

Speaker Biographies | Summer 2018

Speakers listed in order of speaking date



Adam R. Bronfman - As President of The Samuel Bronfman Foundation, Adam R. Bronfman is committed to furthering Edgar M. Bronfman's vision of inspiring a vibrant and joyful Jewish future by working to build a knowledgeable, proud, and welcoming community. As a member of Hillel's International Board of Governors, Adam has visited numerous Hillels in North America. He has been a catalyst behind the growth of Hillels internationally. He has served as an active board member at the Hillel of UC Santa Barbara and is a founder and advisory board member of Hillel for Utah. Adam established the Saidye Rosner Bronfman Rabbinic Chair at Temple Har Shalom in Park City, Utah, and has been a driving force behind the growth of the community. As an alumnus and former trustee of the Taft School, Adam endowed several scholarships at the institution. He has also served in a leadership capacity at both the National Ability Center and People's Health Clinic. Adam is the Co-Owner and Co-Founder of Rickdicious Racing along with his son, Josh Bronfman. He is the Executive Producer of the documentary Forward 13: Waking Up the American Dream. Adam and his wife, Cindy, have four children and live in Park City, Utah.



Dr. Rachel Korazim - Rachel is a freelance Jewish education consultant specializing in curriculum development for Israel and Holocaust education. Until 2008 she had been the Academic Director of Distance Learning programs at the JAFO Department of Education. Born in Israel, she had served in the I.D.F. as an officer in the central training base for women and was later, a member of the I.D.F. delegation to Niger (West Africa). She is a graduate of Haifa University with a Ph.D. in Jewish education. Rachel had a vast experience in Jewish education both in Israel and the Diaspora. As one of the founders and directors of a special program for soldiers from a disadvantaged background, she was responsible for creating the educational framework and training teachers for the implementation of the program. Since her first Shlichut to Canada where she was the head of JAFI delegation from (1985-1988) she is involved with Jewish education worldwide; creating and implementing in-service training programs for educators, writing educational materials, counseling and teaching. Rachel is familiar, through many visits, with the Jewish education communities of the US, Canada, Latin America and Europe. Since 1990 she has invested a lot of her time and energy in helping the emerging Jewish schools of Hungary.



Rabbah Tamar Elad-Appelbaum - Rabbi Elad-Appelbaum is the founder of ZION: An Eretz Israeli Congregation in Jerusalem; and Vice President of the Masorti Rabbinical Assembly. Her work spans and links tradition and innovation, working toward Jewish spiritual and ethical renaissance. She devotes much of her energy to the renewal of community life in Israel and the struggle for human rights. She served as rabbi of Congregation Magen Avraham in the Negev; as a congregational rabbi in the New York suburbs alongside Rabbi Gordon Tucker; and as Assistant Dean of the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary in Jerusalem. In 2010 she was named by the Forward as one of the five most influential female religious leaders in Israel for her work promoting pluralism and Jewish religious freedom.



Eli Bareket (Bronfman Israel Educator) is the director of of Memizrach Shemesh and deputy director of Kol Yisrael Chaverim. Founded in 2000 by the Avi Chai Foundation and Alliance Kol Yisrael Chaverim, Memizrach Shemesh, is a Beit Midrash (House of Study) and a Center for Jewish Social Activism and Leadership in Israel. During his tenure, Memizrach Shemesh has grown from working annually with 170 participants to more than 600 per year. He is one of the leaders and prominent voices of Mizrahi identity in Israel, both as a social activist and as a teacher.



Rabbi Dr. Sharon Shalom - Born Zaude Tesfai in a small village in the Tigre region of Ethiopia, Rabbi Sharon Z. Shalom was nine years old in 1984, when he embarked on a 1,500 trek without his family, to the Sudan, a journey that was to bring him to Israel, during the airlift mission, Operation Moses. He studied at Yehivat Har Etzion, served in the army in the infantry officer, and gained his BA, MA and PhD from the Bar Ilan University. Rabbi Sharon Shalom was only the second Ethiopian immigrant to receive semicha (ordination) from the Chief Rabbi of Israel, Yisrael Meir Lau. Rabbi Sharon currently works as a faculty lecturer at both the Bar Ilan and Tel Aviv Universities. In addition, he is an inspirational lecturer and sought after speaker in Israel and around the world, and the author of numerous published articles. Rabbi Sharon Z.

Shalom is married to Swiss-born Avital, a social worker and art therapist. The couple live in the Southern Israeli city of Kiryat Gat with their 5 wonderful children - Roi, Nadav, Ziv, Gil and Tohar.



