

The Afula-Gilboa-SNEC News *August 2009*

A VERY SPECIAL EDITION

We are proud and excited to present
our SNEC Young Emissaries
for 2009-2010

Get ready; the group will be landing at
New York on Monday, August 31st.

Let's get to know them...

SNEC ISRAELI YOUNG EMISSARY PROGRAM IN ITS 10th YEAR!

We are so proud of our flagship living bridge program and our success in bringing Israel alive to our 13 participating Southern New England communities. Now in our 10th year, our alumni group consists of over 120 Young Emissaries who have touched the lives of thousands of people of all ages in the Southern New England region.

We have a fantastic group this year and look forward to working with them in all the Jewish communal and religious institutions of our communities. They bring a love of Israel, outgoing personalities, much experience in informal education and youthful enthusiasm. It is a true living bridge program: at the same time as we benefit so greatly from their presence, they also benefit- by being exposed to life as Jews outside of Israel, and appreciating the deep connection felt for Israel by so many here.

This year we have 2 new goals:

- Involving EVERY SNEC community with the Young Emissaries
- Involving the Young Emissaries at large scale college Hillel programs

We look forward to great success.

Best wishes to everyone for a meaningful and productive year!

SHANA TOVA!

Central MA Welcomes:

My name is **Itai Atar** and I will be the young *shaliach* to the Jewish community in Worcester, Massachusetts during the coming year. I hail from Afula and I'm 18 years old. I have 4 brothers and sisters and I am the middle child, the family sandwich. I love playing tennis and I was a member of the Hanoar Ha'Oved VeHalomed youth movement (Working and Studying Youth) for two years. As a child, I lived in Los Angeles for two years so that I am already well acquainted with the US. I'm optimistic by nature, I smile a lot and like to meet new challenges such as the *shlichut* program.



I am very excited about the *shlichut*. I do have some anxieties, such as language difficulties and being far away from home, but I believe that I will be able to deal with them. It's not easy to cut oneself off from one's familiar environment and people for a whole year and move to a completely new location, with new faces, a

new culture, different atmosphere and customs. I know that being on *shlichut* will be a tremendous experience that will make me more mature and open up lots of positive perspectives for me. I'm impatient for the year to begin and want to feel the sense of tremendous satisfaction that all *shlichim* feel on their return from their year of service and talk about so much. I realize that there may be difficulties along the way but I believe that this will be an amazing year for me, a year full of experiences, satisfaction, enjoyment, as well as giving and receiving.

I would like to wish all the young shlichim a successful, fruitful mission and hope that you achieve all the goals you have set for yourselves during the course of the year!

Worcester Here I come!

Itay

Shalom,

My name is **Hadas Nafshi** and I am going to be the new young emissary in Worcester MA. I am 18 years old and I live in Tivon. I have 2 brothers and one sister. I am a guide in the Israeli scouts and I also like to go to the beach, trips and shopping. I chose to do a year of service in this program because I want to present Israel in the way that I see this amazing country, from my point of view as a teenager who lives in Israel my all life.

I hope we will have a great year and I am sure all of us will learn some new things and will benefit from this year.

Hope to get the chance to meet you,

Hadas

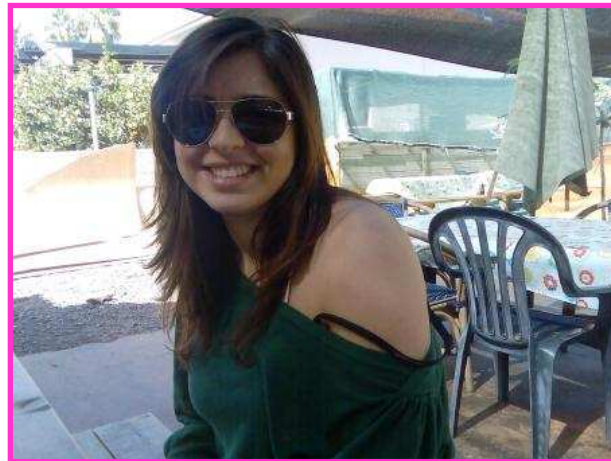


Greenwich Welcomes:

Hamutal Zimberg, I am the youngest child of Meir and Liora, my wonderful parents, and younger sister of Avishag, Reuven and Rufus (the dog). I live in Binyamina.

