of the global Jewish people.

**PLC 2019**

PROFESSIONALS & LAY LEADERS  
CONFERENCE

# This year, we are excited to host



## Dr. Yehuda Kurtzer

### President of the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America

Yehuda is a leading thinker and author on the meaning of Israel to American Jews, on Jewish history and Jewish memory, and on questions of leadership and change in American Jewish life. Yehuda led the creation of the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America in 2010 as a pioneering research and educational center for the leadership of the North American Jewish community, and teaches in its many platforms for rabbis, lay leaders, Jewish professionals, and leaders of other faith communities. He is also the co-creator of the Shalom Hartman Institute's iEngage Project, which seeks to bridge between Israel and world Jewry through content, curriculum, and cutting-edge educational programs.



## Abby Pitkowsky

### Director of Israel Education and Westchester Region The Jewish Education Project

Abby earned her BA from SUNY Binghamton with a double major in English Literature and Judaic Studies and her MA degree in Jewish Education from JTS. She began her career in Jewish Education in both informal and formal frameworks in the NY area. Shortly after she fulfilled a life-long dream and made aliyah to Israel with her husband, where they lived for nine years. While in Israel, Abby worked for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, serving Jewish communities overseas primarily in Eastern and Central Europe and the former Soviet Union. After returning to the U.S. Abby shifted her professional focus to her local NY Jewish community.



## Bess Adler

### Director, New York Teen Initiatives Jewish Education Project

Bess Adler is the Director of New York Teen Initiatives at The Jewish Education Project. She previously served as Program Officer for Education at Legacy Heritage Fund and was director and principal of the Bergen County High School of Jewish Studies and the Rebecca and Israel Ivry Prozdor High School of the Jewish Theological Seminary. She served on the board of the National Hebrew High School Organization (formerly NAACCHHS, now JTeen) for many years, two of them as President. Bess made Aliya at age 18 and served as a lone soldier in the IDF and then earned an undergraduate degree and teaching certificate at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Upon her return to the States, she earned a master's degree and completed coursework towards her doctorate in Jewish Education at the William Davidson Graduate School of The Jewish Theological Seminary.



## Rebecca Ruberg

### Teen Engagement Consultant Jewish Education Project

Rebecca Ruberg serves as a Teen Education and Engagement consultant, and has previously held a number of positions focused on engaging teens and young adults in meaningful Jewish experiences. Prior to this role, she served as an Associate Program Officer for Legacy Heritage Fund and the Nachshon Project, the Area Director for the NY/CT region of Jewish Student Connection, and as a Field Worker for the Connecticut Valley Region of BBYO. Rebecca received her MA from the Hornstein Program for Jewish Professional Leadership at Brandeis University and concentrated her studies in informal Jewish education and engagement. She additionally holds a certificate in Jewish Philanthropy from the Wurzweiler School of Social Work at Yeshiva University, and a BA in Psychology and Near Eastern and Judaic Studies (NEJS) from Brandeis University. She currently resides in Closter, NJ with her husband, Rabbi Jeremy Ruberg, her daughter Aliza and her dog, Caleb the Kelev.



**Jodie Goldberg**  
**Teen Engagement Consultant and Project Manager**  
**Jewish Education Project**

Jodie received a dual Master from The Jewish Theological Seminary in Jewish Education and Hebrew Bible and served as the President of the Davidson School Student's Association. Jodie has helped create curriculum for JCC Association's TAG summer camp curriculum, and worked to strengthen the Hebrew High School program, Havurat Torah, at Temple Israel Center of White Plains. She is currently a Teen Engagement Consultant and Project Manager at the Jewish Education Project. Her role is working to support youth and teen professionals in the New York area through facilitating networks, educational and networking opportunities, and creating professional development events that meet the needs of teen engagement professionals today.



**Johnathan Kaufman**  
**Co-founder & Principal of Third Plateau Social Impact Strategies**

Jonathan Kaufman is co-founder & Principal of Third Plateau, where he collaborates with nonprofits, philanthropists, and social entrepreneurs all over the world, helping them expand and deepen their impact. He specializes in business and strategic planning, metrics development, program design, and impact assessment for Third Plateau's clients, which work on a wide array of issues, including education, health, international development, community building, and climate change. Prior to launching Third Plateau in 2011, Jonathan served as the Regional Director for a hunger-relief organization in Chicago; the Housing Coordinator for an agency working with homeless individuals with severe mental illness in Los Angeles; and as the Special Programs Director at a refugee rights NGO in Athens, Greece. Jonathan serves on the Board of Directors at Women's Empowerment, and the Advisory Board at both Improve Your Tomorrow and Resonate.



**Naomi Adler**  
**President & CEO, Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia**

Naomi Adler became CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia in May 2014. She and her team have already spearheaded several dynamic initiatives, including a complete rebranding of the organization; Enhanced Strategic Philanthropy to raise even more resources; a multi-platform media plan, including a robust digital presence; and a new Community Engagement department, which launched and executed a yearlong Israel70 engagement project in 2018 spanning the entire Greater Philadelphia region. Adler is also a member of the Jewish Agency for Israel's Board of Governors, Forum of Executive Women and serves on the Advisory Board of Vision 2020, which celebrates women's leadership nationwide. Prior to this position, Adler served as President and CEO of two different United Way organizations in New York for 13 years. Hailing from Rochester, NY, Naomi graduated Mount Holyoke College and SUNY Buffalo School of Law before returning to her hometown to work in private practice and then as an Assistant District Attorney for Monroe County. Her reputation as a successful prosecutor in cases of violence against women and children, and later as a community advocate for families living in poverty, have earned Adler a number of honors, including national recognition at the State of the Union address to Congress in 2013. She is proud of her three (baseball fanatic) sons and her husband, Rabbi Brian Beal.



**Distant Cousins**

Distant Cousins - the trio from LA made up of Duvid Swirsky (MOSHAV), Dov Rosenblatt (BLUE FRINGE), and Ami Kozak (Producer) - has been lighting up audiences nationwide with their energized performances showcasing their original brand of positive alt folk/pop. With multiple songs featured in commercials, movie trailers, films, and t.v shows, Distant Cousins has garnered the attention of fans and critics alike and they are now bringing their collaborative songwriting process into the classroom and beyond.

**Alumni Trio of the Community**  
**Music Scholars Program at Temple University**  
**Consisting of Dan McCain, Joshua Snitze, and John Polanco**



Dan McCain is an acoustic and electric bassist and composer/arranger for his band The Dan McCain Quartet and is currently a sophomore at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. Joshua Snitzer is a Junior at the University of Pennsylvania studying Computer Science and Music. He has been playing piano and composing music for the past 13 years. John Polanco is a Sophomore Jazz Performance student studying trumpet at the University of the Arts on a full scholarship. He's performed at some of Philadelphia's top jazz venues.

# IDTF Staff

## The ones you can ask where to find the coffee station!



### Liat Cohen-Raviv

#### Executive Director International Diller Teen Fellows

Liat leads and manages overall program vision and implementation, including development of strategic programming and educational content, as well as policies and procedures, budget creation, and program expansion.

Liat has served on the Diller Teen Fellows staff since the program's inception and developed its unique educational model. Liat has a rich background in education. She served as the Director of a few Informal Education Departments in Israel, during which she was awarded both a County and a National Excellence Awards by the Ministry of Education.

Liat co-founded the Youth Department Directors' Committee in Israel and helped initiate the "Youth Department Administration Bill" legislation in the Regional Municipalities, which was approved in 2011.

Liat holds an MA in Public Policy from Tel Aviv University and a BA in Educational Systems Development from the University of Haifa/Tel-Hai College. Liat served four and a half years as a commander and instructor at the IDF officer training school. She is married to Meir, and the mother of two lovely girls: Doron and Tomer.



