

René Cassin Fellowship Program

Israel Study Tour

June 4-12, 2013

Program Booklet

“THE STATE OF ISRAEL will be open for Jewish immigration and for the Ingathering of the Exiles; it will foster the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants; it will be based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel; it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture; it will safeguard the Holy Places of all religions; and it will be faithful to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.”

Excerpt from Israel's Declaration of Independence

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Goals of the RCFP:

- 1) To deepen and broaden participant's knowledge, understanding and engagement of Jewish visions of a just society through the study of Jewish classical and modern sources and contemporary international human rights law.
- 2) To wrestle with the dilemmas and value-conflicts raised by the interplay of international human rights law, Jewish tradition and the contemporary social and political reality of the Jewish People and the State of Israel. This will be achieved through the examination of examples from Israel, diaspora Jewish communities and other societies.
- 3) To strengthen the social capital of the Jewish people by engaging socially/politically active young Jews from three continents in a program of study, cross-cultural dialogue, travel, and internships.
- 4) To galvanize a movement of young Jewish social activists who will be equipped with the skills and passion to promote social justice and human rights locally and globally.

Our Israel Study Tour

Our nine-day study tour through Israel will provide RCFP Fellows with an unparalleled opportunity to look at the state of Israel through the lens of human rights. We will meet with and interact with a full range of people and institutions: public officials, political activists, NGOs, religious leaders, the media and jurists. Our objective is to explore various facets of the challenges facing Israel as it seeks to fulfill its mandate to be a democratic society, affording equal rights to all its citizens, founded on the principles of justice that emerge from classical Judaic teachings.

Given the history of the Jewish people, Israel provides a case study of a people, long victimized by persecution, which now has a state that allows them to control their own destiny. At the same time however, that very political sovereignty challenges Israel to find ways to fulfill the aspirations as expressed in its 1948 Declaration of Independence, which reads, in part:

“THE STATE OF ISRAEL will be open for Jewish immigration and for the Ingathering of the Exiles; it will foster the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants; it will be based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel; it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture; it will safeguard the Holy Places of all religions; and it will be faithful to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.”

The RCFP program is designed to support young Jews across the world to build a Jewish identity that is both meaningful and connected to the full breadth of the Jewish community, in its essence and grandeur, and especially in its aspiration and responsibility for building a better world. Our Israel Study Tour is the only time that all of the RCFP Fellows, from the U.S., U.K. and Israel, will be together in “real time”. Given the very different political and social realities of the three regions, we expect that we will have as much to learn from one another as from the array of speakers that we will encounter. Considerable time will be given to building the bonds and deepening the relationships between members of the group. These relationships will continue after the end of the tour through the cross-regional *chevrotot* that will convene monthly.

Finally, we hope that during the course of our time together, each Fellow will become clearer about how s/he will make a contribution to the work of human rights and/or social justice in the year ahead. Each Fellow



will be undertaking an Impact Project with an agency of their choice for the duration of the Fellowship program. We encourage you to engage our various presenters and each other as you think of the best way for you to gain some practical experience and make a tangible contribution to the work of *tikkun olam*, healing the world.

The RCFP staff team applauds you for your participation in this program. We look forward to the chance to get to know you better and to share this journey of discovery with you.

**Rabbi Sid Schwarz, Director
Rene Cassin Fellowship Program**

**Shauna Leven, Executive Director
Rene Cassin**

**Rabbi Gideon Sylvester, Director
RCFP Israel Hub**

Our Partners



For more than 90 years, UJA-Federation has been a central force for communal planning and philanthropy in the New York Jewish community. Through UJA-Federation, close to 60,000 donors pool their resources to help people in need, inspire a passion for Jewish life and learning, and strengthen Jewish communities around the world — to address the issues that matter to us most as Jews and as New Yorkers. Working with nearly 100 network beneficiary agencies, synagogues, and other Jewish organizations, our reach spans from New York to Israel to more than 60 other countries around the world, touching 4.5 million people each year. Because we do the most good when we do it together.



What: Makom is an educational think & do tank that drives policy and empowers program makers to embrace the vibrant complexity of Israel and the Jewish People. Makom has developed over 700 creative educational units and trained and/or provided enrichment to over 12,000 educators and policy-makers. Makom has provided consultancy and advocacy for their approach to Israel engagement to over 150 leaders, institutions, and communities.

Where: Makom strengthens the capacity of the Jewish Agency and its strategic allies to maximize the programmatic impact of its core values.

How: Using our expertise in transformative education, we design effective educational strategy, train program staff and ensure the development of high quality content.



Israel Experience is a subsidiary of the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI). We specialize in providing organized educational trips to Israel for teens, university students, young professionals, adults and families from all over the globe. We work with many different organizations such as schools, higher educational institutions, churches, synagogues, Federations and Communal organizations as well as private individuals and families. Israel Experience has a solid reputation as a provider of high-quality programming at fair and reasonable prices, backed up by superior logistical services. Israel Experience is committed to developing programs that are "tailor made" to meet the needs and interests of each of its clients working with them in all stages of development, from a program's inception through to its actual implementation.

