



Dotan Appelbaum
Golden Valley, MN

Hello. My name is Dotan Appelbaum and I fill the niche for male queer midwesterner who falls somewhere between

Conservative and Modern Orthodox. I believe that the best way for me to introduce myself is not only to share what I'm involved in, but also to share what I learned about myself through the application process. I'll start with a superficial list:

- I am the captain of my school's Debate Team
- I am highly involved in United Synagogue Youth
- I attended Camp Ramah in Wisconsin for 7 years
- My mom is Israeli and I have been to Israel 12 times
- I am highly involved in my school's environmentalism club
- I am a Republican
- I went on TRY last year
- I am very passionate about cooking and cuisine
- I love studying Jewish texts (especially Talmud and Kabbalah)

The following is some insight into my character:

I believe that every Jew has a ladder made specifically for them, and the ultimate goal is to reach the top.

When I become passionate about something, I suddenly have no time for anything else. When I believe in something, I make sure it happens. There have been times, however, when I have fallen into the trap of 'haste makes waste' but I still love my passionate personality.

I am a critical thinker, not of people but of ideas. One of the main components of the style of debate that I do is philosophy. Through this philosophical education I have become highly critical of what we are given as true. I too often call out 'social construct' for example, prompting Ilana Weinstein to make a "Social Construct Light" to warn others of social construct talk.

I am so incredibly honored and excited to learn with all you who may be reading this. See you this summer!



Andrew Arking
Baltimore, MD

Hi everyone. My name is Andrew Arking. I'm from Baltimore, and I attend

Beth Tfiloh High School, a Jewish community day school. I'm very involved in a wide variety of activities at school: the mock trial team, Model UN, Kolenu (our a cappella group), and my school's Committee for Israel Action, as well as being a proud member of our worst-in-our-conference varsity golf team. I also enjoy the academics there, especially math and biology. As a Sephardic Jew of Syrian and Turkish decent, I identify as Modern Orthodox, which means that I believe firmly in tradition, inclusiveness, and open-mindedness. I serve as the Torah-reading coordinator at Congregation Netivot Shalom, a small Modern Orthodox synagogue that is founded on the principles of respect for every person, love of Israel, and the strength of community, values I embrace fully. In addition, I am extremely politically active in AIPAC, through which I have met and lobbied many congressional leaders and learned from influential speakers. I believe firmly in the necessity for a strong Israeli-American political and economic relationship and advocate for it as often as I can. Through my involvement in the pro-Israel movement, I was inspired to apply to Bronfman and continue to extend my love for Israel. I am incredibly excited to meet all of the other fellows, and I can't wait until this summer!



Zora Arum
New York, NY

I am a politically liberal, reform Jew from New York City who attends Stuyvesant High School in TriBeCa. My parents

have been divorced since I was five, so I have a fairly large family (including a stepmother, two step-siblings, a half-brother and a full brother). I love to read and write, and U.S. history is my favorite subject in school. My favorite bands are

Elliott Smith and Neutral Milk Hotel, but, right now, I'm also obsessed with the Hamilton soundtrack. I like cats, but I'm more of a dog person, and I think llamas are hilarious. My primary extracurriculars are editing the Op-Ed section of my school newspaper and directing musicals in my school's theater community. I love the rain, believe it's impossible to create anything as beautiful as nature, and like to backpack through the mountains or hike through the woods because it gives me space to think about life. I like to act like I'm too cool for school, but I'm actually exactly as cool as school. When I am older and square-er and have a real-life job, I want to do something that allows me to help people whose voices usually go unheard. I like to follow politics and debate current events with my friends and sometimes I read thousand page fantasy novels in my spare time, but I also love to dance, watch ridiculous amounts of The Office and laugh at pretty much everything. I'm thrilled to be a fellow, and I can't wait to meet all of you!