### Hadas Nir

#### Director of Fellowship Program International Diller Teen Fellows

Hadas oversees Fellowship day-to-day operations and programmatic elements, supervises the work of all Coordinator Mentors internationally, manages Israeli and International supervisors' work, and ensures regular, timely, and high value internal program evaluation.

Hadas has managed many aspects of Diller Teen Fellows content and administrative work in Israel and internationally since 2011. Prior to this, Hadas served in a variety of educational and Consultant roles in different organizations like Shatil, B'nei Hamoshavim youth movement and Beit Yigal Alon Museum.

Hadas is a certified Group Workshop Facilitator and Jewish Renewal programer. She holds an MA in Sociology and Anthropology with a concentration in Organizational Studies from Tel Aviv University and a BA in Communication and Management from the Management College in Tel Aviv. In the IDF Hadas served as an instructor in the Combat Engineering military school.

Hadas is married to Amit, and is the mother of Yuval, Eyal and Shiri.



### Leah Maas

#### Director of Leadership & Engagement International Diller Teen Fellows

Leah manages post-Fellowship engagement and leadership within the Global Diller Alumni Network. She ensures the development and success of Junior Counselor and Junior Staff programs, Alumni programs, and alumni engagement efforts. Prior to this role, Leah spent 3 years as a Diller Coordinator Mentor and 2.5 years as the Greater MetroWest Diller Coordinator.

Leah has held a variety of educational positions and has a rich background in Jewish experiential education and social work. She was the Camp Coordinator at Kefiada, an English-speaking summer camp in Israel for 3 years, a Hebrew School Teacher and a Youth Group Director for Young Judaea. Leah also held different positions as a social worker in a variety of organizations including a home for developmentally disabled adults and a nursing home.

Leah holds a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work and Jewish Studies and a Master's Degree in Social Work from Rutgers University. Additionally, she completed the Experiential Jewish Education Certificate Program from Yeshiva University. Leah loves to learn so she also holds certifications as a Doula, a trained mitzvah clown, a scuba-diver, a radio host and she learns American Sign Language. Having recently move to Philadelphia, Leah spends a lot of her free time exploring the city's art, culture and culinary scene. Leah loves to travel, paint and play the guitar.



## Rivka Maor

### Director of Global Seminars

#### International Diller Teen Fellows

Rivka supports all global seminar planning and execution. She oversees and manages all educational and logistic planning of relevant seminars and manages all ISS logistics. She works closely with Israel Experience to ensure high-level service and outcomes during DTF Israel Summer Seminar. Rivka also serves as the head of safety and security for DTF.

Rivka previously worked for Diller Teen Fellows as a Mentor and as the Coordinator of Yerucham for 3 years. Rivka lives in Tel-Aviv. She holds a bachelors Degree in Education and Business Management from Ben Gurion University and a M.A in Managing Non-Profit Organizations from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.



## Maya Wolk-Ilan

### Coordinator Mentor

#### International Diller Teen Fellows

Maya provides guidance, training, content and methodology for Diller Teen Fellows Coordinators to support their work as individuals, in their Partnership Community and at Global gatherings. Her areas of focus include planning local programming, assessing successes and challenges, brainstorming and problem-solving, group development, recruitment, ensuring local evaluation, and marketing.

Maya has worked for many organizations and programs: Shlichim to Camp Tevya, Educational Coordinator of the Netanya-Cincinnati Partnership, Zionist Seminars in Idaho and Montana, JDC Lauder Camp Szarvas, she also worked with the Tel Aviv-Los Angeles School Twinning Program, and was the Director of Shlichim for the Israel Scouts. She was the Coordinator for the Haifa Diller Teen Fellows from 2008.



## Amanda Solomon

### Coordinator Mentor

#### International Diller Teen Fellows

Amanda is in her second year as Coordinator Mentor, she provides guidance, training, and content for Diller Teen Fellows Coordinators to support their work as individuals, in their Partnership Community and at Global gatherings. Amanda Solomon served 3 years as the Greater MetroWest Diller Teen Fellows Coordinator. Originally from Florida, Amanda did her undergraduate studies in Anthropology at the University of Florida and received her Master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania.



## Inbal Ratkovsky

### Coordinator Mentor

#### International Diller Teen Fellows

Inbal was born and raised in Jerusalem, and has lived in Tel Aviv for the past 5 years. Inbal has extensive experience in informal education, working with youth and adults in Israel and in Jewish communities around the world. Inbal worked as the Diller Tel Aviv coordinator for the past 3 years. She loves to hike, dance and enjoys urban life in Tel Aviv.



## Sarah Benmergui

### Coordinator Mentor

#### International Diller Teen Fellows

With a background in Jewish camp and a degree in Psychology, Sarah was the Diller Teen Fellows Coordinator in Montreal for 5 years before moving over to IDTF as a Coordinator Mentor this year. In her spare time she loves travelling and all things food.



## Reut Halfon

### Alumni Network Coordinator - Israel International Diller Teen Fellows

Reut Halfon joins the Diller Teen Fellows International Staff as the Israel Alumni Network Coordinator. Reut holds a Bachelor's in Social Work from Hebrew University. She was an emissary at a summer camp in North America and was a counselor for Shnat Netzer Reform Movement in Israel. Reut previously worked as the SHoham Diller Program Coordinator.



## Sam Rodin

### Alumni Network Coordinator – International International Diller Teen Fellows

A Chicago native and former Diller Chicago Coordinator, Sam lives outside Chicago, where he serves in the role of International Network Coordinator for Diller Teen Fellows, engaging Diller Alumni around the globe in meaningful Jewish leadership opportunities. Sam completed his Bachelor's Degree in Jewish Studies and Telecommunications from Indiana University and holds a Master's Degree in Jewish Professional Studies from Spertus College. When not engaging our global alumni, Sam enjoys chasing around his 2 young sons (ages 3 and 18 months), playing with his dog and cat, and when everyone is finally asleep, spending time with his amazing wife, Beth.



## Malki Shunak

### Tzama Coordinator – Israel International Diller Teen Fellows

Malki was the Diller Coordinator in Be'er Sheva/Bnei Shimon for the past three years while also leading the Teen Domain in the Partnership. At the same time, she was a member of the Jewish Renewal Forum in the Negev. Malki holds Bachelor's in Behavioral Science and M.B.A. specializing in Organizational Behavior from Ben Gurion University in the Negev. Malki was born and raised in the regional council Be'er Tuvia and today lives in Tel Aviv with her husband, Nadav.



## Roi Waizmam

### Seminars and Logistics Coordinator International Diller Teen Fellows

Roi previously worked as the Diller Tiberius Program Coordinator. Roi has 13 years of experience in education. In recent years, he initiated educational projects in the Upper Galilee Regional Council. Roi is an Education Student at Tel Hai College.



## Rotem Roichman

### Media Coordinator International Diller Teen Fellows

Rotem is a Diller 2010 Carmiel-Misgav Alum and part of the Tzama team of 2012. In the IDF, Rotem served in the 8200 intelligence unit, as a analytics team leader and data analyst. Following, she volunteered in Ghana through the TEN project. After 3 years in the Hi-Tech industry, working as a Data Base Manager and Marketing Coordinator, Rotem has joined the Diller International Team. Today she lives in Tel Aviv and is a third-year student of Psychology, Geography & German at Tel Aviv University.