Program Itinerary

(Due to the high profile nature of many of our speakers, the itinerary is subject to change)

Tuesday, June 4th Welcome to Israel

- 15:00 UK cohort arrive at Ben Gurion Airport
- 16:45 Hungarian participant arrives at Ben Gurion Airport
- 16:55 US cohort arrives at Ben Gurion Airport
- 17:45 Depart for the Agron Guest House in Jerusalem
- 19:00 Dinner and room assignments
- 20:00 Welcome and Introductions

Overnight: Agron Guest House Jerusalem

Wednesday, June 5th – A Country for All its Citizens

- 07:00 Breakfast
- 08:00 Morning Gathering
- 09:00 Depart
- 09:30 Max Rayne Hand in Hand Bilingual School in Bet Safafa
Rebecca Bardach, faculty and students
- 11:00 Return to city center
- 12:00 Tour of the YMCA for a vision of pluralist Israel
- 13:00 Lunch at YMCA
- 14:00 Meeting with YMCA Staff and projects that work out of the YMCA
Micah Hendler, Jerusalem Youth Chorus
- 15:00 Introductory panel on Arab-Jewish and state-minority relations in Israel
Ron Gerlitz, Co-Director, Sikkuy: The Association for the Advancement of Civic Equality in Israel
Roi Peled, Office of the Prime Minister, Authority for the Economic Development of the Arab Sector
Rula Deeb, Coordinator, Shutafut-Sharaka
- 17:00 Dinner Break
- 20:00 Debrief and processing at Agron

Overnight: Agron Guest House Jerusalem

Thursday, June 6th – State Lands, the Bedouin and Economic Empowerment

- 07:00 Breakfast
- 08:00 Morning Gathering
- 08:30 Depart Jerusalem
- 10:00 Arrive at Abu Quider/Al Zarnoog (unrecognized Bedouin village)
Danny Hakim, Founder/President, Budo for Peace
- 10:15 Joint sports activity with the Budo for Peace children at the village
- 11:00 Depart to Beersheva
- 11:15 AJEEC-NISPED Volunteers Tent intro to the Negev and the Bedouins
Vivian Silver and Kher Albaz, co-executive directors of the Arab-Jewish Center for Equality, Empowerment and the Negev Institute for Strategies of Peace and Development
- 12:15 OVER LUNCH: Discussions in smaller group with some of the Bedouin student volunteers
- 14:00 Headquarters of the Committee to Implement Cabinet plan for the Bedouin sector in the Negev
Major General Doron Almog, Director, State-Bedouin Relations for the Prime Minister's Office
- 15:30 Debriefing
Avivit Hai, Israel Office Director, Inter-Agency Task Force on Israeli-Arab Issues
- 16:30 Tour of Sderot with representative of the Sderot Media Centre on the Security Threat
- 18:00 JNF Indoor Recreation Centre with representative of JNF
- 19:30 Return to Beersheva
- 20:00 Group Debriefing at Beit Yatziv

Overnight: Beit Yatziv Guest House Beersheva

Friday, June 7th – The Holocaust, Discrimination and Human Rights

- 07:00 Breakfast
- 08:00 Morning Gathering
- 08:30 Depart for Jerusalem
Sara Pecanac, Muslim convert to Judaism who escaped the Balkan War with the help of the JDC. Her family was the first Muslim family honored by Yad Vashem on the Avenue of the Righteous for saving Jews during WWII. She now works at Yad Vashem.
- 11:30 Self-Guided Tour at Yad Vashem
- 14:00 Free time
- 18:00 Candle Lighting
- 18:30 Various options for Shabbat evening services

- 20:30 Shabbat Dinner at Agron
- 21:30 Debriefing and processing

Overnight: Agron Guest House Jerusalem

Shabbat, June 8th - Rest, Reflection, Deepening Relationships

- 08:00 Breakfast followed by optional Shabbat morning services
- 10:00 Open Space Conversations (optional)
- 11:30 Encountering Korach- Concurrent Sessions on the Weekly Torah Portion led by Fellows
- 13:00 Lunch and Mifgash with ROI participants

The ROI community is an international network of young Jewish social entrepreneurs funded by the Schusterman Family Foundation. ROI brought eight of their more successful leaders to tell about their projects and meet with RCFP Fellows as a lead in to and inspiration for RCFP Impact Projects.

- 15:30 Free time
- 17:00 Seudah Shlishit
- 17:30 Inter-regional chevrotot meetings
- 18:15 Text study on Religious Pluralism and our morning visit to Women of the Wall
Led by Rabbi Gideon Sylvester
- 20:00 Havdalah
- 21:00 Free evening

Overnight: Agron Guest House Jerusalem

Sunday, June 9th -Religious Pluralism, Minority Rights and NGO Activism

- 6:00 Breakfast
- 06:30 Depart to join the Women of the Wall for Rosh Chodesh Prayers
- 9:30 Morning Gathering
- 10:00 "How Dare You!" Haredim, Jewish Diversity and the Zionist Dream"
Yonatan Ariel, Director, Makom (Israel Education Center) at the Jewish Agency
- 11:30 Religious Pluralism in Israel – Panel Discussion
Dr. Elan Ezrachi, Fellow, Center for Jewish Peoplehood Education
Tehila Nachalon, Co-Founder, Yeru-Shalem Coalition
- 13:00 Lunch
- 14:00 Human Trafficking in Israel-presentation
Rabbi Levi Lauer, Founder and Executive Director of ATZUM-Justice Works

15:00 NGOs and Grassroots Activism in Israel

Hagai El-Ad, Executive Director, Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI)
Yuval Yavneh, Director of Grants, New Israel Fund (NIF)

17:30 LGBT Issues in Israel

Daniel Jonas, Chair, Havruta - Religious Gay Men
Ariela Shapiro, Bat-Kol - Religious Lesbians

19:00 Dinner Break

20:30 Debrief and Processing with representatives from Women of the Wall

Cheryl Birkner-Mack
Bonnie Ras

Overnight: Agron Guest House Jerusalem

Monday, June 10th – The Settlements, Security and Palestinians

07:00 Breakfast

07:30 Security, settlements and the rule of law

Mark Regev, Government Spokesperson, Office of the Prime Minister

08:30 Morning Gathering

09:00 Depart for Hebron

10:00 Tour of Hebron with *Shovrim Shtika* (Breaking the Silence)