Daniel Coman
New Orleans, LA

Greetings from New Orleans,

Whether it's basketball, chess, or synagogue softball, I am always doing something. I can't stand being unproductive. A

member of the varsity basketball team, I skip practice once a week to teach chess to a group of elementary school kids at the New Orleans Jewish Day School. On Saturdays, I play in a rec soccer league with friends. On Sundays, I represent my synagogue in the city-wide Synagogue Softball League, outrunning fifty year olds on the baseball field; like my rabbi always tells me: "No mercy, and skip second base if they're not looking." While I value athletics, I always put school first. Because there are no Jewish high schools in New Orleans, I attend public school at Ben Franklin High. Peers there would describe me as free flowing and jocular. I

believe that there is a place for humor in every situation, and if there's not, then it's not a situation I'd like to be in. I'm a very amateur poker player, a member of NHS, and the current fantasy football champion.

After traveling to Israel in middle school, I knew I had to get back. The way people carry themselves reminds me of New Orleans. From what I remember, most are welcoming, and smiling faces are everywhere. I am looking forward to seeing my cousins and my newborn second cousin. I would also like to play one-on-one with Nate Robinson if he's available. But most importantly, I am so excited to meet you all. I cannot wait to embark on this life changing experience with members of the Jewish community from all walks of life.

Dibs on bottom bunk.

Elisheva Goldberg
Washington, DC



My name is Elisheva Goldberg and I am a junior at Georgetown Day School in Washington, D.C. Here is a bit about me: I used to play a lot of volleyball until I realized I had inferior hand-eye coordination. My failed

volleyball career led me to a slightly more successful career in my school's theater company, in which I've stage managed and acted through most of high school. I love many of the performing and visual arts, including singing, pottery, and improv. I'm very interested in comedy, and my favorite comedians range from Patrice O'Neal to Danny Kaye. I'm the editor of our school's yearbook, though I'm not sure why. I study French, and after two summers of language immersion camp in Vermont, I spent a summer living with a host family in the northeast of France. Lately I've become very interested in education for first-generation Americans, so I spent last summer in Bakersfield, California, as a counselor at camps for the children of Mexican migrant workers. I'm a Conservative Jew, meaning my family sent me

to religious school until I had a Bat Mitzvah and we have Shabbat every Friday, but I have a feeling that I've only grazed the surface of the thing I consider to be the most important thing in my life. I am looking forward to this summer because I want to more deeply explore my Jewish identity. I am the co-chair of my school's Jewish Culture Club, which meets at least biannually, but this has not been enough for me. I've been to Israel a number of times, but I am very excited to be going this summer, surrounded by other Jews who, I'm guessing, may be as enthusiastic about Judaism as I am.



Moses Goren
New York, NY

I was born and raised in New York City and have attended four schools: Bank Street, a small progressive private school, MS 54 (Delta), a large,

public middle school, Hunter, a selective public high school, and, as of a few months ago, Friends Seminary, a small Quaker K-12 school. I am the oldest of three brothers. All three of us now attend Friends where my father teaches high school English. I am an avid guitar player. I play in the school jazz band and, outside of school, with my brothers. I love to paint and draw. I read a lot of novels (Philip Roth, Paul Auster, George Saunders, Michael Chabon, and Bronfman alum Jonathan Safran Foer are some of my favorites) and listen to an inordinate amount of standup comedy and podcasts. Though I will not be old enough to vote in the upcoming election, I've been doing everything in my power to convince my parents to vote for Bernie Sanders. My family identifies strongly as Jewish but isn't observant. From the time I was eight years old I attended a Havurah program, which emphasized reading, telling and grappling with Torah stories rather than Hebrew language or learning about Israel. Since my bar mitzvah I've worked as an assistant teacher at this Havurah, helping lead classes for 5-9 year olds. I'm not sure how to define my relationship with Judaism—my family celebrates Passover, the

high holidays, sometimes lights shabbos candles, and I had a non-traditional bar mitzvah that included reading from the Torah in Hebrew, delivering a d'var Torah and later celebrating at my family's favorite dim sum restaurant in Chinatown. I look forward to exploring the nature of my relationship to Judaism as part of the Bronfman Fellowship and, especially, to meeting all of you!