**Sadie Simon**  
**Program Assistant**  
**International Diller Teen Fellows**

Sadie supports the work of the Diller Teen Fellow's Executive Director and provides administrative and programmatic support for the Diller Teen Fellow's International staff and programming. Sadie graduated from Columbia University with a Master's Degree in Social Work with a focus on International Social Welfare and Service to Immigrants and Refugees. As a graduate student, she designed and implemented a social work position for the Asylum Clinic at Columbia University Medical School. Sadie has extensive experience teaching in foreign cultures such as Honduras and Andorra. Additionally, she previously worked for Jewish Family and Children's Service in Minneapolis, Minnesota.



**Liat Dayan**  
**Fellowship Assistant**  
**International Diller Teen Fellows**

Liat serves as the Fellowship Assistant where she supports the work of the fellowship director, coordinators, and mentors. She is also responsible for collecting demographic data, distributing grants, satisfaction surveys, and issuing delegation approval to partnerships. Liat was born and lives in Kiryat Shmona, in the Upper Galilee. She has a degree in human resources and extensive experience in both educational and industrial organizations.



**Dr Shlomi Ravid**  
**Executive Director**  
**The Center For Jewish Peoplehood & Educational Consultant, Diller Teen Fellows**

Dr. Shlomi Ravid has been a pioneer in developing Peoplehood education. He was the founding director of the Israel Center of San Francisco and the founding director of the Center for Jewish Peoplehood Education. In 1997, while in San Francisco he developed and launched, together with the Hellen Diller Family Foundation, the Diller Teen Fellows Program. Shlomi initiated and edits the Peoplehood Papers. His PhD is from Tel Aviv University and he lives in Kibbutz Gllil-Yam in Israel.



**Jennifer Smith**  
**Executive Director**  
**Helen Diller Family Foundation Programs**

Jen serves in the newly created role of Executive Director, Helen Diller Family Foundation programs, leading the work of programs such as Diller Teen Fellows and the Diller Teen Tikkun Olam Awards, with a focus on strategic innovation. Jen has worked in the nonprofit sector, and within the Jewish community for two decades, primarily in the areas of youth leadership, social justice, interfaith relations, and civil rights. Previously, Jen served in senior leadership roles at the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), where she developed and led a range of community-based programs and campaigns, including: No Place for Hate, an anti-bullying initiative, Camp Interfaith (Camp IF), and the Imagine a World Without Hate campaign. With a strong commitment to fostering leadership through Jewish values, Jen worked for many years as a Jewish educator, and served on the staff and board of Camp Yavneh in New Hampshire.





## **Avi Steinberg**

### **Director, English Speaking Countries Division**

#### **Israel Experience**

Avi was born and raised in the Jewish community of Dublin. He is the Director of the Israel Experience Educational Tourism Division for English Speaking Countries, which provides a variety of services for groups coming to Israel for a meaningful experience. Avi is the former Director of Education at Masa Israel, as well as a graduate of the Gvanim program. He also served as a regional education emissary for Scandinavia based in Sweden, on behalf of The Jewish Agency for Israel. Avi lives in Kfar Adumim, Israel with his wife and three daughters.



## **Anna Shumacher**

### **Israel Experience**

Anna works for Israel Experience (IE), the land provider for the Diller Program. She has a BA in communications and linguistics from the Hebrew University. Before joining IE she ran the digital department of a major advertising agency, and worked as a producer for the biggest Israeli newspaper "Yedioth Aharonot". Today she lives in Jerusalem with her husband and daughter.



## **Moran Peled**

### **Israel Experience**

Moran works for Israel Experience (IE), the land provider for the Diller Program. She joined IE after working for an online media company as a campaign manager. She has a B.A and MBA in Business management from Hebrew University and Bar Ilan University. She recently moved to Jerusalem with her Husband and her daughter after living in Modiin for the last 3 years.



## **Tehila Ella Talmon**

### **Israel Experience**

Deputy Director of the English speaking countries division at Israel Experience. She grew up in Jerusalem and currently lives with her family in Kibbutz Ma'ale HaChamisha. She holds a MA in Education Policy and Management and a BA in Sociology, Anthropology & Education from the Hebrew University, and is a graduate of the Organizational consultants' program of the Open University. Aside from her work she is involved and active in kibbutz life in the areas of community development and education.

# Partners & Participants: Representing 6 global continents!

## San Francisco - Upper Galilee



### Shuly Sapir

#### Upper Galilee Program Supervisor Manager of Dean's Office at Tel Hai Academic College

Shuly is the manager of the dean's office in the Tel Hai Academic college, where previously, She headed the unit for Community Involvement. For the past four years, she is the head of prevention of sexual harassment at the Academic College and leads groups of young female students on themes like gender, femininity and empowerment. She is a group facilitator for leadership groups of students, and the supervisor of The Diller Teens Fellows program at the Upper Galilee.



### Loal Isaacs

#### San Francisco Program Supervisor Director of Youth Philanthropy at Jewish Community Federation & Endowment Fund

Loal Isaacs has a lifelong passion for experiential Jewish education. He is currently the Director of Youth Philanthropy at the Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund. Prior to his current position, Loal held several leadership positions including the Director of New Initiatives at URJ Camp Newman, the Director of Youth First Programs at Jewish Family and Children's Services, and the Program Director at the Center of Jewish Living and Learning.



### Rachel Naor

#### Upper Galilee Program Coordinator

Rachel lives in Kiryat Shmonah and is a third-year student of Psychology and Education at Tel Hai collage. She was an Upper Galilei fellow from 2009-2010, a Junior Counselor from 2011-2012, a fellow at the Diller Mechina in Nizzana from 2012-2013, an Upper Galilei student intern from 2016-2017 and a JC's advisor from 2016-2017. In 2016 she concluded three years of military service in the IDF Education & Youth Corps where she was a commander at the Havat Hashomer base and at a basic training base for at-risk soldiers from disadvantaged backgrounds. Later she served as an officer in the Nativ Unit, a special program that delivers courses in Judaism, Jewish history, and other subjects to new immigrants and soldiers who are not Jewish according to Halacha.



### Samara Leader

#### San Francisco Program Coordinator

Samara Leader has spent the bulk of her professional time and energy in Jewish youth and teen engagement work. Prior to her work with Diller, Samara spent many years working with NFTY and URJ Camp Newman, most recently serving as the Camp Newman Director of Teen Engagement. This role allowed her to meet with youth professionals and clergy, envision new and innovative Jewish teen experiences, support staff in NFTY regions across California, and work hands-on with teens at weekend retreats and in 8-week summer programs. Samara has also served on staff at URJ 6 Points Sports Academy and as Youth Education Program Coordinator at Congregation Beth Am in Los Altos Hills. Samara graduated from UCLA and holds a Certificate in Jewish Education Specializing in Adolescents and Emerging Adults from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

# Baltimore - Ashkelon



**Sigal Ariely**  
**Ashkelon Program Supervisor**  
**Director of Ashkelon Baltimore Partnership**

Sigal has been the director of Ashkelon -Baltimore partnership since 2005. As of June 2019 part of JAFI Partnership together. Sigal holds a Master's degree from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in Urban planning. She has multiple years of experience as a summer camp counselor and unit leader in JAFI summer programs in North America. Prior position was 16 years as an Environmental Planner in Ashkelon Environmental regional unit. Sigal is married and mother of 3.



**Sam Kahan-Strakes**  
**Baltimore Program Supervisor**  
**4Front Baltimore, Managing Director of Education and Programming**

Sam Kahan Strakes is the Managing Director of Education and Programming at 4Front, where she works as the supervisor of Diller Teen Fellows, Teen Service Council, and the brand new philanthropy program, FUN(d). Sam has worked as the Diller coordinator in Baltimore for four years. She is a Baltimore native as well as an alum of Diller Teen Fellows.