Avner Gvaryahu, Jewish Diaspora Activities Coordinator

12:30 Meet representative of the Hebron Jewish Community

Noam Arnon, Hebron Jewish Community Spokesperson

13:30 Lunch break

15:00 Depart for Jerusalem

18:00 Dinner Break

20:30 Presentation

Rabbi Yehiel Grenimann – Director, Human Rights in the Territories, Rabbis for Human Rights

22:00 Debrief and Processing

Overnight: Agron Guest House Jerusalem

Tuesday June 11th – Refugees: Moral Purpose and Cultural Tension

07:00 Breakfast

08:00 Morning Gathering

08:30 Meeting with Government representative on the African Refugee issue

09:30 Depart for Tel Aviv

11:00 Human Rights at the Israeli Supreme Court

Emily Schaeffer -Law Firm of Michael Sfar

13:30 African Refugees in Israel-

facilitated by Yonatan Glaser of B'tzedek

16:30 Free time, dinner break in Tel Aviv

19:30 Depart for Jerusalem

20:00 Debrief and Group Processing

Overnight: Agron Guest House Jerusalem

Wednesday, June 12th – The Zionist Dream Revisited

07:00 Breakfast

08:00 Morning Gathering

09:00 The Case for Zionism

Avram Infeld, former director of Melitz, Hillel International and Birthright Israel

10:30 Coffee break

11:00 The centrality of human rights for the Jewish people and Israel's place in the community of nations

Natan Sharansky-Chairman, The Jewish Agency for Israel

13:00 Lunch

14:00 Evaluations and closing session

15:30 End of program

Biographies of speakers and organizations

Wednesday, June 5th – A Country for All its Citizens

This day will be facilitated by Inter Agency Task Force on Israeli Arab Issues which is a coalition of North American Jewish organizations, foundations, private philanthropists and international affiliates, who are committed to the welfare of Israel and support the Jewish state's right to a secure and peaceful existence. Members of the Task Force are proud of the democratic, sovereign state of the Jewish people and support Israel's Declaration of Independence including the article that promises social and political equality for all its inhabitants, Jews and Arabs alike.

The Max Rayne Hand in Hand Bilingual School in Bet Safafa

Hand in Hand: Center for Jewish-Arab Education in Israel's mission is to create a strong and inclusive society in Israel through a growing network of integrated, bilingual schools and shared communities for Jews and Arabs. Bringing together Jewish and Arab children from kindergarten through high school in its highly successful schools, along with people of all ages in shared communities, Hand in Hand aims to build viable partnership, peace education, coexistence and equality.

In January 2008, the Max Rayne Hand in Hand Jerusalem School celebrated the opening of a permanent, new campus, situated in the southern part of the city between the Arab community of Beit Safafa and the Jewish neighborhood of Patt.

The school's 530 students form a microcosm of Jerusalem's urban diversity, hailing from Jewish and Arab neighborhoods all over the city. The student body is ethnically and religiously diverse.

The YMCA Jerusalem

With a rich history dating back to 1878, the Jerusalem International YMCA found its uniqueness and as well as its commonalities in the three monotheistic faiths. Operated by YMCA of the USA since 1920, the Jerusalem International YMCA is a safe haven for religious, cultural and intellectual freedom for the people of Jerusalem.

Introductory panel on Arab-Jewish and state-minority relations in Israel. The panelists will be: **Ron Gerlitz** – Co-Director of Sikkuy, the Association for the Advancement of Civic Equality in Israel (background on state-minority and Jewish-Arab relations, and Sikkuy's work on equal budgeting and shared public space).

Roi Peled, Project Manager at the Authority for the Economic Development of the Arab Sector in the Prime Minister's Office (on the government's current plans for the advancement of the Arab sector).

Rula Deeb, the coordinator of Shutafut-Sharaka, a coalition of organizations for Shared Democratic and equal society and previously the Director of Kayan – a feminist organization for the promotion of Arab women's rights.

Thursday, June 6th – State Lands, the Bedouin and Economic Empowerment

Abu Quider

Abu Quider is a small Bedouin village near the city of Dimona in the Negev Desert; the community is unrecognized by the Israeli government. It has population of 3,000 Bedouin citizens. Abu Quider does not have a consistent supply of electricity or water.

Budo for Peace uses traditional martial arts to build trust between peoples and create a more accepting global society. They educate youth about tolerance and non-violent behavior by focusing on the values of: respect, harmony, self-control and self-improvement.

For nearly 15 years, **AJEEC-NISPED** has been transforming the world we live in and changing the lives of thousands of organizational staff, program participants and beneficiaries. Our target populations are diverse, including Jews and Palestinian Israelis, in particular the Arab Bedouin and Jews of the Negev, Palestinians in the Palestinian Authority, citizens and civil society organizations in the Middle East as well as those in the developing countries of Asia and Africa.

The organization prides itself on its ability to accurately assess the needs, abilities and available resources in the field and to adjust programming to meet real-time needs while leveraging existing resources. In order to meet these challenges, in the year 2000, Jews and Arabs joined hands to establish the **Arab-Jewish Center for Equality, Empowerment and Cooperation - AJEEC** - an acronym that in Arabic means "I am coming toward you". Then, AJEEC was a distinct department of NISPED, the Negev Institute for Strategies of Peace and Development.