Antonia Hellman
New York, NY

I am an inquisitive and adventurous student at The Dalton School in New

York City with an ardent love for challenges. I enjoy trying new things and making my friends laugh more than anything else, but I am also extremely diligent and serious. My friends and family know me as an organized girl with a passion for doing work, completing projects early, and being the most responsible person in the room. Although I may prioritize my work over leisure, I still manage to be lively, energetic, and lighthearted at all times.

I am the oldest of three children in a secular multi-ethnic family. My father is Jewish, though non-practicing, and of German descent, and my mother is Chinese-American and non-religious. I have lived in New York for my entire life, with the exception of my fourth grade year when I lived in Shanghai, China. I have also traveled extensively around the globe, which has increased my interest in foreign cultures and international relations.

In school, I am both academically-focused (I am a staff writer for the school newspaper, *The Daltonian*, helped create *Techfluence*, a student-operated online science publication, a Peer Tutor, and on the Mock Trial team) and an avid athlete (I am on both the Varsity Soccer and Lacrosse teams). In addition to in-school activities, I am a regular volunteer at the New York Common Pantry, where I help provide low-income families with the food they require, and

have watched each of the Harry Potter movies enough times to know them all by heart.

I am really looking forward to my experience as a Bronfman Fellow!



Elie Hess
 Mercer Island, WA

Hi! I'm Elie from Seattle, Washington! I'm totally psyched about being a part of Bronfman, and I'm particularly looking forward to having an opportunity to closely explore both my own and

others' Judaism, as I've never really done so before. I'm also very excited about being in Israel for over a month.

I'm a complete nerd. An avid reader, I particularly enjoy science fiction and fantasy books such as Percy Jackson, Ready Player One, and Ender's Game. When I'm not reading or working on something for school, you can generally find me playing Pokémon, Super Smash Bros Melee, or Magic: the Gathering, or possibly listening to / arranging video game music online. I enjoy both playing and arranging music, and play trumpet and a little bit of piano. I have taken karate for eight years and earned my black belt a couple of years ago.

At Mercer Island High School I'm a member of the Computer Club, National Honor Society, French Honor Society, jazz, concert and marching bands, and an officer in the Magic: the Gathering Club. I like being a part of different worlds in school, and actively participating in many different groups and clubs gives me a great opportunity to do so.

Jewishly, I attend Livnot Chai, a once-a-week Jewish high school, where I take two classes on Tanakh. I really enjoy text study, so I'm excited to be able to explore Jewish texts with all of you. I go to shul every Shabbat, and one Shabbos a month, I go to a small, post-denominational cooperative across town in Seattle, where I often leyn Torah or haftarah.

In case you're wondering whether I'm a cat person or a dog person, the answer is cats. Obviously.



Chaya Holch
 Brattleboro, VT

Hey there! My name is Chaya Holch. I'm from Brattleboro, Vermont, but I'm a boarding student at Phillips Academy Andover in Andover, MA. I am an

only child, so I have a very close connection with my parents, who come to visit me every few weeks. I live in a big, all-girls dorm with my roommate, Alex, whom I've lived with for two years (just made plans to live together for senior year, too!). Most school nights between 7pm and midnight you can find me working as a Managing Editor for my school newspaper, The Phillipian, which is student-run and entirely uncensored. We print about 16 pages every week, so it feels like a full-time job on top of schoolwork. When I'm not in the newsroom, I serve on Student Council, edit poetry for the school literary magazine, and organize forums about social justice issues. I read The New York Times' morning briefing every morning before I get out of bed, and I love slam poetry (I started my school's slam poetry club, but have yet to actually perform... I'm terrified). I am a vegetarian, but kind of just because. The night sky makes me nauseous. When I get stressed out, I like to go swinging with my friends on a kids' playground near my dorm. Last summer, I went to Peru for an archaeology-focused trip, and I hiked part of the Inca Trail. I love art museums (there is an American art museum on campus where I love to study whenever I can). Growing up in Vermont, there were not a lot of Jews, but I went to Hebrew school in a converted farmhouse for seven years. I identify as Reform, and went to URJ Eisner Camp for two summers. I cannot wait to meet you all!



Akiva Jacobs
Newton, MA

Hello! My name is Akiva Jacobs, I live in Newton, Massachusetts, and I am very excited to meet all of you this summer.