Assael Romanelli - Assael Romanelli, MSW, is a licensed couple & family therapist, international trainer and Playback Theater conductor, who resides in Jerusalem with his dynamic wife and two lively kids. He is the founder and director of The Potential State Institute which helps enrich relationships through therapy, arts & trainings. He is also the artistic director of the Or Chozer Playback Theater company in Jerusalem.



Rabbi Rahel Berkovits – Rahel teaches Mishnah, Talmud and Halakha at Pardes. She has spent many years studying Talmud and Jewish texts in both traditional and academic frameworks at Midreshet Lindenbaum, The Shalom Hartman Institute, and Hebrew University in both the Talmud and Jewish education departments. In 2015, Rahel completed her studies at Beit Midrash Har'el and received ordination from Rabbi Herzl Hefter and Rabbi Daniel Sperber. She lectures widely in both Israel and abroad on topics concerning women and Jewish law, and has published entries in the CD Jewish Women: A Comprehensive Historical Encyclopedia. Rahel is the editor in chief and halakhic editor of Ta Shma JOFA's Halakhic Source Guide Series. She recently published the book *A Daughter's Recitation of Mourner's Kaddish*. She is a founding member of Congregation Shirah Hadasha, a progressive halakhic minyan, which is enriched by both male and female participation in synagogue ritual. Rahel hails from Boston and has lived in Jerusalem for the past eighteen years with her family.



Michael Koplow - Michael is the Israel Policy Forum's Policy Director, based in Washington DC. A regular contributor to Foreign Affairs and Foreign Policy magazines, Michael writes the weekly "Koplow Column" and edits IPF's "Matzav Blog." Before coming to the Israel Policy Forum, Michael was the founding program director of the Israel Institute from September 2012 through September 2015. He holds a BA in history from Brandeis, a JD from NYU, a masters in Middle Eastern Studies from Harvard, and a Ph.D. in political science from Georgetown.



Rabbi Shlomo (Myles) Brody - Rabbi Brody is founding director of the Tikvah institute, is a presidential doctoral fellow at Bar Ilan University Law School and a junior research fellow at the Israel Democracy Institute. He previously served for a decade as a senior instructor at Yeshivat Hakotel and has penned the Ask the Rabbi column for The Jerusalem Post since 2007. His essays have also appeared in Mosaic, Jewish Action, The Forward, The Jewish Press, First Things, Meorot, Hakirah, Jewish Ideas Daily, Tablet, and other publications. His first book, *A Guide to the Complex: Contemporary Halakhic Debates* (Maggid), received a 2014 National Jewish Book Award. A summa cum laude graduate of Harvard College, he received rabbinic ordination from the Israeli Chief Rabbinate and an MA in Jewish philosophy at the Hebrew

University, where he received the Hassenfeld award for excellence in graduate studies. Originally from Houston, Texas, Rabbi Brody now lives in Modi'in with his wife Rocky and five children.



Noa Yammer - Noa is the Communications Coordinator for Hand in Hand Schools, a growing network of integrated schools and communities that bring thousands of Jews and Arabs together every day. She is also the Youth Program Director of Heartbeat, a program that unites Israeli and Palestinian youth musicians to build critical understanding, develop creative nonviolent tools for social change, and amplify their voices to influence the world around them. After growing up in a religious home in New Jersey, Noa came to Israel at the age of 18, and moved to Israel after two years of Jewish learning. Her family joined her three years later. Upon completing her BA in

Psychology in 2008, Noa spent 5 months as a volunteer in a rural village in Nepal, teaching and running theater and empowerment programs in schools in two Himalayan villages. She spent two years after that working with religious girls with eating disorders, using music and writing in her therapeutic counseling. She currently lives in Jerusalem and is finishing her MA in Gender studies and activism at Bar Ilan University. Noa is also a singer-songwriter, performing with her ukulele and guitar in local Jerusalem venues.



Shirel Horovitz - Using video, sound, sculpting and texts, Tel Aviv based artist Shirel Horovitz, creates performances and installations exploring cities and communities. Along side her art practice, Horovitz lectures and leads workshops, city tours and art tours for private groups as well as with a variety of organizations and institutions including Bezalel Academy of Art and Design, Alma College for Hebrew Culture, Dorot Foundation, JCCA, HUC and more. Horovitz earned her BFA from Bezalel Academy of Art and Design in Jerusalem and her MA from The Interdisciplinary Art program in Tel Aviv University. She exhibited in major galleries and art festivals in Israel and internationally and is currently working on a new body of works in her studio in south Tel Aviv.