AJEEC-NISPED seeks to advance a process that moves people from a situation of neediness and dependency to one in which they see themselves as entitled to rights and in which they have a sense of capability and take responsibility for their lives and their future. Our dominant approach to community development is rooted in the assumption that changing the reality of people's lives is not enough, and that one must strive to change their attitudes and views towards the reality they live in.

Major General Doron Almog has a wide-ranging background of service in the IDF, including service and leadership in many of Israel's battles, from serving as a soldier in the paratroopers' brigade, until his position as Commander-in-Chief of the Israeli Southern Command (2000-2003).

Some landmarks in his career include:

- leading an operational task force in Tripoli in 1973 against the terrorists who murdered the Israeli sports team during the Munich Olympics.
- company commander during the Yom Kippur War.
- command of the first task force to land in Entebbe airport during the 1976 rescue operation.
- command of the spearhead of the elite paratroopers brigade during the first Lebanon War.
- command of a number of clandestine missions to bring about 6000 Jews from Ethiopia to Israel.

Almog was also the father of a son with severe autism and mental retardation and subsequently founded Aleh Negev, a village for the disabled which provides residential, medical and social services to the handicapped of southern Israel. His son Eran died at age 23 in 2007. After Eran's death, Aleh Negev's name was changed to Nachalat Eran.

The Sderot Media Center is a non-profit organization of citizen journalism that also serves as a news agency--dedicated to bringing the voices of Sderot residents to the forefront of world news. The Center was founded with the purpose of uncovering the voices of a population marginalized by the conflict: the residents of Sderot and the Western Negev who suffer daily from the terror of Kassam attacks. Today, Sderot Media Center's work represents close to one million people living in southern Israel under the threat of Gaza rockets.

JNF Indoor Recreation Centre. For nearly a decade, residents of Israel's western Negev have endured continual rocket attacks from the bordering Gaza Strip. Hardest hit is the town of Sderot—located less than one mile from Gaza—whose children have grown up with the psychological trauma that comes with living under the threat of attack. Because they must always be within 15 seconds of a bomb shelter, an afternoon at the park turns into a potentially dangerous activity, forcing children to spend most of their time indoors. And even during periods of relative quiet, when reports of rocket attacks don't make the headlines, they continue to occur.

To make a lasting difference in this community, the Jewish National Fund built a 21,000-square-foot secure indoor playground and community center, Israel's largest such facility, as a gift to Sderot's families. Since its grand opening in March 2009, the Sderot Indoor Recreation Center has brought a welcome sense of normalcy to the region, providing young people with a fun place to simply be kids and parents with the peace of mind that their children are playing in a safe environment.

Friday, June 7th – The Holocaust, Discrimination and Human Rights

Sara Pecanac was born a Muslim in Sarajevo, but fled to Israel from Bosnia with her family during the war in 1994 with the help of Jerusalem Holocaust memorial Yad Vashem. Sara Pecanac's mother hid a Jewish family from the Nazis in Sarajevo during World War II. 50 years later, that Jewish family helped to rescue Sarah and her mother, getting them out of Sarajevo during the siege in 1994.

Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial and Museum Yad Vashem "Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority" is Israel's official memorial to the Jewish victims of the Holocaust established in 1953 through the *Yad Vashem Law* passed by Israel's parliament. The origin of the name is from a Biblical verse: "And to them will I give in my house and within my walls *a memorial and a name (Yad Vashem)* that shall not be cut off." (Isaiah, chapter 56, verse 5).

Sunday, June 9th -Religious Pluralism, Minority Rights and NGO Activism

Women of the Wall

According to the law "No religious ceremony shall be in held in the women's section of the Western Wall." This includes holding or reading a Torah, blowing the shofar or wearing tallitot (prayer shawls). The central mission of the Women of the Wall, is to achieve the social and legal recognition of their right, as women, to wear prayer shawls, pray, and read from the Torah collectively and out loud at the Western Wall

Yonatan Ariel lectures widely in his fields of interest: Contemporary Jewry, Educational Policy-Making and Experiential Education, and is an adjunct faculty member of the Melton Centre for Jewish Education at the Hebrew University. He has taught in public school, adult education and in educational travel settings. Ariel studied history and education at universities, and is a graduate of the Institute for Youth Leaders, and of the Jerusalem Fellows. He has served in senior policy-making positions at the Mandel Leadership Institute, the United Jewish Israel Appeal, and Melitz. Ariel serves on the boards of Limmud International, Hazon and the Minyan Kehilati in Har Adar, where he lives with his wife Naomi and their three children.

Religious pluralism panel

Dr Elan Ezrachi is a Jerusalem-based independent consultant: Effective Partnerships in Today's Jewish World. Born and Raised in Jerusalem. After six years in the Israeli Air Force as a helicopter pilot Elan went on

to pursue a career in Jewish education. Elan served in various executive roles including: director of the International Dept of Melitz – Center for Jewish Zionist education, Director of the Charles Bronfman Mifgashim Center, Executive Director of Masa – Israel Journey and director of the International School for Jerusalem Studies at Yad Ben-Zvi.

Elan received his BA and MA from Hebrew University in Education and Jewish Thought and his doctorate from the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. His dissertation topic was: “The Dynamics of interaction between American Jews and Israelis”. Elan is an active player in the Israeli Jewish Renaissance scene, and was the founding chair of Panim – for Jewish Renaissance in Israel. He is married to Rabbi Naamah Kelman and a father of three

Tehila Nachalon is a co-founder of the Yeru-Shalem Coalition for an Inclusive Jerusalem which hopes to advance Jerusalem as an “inclusive and open city,” making it a “multicultural center open to dialogue and based on tolerance,” Nachalon said she helped start the coalition because she believed Diaspora Jews could help promote Jerusalem as a pluralistic society.