Of my many interests, the most important one to me is music. I am primarily an electric bassist, although I play a few other instruments.

These days I play mostly jazz, although my roots are in making a lot of loud noises on various instruments in rock n' roll jam sessions (which I still joyfully partake in). I am also composing contemporary classical music and am currently working on a second movement for a piece for cello and flute. I co-founded and co-run a branch of the not-for-profit "Music is Medicine" through my school where we perform classical and pop music at local hospitals and old age homes. Recently, I've been digging the music of Charles Mingus, Kanye West's new album, Shostakovitch, and Mariachi Flor de Toloache, among many others.

I am the rising Editor-in-Chief of my school newspaper, Spectrum, an establishment that I have been writing or editing for throughout high school.

I look forward to cross-country skiing in Vermont every winter and hiking in New England and going to the beach in Cape Cod with my family in the summer.

I'm a struggling and proud Modern-Orthodox Jew who attends Maimonides in Brookline, a potter, and I don't own a smartphone.

I can't wait to learn from and about all of you this summer. See you there!



Arden Dressner Levy
Brooklyn, NY

My name is Arden Dressner Levy. I was born in Brooklyn, but I've moved around a lot. When I was in 2nd grade my mom, dad, sister, brother and I moved to St Petersburg, Russia. We went to Moscow the

next year, and then back to Brooklyn after I finished 6th grade. While in Russia, I went to Russian schools and was thrown headfirst into learning the language. I spoke about three words going in, and after a lot of work and some frustrated 8-year old tears, I left speaking fluently.

I go to Hunter College High School in Manhattan, but I'm currently living in Buenos Aires for three months, hopping between the houses of aunts and cousins, studying at an Argentine school and trying to improve my Spanish.

I spend an absurd amount of time reading the New York Times, Gawker and Jezebel. I am interested in international relations, human rights, history and social justice. I have a job at the New York Civil Liberties Union that I care about a lot. I'm part of a youth-led organizing group in New York City named NY2X – we run social justice workshops and organize volunteering on urban farms around the country. I really love theater – I direct, produce and costume shows at my high school. I love hiking and being in the wilderness. I never understood why some people recommend avoiding politics, money and religion at the dinner table – although it has led to some sticky situations with great-aunts and distant cousins.

I am so excited to be a part of the Bronfman community, and I can't wait to meet all the other fellows and faculty.

**Ethan Lipson**

Phoenix, AZ

I am Ethan Lipson. I am a junior at Veritas Preparatory Academy in Phoenix, Arizona. My school has a focus on the classic Western Canon.

My favorite course,

Humane Letters, has opened my eyes to ethics, philosophy, and poetry. I keep a lighthearted spirit when I tussle with challenging ideas. I am quick with a joke but even faster at eating Ice cream. In my free time I am a proficient “ukulelist” and struggling guitarist. I like fun socks, Bob Dylan, Star Wars, and cold brew coffee. I love improv and acting, although due to my tendency to forget my lines, my acting is disturbingly similar to my improv. I am still looking for a profession that will pay me to both hike and procrastinate. My interest in hiking came when I was a Cub Scout and ever since I became an Eagle Scout there has been no stopping my boots. I am starting to get pretty good at Ultimate Frisbee and the better that I get the more I like it. I find myself daydreaming like Walter Mitty quite frequently in class. My idea of what the future could hold for me is hazy but if I have figured anything out it is that I want to inspire.

**Isaiah Milbauer**

New York, NY

Born and raised in New York City, I attend Hunter College High School. At Hunter, I’m an active member of the Model

United Nations Society, a Mock Trial lawyer, a columnist for the Hunter Observer and a member of the Hunter baseball team. Though I like living in the city, I also feel the great lack of nature in my concrete-filled life, and founded the Hunter Outdoors Club. Ever since I was handed a boom pole two years ago, I have also enjoyed working on film, primarily as a sound engineer. In free moments, you can find me reading the

news or reading books. I am an avid follower of domestic politics and international affairs.