I was a member of the Binyamina Scouts chapter, Omer tribe. In the last few years I have been a youth leader and headed the youth leadership team. I love the sea, hiking, and being with people.

I'm really excited about going on shlichut (I am off to Greenwich, Connecticut with fellow *shaliach* Or Geisinger), with a great love for Israel and a belief in the ability of people to influence.



My name is **Or Geisinger** and I am from Kiryat Tivon, just outside Haifa. I am the oldest of three siblings.

My hobbies include playing the guitar, drawing, horseback riding and spending time with friends.

I'm really looking forward to this *shlichut* and very curious as I have never been to the US. I'm looking forward to a full and productive year - good luck to us all.

Eastern CT Welcomes:

Hi I'm **Hadar Elya**, I'm 18 years old and I'm going to be the next year's young emissary in New London along with Shoshan Zahor. I live in a moshav called Olesh, which is in Emek Hefer. I have two siblings, a brother and a sister, I am the oldest. I guess that makes my departure more difficult for my parents.

I was supposed to join the IDF last month. Most of my friends have already joined (which is a bit weird, I haven't digested it yet) though I have decided to postpone my service there, in order to dedicate the next year to strengthen the connection between Israel and the Jewish communities abroad, and also enrich my own Jewish identity.

I am extremely excited about this opportunity to spend time with a Jewish community outside of Israel.

I would be more than happy to share my love of Israel with the Jewish community.

Hope to get to know you all soon!

Love,
Hadar





Hi, My name is **Shoshan Zahor**, My mother is a teacher in a high school, and my father is an acupuncture therapist. I have two sisters and one brother . Until the tenth grade I was in a Waldorf school, and then I moved to an ordinary school here in Tivon where I live. I was in the scouts for many years and had many different roles in guiding children. My last guidance was working with a group of autistic children. A very main part of my life was volunteering in Magen David Adom, the Israeli Red Cross, helping people all over the north area of Israel.

WWWN Welcomes:



My name is **Inbal Magen** and I live in Haifa, Israel. I have 2 younger brothers, my mother is a doctor and my father is a manager at Israel Postal Services.

I love reading and dancing and in recent years the Israel Scouts has played an extremely important role in my social life.

I will be going to Westport, and in preparation for the trip I feel a great sense of commitment and excitement.

I very much hope that I will live up to the community's expectations, that I'll get on with my host family and feel an integral part of them, that I'll enjoy working in the community and will learn a lot about the place and the people, and feel that I'm a real part of community life and the families that host me.

Looking forward to meeting you all.

A very excited, Inbal

Time is running out and I'll soon be leaving Israel. I'm trying to make the most of the remaining few days here – say goodbye to my friends, attend to last-minute arrangements, spend some quality time with my family, and mainly enjoy Israel as much as possible.

My name is **Na'ama Kelman** and I live at Hogla, a moshav in Emek Hefer. I have an older brother and two younger sisters. I attended the Maayan Shachar high school in Ein Hahoreshe where I majored in chemistry and art, my two favorite subjects. I have studied drama for many years and was part of a theater delegation to the Theater Festival in Ireland. I was a youth movement leader for 3 years, and events coordinator for the regional council for one year. I love extreme sports, snowboarding, and love hiking and adventures.

Naturally I'm a little nervous about this trip, and have many expectations and questions that keep cropping up. I'm trying not to have too many expectations but simply get there and enjoy the experience "as is". I believe that people create their own experiences and I am planning to do everything possible to ensure that this will be a unique experience, to make the most of the opportunity I have been given, and to give as much as possible to the communities in the US. I hope that I will be able to leave a lasting impression and be a source of enrichment for the people I come into contact with. I therefore intend to work hard and give everything I have.



New Haven Welcomes:

Hi there,

My name is **Karen Brustein** and I'm very proud to be the shlichah to the New Haven community. I live in Kibbutz Yizreel with my parents, Monica (who works in the kibbutz factory which makes underfloor heating) and Cladio (in charge of the kibbutz gardens), and with Benny, my nine-year old brother, who I love very much. Actually, I wasn't born in Israel but in Brazil and 11 years ago my family made aliyah for Zionist reasons. I love Israel and the kibbutz and I'm sure I will always be part of it. I finished high school two months ago – I attended the regional school, Amal Ein Harod Comprehensive School where I majored in biology and mechatronic engineering, and also studied translation from English. I love reading, writing and spending time with my family and friends, playing volleyball, swimming, playing the flute, hiking, learning languages, getting to know people and more

Now, three weeks away from this unique and meaningful experience, I am really excited! I am full of hope and expectation from this *shlichut* which is my year of national service to the Jewish people in the Diaspora and I am sure that I will give everything I have to realize this goal, to create a living bridge between Israel and the Diaspora – New Haven, Connecticut.