**Yehuda Halfon**  
**Ashkelon Lay Leader**  
**Co-chair of the Baltimore Ashkelon partnership**

Born in Ashkelon in 1978. From 2009 to today he serves as the chief executive officer at Cooperica property Ltd., which owns and manages a large geriatric center and other real estate properties in Israel. From 2012 to 2018 he served as the co-chair of the funding committee of the Baltimore Ashkelon partnership (BAP). Mr. Halfon holds a B.A. in Accounting & Economics from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and an MBA from the Open University of Israel.



**Janna Hindman**  
**Director of Community Planning, Associated:**  
**Jewish Federation of Baltimore**

Janna is the Director of Community Planning at The Associated: Jewish Federation of Baltimore. In this role, Janna is responsible for overseeing the strategic initiatives that strengthen Jewish learning and engagement opportunities. She received a Bachelor of Science in Family Studies from Towson University in 2011 and a dual Masters degree from the University of Maryland School of Social Work and Baltimore Hebrew Institute at Towson University. Janna lives in Columbia, Maryland with her husband.



**Mor Oded**  
**Ashkelon Program Coordinator**

Mor Oded is 26 years old. She is the Coordinator for Diller Ashkelon and has a degree in Education and Management. She is currently working on a Master's Degree in Special Education.



**Erin Weinblatt**  
**Baltimore Program Coordinator**

Erin is a Baltimore, Maryland native and an alum of the University of Maryland, College Park. Prior to working for 4Front and Diller Teen Fellow, she worked at Camps Airy and Louise with counselors in training, building their leadership skills.

# Greater MetroWest, NJ – Rishon LeZion



## Meyrav Kopito

### Rishon LeZion Program Supervisor

#### Director, Training Center for Youth Leadership & International Relations

Meyrav was born and raised in Israel. She is married and a mother of 3 boys. Meyrav studied Sociology, Anthropology, and Education at the Tel Aviv University. Since 1997, Meyrav has been working in the youth department of the Municipality of Rishon LeZion as the Director of the international relations & youth leadership development center. Meyrav has supervised the Diller teen fellows program in Rishon LeZion in partnership with Metro West, New Jersey since 2008.



## Melanie Robbins

### Greater MetroWest Program Supervisor, Federation Representative

#### Director of Global Connections, Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ

Melanie Robbins currently serves as the Director of Global Connections for the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ. JFEDGMW's Global Connections creates bridges between Greater MetroWest, Israel and the global Jewish community. Global Connections operates and supports educational projects and programs to strengthen core Jewish values, Jewish identity and global (Jewish) responsibility/peoplehood. This was a natural path, having spent the greater part of her educational and professional career passionate about tikkun olam, Israel and navigating her own Jewish identity. After completing her BA in Political Science, (Middle East Studies & Women & Gender Studies) from Drew University, Melanie made Aliyah and lived in Jaffa. During her time in Israel, Melanie was the Resource Development Coordinator for Windows: Channels for Communication, and later the Director of Development and External Relations for Peace Now/Shalom Achsav. Melanie then completed her MA in Security & Diplomacy from Tel Aviv University. Arriving back in the US, Melanie became Assistant Director and later Deputy Director of the Anti-Defamation League's New York / New Jersey office. Melanie managed the daily & strategic operations of the region, including bias complaint processing, law enforcement/government/Interfaith relations; along with organizational response to hate crimes and civil rights issues. Melanie lives in Union City, New Jersey with her two sons Ezra and Netaniel, and their Tel Avivi dog Doobie. In her free time she goes Salsa dancing, and hiking.



## Michal Zur

### Greater MetroWest Federation Representative

#### Global Connections Director, Greater MetroWest NJ

Michal was born and raised in Israel. She has been working in the field of Jewish communities, informal Jewish Education and Israel Diaspora connections for the past twenty plus years, fifteen of those years, for the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ, mostly in Israel. She holds an MA in Contemporary Judaism, from the Hebrew University and is a board member of the Center for Jewish Peoplehood. Michal recently moved to Kibbutz Erez with her kids.



## Craig Levine

### Greater MetroWest Lay Leader

Craig Levine has been a public interest lawyer for almost thirty years, serving in the non-profit and public sectors. He has been an adjunct member of the faculties of the Woodrow Wilson School, Seton Hall University Law School, and Columbia Law School. Craig is an active member and past president of B'nai Keshet Reconstructionist Synagogue in Montclair, New Jersey, and was a member of the Greater MetroWest New Jersey Wexner Heritage Program 2015 cohort.



**Henit Azuz- Farhan**  
**Rishon L’Zion Lay Leader**

Henit was born and raised in Israel. She is married and a mother of 4 children. Henit has a M.A in gender studies from Bar Ilan university. For the past 4 years she managed the youth department which she has been working at for more than 20 years. In the past she led the volunteer youth unit and developed the volunteering field for youth and young adults in the city.



**Denny Frank**  
**Rishon L’Zion Coordinator**

Denny was born and raised on Kibbutz Kfar Hanassi in the upper galilee. She lived in New Jersey as a child for 4 years. Denny took part in different educational programs in Israel and abroad as a chanicha and madricha including Diller. After a gap year next to Gaza she joined the army and served in the education unit. In 2014 she went on an adventure to southeast Asia for 8 months and then moved to Milan. Denny studied producing and designing events. She lives in Tel Aviv with her partner, Gal, and her puppy, rocky.



**Scott Kalmikoff**  
**Greater MetroWest Program Coordinator**

Scott was born and raised in Staten Island, NY. He received a BA in Jewish Studies from Yeshiva University and studied at Yeshivat Netiv Aryeh in Jerusalem. Upon graduation from YU, Scott began his studies at Yeshivat Chovevei Torah Rabbinical School and received ordination in June 2018. On weekends, Scott serves as the Assistant Rabbi of Mount Freedom Jewish Center in Randolph, NJ. He loves genealogy, country music & being outdoors. Scott currently resides on the Upper West Side of Manhattan.

**Los Angeles - Tel Aviv**



**Shira Katz Vinkler**  
**Tel-Aviv Program Supervisor**  
**Associate Executive Director Israel office, The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles**

Shira is the Director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles’s Israel Office. She is responsible for formulating and leading the current and long-term allocation strategy of the LA Federation in Israel and ensuring that their different investments, result in maximum collective impact. Shira began her career in social work. She was one of the founders and CEO of the Yerushalmit Movement. She is married to Eyal and a mother of 3 boys and a princess.



**Ari Cohen**  
**Los Angeles Program Supervisor**  
**Director of Experiential Learning - Westside JCC**

Ari Cohen grew up, and still lives, in Los Angeles. He graduated from Rutgers University with a BA in Philosophy and received an MA in Experiential Education from American Jewish University. Ari is the Director of Experiential Learning at the Westside JCC, focusing on teen programs. He has a wife and two daughters (a 5 year old and 2 year old), both future Dillers. Ari is an avid board gamer and loves intellectual and physical challenge, something he incorporates often into his work.



**Brian Greene**  
**Los Angeles Program Supervisor**  
**Executive Director, Westside Jewish Community Center**

Brian Greene is the Executive Director of Westside Jewish Community Center. He previously served as the International Director of the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization and the Director of Camp Ramah in California. A graduate of American Jewish University Graduate Education Program, Brian has taught on the faculty of the Fingerhut School of Education at AJU and at Gratz College in Philadelphia. He is married to Lisa Feldman, and they have three sons - Sam, Noah and Yoni.



## Jessica Green

### Los Angeles Federation Representative

#### Vice President of Jewish Education & Engagement, Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles

At the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles, Jessica helps manage the "Birth Through High School" Education & Engagement department. In her role, she oversees initiatives that strive to "Ensure the Jewish Future" for tweens and teens, including but not limited to: the Los Angeles Jewish Teen Initiative, Global Teen Twinning Program and many partnerships with teen facing organizations in the community.