As a Jew, I’m a composite of a wide range of influences. My family belongs to a Conservative congregation, Brotherhood Synagogue. At Brotherhood I received a traditional Hebrew school education and celebrated my Bar Mitzvah. At Crane Lake Camp, I was exposed to Reform Judaism. I attended Crane Lake for six years and was truly enchanted by the powerful, emotional approach to prayer. From my mother’s side, I’ve been exposed to deep commitments to tzedakah and Zionism. From my father’s side, I’ve inherited a vibrant Yiddishist heritage -- wonderful in spirit and culture. I had the fantastic experience of participating in the Great Jewish Books program at the Yiddish Book Center last summer. At the program, I truly cemented my love of Jewish literature and my Yiddishist heritage.

**Zev Mishell**

Northbrook, IL

My name is Zev Mishell, and I attend Rochelle Zell Jewish High School in Deerfield, Illinois. Before that, I went to Solomon Schechter

from kindergarten to eighth grade, and I’ve been immersed in Jewish education all of my life. I’ve been raised in a conservative household while attending the local modern orthodox synagogue in my area. My perspective on Judaism is influenced both by my traditional family and my incredibly observant shul. I continue to question, debate, and finally come to terms with much of my Jewish tradition, while I at the same time expanding beyond the scope of Judaism to learn more about the ideas and beliefs of other faiths.

For as long as I can remember, I’ve been obsessed with reading and learning about those around me. I am interested in politics, international affairs, and traveling to places I’ve never been before. I am very active in my

school's Model UN team, and I make it a priority to read news articles and engage myself with multiple viewpoints to gain a deeper understanding of how our world operates and how I can use that knowledge to speak for the vulnerable in order to transform our world.

I love reading books on philosophy and theology, as well as novels written by great authors. My favorite book right now is "Siddhartha" by Hermann Hesse, as well as "Into the Wild" by John Krakauer and "Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance" by Robert Pirsig. All three of these books are about a journey from ignorance to understanding, and I love reading novels that challenge my preconceived notions and push me to mature and develop in my personal beliefs.

I'm really excited to meet everyone and can't wait to get started with an incredible summer!



Binyamin Novetsky
Teaneck, NJ

Hello, my name is Binyamin Novetsky. I'm from Teaneck, New Jersey, and I go to Torah Academy of

Bergen County. I'm from an orthodox family, and I have been observant for my entire life, a practice I intend to keep forever. I'm the youngest of five children, but the first to go on Bronfman. I've had a love for stories since I was very young, but only last year did I realize that actually writing down the stories in my head might be a good idea, and my hobby grew from reading to writing. I just recently finished my first ever book, and I certainly hope it won't be my last. It is nowhere near perfect, but I think it is a great start for what I can only hope to be my future. It's not an easy road in life to be an author, but I think that the sense of accomplishment I get from it is more than enough to make any hardships I might face worth it. I also love public speaking, which I why I enjoy activities like acting out scenes from Shakespeare and extracurriculars like Mock

Trial, where you have to present your case to a full courtroom. I've never really had any experiences outside of my own community, and while I appreciate the morals and ideals that Teaneck represents, most people there do think the same thoughts and have the same opinions. I cannot wait to meet other Jews with different ideas and thoughts about our religion and beliefs and hear new things I could never have even thought of.



Saul Roselaar
Appleton, WI

Hello, I am from Appleton, Wisconsin where the feet of snow on the ground often outnumber the Jewish students at my high school. Moses Montefiore Synagogue in Appleton is comprised of fewer than fifty families. This single synagogue in Appleton with a part time rabbi unites the diverse Jewish community, allowing me to learn from a Reform Jew one week, and an Orthodox Jew the next. Despite the chilly climate, or perhaps because of it, I often wear Hawaiian shirts that match my outgoing personality. I enjoy socializing and meeting new people, frequently through theatre. I have performed in shows ranging from the musicals 'Shrek' and 'Mary Poppins' to Shakespeare's 'Hamlet', and entertain as a member of my school's improv comedy troupe, Improved. Contrasting my often silly acting antics, as the Secretary of State in Wisconsin's Youth in Government program I adopt a serious attitude (though admittedly I did wear orange socks to the candidates' debate). I enjoy debating and discussing public policy, particularly the morality of government actions. I enjoy analyzing intangible quantifiers, such as justice or morality, as a Lincoln-Douglas debater. Though I hold very strong political views, I like to discuss both sides of an argument, often playing devil's advocate. Hiking in New Mexico two summers ago and becoming an Eagle Scout have taught me to enjoy time spent working (or, preferably, relaxing) outdoors. My three sisters