Born in Kiryat Ono near Tel Aviv and educated in law and Modern Hebrew literature at Hebrew University, Nachalon served as an aide and speechwriter to Natan Sharansky when he was Diaspora Affairs minister in the Sharon government. When living in Boston, she worked for the local office of the Anti-Defamation League and she has also been Director of the Israel office of the Jewish Federation of Central New Jersey.

ATZUM

Rabbi Levi D. Lauer is the Founding Executive Director of **ATZUM**-Justice Works established in 2002. One of ATZUM’s projects is the Task Force against Human Trafficking which campaigns aggressively against Israel’s flourishing trafficking in women sex slaves. **TFHT** has secured crucial change in Israel law facilitating prosecution of traffickers while seeking enforcement of laws against newspaper advertisements for sex services often provided by trafficked women. Further, it brought the trafficking evil to daily attention in Israel’s mass media; secured changes in police and army policies prioritizing pursuit of traffickers and closing Israel’s borders to trafficking; and initiated formation of an inter-ministerial government committee charged with eliminating trafficking. Today, **TFHT** seeks passage of Knesset legislation criminalizing the purchase of sexual services and decriminalizing their provider.

ATZUM’s Roberta Project for Survivors of Terror assists 400 Survivors of Terror families whose major wage earner or child were severely injured or killed in a terrorist attack. Meeting educational and medical needs of the children in those families is a particular focus of ATZUM’s efforts. In addition, ATZUM’s Righteous Among the Nations project supports every rescuer of Jewish life during the Shoah who came to Israel to live after the founding of the State. Project Abrah is a new effort for Israeli Ethiopian high school students filming the stories of their parents and grandparents generations who were Prisoners of Zion in Ethiopia and Sudan. Beit Midrash TAKUM synthesizes social activist, freedom and human dignity projects with serious study of Jewish texts. It has learning/doing groups in Jerusalem, London, Los Angeles, Boston and New York.

A native of the U.S. living in Jerusalem since 1976, Levi served in a reserve combat artillery unit in Zahal for 11 years; was previously a Hillel Director; Executive Director of the Pardes Institute from 1977-1994 and Director of Rabbinic Education at the Shalom Hartman Institute. He is a pioneer educator-social activist seeking to bring contemporary concerns to synthesis with traditional Jewish practice and study.

The Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI)

Established in 1972, ACRI is Israel's oldest and largest human rights organization and the only one dealing with the entire spectrum of rights and civil liberties issues in Israel and the Occupied Territories. An independent and non-partisan organization, ACRI's mandate is to ensure Israel's accountability and respect for human rights, by addressing violations committed by the Israeli authorities in Israel, the Occupied Territories, or elsewhere.

The **New Israel Fund (NIF)** is a philanthropic partnership of North Americans and Israelis dedicated to strengthening democracy and advancing social justice and religious pluralism in Israel. It is the leading organization advancing democracy and equality for all Israelis. They believe that Israel can live up to its founders' vision of a state that ensures complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants, without regard to religion, race, gender or national identity.

The **Jerusalem Open House** for Pride and Tolerance (JOH) is a leading organization of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) people and their allies in the heart of Jerusalem. As a grassroots, activist community center, we provide direct services to all LGBTQ individuals in Jerusalem and its surrounding communities, while working to secure LGBTQ rights in Israeli society at large. With a constituency as diverse as the city itself, the JOH transcends political, ethnic and religious boundaries to build and unite a community in pursuit of the common goal of tolerance and mutual support.

Monday, June 10th – The Settlements, Security and Palestinians

Breaking the Silence is an organization of veteran combatants who have served in the Israeli military since the start of the Second Intifada and have taken it upon themselves to expose the Israeli public to the reality of everyday life in the Occupied Territories. We endeavor to stimulate public debate about the price paid for a reality in which young soldiers face a civilian population on a daily basis, and are engaged in the control of that population's everyday life.

Mark Regev is the international spokesman for the Prime Minister of Israel, a position he has held since 2007. He was born Mark Freiberg in Melbourne, Australia, in 1960 to Martin and Freda Freiberg. He graduated from Mount Scopus Memorial College, received his Bachelor's degree in Political Science and History at Melbourne University, and a Master's degree in Political Science from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, as well as a Master of Science in Management from Boston University.

Mark Regev began his career as a lecturer on International Relations and Strategy at the Israel Defense Forces Staff College. He joined the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1990, serving as Deputy Chief of Mission at the Consulate in Hong Kong, and spokesmen at the Israeli embassies in Beijing, China and Washington, D.C. Regev was the spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Jerusalem from 2004-2007.

Regev received prominence in international media when he presented the Israeli position in numerous interviews to English-language TV and radio channels during the 2006 Second Lebanon War, in 2008-2009 during Operation Cast Lead, and the 2012 Operation Pillar of Defense which included multiple interviews including one that received over 64,000 views on CNN.

Rabbis for Human Rights (RHR) was established with the purpose of giving voice to the Zionist ideal and the Jewish religious tradition of human rights. Since its inception in 1988, RHR has championed the cause of the poor in Israel, supported the rights of Israel's minorities and Palestinians, worked to stop the abuse of foreign workers, endeavored to guarantee the upkeep of Israel's public health care system, promoted the equal status of women, helped Ethiopian Jews, battled trafficking in women, and more.