For me this is a year of gaining independence, responsibility and learning another culture, a year of making friends and family, a year full of experiences in which I will acquire tools that will equip me for life.

Many thanks, and here's looking forward to a productive and fruitful year, Karen Brustein

My name is **Matan Aviel** and I'm 18 and a half. I was born in California in December 1990 and moved to Israel when I was 8 months old. Later my family returned to the US from 1997-2000 and we lived in Sunnyvale, California. I now live in Tel Mond, a small community outside Netanya and north of Tel Aviv. My family consists of my parents, my older sister Noam, younger sister Netta, and myself. I have been very active in the Israel Scouts (*Tzofim*) movement where I was a youth leader, group leader and coordinator for my tribe – Poleg. I am also an avid coin collector and have coins from all over the world, a collection of US state quarters and a collection of 1783 American penny coins. I am very excited to be going to the US. I'm sure this will be a tremendous experience in which I will be able to share my love of Israel with other people. I can't wait to meet you all.



Hartford Welcomes:



My name is **Sarai Barzel**, I'm 18 and a half, and I live in Givat Avni in the Lower Galilee, daughter to Smadar and Yossi, and sister to Adva. I attended the Kaduri Agricultural High School, specializing in mechatronic engineering. My contact with the Jewish Agency began when I was 15 and I became involved in a youth leadership project. Later I went on a youth leadership mission to the US, and I am now about to begin a year of national service in the US. Wow! I have been dreaming about this *shlichut* for two years and suddenly I'm not sure what to expect. I think the most important thing when embarking on this kind of *shlichut* is not to forget where you have come from and what you are returning to, and that we have no other country. I hope to make a real impact, to learn new things about Judaism, about people in general and of course about myself as well.

Shalom!

My name is **Or Shahar** and this year I will be the *shaliach* in Hartford, Connecticut.

I live on Moshav Barak which is part of the Gilboa Regional Council. My father is a farmer and my mother cares for children. I have 2 sisters and a brother and I am the youngest in the family.

We have a farm consisting of a poultry house and fields.

I'm really looking forward to this *shlichut* and excited about meeting the families and people in the community.

I hope to get into things and settle down quickly and that I'll get along with all the people I'll be working with. I also hope that this year will be special and enjoyable, and that I will return to Israel with a huge smile and great sense of satisfaction.

Or Shahar



Eastern Fairfield County Welcomes:



Hi, my name is **Keren Shemsh** and I am on my way to become a young emissary in Fairfield, along with my partner Dvir. Here in Israel I live in a small town called Oranit, about a half an hour away from Tel- Aviv, the city I like the most. We are a family of five- my parents Michal and Menashe, my younger sisters Lihi and Gaya, and myself. I also have two dogs, Pipoca and Cleo. Thinking about next year (or should I say, less than two weeks from now?) fills me up with excitement. I am very happy I have been given the opportunity to take part in this beautiful project of living-bridges!

See you all soon,
Keren

Hello from Israel! I'm **Dvir Dor** and I have been living in Katzir since I was 9 months old. Katzir (which rhymes with Dvir) is a Yeshuv (like a big town). It's located on a mountain called Amir. When I was in the 3rd grade I moved with my family, because of my father's work, to Jordan for 2 years, and then for another 2 years we lived in Germany. It was a great experience!!!

I'm the eldest sister in the family, and I have 2 younger brothers, ages 13 and 15. We have a great relationship and we love to hang out together! All of my family members have the letter D in the front of their names; **Dalia**-my mother, **Dani**-my father, **Dekel**- my brother, **Dolev** my other brother and our family name is **Dor**. My mother is a teacher for special educational kids, and my father works in the prime minister's office.

I am in the scouts, which is the largest youth movement in Israel. This year I was a coordinator of the 4th and 9th graders and of the community team. In most of my free time I am at the scouts. The scouts in Katzir is called ALUMOT! Moreover I love dancing, drawing and acting. In school I loved theater and biology, these were my majors and my favorite subjects!



I am looking forward to see you all,
Dvir