and dad who play at least two instruments each surround me with music as I play trombone in school and community ensembles. I always enjoy learning and doing new things, and look forward to this upcoming summer in Israel.



Sara Sacks
Beverly Hills, CA

Hi All,

I'm Sara Sacks from L.A. (Yes I cannot tolerate the cold, no I am not tan) I think

the great joys of life are food, books, naps, and chocolate. In my free time I'm captain of my school's swim team, software captain of the girl's robotics team, I teach a coding club, oh and also try to bake as much as possible (Jalapeño onion challah with rock salt anyone?). Jewish-wise, I most identify with Modern Orthodoxy, and basically trying to balance the Torah laws with the modern world. I've been learning Arabic for the past two years and I'm excited to test it out this summer along with my Hebrew - which I hope after 12 years will be good, but we'll see. Really can't wait to meet you all and have a great summer together!



Sivahn Sapirstein
Newton, MA

My name is Sivahn and I'm from Newton Massachusetts. I'm a junior at Gann Academy, a pluralistic Jewish high school, and from K-8 I attended JCDS Boston's Jewish Community Day School. I love to sing (despite lacking the voice

to do so), and I have a strange talent for remembering tunes or songs I've only heard once or twice. Overall I would describe myself as

loyal, loving, hyperactive, and extremely passionate. Judaism has always been extremely prominent in my life, yet my relationship with it has changed throughout the years. While Judaism has never been a spiritual experience for me, it has evolved into a love of the community and the cultural aspect of it.

Growing up with an Israeli father, Israel has always been a huge part of my identity, yet only last year did I begin to truly familiarize myself with the current situation and politics. My curiosity about Israel led me to become one of the few outspoken politically left wing students in my school. I have since become a leader of my school's Israel discussion club (Heifers for Israel) which advocates for open discussion and unbiased learning about Israel from different perspectives. One of my core beliefs is the importance of genuinely placing oneself in another's shoes. I believe that once we begin to view others as more than just a 'body', but as individuals with thoughts and emotions (go Buber!), we can better prevent and solve conflicts.

Outside of school I dance competitively, am an avid reader, and a leader at TeenSafe, a program which teaches teens about dating abuse and how to help others. In my free time I love watching Netflix, playing catch, listening to music and hanging out with my friends. I can't wait to get to meet you guys!



Penina Satlow
Providence, RI

Hey there! I'm Penina Satlow, from Providence Rhode Island. I've lived here most of my life, apart from a year in Jerusalem

during 8th grade. Living in Jerusalem was one of the best experiences of my life, and exposed me to a vibrant Jewish world that I had not seen before. In Providence I attended my local Jewish elementary school, and then public middle and high school. I grew up observing Judaism relatively traditionally, but never quite fit in at

any of the communities I spent time in. I went to Camp Ramah Palmer from ages 10-12 but I didn't like it very much. I also did NFTY Mitzvah Corpse in 2014, and loved the energy of the other kids participating, even though I was by far the most traditionally observant there. I am on my USY chapter board as the Religion/Education vice president, and am relatively involved in the region. I am also involved in local NCSY. At school I have been playing field hockey since freshman year, and have also been involved in theater since sophomore year. I have also been singing with HaZamir, the International Jewish High School Choir. In my free time I like to read, especially on Shabbat afternoons. Some of my favorite books are *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, 1984, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *Harry Potter*, and anything by Shakespeare. I also like musical theater, but because actual tickets tend to be pricey and my options are limited in Rhode Island, I tend to just listen to the soundtrack. I am shamelessly one of those people who is obsessed with musicals they have never seen such as *Hamilton* and *Spring Awakening*. I also like to watch slightly nerdy TV shows with witty dialogue like *Dr Who* (before it got terrible), *Sherlock*, and *Firefly*.



