

## Stories of Young Israelis - Amitei Bronfman Delegation

### Bogrim Bios:



#### **Moshe Yehuda Ackerman, Amitei Bronfman '15**

My name is Moshe Yehuda Ackerman. I am 26 years old, and I have completed my first year in the PPE (Philosophy, Politics, and Economics) program at the Hebrew University. I grew up in Gush Etzion and currently reside in the Rehavia neighborhood in Jerusalem.

On October 7th, I rushed to board a flight back from New Delhi to Tel Aviv, but on my way to the airport, I received a notification that all flights to Israel had been canceled until further notice. I realized that I was likely not the only one in this situation, so I teamed up with a group of Israelis from around the world, and together, we worked to return reservists from across the globe to Israel on funded and special flights as quickly as possible. After we succeeded in bringing a significant number of people home, I enlisted for a short reserve service and began the academic year. At the same time, I worked with authors Yair Agmon (Amitei Bronfman '04) and Oria Mevorach on the book [One Day in October](#), through which I was exposed to and touched by the incredible stories of heroism from extraordinary women and men from that Saturday when our reality completely changed.

This past summer, I participated in a relatively unusual project within Israel's social-political landscape — a civilian inquiry committee investigating the causes and actions that led to the war and how the state handled it. The goal was to create pressure on government decision-makers to establish a state commission of inquiry. The committee has been active since the end of July and has taken testimonies from senior officials in the security systems as well as direct victims of the disaster and their families.

[Read more.](#)



#### **Oz Bin Nun, Amitei Bronfman '15**

My name is Oz bin Nun. I was raised in Efrat in Gush Etzion, and now live in Jerusalem. I'm a student at Hebrew University, majoring in Philosophy and Psychology. Together with my wife Hanna, I spent 2 years as an Israeli emissary (Shaliach) at the University of Wisconsin - Madison and, more recently, as Security Director for the 2023 Bronfman Fellowship. As a veteran of a special unit in the IDF, I was called for duty on October 7th and served for more than 100 days as a

combat soldier.

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### **Tali Griksharts, Amitei Bronfman '19**

My name is Tali. I was raised in Nesher, near Haifa, and now live in Ramat Gan. I work for V1, a short-form news application, as a content editor.

During my army service I was an instructor of a system of command and control. I finished my mandatory service in May 2023, and went to work as a photographer in a summer camp in the US. On October 8th I was still abroad, but managed to fly back to Israel. A few days after returning, I was called to the reserves in the southern bases to perform a range of missions, using the knowledge from my mandatory service.

This year, I will start studying for a BA in Social Sciences and Literature at Tel Aviv University.

[Read more.](#)

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### **Maayan Or Hoch, Amitei Bronfman '19**

My name is Maayan Or Hoch, from Kibbutz Kabri in the north. After high school, I studied at the Beit Midrash Natur in the Golan for a year and a half. I enlisted in the IDF and served in the recruitment unit as a psychometric interviewer. After about a year, I raised my profile and joined the Armored Corps. During the fighting in Rafah, I was injured by an anti-tank missile, and since May, I have been in rehabilitation. I love hiking, reading, and playing music.

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### **Shiri Klayman, Amitei Bronfman '17**

I'm Shiri, 24 years old. I grew up in Jerusalem and currently live

in Tel Aviv. I completed a year of Mechina (gap year) in the Arava (a region in Israel) and enlisted as a military paramedic. During my army service, I served as a paramedic in an armored battalion and later as a commander in the paramedics' course.

On October 7, while I was in the middle of a trip to East Asia, I cut my travels short and immediately returned to Israel to join the reserves. During the war, I served (and continue to serve) as a combat paramedic in an armored battalion, participated in the maneuver in Gaza, and provided medical care to the wounded during combat.

Along with several friends, I founded an organization aimed at providing mental health support to combat paramedics. The organization arranges healing retreats for paramedics in Israel and abroad, assists the injured, and offers ongoing support to paramedics on the battlefield. The project received a grant from the Bronfman Alumni Venture Fund.

I plan to begin medical school next year, and in the meantime, I am developing hobbies such as yoga and baking.

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#### **Alma Klemes, Amitei Bronfman '16**

My name is Alma. I was born and raised in Jerusalem and in moshav Mata. I studied all my life at the bilingual school in the city, in a mixed class of Palestinian and Jewish students, in Hebrew and Arabic. The school was, and still is, a significant part of my identity, and much of who I am today is connected to this special place. After my studies, I volunteered for two years as part of national service, working with at-risk girls and at an elementary school for children whose parents are refugees and migrant workers in southern Tel Aviv.

Immediately after that, I began studying at Bezalel Academy of Art in the Visual Communication Department. I completed my studies this year. For my final project, I created a book containing interviews with eight amazing women, about their stories from recent times and during wartime. The book and the conversations I had as part of it gave me an opportunity for partial healing and for introspective and external reflection on life under the heavy shadow of war. The book received a grant from the Bronfman Alumni Venture Fund.

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## STAFF

### Paz Bendek, Amitei Bronfman '13

My name is Paz, and I grew up in a Shimshit in northern Israel. Today, I live in Jerusalem with my partner.

I work as a facilitator for Amitei Bronfman alongside Nurit, with whom I've shared a deep friendship since we were both Amitim in 2013. In addition to my work with Bronfman, I teach History and Jewish Studies at a high school.

Last year, I began pursuing a Master's Degree in History at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. My research focuses on the experiences of Jewish immigrants in London during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

On October 7th, I experienced an immense personal loss. My dear uncle, David ("Kachko") Katzir, a member of Kfar Aza, was tragically killed by Hamas terrorists while on his way to a Jeep outing with friends. My aunt, Ayelet, was fortunate to survive the attack. In the aftermath of these events, I enlisted for five months of reserve duty. While it was a difficult time, staying active helped me cope with my family crisis. Another thing that was very much helpful and empowering for me during that time was working with the Amitim of 2023. I know it sounds like a cliché, but this wonderful group of young, smart and talented people really gave me hope and reaffirmed my belief in the goodness of people.

[Read more.](#)