RHR seeks to prevent human rights violations in Israel and in areas for which Israel has taken responsibility, and to bring specific human rights grievances to the attention of the Israeli public while pressuring the appropriate authorities for their redress. In his youth Regev was a prominent member of the Socialist-Zionist youth movement, Ichud Habonim, and was active in the Melbourne University Jewish Students Society. In 1982 he emigrated to Israel and worked at kibbutz Tel Katzir. In Israel he Hebraicized his name from Freiberg to Regev. He is married and has three children.

Tuesday June 11th – Refugees: Moral Purpose and Cultural Tension

Emily Schaeffer is an American-Israeli human rights lawyer based in Tel Aviv at the Michael Sfar Law Office. For over 7 years, Emily has worked to advance Palestinian human rights through litigation in Israeli courts on behalf of individuals, villages and organizations. Examples include High Court of Justice petitions to move the separation barrier (in villages such as Bil'in); challenging the IDF policy of use of white phosphorus in populated areas; demanding criminal investigations into injuries and deaths allegedly caused by IDF forces; and other requests for residency and freedom of movement on behalf of individuals and families. As legal coordinator of Israeli human rights NGO Yesh Din's "Criminal Accountability of Israeli Security Forces" Project, Emily represents hundreds of Palestinian victims of violence and property damage committed by Israeli security personnel. She also serves as legal advisor on issues of freedom of expression and freedom of information to Israeli organizations such as "Breaking the Silence" and the "Coalition of Women for Peace." Emily is the author of the report, "No Home, No Homeland: A New Normative Framework for Examining the Practice of Administrative Home Demolitions in East Jerusalem (ICAHN, Dec 2011), and of a chapter on international law in the practitioner's manual, "A Guide to Housing, Land and Property in Area C of the West Bank (Norwegian Refugee Council, February 2012). Emily regularly lectures in various local and international forums on human rights litigating on behalf of Palestinians in Israeli courts and has served as academic advisor to Israeli law students participating in the international Jessup Moot Court competition on International Law.

Emily will be providing an overview of victories and challenges faced over the last decade in litigating Palestinian rights in Israeli courts, drawing primarily from her own experience

B'Tzedek aims to provide Israel with a leadership of thoughtful and pro-active citizens from all sectors of society. They will work with and for the marginalized, at-risk and resource poor through individual and joint action that creates change. They will strengthen the work of organizations, create social innovation and influence social policy. The core of this program is an unparalleled combination of hands-on involvement, leadership development and values education, all based on participants' experience and a holistic learning model. Deeply rooted in Jewish and contemporary teachings, it is culturally sensitive when working with non-Jewish populations.

Yonatan Glaser is the Founder and Director of B'Tzedek. He has worked with School Principals and teachers for the Israeli Ministry of Education and has years of experience in informal Jewish education with Israeli and Diaspora Jews. He founded Hiburim, an Israeli non-profit that worked with Israeli schools. A graduate of the Mandel Foundation's Israeli School for Educational Leadership, Yonatan holds an MA in Jewish Philosophy as well as degrees in Law and Economics. Prior to creating B'Tzedek as an initiative of Topaz, Yonatan served in New York as the Central Educational Shaliach to the Reform Movement in North America.

Wednesday, June 12th – The Zionist Dream Revisited

Avraham Infeld has invested a lifetime building Jewish identity and strengthening the State of Israel. He is The founder and director of a succession of innovative educational institutions.

A native of South Africa, Avraham immigrated to Israel in 1959. He is married to Ellen Infeld, originally from Woodbridge, N.J., and they share four children and 12 grandchildren. He is a graduate of the Hebrew University in Bible and Jewish History, and of Tel Aviv University's Law School. In 2005, he was awarded the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's prestigious Samuel Rothberg Prize for Jewish Education, the first specialist in informal Jewish education to be so honored. He was given an honorary doctorate by Muhlenberg College in May 2006 for his contribution to the field of education.

Natan Sharansky was born in 1948 in Donetsk, Ukraine. He graduated from the Physical Technical Institute in Moscow with a degree in computer science. After graduating, he applied for an exit visa to Israel, which he was denied for "security reasons". Very quickly he became involved in the struggle of Soviet Jewry to earn their freedom and emigrate to Israel. At the same time, he joined the human rights movement in the Soviet Union led by Andrei Sahkharov. He became one of the founding members of the Moscow Helsinki Group which united Soviet dissidents of all types. Natan Sharansky soon became an unofficial spokesperson for both movements.

In 1977, a Soviet newspaper alleged that Mr. Sharansky was collaborating with the CIA. Despite denials from every level of the U.S. Government, Mr. Sharansky was found guilty and sentenced to thirteen years in prison including solitary confinement and hard labor. In the courtroom prior to the announcement of his verdict, Mr. Sharansky in a public statement said: "To the court I have nothing to say – to my wife and the Jewish people I say "Next Year in Jerusalem". After nine years of imprisonment, due to intense international pressure and a campaign led by his wife, Avital Sharansky, Mr. Sharansky was released on February 11, 1986, emigrated to Israel, and arrived in Jerusalem on that very day.

Upon his arrival to Israel he continued the struggle for opening the gates of the Soviet Union. The final chapter of this historic struggle for the release of Soviet Jews was the momentous rally of over 250,000 people on December 7th, 1987, of which Natan Sharansky was the initiator and driving force. The rally coincided with Soviet President Gorbachev's first visit in Washington and was influential in pressuring the Soviet Union to ease its restrictions on emigration. In 1988, in expectation of the opening of the gates of the Soviet Union, Natan Sharansky formed together with other former Refuseniks and Aliya (immigration to Israel) advocates the Soviet Jewry Zionist Forum, an umbrella organization of former Soviet activist groups dedicated to helping new Israelis and educating the public about absorption issues.