Leah Sosland
Kansas City, MO

My name is Leah Sosland and I live in Kansas City, Missouri. I go to a small (K-12) Jewish day school, and I've spent the past seven summers at Camp Ramah in Wisconsin. I have older twin brothers who are in college. In my free time I

love to run and be with friends. I also enjoy reading and writing in my favorite coffee shops or somewhere outdoors. The subject I most enjoy learning and discussing is history, but literature and writing are also favorites of mine. I love nothing more than to travel to new places and explore, even in my hometown! My friends

and I like to concoct adventures out of discovering new spots together. I would describe myself as fairly easy-going, and I am always interested to hear what others have to say. I am a dedicated person and when I want to accomplish a goal, I put my all into it. I always try to be a positive presence, and I do my best not to complain when things get rough...and to make the best out of any given situation. I'm on a few sports teams (basketball, soccer, tennis) and although I was not blessed with innate athleticism, I believe I'm a valuable teammate because I always strive to lift others up, to have fun, and to never give up. I have been to Israel a couple times before--I just returned from a school trip to Poland and Israel. However, this will be the first time that I will be in Israel for more than 10 days, and I could not be more excited to spend these five weeks with all of you!



Simone Walkk
Chicago, IL

Hi, everyone! My name is Simone, and I live Chicago. I go to Walter Payton College Prep, a public high school with students

from throughout the city. My hobbies include writing, reading everything from op-eds to poetry, and exploring the great food and art throughout Chicago's neighborhoods. I also love competing in Model UN and editing my school's arts and literary magazine. In school, I enjoy just about every subject, but have a particular passion for the sciences. I had the opportunity to work on the Emerging Pathogens Project at The Field Museum of Natural History, and I am captivated by lab work. Science exemplifies many aspects of my personality, including a love for inquiry and a mild obsession with a given question as I pursue an answer or an insight. This same part of my character applies to Judaism. Though I am being raised in a Conservative community and attended day school, my family is an amalgamation of immigrants from the former USSR, Israelis, and

American Jews from just about every denomination. I take great pride in Jewish values and jump at the chance to discuss religion as it relates to the Jewish diaspora or peoplehood, ethics, and intersectionality. I enjoy encountering the diversity of thought and experience in my city, family, and school, and look forward to learning about you and your perspective as a Bronfman Fellow. I can't wait to meet everyone; it's an honor to be a part of this journey.



Abraham Waserstein
Boca Raton, FL

To my colleagues of the Bronfman Youth Fellowship and faculty members.

I am Abraham Waserstein, a first

generation American who was born in Miami, Florida. My mother was born in Cuba and raised in Costa Rica, and my father was born in Spain and raised in Florida.

Having such a diverse heritage, I have always been fascinated by diverse cultures and linguistics. This led me to attend a Mandarin immersion program in Minnesota, where I had the opportunity to experience the rich Chinese culture.

Being the grandson of two Holocaust survivors, I feel a special responsibility to my Jewish people and secular community. My grandfather passed away when I was very young, and the only memory I have of his legacy is his autobiography "La Denuncia" in which he discussed the horrors he experienced to teach his progeny to be proud of their Jewish roots and to always be an up-stander.

As I have learned more about the history of the world I live in, I found one of my greatest passions in public speaking. One topic I enjoy speaking about is advocacy for United States war veterans. Having had the privilege to meet many of these heroes, I have participated in oratorical competitions and have partaken in

organizations with the goal of helping to foster a connection between students and veterans.

Finally, I enjoy playing basketball and drums in my spare time. I coach at High Five Basketball, where I am able to share my love for basketball with disabled adults. Also, I founded a program called Goals in which students play sports with and tutor children of migrant workers.

I am truly looking forward to meeting the other Fellows in this extraordinary experience.



Ilana Weinstein
St. Louis Park, MN

Hello. I am Ilana Weinstein. I'm from St. Louis Park, Minnesota. I went to a Jewish private school through eighth grade. I now attend a public high school with a large enough Jewish population that my English

class has more than enough people to make a minyan and the school offers Hebrew classes.

