Avi Ablov

*Israel*

Avi Ablov, 31, has been an adviser to the Director General of the Ministry for Jerusalem and Diaspora Affairs, headed by Minister Naftali Bennett, since 2013. Mr. Ablov holds a B.A. in Middle Eastern studies and international relations and an M.A. in Middle Eastern studies, specializing in inter-cultural negotiations for peace in the Middle East, both from the Hebrew University. He also attended the Excellence program of the Jewish Statesmanship Center in Jerusalem in 2011. Mr. Ablov has worked as a reporter and editor of news programs and other productions for Israeli television channels 2 and 10. Before joining Minister Bennett, he was the political commentator for the Israeli liberal-conservative *Mida* web site.
Talia Alster
Israel

Talia Alster has been a student at the Hebrew University for the past four years; she is working to obtain her medical degree and has completed research internships and rotations in ophthalmology and cardiology. She is a proud graduate of the Amirim Honors Program of the Humanities Faculty at HUJI and a former dean-awarded student in the classics department. She was editor-in-chief of the Amirim academic journal. It is possible that Talia may confuse some English with Nepali words, as she has spent almost five months of this past year in rural Nepal, volunteering through a Jewish non-governmental organization with the local Nepali community in fields of public health and women’s empowerment. A paper co-authored by her, "Remedy for a Split Cultural Identity, Saint Jerome's and Franz Rosenzweig's 'Drive' for Translating the Hebrew Bible,” was accepted by and presented at the 19th World Conference of the International Federation of Translators in 2011. Talia enjoys singing and acting, with her latest achievement being the establishment of a youth choir in the Nepalese village in which she volunteered. They were the cutest.

Hanan Amiur
Israel
Hanan Amiur has been a senior research analyst for Presspectiva, the Israeli arm of CAMERA (Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America), since 2012. He is studying for a Master’s degree and a Ph.D. in political science at Bar-Ilan University under the guidance of Professor Asher Cohen. Mr. Amiur also works as a political campaign adviser. Previously, he served as the head spokesman of the Ministry of Education and Culture and as a media adviser to the Minister of the Environment. He was a staff member of the prestigious Israeli media commentary magazine Ha’ayin Hashvi’it, as well as working for and publishing in numerous Israeli daily newspapers. Hanan Amiur is 41, has four children, and lives at Elazar in Gush Etzion.

Chemy Avnery
Israel

Dr. Nechemia (Chemy) Avnery is a lecturer at Sapir College Law School, Israel. He specializes in local government law and public law. He has taught courses in major universities in Israel and in some law colleges. A lawyer by profession, Dr. Avnery studied in Yeshivat Har Etzion (1983-1989) and was a fellow of Beit Morasha of Jerusalem and the Schwartz Institute for Ethics, Religion and State (2002-2008). He received his LL.B. and LL.M. (cum laude) degrees in law at the Hebrew University and his Ph.D. from Haifa University. He is the author of Local Law: Local Self-Government and Local Legislation (Nevo. 2013), a pioneering, comprehensive study of the constitutional status of local government in Israel. He worked in the legal department of the Ministry of Interior of the State of Israel (1997-2002). He offers legal consultation to local governments and law offices.
Dr. Shraga Bar-On is a research fellow and a faculty member at the Shalom Hartman Institute and is currently Gruss Scholar-in-Residence at the Tikvah Center, New York University School of Law. His research and public involvement focus on two major issues: Talmudic and halachic thought and contemporary Jewish identity. He received his Ph.D. in Jewish thought from the Hebrew University. His doctoral dissertation is titled, “Lot-casting, God, and Man in Jewish Literature from the Bible to the Renaissance;” it will be published by the Bar-Ilan university press. During his post-doctoral studies at Hebrew University he has developed a new methodology for teaching Jewish law: halacha as a realm of moral dilemmas. He is deeply involved in "The Jewish Renaissance" in Israel. With other members of the Hartman institute, he has founded and coordinated programs in this field, such as the Hadarim Beit Midrash program for outstanding students in the humanities and, in collaboration with Israel Defense Forces education units, the Cathedra program of Jewish identity for senior IDF officers. He was an associate moderator in the Gevanim program for the advancement of pluralistic Jewish leadership of the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco; and he has chaired Ne’emani Torah v’Avodah, the modern Orthodox movement in Israel. Dr. Bar-On has won several prizes and scholarships in academic and educational fields, among them the Ephraim E. Urbach Post-Doctoral Fellowship and the Max and Bella Guggenheim Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Jewish Ethics. He is married to Vered and has three children.
Jason Bedrick is a policy analyst at the Cato Institute Center for Educational Freedom. Mr. Bedrick has extensive policy research experience, including experience in detailed legislative development and analysis. He served as a legislator in the New Hampshire House of Representatives and was a research fellow at the Josiah Bartlett Center for Public Policy, where he focused on state education policy. Bedrick received his Master’s in public policy, with a focus on education policy, from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. His thesis, “Choosing to Learn,” assessed the scholarship tax credit programs operating in eight states, including their impact on student performance, fiscal impact, program design, and popularity.