From 1990 to 1996 Mr. Sharansky served as Associate Editor of "The Jerusalem Report" and in 1994 co-founded Peace Watch – an independent non-partisan group committed to monitoring the compliance to agreements signed by Israel and the PLO.

In 1996, ten years after arriving in Israel, Natan Sharansky founded the political party Yisrael B'Aliya which means both "Israel on the Rise" and "Israel for Immigration". The party was established to accelerate the absorption of the massive numbers of Russian immigrants into Israeli society and to maximize their contribution.

From 1996-2005 Natan Sharansky served as Minister as well as Deputy Prime Minister in four successive Israeli governments. In November 2006 Natan Sharansky resigned from the Israeli Knesset and assumed the

position of Chairman of the newly established Adelson Institute for Strategic Studies at the Shalem Center in Jerusalem. He is also the Chairman of One Jerusalem and Beth Hatefutsoth, the Jewish Diaspora Museum in Tel Aviv. In June 2009, Natan Sharansky was elected Chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel.

Natan Sharansky was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 1986 and the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2006. He has continued to lead human rights efforts both through his writings as well as public activities.

His memoir, *Fear No Evil*, was published in the United States in 1988 and has been translated into nine languages. His New York Times bestseller, *The Case for Democracy: The Power of Freedom to Overcome Freedom and Terror* attracted wide-spread attention. After reading the book, President George Bush was quoted saying: "If you want to understand my political DNA, read this book." His latest book, *Defending Identity, Its Indispensable Role in Protecting Democracy* published by Public Affairs was released in June 2008.

Natan Sharansky is married to Avital. They reside in Jerusalem and have two daughters, Rachel and Hanna, and three grandchildren.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Minorities of Israel

Approximately 1.9 million people (approx. 24.7% of Israel's population) are non- Jews. Although defined collectively as Arab citizens of Israel, they include a number of different, primarily Arabic speaking groups, each with its own characteristics.

Muslim Arabs, almost 1.3 million people, most of whom are Sunni, reside mainly in small towns and villages, over half of them in the north of the country.

Bedouin Arabs, also Muslim (estimated 170,000), belong to around 30 tribes, a majority of which are scattered over a wide area in the south. Formerly nomadic shepherds, the Bedouins are currently in transition from a tribal social framework to a permanently settled society and are gradually entering Israel's labor force.

Christian Arabs, (estimated 150,000) live mainly in urban areas including Nazareth, Shfar'am and Haifa. Although many denominations are nominally represented, the majority are affiliated with the Greek Catholic, Greek orthodox and Roman Catholic churches.

The **Druze**, some 125,000 Arabic speakers living in 22 villages in northern Israel constitute a separate cultural, social and religious community. While the Druze religion is not accessible to outsiders, one known aspect of its philosophy is the concept of *taqiyya*, which calls for complete loyalty by its adherents to the government of the country in which they reside.

The **Caucasians**, (estimated 3,000 people) concentrated in two northern villages, are Sunni Muslims, although they share neither the Arab origin nor the cultural background of the larger Islamic community. While maintaining a distinct ethnic identity, they participate in Israel's economic and national affairs without assimilating either into Jewish or Muslim communities.

Arab- Jewish Dynamics

Arab citizens, who constitute more than one sixth of Israel's population, exist on the margins of the conflicting worlds of Jews and Palestinians. While remaining a segment of the Arab people in culture and identity and disputing Israel's identification as a Jewish state, they see their future tied to Israel. They have adopted Hebrew as a second language and Israeli culture as an extra layer in their lives. At the same time, they strive to attain a higher degree of participation in national life, greater integration into the economy and more benefits for their own towns and villages.

Development of inter-group relations between Israel's Arab and Jews has been hindered by deeply- rooted differences in religion, values and political beliefs. However, though coexisting as two self- segregated communities, they have largely come to accept each other.

Pluralism and Segregation

As a multi- ethnic, multi- cultural, multi- religious and multi-lingual society, Israel has a high level of informal segregation patterns. While groups are not separated by official policy, a number of different sectors within the society are somewhat segregated and maintain their strong cultural, religious, ideological and/or ethnic identity.

However, despite a fairly high degree of social cleavage, some economic disparities and an often overheated political life, the society is relatively balanced and stable. The moderate level of social conflict between the different groups, notwithstanding an inherent potential for social unrest, can be attributed to the country's judicial and political systems, which represent strict legal and civic equality.

Israel is not a melting pot society, but rather a mosaic made up of different population groups coexisting in the framework of a democratic state.

ISRAEL'S DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Friday 14th May 1948 - Erev Shabbat 5th Iyar 5708

Eretz Israel [*Hebrew: The Land of Israel*] was the birthplace of the Jewish people. Here their spiritual, religious and national identity was formed. Here they achieved independence and created a culture of national and universal significance. Here they wrote and gave the Bible to the world.

Exiled from their land, the Jewish people remained faithful to it in all the countries of their dispersion, never ceasing to pray and hope for their return and for the restoration in it of their national freedom.

Impelled by this historic association, Jews strove in every successive generation to reestablish themselves in their ancient homeland. In recent decades they returned in masses. Pioneers, ma'pilim [*Hebrew: immigrants coming to Eretz-Israel in defiance of restrictive legislation*] and defenders, they made deserts bloom, revived the Hebrew language, built villages and towns, and created a thriving community controlling its own economy and culture. Loving peace but knowing how to defend itself, they brought the blessing of progress to all inhabitants of the country.

In the year 5657 (1897), at the summons of the spiritual father of the Jewish State, Theodore Herzl, the First Zionist Congress convened and proclaimed the right of the Jewish people to national rebirth in its own country.