If I had a nickel for every bad joke I make, the IRS would probably be investigating me. I often think in puns. I love nothing more than a good-natured prank or practical joke. I'm not much of a rule breaker, but some of the things I do prompt people to put new rules in place after the fact.

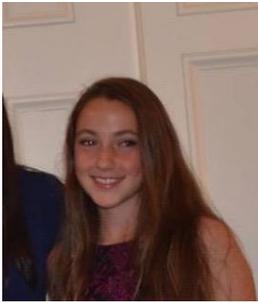
I am the editor of The ParkSpark, my school's satirical newspaper (shameless plug: visit www.theparkspark.com). My responsibilities include writing articles, creating graphic content, editing other people's articles, and producing and writing podcast episodes.

I am a varsity mathlete. We consistently get fourth place at meets, but at least we bring the best snacks, even if we don't bring the best mathematicians.

I am very active in United Synagogue Youth. I have served on my chapter executive board for the past three years, my regional general board for the past two years, and the international general board in 2015.

I love to study Jewish texts. I don't have a favorite text, nor do I particularly care about the topic. I enjoy the process. I love to argue over

translations and interpretations, and to draw connections between rabbinic sources and modern sources that seem entirely unrelated. I can't wait to meet all of you. I know it's hard to tell because of my lack of exclamation points, but I assure you that I am very excited.



Sarah Wexner
New Albany, OH

Hi! My name is Sarah Wexner, and I am from Columbus, Ohio. I play for my school's tennis team, I am the editor of our

newspaper, president of Art Society, and I am involved in student government. I am passionate about service and spend a lot of time volunteering at the local children's hospital and KIPP school, and in my free-time, I love to read and bake - cookies cakes, pies, hamantaschen, you name it. I have spent the past few summers doing service work and working on our family's farm, both of which I have enjoyed immensely, but I am incredibly excited to be spending this summer in Israel!



Adam Wickham
New York, NY

Hi everybody!
My name is Adam Wickham, and I'm a Jew from the Upper West Side of Manhattan. I've lived there my entire life, but I've spent quality time on the subway seeing the rest

of the city too. My cultural identity is a bit confusing. I'm half African-American and half Russian-speaking Jewish, but I can't really speak Russian and most people don't believe that I'm black, so asserting my biracial identity can be a bit challenging. I prefer to just identify as an American.

I go to Stuyvesant High School, a large public high school in downtown Manhattan. There, I am costumes director for SING!, Stuy's annual musical theater competition, and the Stuyvesant Theater Community. I am also a cartoonist for the newspaper, and I am involved in Model UN.

Outside of school, I'm a balloon artist, and I often make myself balloon hats just for the sake of it. I am also a Teen Intern at the Jewish Museum, and I'm a member of the Museum Teen Summit, an organization which works to strengthen the role of teens in museums and the arts.

For many years I aspired to be dictator of a small nation, so geography and history are two of my favorite subjects. I'm especially interested in the themes of statehood, urbanization and public transportation. I love looking at maps, and I am determined to understand the maze of streets in lower Manhattan. I also know how to theoretically create my own country, so I am ready to assist the future megalomaniacs of the world.

I'm still trying to find the right fit for my own Judaism, and the Fellowship will probably leave me more confused than I already am. I'm excited to meet all of you, and I hope to learn a lot!



Yoela Zimberoff
Seattle, WA

1. Sometimes I look at myself from above. 2. Then I look in, and see too much blurred together into something senseless but with a thrilling after-taste that burns your throat long after you swallow. 3. My brain works best when my body is in brutal motion. 4. So I move my body a lot--Kung Fu, yoga, running. 5. I am obsessed with the stars. 6. I fall in love with music, and play the same CDs on repeat until they sing me to sleep without being played. 7. Words, like music, speak to me. Book after book, I inhale them. 8. Breathing as I write--an exhale. 9. I wish I could fly. 10. Break boundaries. 11. Freedom awaits. 12. I dare to let myself hope.