Akiva Bigman
Israel
Akiva Bigman is an investigative journalist currently serving as associate editor of *Mida*, an Israeli conservative website that provides news and commentary about Israel and the world. Previously he worked as a legal journalist for the Israeli daily *Makor Rishon*. Mr. Bigman has covered a variety of areas, especially the relationship between Israel and its minorities and the activity and influence of international organizations in Israel. He studied and taught in a Hesder Yeshiva and holds an M.A. in Jewish history from Bar-Ilan University. He lives in the Negev township of Retamim with his wife and four children.

**Stephen Daisley**  
*United Kingdom*

Stephen Daisley is a writer and journalist from the United Kingdom. He has been published in *Commentary, Standpoint*, and the *Times of Israel*, among others. His work covers Israeli politics, anti-Semitism, and European anti-Zionism and explores conservatism, cinema. He holds an M.A. in film studies and an M.Sc. in political science from the University of Glasgow.

**Gregory Dolin**  
*United States*
Gregory Dolin is co-director of the Center for Medicine and Law, a partnership between the University of Baltimore School of Law and The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. The center supports collaboration between experts in the fields of medicine and law, focusing its efforts on an examination of medical and legal issues from the perspective of the health care practitioner. Professor Dolin's primary research interests lie at the intersection of patent and health care law. Before joining the UB School of Law, Dr. Dolin was a Frank H. Marks Visiting Associate Professor of Law and an administrative fellow in the intellectual property program at The George Washington University Law School. He was a law clerk to the Honorable Pauline Newman of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit and the late Honorable H. Emory Widener, Jr. of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. He served as a John M. Olin Fellow in Law at Northwestern University School of Law and an associate in the intellectual property group of Kramer, Levin, Naftalis, and Frankel LLP.

Zvi Drizin

United States

Rabbi Zvi Drizin is the founder and director of The Intown Chabad, which is solely dedicated to serving young Jewish millennials. Rabbi Drizin thinks of this demographic constantly and is involved with efforts to expand this focused paradigm internationally. He is an avid reader of Jewish political philosophy, plays music, and loves to ski. He lives in Dallas with his wife and two children.

Jonathan Javor
Jonathan Javor, born in London in 1981, made aliyah with his family at the age of 11. He served in the Armored Corps of the Israel Defense Forces and still serves as his company’s master sergeant. He returned to the United Kingdom in 2003 and earned a B.A. in war studies and an M.A. in intelligence and international security at King’s College London. While there, he helped lead the Israel Connect program, connecting Jewish communities in Europe with each other and Israel. In 2009, after returning to Israel, he began working in the office of Silvan Shalom, Vice Prime Minister, Minister for the Development of the Negev and the Galilee, and Minister for Regional Cooperation. Mr. Javor focused on foreign affairs, the participation of young professionals in the political process, and integrating young olim into Israeli society through grass-roots education and community-building. In 2010 he was appointed Parliamentary and Foreign Affairs Advisor to Knesset member Otniel Schneller. At the request of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, MK Schneller and Mr. Javor worked on the “track two” aspect of the peace process, which culminated in a paradigm shift in Israeli peace-making methods. As MK Schneller’s legislative director, Mr. Javor also wrote two groundbreaking pieces of legislation dealing with the Jewish religious nature of the Israeli democratic state, one imposing sanctions on husbands who refuse to give a get and the other (the “Tzohar bill”) lifting restrictions on marriage registration. In 2013 Mr. Javor was English-language campaign manager for Mr. Netanyahu’s re-election campaign. Soon thereafter he was asked by Ron Huldai, the mayor of Tel Aviv-Yafo, to join the mayor’s election list in City Council elections. After the mayor’s re-election Mr. Javor was named head of the newly formed Young Aliyah Department of the City of Tel Aviv-Yafo. Outside his professional life, Mr. Javor has helped form and lead several grassroots initiatives: TLV International, the largest non-governmental organization dealing with new olim; the Tel Aviv International Salon, the premiere English-language speaker’s forum in Israel; White City Shabbat, which aims to promote pluralism and strengthen the Jewish identity of young internationals, Israelis, and lone soldiers; and ProjecT.A., an educational campaign providing young Tel Aviv internationals with the knowledge and resources to involve themselves personally in improving the great city that they have adopted and call home.
Tzvi Kahn is assistant director of policy and government affairs at the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), where he works on policy communications concerning the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Iran’s nuclear program, foreign aid, and the U.S.-Israel strategic partnership. He has previously written for the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, the Forward, FrontPage Magazine, American Thinker, and Middle East Quarterly. Mr. Kahn holds a Master’s degree in Middle East studies from The George Washington University’s Elliott School of International Affairs, where he wrote a thesis about instability in the Sinai Peninsula and its implications for the Israel-Egypt peace treaty. He earned his bachelor’s degree in English and in classical languages from Yeshiva University.