## Karen Getelman

### Los Angeles Lay Leader

#### Co-chair, Los Angeles Diller Advisory Council

Karen Getelman is beginning her 5th year as a co-chair of the Los Angeles Diller Advisory Council. She has been a member of the Council for the past 6 years and became involved in Diller after her son Zachary participated in the program as both a fellow and JC. Karen is also a long-standing Board Member of the LA Jewish Federation and is currently Vice Chair of the Women's Philanthropy Board. Additionally, Karen has held various Vice President positions as an active and long-standing Board member of her synagogue in Encino, serves as Chair of the JWW Walk to End Genocide, and is an active member of the Board of University Women at American Jewish University. She also volunteers each week providing legal services for clients in need at Bet Tzedek, and in her free time, Karen loves to exercise, play Mahj, travel and spend time with her husband Mark and three children Nicole, Zach and Jayme.



## Mark Burton

### Los Angeles Lay Leader

#### Wonder Worldwide

Mark Burton is CEO of the entertainment company Wonder Worldwide. Mark has produced/executive produced 15 films and television series, including the Academy Award nominated film Water. Mark is a member of The Producers Guild of America and The British Academy of Film and Television. He was educated at the University of Southern California.



## Inbar Meir

### Tel-Aviv Program Coordinator

Inbar was born and raised in Rishon LeZion. She was in the Scouts from the age of 9 and took part in the Scouts Friendship Caravan in 2008 and 2015. Inbar served as an officer in the IDF and was in charge of the soldiers' welfare. After 3 years in the army, Inbar flew to Argentina, where she worked for a year, within the Jewish community as an Israeli emissary on behalf of the Jewish Agency. Inbar recently graduated with her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and Education and is very excited to start her adventure with Diller.



## Aaron Jacobs

### Los Angeles Program Coordinator

Aaron Jacobs is a third year Coordinator of the Los Angeles Cohort. As a teen, he was active in United Synagogue Youth and served as the 2007 USY International President. Aaron studied Film Production and Judaic Studies at the University of Arizona. He is passionate about working with and learning from the Jewish youth of tomorrow. In his free time, Aaron enjoys watching TV, playing board games, and spending time with his wife.

# Montreal – Be'er Sheva / B'nei Shimon



**Stefani Novick**  
**Montreal Program Supervisor**  
**Director of Youth and Family Engagement**

Stefani has a background in Jewish Studies and Inclusive Education. She has spent the last 25+ years working in the Jewish community and non-profit agencies. Before joining the Y, she was Director of Youth and Education at Congregation Shaar Hashomayim and then Manager and Interim-Director of Program Services at the Cummings Centre for Seniors with a focus on adaptive programming development, implementation and supervision. She has 3 beautiful children.



**Leah Berger**  
**Montreal Federation Representative**  
**Director of Planning and Allocations, Federation CJA**

Leah Berger is the Director of Planning and Allocations at Federation CJA. She has been working within the Montreal Jewish community since 2009 in various roles. In her current capacity, she is responsible for the allocation of funds to agencies within the Federation network, among other responsibilities.



**Idan Sharabi**  
**Be'er Sheva / B'nei Shimon Program Coordinator**

Idan grew up in Bet Shemesh, studied at Yeshivat Maale-Gilboa, and served in a hi-tech unit as a Web-intelligence analyst. After his service, Idan worked as a Northern Shaliach at the UJIA in the UK where he supported the Jewish student's unions in Universities, ran educational programs and led Garin Tzabar. Back in Israel, Idan worked as a recruitment and marketing coordinator in the Southern Region for the WZO. Idan holds a B.A from Ben-Gurion University in Management and Conflict Resolution.



**Jessica Meirovici**  
**Montreal Program Coordinator**

Jessica recently graduated from McGill university with a masters in Education. She did an undergraduate degree in International Development with a minors in Field Studies and Education. She has travelled to numerous countries such as Ethiopia, Nicaragua, Uruguay, Panama, Uganda and more for educational, cultural, leadership and work opportunities. She is a Diller alumna from 2009-2010 and was the Montreal Diller Student Intern in 2017-2018.

# Pittsburgh – Karmiel/Misgav



**Aya Ovadia**  
**Karmiel-Misgav Program Supervisor**  
**Interim Partnership' Director, Partnership 2Gether Karmiel - Misgav-Pittsburgh- Warsaw**

Aya is married and a mother of 3 amazing kids. She has a BA in Criminology & Anthropology from Bar Ilan University (2000) and MA in American Jewry & the State of Israel from Haifa University (2015). Since October 2000, she has worked for Partnership 2Gether of the Jewish Agency for Israel, which creates living bridges between the city of Karmiel, in Misgav Regional Council and the Jewish Community of Pittsburgh. Since July 2019- Interim Partnership' Director, Partnership 2Gether Karmiel - Misgav-Pittsburgh- Warsaw.



## **Chris Herman**

### **Pittsburgh Program Supervisor**

#### **Teen Division Director JCC of Greater Pittsburgh**

Chris Herman has worked in the field of experiential Jewish education and teen engagement for the past 8 years. Chris currently serves as the Pittsburgh Diller Teen Fellows Coordinator and has recently taken on a role on the International Staff as the National Junior Counselor Coordinator in North America. Chris has his undergraduate degree from The Ohio State University, a Masters degree from Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership in Jewish Professional Studies, and a certificate in Experiential Jewish Education from Yeshiva University. Chris wants to live in a world filled with people inspired to be kind, meetings catered only by Chipotle and a force field around his clothes that repels pet fur and messy-fingered toddlers.



## **Debbie Swartz**

### **Pittsburgh Federation Representative**

#### **Overseas Planning Associate, Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh**

Debbie has been at the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh for 8 years. She oversees all Partnership2Gether programs including Diller Teen Fellows, and the Federation's Israel Scholarship Program, which also supports the Pittsburgh Diller Teen Fellows program. Debbie is married to Rabbi Howie Stein and has a daughter, Yona, who is going into first grade.



## **Magi Ben Yehuda**

### **Karmiel-Misgav Lay Leader**

#### **Organizational Consultant, Personal and Business coach**

Magi has been involved with Karmiel/Misgav for 21 years in various positions. She is an Organizational Consultant and a personal and business coach. Last year, Magi completed her doctorate in Academic Personal Training. She loves to volunteer and be part of building the leadership of the next generation. She is a mother of 3 children who were all part of the partnership and a grandmother of two.



## **Dana Himmel**

### **Pittsburgh Lay Leader**

#### **Youth Keshet Chair, Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh**

Dana is the Youth Keshet Chair for the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh's P2G initiative. This position oversees all youth activities between Pittsburgh and our Israeli partnership region. Professionally, Dana works for the Jewish Scholarship Service of Greater Pittsburgh which provides need based scholarships to Jewish students for higher education.



## **Noga Somech**

### **Karmiel-Misgav Program Coordinator**

Noga was born and raised in Haifa and in her youth was a Fellow and a youth leader in the Machanot Olim Youth Movement. After graduating from high school, she enlisted in the Karakal Battalion as a combat soldier. After her military service, Noga was a summer camp Jewish Agency emissary in Miami, Florida. Additionally, she worked as a Youth Leader in Kibbutz Eilat. Noga holds a B.A. in Behavioral Science and is currently finishing her M.A. in Education Counseling.



## **Alex Malanych**

### **Pittsburgh Coordinator**

Alex is the new Diller Coordinator for the Pittsburgh. He grew up in Connecticut but moved to Pittsburgh in 2014; working in synagogues, camps, and the JCC over the last five years, he has come to think of it as my home. He has his bachelor's and master's degrees in English as well as an M.A. in Jewish Education from Gratz College. He is excited to be part of the Diller community and looks forward to learning with all of you!