Guy Sharett - Guy is the founder of StreetWise Hebrew – an innovative method of Hebrew language instruction combining the sights, sounds, smells and tastes of Tel Aviv. Guy grew up in the Israeli coastal town of Ashdod. His father was kibbutznik tugboat skipper at the the Ashdod Port, and his Mom was a painter and ceramist. His fascination with languages came from the many sailors his father brought home: “I'd come home on a given evening to find a Croatian ship engineer, a Filipino sailor and a German captain chatting with Dad about bow propellers.” Guy later graduated from the department of Hebrew Language at The Hebrew University in Jerusalem, where he also studied Arabic, Aramaic, Latin, Italian and Dutch. He lived in Indonesia, London and Bangkok

before returning to Tel Aviv.



Idit ben Or (Bronfman Amita) - Idit is a Bronfman alumna from 2001. After finishing high school, she went on a gap service year with Bronfman, and was later involved with establishing the alumni committee. During her undergraduate studies, Idit worked within various educational frameworks, mostly with the Israeli and International Movement for Progressive and Reform Judaism. Pursuing her love for the written word, Idit completed her degree and became the production coordinator for Jerusalem's international book fair. Idit is currently a PhD student of history at Hebrew University. Her field of research is the history of money, and she spends much of her time contemplating issues

which hover between culture and finance.



Rabbi Mishael Zion (Former Bronfman Fellowship Co-Director) Mish is the director of the Mandel Program for Leadership in Jewish Culture. He was the co-director, as well as a community educator and rabbi, at The Bronfman Fellowship. Together with his father, Noam Zion, he is the author of *Halaila Hazeh: An Israeli Haggadah* and *A Night to Remember: The Haggadah of Contemporary Voices*. Mishael holds a bachelor's degree in sociology and Jewish thought from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and rabbinic ordination from Yeshivat Chovevei Torah Rabbinical School in New York. He has served as a faculty member at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem and the Skirball Center for Adult Jewish Learning in New

York, and has been a visiting scholar at the New York University School of Law.



Leah Solomon – Leah is the Regional Director at Encounter. She has worked since 1997 in the field of experiential pluralistic Jewish education. She served most recently as Associate Director of the Nesiya Institute for a decade, where she helped cultivate meaningful relationships among diverse Jewish participants, and developed and facilitated programs which explored the complexity of Israel and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. She worked previously at Genesis at Brandeis University and Gann Academy in Boston. Leah holds a Bachelor's degree in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations from Harvard University, and completed advanced studies at the Conservative Yeshiva, Pardes, and the Hartman Institute. She is editor and publisher of the *Anim Zemiro* bencher and a contributing writer at *Jewschool* on topics

relating to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Encounter is a non-partisan educational organization cultivating informed and constructive Jewish leadership on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. <http://www.encounterprograms.org>



Matti Friedman (Bronfman Fellow) - Matti Friedman is an Israeli Canadian journalist and author. He grew up in Toronto and moved to Israel in 1995, where he settled in Jerusalem. Matti's reporting has taken him from Israel to Lebanon, Morocco, Moscow, and the Caucasus, and his writing has appeared in the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and elsewhere. He is a former Associated Press correspondent and a regular contributor to *Tablet Magazine*. Two essays he wrote about media coverage of Israel after the 2014 Gaza war, for *Tablet* and *The Atlantic*, triggered intense discussion and have been shared together on Facebook more than 100,000 times. His first book, *The Aleppo Codex*, won the 2014 Sami Rohr Prize, the American Library Association's Sophie Brody

Medal, the Canadian Jewish Book Award, and other honors. *Pumpkinflowers* was published in the U.S. on May 3, 2016, by Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill.



Shira Reifman (Bronfman Fellow) – Shira is a Wexner Graduate Fellowship alumna (Class 12). She is the Director of PR and Development for Kishorit, a kibbutz for adults with special needs located in the Western Galilee. Shira has an MA in Social Work and an MA in Business, both from Columbia University. She made aliyah in 2007 and lives in Yad Binyamin with her husband and five daughters.



Rabbi Simcha Mirvis – Rabbi Mirvis lives in Tsfat and works at the Koren Steinseltz Shefa Foundation. Simcha studied at Boston University, Bar Ilan University and Yeshivat Har Etzion (Gush). He served as the Rabbi of Sadeh Ilan for ten years. He is the founder of the Tsfat Legacy Center.



Dr. Avivah Zornberg – Dr. Zornberg is a Torah scholar and lecturer. Zornberg received her BA and PhD in English literature at Cambridge University and has spent the last two decades teaching Jewish Studies in Jerusalem and lecturing worldwide. She has published her interpretations of narrative in Biblical exegesis in books on Genesis and Exodus, as well as a new collection of essays, “The Murring Deep: Reflections on the Biblical Unconscious.”