Moshe Koppel
Israel

Professor Moshe Koppel is a lecturer and researcher in the department of computer science at Bar-Ilan University. He received his Ph.D. from Courant Institute and did post-doctoral work at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton. He has published academic papers in leading journals in computer science, mathematics, linguistics, economics, psychology, law, Jewish studies, and other disciplines. His work on authorship attribution is used in commercial, legal, and security applications. Dr. Koppel is the founder and chairman of the Kohelet Policy Forum, a Jerusalem-
based libertarian-conservative policy center. He has co-drafted two proposed constitutions for Israel, as well as several laws that have been passed by the Knesset.

**Dovid Margolin**  
*United States*

Dovid Margolin is director of the Hebrew Literacy Initiative at the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute, which seeks to connect Jews from all backgrounds to their heritage by providing them with the key of Hebrew reading. Rabbi Margolin is the editor and publisher of the *Jewish Russian Telegraph*, an online magazine that focuses on issues of interest and concern to the Russian-Jewish community. He is a contributing writer at *Hamodia* and Chabad.org and has published in *Ami Magazine* and the *Jewish Advocate*. Rabbi Margolin has worked extensively in Russian-Jewish outreach in Ukraine, Russia, Lithuania, Sweden, Germany, and Israel and is a former educational coordinator at the Jewish Children’s Museum. He received his rabbinic ordination from Rabbi Yitzchok Yehuda Yaroslavsky.

**Chaim Navon**  
*Israel*
Rav Chaim Navon is the rav of Kehilat Shimshoni (Modi’in). He teaches Gemara and Jewish thought in Midreshet Lindenbaum and the Herzog College (Yeshivat Har Etzion). He writes a weekly column for Mekor Rishon and has written six books on Jewish topics and two novels. His books include Caught in the Thicket: An Introduction to the Thought of Rav Soloveitchik, Genesis and Jewish Thought (English); A Bridge for Jacob’s Daughters: The Status of Women in Jewish Law, Between Past and Future; and Eve Did Not Eat an Apple: 101 Common Mistakes in Judaism. Rav Navon studied at Yeshivat Har Etzion from 1992 to 2004 and received his rabbinic ordination from the Chief Rabbinate of Israel and Rabbi Aharon Lichtenstein. He received a master’s degree in Jewish thought from the Hebrew University.

Lauren Noble
United States

Lauren Noble is the founder and executive director of the William F. Buckley, Jr. Program at Yale, which she started as a senior in college. She graduated from Yale University in 2011 with a Bachelor’s degree in history. From 2011 to 2012, Ms. Noble worked as a research analyst and communications writer for Governor Mitt Romney’s Presidential campaign. She is the recipient of the National Association of Scholars' 2013 Barry R. Gross Memorial Award for academic reform.

Yehoshua Oz
Yehoshua Oz is the director of international communications at the Israel Democracy Institute. He previously served with the Embassy of Israel in Washington, D.C., where he was responsible for strengthening and cultivating relations with Christian, Jewish, and minority communities. Mr. Oz also worked as a professional consultant to the Hertog Center for Jewish-Christian Understanding and Cooperation, advising on communications strategy and program development. He was an Echols Scholar at the University of Virginia, where he earned his B.A. in bioethics and Jewish studies; and he received his M.B.A. from Bar-Ilan University. Mr. Oz currently serves on the Modi’in City Council's foreign relations committee and publishes a popular citizen and consumer empowerment website, NoFryers.com. He made aliya in 2005 and lives in Modi’in with his wife and four children.