# Boston - Haifa



**Fiona Epstein**  
**Boston Program Supervisor**  
**Director Special Projects**

After 3 decades in senior leadership positions with a focus on Jewish identity development at the JCC Greater Boston Fiona is transitioning to direct a couple of special projects including the Diller Teen Leadership Program. She brings her management experience, organizational strength and strategic skills in youth and adult programming to bear on the program and ensuring the continued quality of the Boston cohort.



**Gavin Andrews**  
**Chief Strategic Program Officer, JCC Greater Boston**

As Chief Strategic Program Officer at JCC Greater Boston, Gavin Andrews leads youth programs, camping, family engagement, fitness and aquatics, four early learning sites, as well as marketing and communications. Prior to joining the JCC in late 2018, Gavin served as the Chief Learning Officer at the Peabody Essex Museum. Part of her work included supporting two nationally recognized youth programs, the MAC paid internship program and the Native American Fellowship program.



**Michal Statman**  
**Haifa Program Coordinator**

Michal grew up in Hoshaya, an Orthodox community in the Lower Galilee. She completed two years of National Service and studied Social Work at Bar-Ilan University while working for EIAl. After graduating, Michal moved into the field of education and started as a Counselor at the ELUL Program of the Ein Porat Beit-Midrash. Later, she became the head of the Center of Education for Excellence, an association for the empowerment of teenagers in the periphery. Michal is returning for her second year as the Haifa Diller Coordinator.



**Sophia Adler**  
**Boston Coordinator**

Sophia was born and raised in New York and is excited to be making her Boston debut as the JCC Boston Program Coordinator! She graduated from Macaulay Honors College at Queens College with a bachelor's degree in Psychology and Business. In University, she was the President of Queens College Hillel, serving over 4,000 Jewish students on campus. Upon graduation, she worked at Hadar Institute as well as at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals. She is thrilled to be starting as the new Boston Coordinator!

# Toronto – Eilat/Eilot



**Hagit Shilo**  
**Eilat-Eilot Program Supervisor**  
**Jewish Agency for Israel- Partnership2Gether Director**

Hagit Shilo works at JAFI as the Director of the Eilat-Eilot-Toronto Partnership since 2006. She is married to Tzachi, a mother to Shaked and Gal, and a grandmother to three granddaughters. Hagit holds a BA in Management with a specialization in Human Resources and an MA in Conflict Management & Resolution. Hagit grew up in Givatayim. During her service in the IDF, Hagit focused on welfare and worked with soldiers from low socioeconomic backgrounds and bereaved families.



## Lior Hameiri

### Toronto Program Supervisor

#### Director of Israel Engagement - UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

Lior was born and raised in the Upper Galilee, Israel. He holds a PhD in Educational Leadership from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Lior is currently acting as the interim Director of Israel Engagement - UJA Federation of Greater Toronto. He is married to Liat and father to Ben, Yair, Tamar and Ori.



## Debra Aronson

### Toronto Lay Leader

#### Lay Advisory Chair, UJA Toronto

Debra is an Electrical Engineer and Project Manager with over 20 years of experience in industry. Having recently stepped away from her career she is currently focusing on community involvement. Debra sits on UJA's Israel Engagement committee, the Jewish Service sub-committee and is the incoming chair of the Diller Teen Fellowship program. Debra has also been active in the Village Shul and will be leading a Momentum women's trip to Israel. She also served on the board of CHAT High School.



## Itamar Levin Fridman

### Eilat Coordinator

Itamar has a bachelor's degree in economics and is currently studying for a master's degree in the field. After working for Green Horizons, Keren program, and Lior Cohen institute, he has experience in managing and leading educational and professional processes. In addition, in recent years he has been self-employed in the field of economics and established a number of businesses, including hosting a financial online series on his own YouTube channel.



## Caroline Levine-Rosenberg

### Toronto Coordinator

Caroline was born and raised in Montreal and is now living in Toronto. She worked in the Jewish Community full time for the last 8 years and has had the opportunity to work at Hillel Montreal, Federation CJA in the GenMTL department, and BBYO Ontario. She has also spent over 14 years at Jewish summer camp. When she is not working, she can be found travelling (especially to Disney!), baking, cooking, or spending time with friends.

## Miami – Yerucham



## Nili Avrahamy

### Yerucham Program Supervisor

#### Partnership Director for the Jewish Agency

Nili has been the Partnership Director for the Yerucham-Miami partnership for the past 11 years. She is very proud of the Yerucham-Miami Diller Program which has been a huge success and has had a wonderful impact on both communities. She is proud of the Diller Coordinators from Yerucham and Miami.



## Dahlia Bendavid

### Miami Federation Representative

#### Israel and Overseas Director, Greater Miami Jewish Federation

As Director of the Israel & Overseas Department at the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, Dahlia provides professional leadership to the Federation's overseas agenda. Working with distinguished community leaders, Dahlia directs the Israel & Overseas Committee, a standing committee committed to engaged global justice through philanthropy. Dahlia develops and oversees all aspects of Miami's international partnerships, including the allocation of over \$7 million dollars to overseas recipients.



**Natanel Shlomi**  
**Yerucham Lay Leader**  
**Yerucham Miami steering committee**

Natanel is 38 years old. He is a member of the Yerucham Miami steering committee and the volunteer in charge of the Diller teen program for Yerucham- Miami partnership. He works for shaniv industries in the marketing and sales department. He is married to Hila who works at the yang adult center in Yerucham and is also a professional baker. They were both born, raised and educated in Yerucham. They have two kids, Kerem and Ziv.



**Sagiv Dadush**  
**Yerucham Coordinator**

Sagiv, 25, lives in Beer-Sheva, Israel. He is originally from Tel Aviv, Sagiv had a BA Graduate from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev with a double major in Psychology and Education. He worked as a youth coordinator and guide at the Yerucham Community Center for the last four years and loves both Game of Thrones and Settlers of Catan with equal passion.



**Lindsay Spiegelman**  
**Miami Program Coordinator**

Lindsay Spiegelman grew up in Miami, served as the Programming Vice President of BAFTY (NFTY), spent six summers at Blue Star Camps as both camper and staff, participated in a L'Taken convention, experienced a life-changing summer at Alexander Muss High School in Israel, and revitalized her connection to her Jewish identity on Birthright. Lindsay received her BFA in Drama (Production and Design) from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. Lindsay is eager to continue connecting her strong sense of community, creativity, innovative learning, and desire to inspire change that she learned in the theater community to the Jewish community.

## Chicago – Kiryat Gat/Lachish/Shafir



**Niva Vollman**  
**Kiryat Gat / Lachish & Shafir Program Supervisor**  
**P2P Program Director**

Niva Vollman is the People to People Program Director for Partnership Together Kiryat Gat/Lachish/Shafir - Chicago. Niva's keen interest in the Jewish world developed in the 80s, when she was an Emissary in the United States. Since then, dealing with Jewish Peoplehood has been her passion. Her vocation is to enhance the links, understanding and friendship between the people from the Chicago Jewish community and Kiryat Gat/Lachish & Shafir region of Israel.



**Hallie Shapiro Devir**  
**Chicago Program Supervisor**  
**Senior Associate VP, Family and Teen Engagement**

Hallie Shapiro Devir is Senior Associate Vice President, Family and Teen Engagement at the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago. She oversees Federation's initiatives for youth and young families, bringing more people to Jewish life through meaningful, enriching Jewish experiences. Hallie lives in Chicago with her husband, Eric, and their three children, one of whom is a Diller alum!



