# MEET THE RISHONIM

In the 18th year of our Greater MetroWest Rishonim (young Israeli emissaries) Program, as we continue to live and work in a virtual world, Rishonim Chai is born. Our community is excited to welcome back ten rishonim alumni (from the past 17 years) to virtually educate children, teens, and adults throughout the community. Despite the distance, they are bringing their special spirit and enthusiasm to enlighten the community about Israeli people and culture, and foster connections with Israel.



## ABRAHAM BELILTY, Rishonim 13 (2015-16) Congregational School Team



Abraham now lives in Haifa and is looking forward to starting his first degree in education and Israeli history at the University of Haifa. He works at NOAM, the Israeli conservative youth movement, and also at a cool ice cream shop in downtown Haifa. In his

free time he's a DJ who plays Brazilian and African music with a bit of hip hop, mostly Israeli.

#### CORAL LEVY, Rishonim 10 (2012-13) Day School Team



Coral lives in Rishon LeZion. After her year of service in New Jersey, she joined the Israeli Air Force and served as an officer at the rank of Captain for almost six years. In the past year, she began pre-med studies at Tel Aviv University and soon will start her first year

of medical school at the Technion University in Haifa.

#### ELI GOREN, Rishonim 12 (2014-15) Day School Team



Since her time in GMW, Eli has served as a combat soldier in the search and rescue unit and was also a commander. After her army service, Eli was a counsellor on Neshama and also went on a volunteer mission in Kampala, Uganda. She is currently preparing to

begin her studies in occupational therapy at Tel Aviv University.

#### **LIGAL PERETZ, Rishonim 12** (2014-15) Social Media Team



Ligal is 24 years old and lives in Be'er Sheva. She grew up in Arad and participated in the Gesher program with teens from GMW. She has maintained relationships with the families and friends she met here as a rishona. She is a coordinator in Federation's

Israel Partnership Network and will soon begin studying international relations and statistics at Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

(see back for more bios...)



#### BUILDING BRIDGES WITH ISRAEL & AROUND THE WORLD

## **CORAL SASSON, Rishonim 14** (2016-17) Early Childhood Center Team



Coral is from Rishon LeZion. After the Rishonim program, she served in the IDF Education Corps as an educational tour guide and then served as a tour guide for the Greater MetroWest commUNITY Mission in 2018. She's currently beginning her

studies in Learning Technologies at Holon Institute of Technology.

#### JUANA SCHNAPP, Rishonim 16 (2018-19) Social Media Team



Juana Schnapp lives in Ra'anana. She's originally from Argentina and speaks three languages fluently! She is currently serving in the IDF. When she's not working, you might find her at the beach or hiking a mountain. She loves being around her family

and friends. Her interests include photography, yoga, and modern art.

## **SHAY SEROUSSI, Rishonim 16** (2018-19) Early Childhood Center Team



Shay is from Rishon LeZion. For the past year she has served in the IDF as a diagnostician of behavioral sciences in the Air Force. In her free time she loves to read, run, and spend time with family and friends.

### **GILI SHTIBELMAN, Rishonim 13** (2015-16) Social Media Team



and English literature.

Gili is from Rishon LeZion. After her year as a rishona, she served as a combat engineering instructor in the IDF. She traveled for four months in Southeast Asia, and has since started her first year as a student at Ben Gurion University, majoring in political science

## **TOMER SPEIER, Rishonim 16** (2018-19) Day School Team



Tomer lives in Ra'anana, though she was born in the U.S. while her father worked here. During her "amazing year in Greater MetroWest" she worked at Golda Och Academy, Temple B'nai Or, Morristown Jewish Center, and Congregation

Agudath Israel and "had the time of my life!" Today she serves in the IDF in a special unit in the Intelligence Force.

## **GAYA TZACHI**, **Rishonim 15** (2017-18) Congregational School Team



Gaya is from Arad.
Upon returning to Israel from Greater MetroWest in 2018, she served for two years as a medic in the IDF Armored Corps. She's so glad to have the opportunity to work with the GMW community again!