Sarah Leah Rodin
Israel

Sarah Leah Rodin made aliya from Canada in 2006 and is currently pursuing graduate studies in the areas of political economics, philosophy, and ethics in the political science department of the Hebrew University. She is an alumnus and research fellow of the Jewish Statesmanship Center for Zionist and Strategic Thought, conducting independent research on the ethics and values of classical and contemporary scholars who champion the free market. In 2012 Ms. Rodin was a founding member of the Students for Liberty chapter at Hebrew University and, in conjunction with the Jerusalem Institute of Market Studies (JIMS), coordinated a student seminar in free market thought.
She will be attending the Economics, Growth and Prosperity seminar offered by JIMS and the Friedberg Economics Institute this spring.

Ariel Schnabel
Israel

Ariel Schnabel has been chief editor of the weekly cultural magazine Motzash, published by the Israeli media group Makor Rishon Ma'ariv, since November, 2012. He had served as deputy editor of the magazine since its inception in April, 2011. He has a B.A. in political science and mass communication and a Master's degree in American history from Bar-Ilan University. During his media career he played various roles in radio, newspapers, and commercial television in Israel and was a foreign correspondent for Makor Rishon, reporting on the 2010 U.S. midterm elections. He was a founder and deputy editor of the Jewish Channel on the Ma'ariv newspaper site; published articles, interviews, and personal columns in newspapers; wrote humor and satire for various television programs; and was website director of one of the most popular radio stations in Israel, 103 FM.

Shoval Shafat
Shoval Shafat is a scholar at the Tikvah Center at New York University. Two years ago he received his Ph.D. with a dissertation that dealt with the relationship between human punishment and divine punishment in rabbinic thought; he is now rewriting the dissertation as a book. Dr. Shafat taught rabbinic literature and Jewish thought in various academic institutions, including Ben Gurion University and Jerusalem College, and in synagogues. Last year he led the Academic Bet Midrash in the college of Givat Washington. In 2007 he edited a new, broadened edition of Tziyunei Derech, a collection of articles by the important Orthodox thinker Isaac Breuer. Dr. Shafat is now working on a commentary to Nahliel, the most important philosophical book that Breuer wrote in Hebrew.
United States

Moshe Syrquin grew up in Mexico and obtained a Ph.D. in economics from Harvard University in 1971. He is currently professor of economics in the department of international studies at the University of Miami. Between 1994 and 1999 he was the editor of the two economic journals at the World Bank, *World Bank Economic Review* and *World Bank Research Observer*. Before that, he was a professor at Bar-Ilan University in Israel (1971-93). Since 1971 Dr. Syrquin has been intermittently a consultant for the World Bank and other development organizations. He has been a visiting professor at various universities and institutes in the United States, including Harvard and Rice, and in Italy at Milan, Turin, and Ancona. He has co-authored and edited six books and written over 60 papers in professional journals.
United States

Michael Weingrad is a professor of Jewish studies at Portland State University, where he founded the department and created the undergraduate program in that field. He is the author of two books on modern Hebrew literature, *American Hebrew Literature: Writing Jewish National Identity in the United States* (2011) and the forthcoming *Letters to America: Selected Poems of Reuven Ben-Yosef*. He has published on a wide variety of Jewish and literary topics in the *Jewish Review of Books*, *Commentary*, and many academic journals. He has been a Harry Starr Fellow at Harvard’s Center for Jewish Studies, the Montague Burton Fellow in Jewish Studies at the University of Leeds, and a Fulbright Fellow at Hebrew University. He lives in Oregon with his three children.

Tamar Weiss

Israel

Tamar Weiss is in her final year of the P.P.E. (philosophy, politics and economics) B.A. program at the Hebrew University. In addition to her studies, she is an intern for Member of Knesset Ruth
Calderon; takes part in the Hebrew University *beit midrash* “Havruta” and the Beit Hillel *beit midrash* for human rights; and volunteers in the organization Mavoi Satum, which assists *agunot* and *mesoravot get*. Previously, she was a student intern in the office of the mayor of Jerusalem and volunteered at the organization Paamonim, helping families facing financial difficulties to reorganize their finances. For her army service Tamar was an officer in intelligence. She graduated from Pelech High School and was a counselor in Bnei Akiva.

**Ilan Wurman**  
*United States*

Ilan Wurman is a graduate of Claremont McKenna College and Stanford Law School. He is presently a law clerk to the Honorable Jerry E. Smith of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Mr. Wurman’s academic work has appeared or is forthcoming in the *Stanford Law Review*, the *Brigham Young University Law Review*, the *Seattle University Law Review*, and the *Stanford Journal of Environmental Law*. He has also published in *National Affairs*, the *Weekly Standard*, and *Commentary* magazine. Next year he will be an associate at a Washington, D.C. law firm.