## Etai Friedlander

### Kiryat Gat-Lachish-Shafir Lay Leader

CEO - Orot HaKirya Organization - Kiryat Gat

Etai was born in JHB, South Africa. He made Aliya when he was 15. After High School he went to Hesder Yeshiva in Yerucham, later enrolled into the IDF, into the Tanks Corp. He completed a Teachers Degree, BSc in Computers & Psychology and MBA in Governmental organization. He is married to Gaby (works in Intel) and has 4 beautiful kids, oldest 19 and youngest 8. In 2001 he moved to Kiryat Gat, then to Even Shmuel in the Shafir region. Currently he runs a local NGO dealing with Education, Community & Family Support.



## Laurie Baskin

### Chicago Lay Leader

As mom to a 2018 Diller Fellow Laurie is thrilled to be a first time PLC participant. She is involved in various JUF initiatives, a Jewish Women's Foundation Trustee and Steering Committee member as well as the Midwest Committee Chair for Heroes to Heroes. She lives in Chicago with her husband Steve Fadem and 2 teenage daughters.



## Adar Sahar

### Kiryat Gat-Lachish-Shafir Program Coordinator

Adar Sahar is the Coordinator for Kiryat Gat/Lachish & Shafir. Adar is also a tour guide in Israel and has worked with youth for the past 8 year in different programs. Adar is returning for her third year as a Coordinator for the Diller Teen Fellows program.



## Shiran Posner

### Chicago Program Coordinator

Shiran is very excited to be starting her second year as the Chicago coordinator! Born in Israel but raised in Columbus, Ohio, Shiran has lived in Chicago for five years. She has a Bachelor's of Science from Ohio State University, and a Masters of Arts in Teaching from Brandeis University. Before working for Diller, Shiran was a teacher at multiple Jewish Day Schools.

# Johannesburg – Beit Shemesh/Mateh Yehuda



## Ronli Dorfman

### Johannesburg Program Supervisor

Israel Education - South African Zionist Federation

As the training coordinator for the last 2.5 years at the South African Zionist Federation in Johannesburg (JHB) South Africa, Ronli manages Israel related programs for JHB Jewish high schools. This role was a new initiative of the Zionist Federations, as the need for more in-depth Israel education within the community became visible, more specifically in the Jewish day schools where training teenagers prior to stepping into university campuses became vital. The DTF program sits under the SAZF and is supervised by Ronli.



## **Ori Figura** **Beit Shemesh/Matte Yehuda Coordinator**

Ori was born and raised in Haifa and now lives in Jerusalem. After completing her army service as a commander in the Air Force, she worked at a98 Jewish summer camp in Massachusetts. Later, she worked for the Jewish community of greater Washington D.C. as an Israeli emissary on behalf of the Jewish Agency and the Israeli Scouts. Recently, she worked as a team coordinator at the Knesset's visitor center and as a policy researcher at the MJB research institute. Ori has a B.A. in Education and Political Science and an M.A. in Public Policy, both from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.



## **Aryeh Chipkin** **Johannesburg Program Coordinator**

Ari was born and raised in Johannesburg, South Africa. After graduating high school, he spent two years learning at Yeshivat Har Etzion in Alon Shvut before returning home, where he served as a madrich and in several leadership positions for Bnei Akiva South Africa. Ari is currently in his final year of a Bachelor of Commerce majoring in Law and Finance. In his spare time, he enjoys reading, travelling and attempting to be funny.

# Melbourne - Golan



## **Sharon Paz Agai** **Golan Program Supervisor** **Manager of the Jewish Community Center**

Sharon Paz Agai is the Director of the Golan Community Center and is the Diller Teen Fellows Golan Program Supervisor. Sharon Graduated from both Tel Hai Academic College and Oranim and in the IDF he served in the Nahal Brigade. Sharon lives and is a member of Kibbutz Ortal, married to Keren and father of 4.



## **Hila Lichi Shemesh** **Golan Lay Leader**

Hila is a Human Resources business partner & consultant. She is currently studying for her MA in Social Work at Tel Hai College. She holds a BA in Human Resources and Management. Hila's professional experience includes youth counseling and management of informal educational systems. In her spare time she volunteers in accompanying teens with special needs and their family members. She lives in Kibbutz Ortal and is the Mother of Ofir and Ori (an Alumni of the 2+4th Golan cohort).



## **Elana Lewin** **Melbourne Lay Leader**

Elana retired from work 4 years ago. She is involved with the Zionist Federation as well as Zionism Victoria in Melbourne. She is also involved with an organization which brings holocaust survivors and students together through education. She volunteers with Beit Halochem which is an organization in Israel that has rehab centers for wounded soldiers and victims of terror. She works with the local council doing art projects with students and street artists and volunteers in a food center.



## **Gil Harry De Jong** **Golan Program Coordinator**

Gil is a Diller Upper Galilee alumna from 2004. She has a BA in Psychology and Education from Tel Hai College, a Mediator's certificate and has studied nonverbal communication. Gil has extensive experience in education and training. She did a Year of Service at the agricultural youth village Einot, served in the military as an officer in various training positions and recently, she worked and managed the early childhood system at Kibbutz Merom Golan. Today Gil lives in Kibbutz Merom Golan and is the mother of a one-year old girl.



**Shlomit Weidenfeld**  
**Melbourne Program Coordinator**

Shlomit is a Melbournian native, creative Arts & Law graduate and a Habonim Dror alumni. She is passionate about creating spaces where young people feel supported and empowered. With her new position as coordinator, she feels immense pride being part of a global Jewish community that provides young people with the structure and opportunity to build confidence, foster deep relationships and instills a sense of responsibility for the world they live in.

**Cape Town – Shoham**



**Ilan Koma**  
**Shoham Program Supervisor**  
**CEO of the Municipal Company for Youth Culture and Sport Hamesh Shoham**

Ilan is married and a father to three children. He holds a Bachelor’s in Social Work and Master’s Degree in Nonprofit Organization Management. Ilan worked in the Tel Aviv Municipality in various positions including managing a Community Center and the Youth Department and managing a logistics team of the education system. For three years he managed the administration of the education system in Holon Municipality. About two years ago, he started working as CEO of the Municipal Company for Youth Culture and Sport in Shoham.



**Julie Berman**  
**Cape Town Program Supervisor, Federation Representative**  
**Executive Director SAZF Cape Council**

Julie was a member of Bnei Akiva for 10 years. She began her community career within Leos Int. for 8 years holding positions on Local & International Boards. Thereafter she became a charter member of Lions Int. Before joining the SAZF Cape Council in 1998, Julie worked in all aspects of property & owned her own Letting Agency. Julie is a member of WIZO & Union of Jewish Woman. She sits on the Editorial Board of the Cape Jewish Chronicle & Jacob Gitlin Library Committee.



**Geoff Cohen**  
**Cape Town Lay Leader**  
**Director of Education - United Herzlia Schools**

Geoff started work at Herzlia in 1981. He was appointed Deputy Principal of the Middle School in Dec 1990 and as principal of the Middle School in 1992. Appointed Director of Education (UHS) in 2011. Geoff was a primary mover behind the development and implementation of the Inclusion Program at Herzlia. Herzlia was the recipient of the International Ruderman Prize in Disability in 2013. He is on the board of Jewish care cape and Cape Jewish Chronicle. He is married to Paula with two sons and two grandchildren.



**Yifat Nadler**  
**Shoham Program Coordinator**

Yifat Nadler was born in Toronto, Canada and made aliyah with her family at the age of sixteen. She is currently living in Tel Aviv and has recently completed a B.A degree in Political Science and Anthropology. Prior to being a Diller Coordinator, Yifat has worked in various educational roles including Masa Israel group leader, coordinator at Szarvas International Youth Camp, and project manager at the Global Leadership Institute run by the Jewish Agency.