This right was recognized in the Balfour Declaration of the 2nd November, 1917, and re-affirmed in the Mandate of the League of Nations which, in particular, gave explicit international recognition to the historic connection between the Jewish people and Eretz-Israel and to the right of the Jewish people to rebuild its National Home.

The Nazi holocaust, which engulfed millions of Jews in Europe, was another clear demonstration of the urgency of the re-establishment in Eretz-Israel of the Jewish State, which would open the gates of the homeland wide to every Jew and confer upon the Jewish people the status of a fully privileged member of the comity of nations.

The survivors of the European catastrophe, as well as Jews continued to migrate to Eretz-Israel, undaunted by difficulties, restrictions and dangers, and never ceased to assert their right to a life of dignity, freedom and honest toil in their national homeland.

In the Second World War the Jewish community of this country made a full contribution in the struggle of the freedom- and peace- loving nations against the forces of Nazi evil and by the blood of its soldiers and its war effort, gained the right to be reckoned among the peoples who founded the United Nations.

On November 29, 1947, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted a Resolution calling for the establishment of an independent Jewish State in Eretz-Israel, and called upon the inhabitants of the country to take such steps as may be necessary on their part to put the plan into effect.

This recognition by the United Nations of the right of the Jewish people to establish their independent State is irrevocable. This right is the natural right of the Jewish people to be masters of their own fate, like all other nations, in their own sovereign State.

ACCORDINGLY, WE, MEMBERS OF THE PEOPLE'S COUNCIL, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF ERETZ-ISRAEL AND OF THE ZIONIST MOVEMENT, ARE HERE ASSEMBLED ON THE DAY OF THE TERMINATION OF THE BRITISH MANDATE OVER ERETZ-ISRAEL AND, BY VIRTUE OF OUR NATURAL AND HISTORIC RIGHT AND ON THE STRENGTH OF THE RESOLUTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, HEREBY DECLARE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JEWISH STATE IN ERETZ-ISRAEL, TO BE KNOWN AS THE STATE OF ISRAEL.

WE HEREBY DECLARE that, with effect from the moment of the termination of the Mandate being tonight, the eve of Sabbath, the 6th Iyar, 5708 (15th May, 1948), and until the setting up of the duly elected bodies of the State in accordance with a Constitution, to be drawn up by the Elected Constituent Assembly not later than the first day of October, 1948, the People's Council shall act as a Provisional Council of State, and its executive organ, the People's Administration, shall constitute the Provisional Government of the Jewish State, to be called "Israel".

THE STATE OF ISRAEL will be open to the immigration of Jews and for the Ingathering of the Exiles from all countries of their dispersion; will promote the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants; will be based on the precepts of liberty, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel; will uphold the full social and political equality of all its citizens, without distinction of race, creed or sex; will guarantee full freedom of conscience, worship, education and culture; will safeguard the sanctity and inviolability of the shrines and Holy Places of all religions; and will dedicate itself to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

THE STATE OF ISRAEL is prepared to cooperate with the agencies and representatives of the United Nations in the implementation of the Resolution of the General Assembly of November 29, 1947, and will take steps to bring about the economic union over the whole of Eretz-Israel.

WE APPEAL to the United Nations to assist the Jewish people in the building-up of its State and to admit Israel into the family of nations.

WE APPEAL - in the very midst of the onslaught launched against us now for months - to the Arab inhabitants of the State of Israel to return to the ways of peace and play their part in the up building of the State, on the basis of full and equal citizenship and due representation in all its bodies and institutions - provisional or permanent.

WE EXTEND our hand of peace and unity to all the neighboring states and their peoples, and invite them to establish bonds of cooperation and mutual help with the sovereign Jewish people settled in its own land. The State of Israel is prepared to do its share in a common effort for the advancement of the entire Middle East.

WE APPEAL to the Jewish people throughout the Diaspora to rally round the Jews of Eretz-Israel in the task of immigration and development and to stand by them in the great struggle for the fulfillment of the age-old dream - the redemption of Israel.

PLACING OUR TRUST IN THE ROCK OF ISRAEL, WE AFFIX OUR SIGNATURES TO THIS PROCLAMATION AT THIS SESSION OF THE PROVISIONAL COUNCIL OF STATE, ON THE SOIL OF THE HOMELAND, IN THE CITY OF TEL-AVIV, ON THIS SABBATH EVE, THE 5TH DAY OF IYAR, 5708 (14TH MAY, 1948).

David Ben-Gurion

Daniel Auster
 Mordekhai Bentov
 Yitzchak Ben Zvi
 Elyahu Berligne
 Fritz Bernstein
 Rabbi Wolf Gold
 Meir Grabovsky
 Yitzchak Gruenbaum
 Dr. Abraham Granovsky
 Elyahu Dobkin
 Meir Wilner-Kovner
 Zerach Wahrhaftig
 Herzl Vardi

Rachel Cohen
 Rabbi Kalman Kahana
 Saadia Kobashi
 Rabbi Yitzchak Meir Levin
 Meir David Loewenstein
 Zvi Luria
 Golda Myerson
 Nachum Nir
 Zvi Segal
 Rabbi Yehuda Leib
 Hacohen Fishman

David Zvi Pinkas
 Aharon Zisling
 Moshe Kolodny
 Eliezer Kaplan
 Abraham Katznelson
 Felix Rosenblueth
 David Remez
 Berl Repetur
 Mordekhai Shattner
 Ben Zion Sternberg
 Bekhor Shitreet
 Moshe Shapira
 Moshe Shertok