**Martine Kawalsky**  
**Cape Town Coordinator**

Martine was born and raised in Cape Town, South Africa. She is in her final year of her Bachelors of Education in Early Childhood Development & Foundation Phase. She was a chanicha & madricha in the youth movement Habonim Dror. She has worked for the past 5 years as the Youth Director of the Cape Town Hebrew Congregation. Other interests include a passion for Musical Theatre, performing & directing various productions across SA.

## Buenos Aires – Hof Hasharon



### Estela Kalinsky

#### **Buenos Aires Program Supervisor** **BAMA, Executive Director**

Estela is a specialist in design, planning, organization and implementation of different and varied educational and social programs in different Jewish communities of Argentina, Israel, Russia, Ukraine and Latin America. She has a Master's in Education and Specialist in Strategic HR Management. Estela has extensive experience in the promotion of programs that focus on youth leadership, promoting bridges between young people from different communities of the world and Israel.



### Eliad Veisman

#### **Hof Hasharon Program Supervisor** **Manager of the Youth Teen Young Adults Sport Department**

Eliad has been working in Informal Education for 22 years and is also trained as a moderator for parents by the Adler Institute. He is the Program Supervisor for Diller Hof Hasharon.



### Mai Cohen

#### **Hof Hasharon Program Coordinator**

Mai grew up in Rehovot and served in the army as a basic training officer. She has a BA in Education and Psychology from Ben-Gurion University. She has extensive experience in both formal and informal education, as well as experience working with Diaspora Jewry. In her last position, she served as Coordinator of MASA's "Destination Israel" program. In addition to Hebrew and English, Mai also speaks French and Spanish.



### Ariel Hutnik

#### **Buenos Aires Program Coordinator**

Ariel is a young, Argentine Jewish educator. He has worked for various organizations such as Taglit, KKL, Hacoaj Country Club, Martin Buber School and FACCMA, always focusing on education. Ariel firmly believes that education is the future of the Jewish world and the world in general.

## Philadelphia – Herzliya



### Liat Eilam

#### **Herzliya Program Supervisor** **Director of the 8th Herzliya Youth Club**

Liat is married to Alon Eilam and a mother of three children Gefen, Dafna and Rotem. She holds a Bachelor's in Criminology from Bar-Ilan University and a teaching certificate in special education. She managed various departments in the Kfar Saba Municipality and today she runs the Herzliya Youth Club - The Eighth Star.



### Shiri Rapaport

#### **Herzliya Supervisor** **Director of the culture Youth and Sports Division**

Shiri Rapaport is the Manager of the Youth and Community department in Herzliya.



## Trisha Swed

### Philadelphia Program Supervisor

#### Project Manager, Teen Engagement

Trisha Swed has been working with the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia for the past three years and in Jewish education for seven. She has her M.Ed. in Education from Temple University and is currently pursuing her Ph. D. in Leadership and Change at Antioch University. When not working with Jewish teens and studying, Trish is an Adjunct Instructor at Temple University in communication and works as a conflict coaching trainer. She also enjoys yoga, riding her bike, and traveling.



## Abigail Weinberg

### Philadelphia Federation Representative

#### Associate Director, Jewish Life and Learning, Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia

Abby has spent her career working in various parts of the American Jewish community - from the Philadelphia Board of Rabbis, to the Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor, Reconstructing Judaism and The Shefa Fund. She has been in her current position of Associate Director of Jewish Life and Learning at the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia for two years, where she enjoys planning and overseeing programs to increase Jewish education and engagement throughout the City of Brotherly Love.



## Tali Lidar

### Philadelphia Federation Representative

#### Israel Representative Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia

Tali Lidar, is the Israel Representative of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, and the Director of Israel and Global Strategy. Tali graduated high school in her hometown Givatayim after which was inducted into the IDF where she served as an officer in the educational core as a commander of delinquent and underprivileged soldiers. Tali has a B.A. in Middle Eastern studies and History, an M.A. in Jewish Education as well as a Teacher's Certificate' all from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Tali worked for many years for the Israeli Ministry of Education in different positions, one of them was as the Director of the Educational Centers at Israel's Supreme Court and the Israeli parliament- the Knesset. Upon leaving the Ministry in 2000 Tali assumed the position of Educational Director of the Reform movement in Modi'in. Tali also worked as the pedagogical coordinator for "TLALIM", an organization that gives educational assistance to ill and injured students. In 2002 Tali was selected by the Jewish Agency for Israel to serve as the Community Shlichah (emissary) to the Jewish Community in Philadelphia, a position she held for 4 years. Her last position, before rejoining the Jewish federation of Greater Philadelphia was as Director of Development for Orr- Shalom an Israeli NGO working with abused and neglected children. Tali lives in Modi'in with her 2 daughters Cori and Naya.



## Revital Stein

### Herzliya

#### VP of the Arts and Culture Society and Director of the Performing Arts Hall, Herzliya

Revital is responsible for consulting, guiding and assisting in leading significant and complex changes and processes across organizations. In addition to this role, she runs a major arts hall in the city called the "City Hall". The hall provides quality cultural content for the residents of Herzliya.



## Shani Tal

### Herzliya Coordinator

Shani is 24 years old and has a BA in Government, Diplomacy, and Strategy From the IDC Herzliya. She is an Alumni of Diller Haifa, 2011 and Coordinator of the youth delegation in Herzliya.



## Darren Rabinowitz

### Philadelphia Coordinator

Darren Rabinowitz is currently the Philadelphia Diller Coordinator and is pursuing his Masters of Arts degree in International Educational Development at Teachers College, Columbia University. His current research revolves around how belonging is cultivated in different educational spaces for youth and the connections between belonging and national peace. Darren was a Diller participant in 2009 with the MetroWest cohort and a Junior Counselor for the same cohort in 2011.



# London – Mateh Asher



**Golan Rosenberg**  
**Mateh Asher Program Supervisor**  
**Director of Community Center**

Golan has been managing the Mateh Asher Community Center for about 2 years. He is married with three children and lives in Kibbutz Yehiam.



**Joel Jacobs**  
**Program Supervisor**  
**Executive Director, FZY**

Joel grew up in London, UK, where he first started working within the Jewish community. At 27, Joel made aliyah and has been living in Israel for 11 years. During much of this time Joel worked for Young Judeaa's gap year program in Israel. For the last 5 years Joel has been the Executive Director for FZY (Federation of Zionist Youth), Diller's partner & the oldest Zionist youth movement in the UK. Joel currently lives in Modi'in with his wife and two daughters. He frequently travels to the UK.



**Anna Shapira**  
**London Program Supervisor**  
**Central Shlichah of FZY**

This is Anna's first year as a central shlichah of FZY youth movement and as a supervisor on the Diller Teen Fellows program in the UK. She has been working with youth in the informal field for the past 9 years starting with a year of volunteering before her service in the IDF. She served in the IDF as a Hebrew teacher and after the army she was in charge of the informal education programs in Alfei Menashe. She recently completed her BA in informal education and social sciences.



**Hadas Zimmerman**  
**Mate' Asher Program Coordinator**

Hadas was born and raised in a kibbutz Ga'aton, in the north of Israel. In the army she served as an education officer in the Information unit. She is finishing a degree in political science and political communication. Previously, she worked at the Knesset as a Parliamentary Assistant to Stav Shaffir (the "Avoda" party). She is starting her second year as the Matte Asher coordinator.



**Rebecca Lewis**  
**London Program Coordinator**

Born and raised in London, Rebecca is very proud to be the UK coordinator for Diller. She studied English Literature and Theatre (the British way of spelling!) at the University of Leeds. She graduated in 2018, and since then has become very involved in the Jewish community in the UK. She worked for the Union of Jewish Students for 10 months as a Sabbatical officer and lead trips to Israel and Poland for Jewish and non Jewish students.