



**THE TIKVAH FUND**  
165 E. 56th Street  
New York, New York 10022

## **Israeli Economy**

*April 28, 2014 – May 2, 2014*

### **Participant Biographies**

#### **Maayan Aharon**

*Israel*



Maayan Aharon has been a consultant in the valuation and strategy department of the Israeli practice of PricewaterhouseCoopers since 2013. She has been volunteering for a year-and-a-half at the Taub Center for Social Policy Studies in Israel, facilitating projects that aim to make economic research accessible to the general public. For the past two years she has also been volunteering with the Nova organization, which provides management consulting to social organizations; she is responsible for volunteer relations and the organization of social events. Ms. Aharon holds a B.A. in economics and accounting from Tel Aviv University.



**THE TIKVAH FUND**

165 E. 56th Street  
New York, New York 10022

**Mori Amitai**

*Israel*



Mori Amitai is a B.A. graduate of Tel Aviv University in economics and political science. He has worked in the Israeli Ministry of Finance since January, 2014. Before that, he worked for three years at Pelephone Inc., an Israeli mobile provider, as a field engineer. Mr. Amitai has also written for *Mida*, a news and intellectual website, publishing articles about Israel's economy and society. While studying for his degree he worked as an intern in the Small and Medium Business Agency of the Ministry of Industry Trade and Labor.

**Esti Applebaum-Polani**

*Israel*



Esti Applebaum-Polani was born in Nahariya, Israel, not far from the border with Lebanon. She is very involved in Israel public life. She is a deputy chairman of the Israel Broadcast Authority and a member of the board of Habima Theater. She is also a former chairman of the Park Ariel Sharon Company. She has lectured in various colleges for more than 12 years on strategy, marketing, and branding. She received her B.A in international relations from the Hebrew University and an M.A. in communications from Tel Aviv University. She is a law school graduate of ONO College.



**THE TIKVAH FUND**

165 E. 56th Street  
New York, New York 10022

**Nati Birenboim**

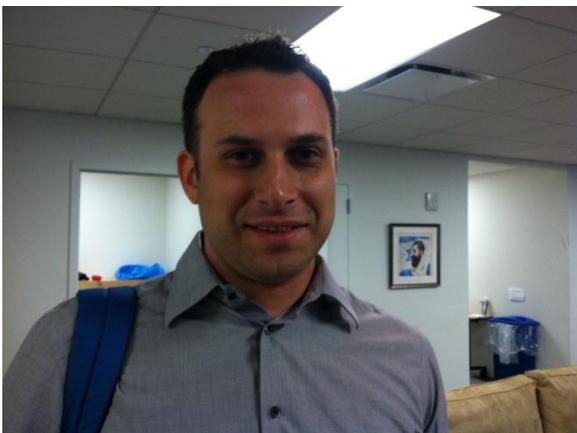
*Israel*



Nati Birenboim served as senior policy advisor to Dr. Uzi Landau, the former Minister of National Infrastructure, Energy, and Water. In that capacity he was responsible for planning, developing, and implementing ministerial policy in the energy, water, and natural resources sectors in Israel. Most recently, Mr. Birenboim served as staff director of the inter-ministerial committee for the examination of natural gas policy. He holds an LL.B. degree from Bar-Ilan University and an M.B.A. with honors from the Peres Academic Center. He is a ranking Commander of an artillery battery command unit in the reserves of the Israel Defense Forces. Mr. Birenboim was selected in 2012 by the prominent Israeli business magazine *The Marker* as one of the most promising individuals in the Israeli business community under the age of 40. He is the co-CEO and owner of Tamuz Group, which specializes in strategic and political consulting, business development, and project promotion for companies and organizations operating in the Israeli market.

**Oleg Brodt**

*Israel*



Oleg Brodt is an attorney at the Epstein Rosenblum Maoz (ERM) law firm, where he provides comprehensive legal advice on various finance, banking, technology, and corporate transactions. He has



**THE TIKVAH FUND**

165 E. 56th Street  
New York, New York 10022

experience in advising lenders and borrowers, banks and financial institutions, start-ups and mature hi-tech companies, investment funds, insurance companies, and publicly traded companies. Mr. Brodt has acted for a broad spectrum of local and international clients, including Barclays, Goldman Sachs, Supergas, Tahal, Unidress Group, Bank of America (Merrill Lynch), Deutsche Bank, Madanes Group, and many others. Before joining ERM, he worked as a technology consultant for several leading Israeli and international hi-tech companies, where he gained in-depth experience in complicated technological and commercial matters. Mr. Brodt holds a Bachelor's degree (LL.B.) in international business law (*cum laude*) and a bachelor's degree (B.A.) in business management, majoring in finance (*cum laude*), both from the Interdisciplinary Center-Herzliya (dean's list). During his academic studies, he was a member of the editorial board of the law review *Law and Business* and a counselor in the class action law clinic of IDC, providing pro bono legal representation in class action-related issues. He was also a member of the Nova Project, a country-wide organization that provides strategic business and management consulting to non-profit organizations. He completed a comprehensive training course in European business law at the Heinrich Heine University in Dusseldorf, Germany. He is a member of the Israeli bar and of the banking and hi-tech committees, as well as the young lawyers' forum, of the Israel Bar Association. He is fluent in Hebrew, English, and Russian.

**Alan Futerman**

*Argentina*



Alan Futerman is pursuing a B.A. in economics at the University of the Latin American Educational Center in Rosario, Argentina. He is an investigator at the Bases Foundation, focusing on economic theory from the perspective of the Austrian School of Economics, and editor of [www.catalactica.com.ar](http://www.catalactica.com.ar), a website on social sciences and economics. He is also member of the Hadar Foundation, which promotes education on the role of Judaism in shaping our world and the facts about the State of Israel. In the past he has worked as activities group coordinator and educational director of the Zionist Youth Movement Hechalutz Lamerchav and studied at the Institute for Youth Leaders from Abroad in Jerusalem as part of a year of studies in Israel. In the last years he has participated in programs and seminars sponsored by the Fund for American Studies, the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, the Tikvah Fund (the Jewish Thought and Enduring Human Questions program at Princeton University), and others. He has written essays and articles and lectured on economics and other subjects at seminars and congresses. He is currently co-founding a start-up related to social networks.



**THE TIKVAH FUND**

165 E. 56th Street  
New York, New York 10022

**Eyal Gabbai**

*Israel*



Eyal Gabbai currently acts as a trustee for the implementation of debt restructuring at IDB Holding, the largest holding company in Israel. He previously acted as the court-appointed economic expert in the debt's restructuring formation process. He is chairman of the Teachers Advanced Studies Fund, with \$4.25 billion dollars in assets under management, and served as director general of the Prime Minister's Office under Binyamin Netanyahu for two-and-a-half years. Mr. Gabbai headed the Israeli branch of the international investment firm Babcock & Brown, building the office and recruiting the local team. He initiated deals in the telecommunications, finance, infrastructure, energy, and media sector. From 2002 to 2007 Mr. Gabbai was director of the Government Companies Authority, which privatized El-Al; Zim, the Israeli shipping company; Bezeq, the Israeli telecommunications company; the Ashdod Oil Refinery; the Haifa Oil Refineries; and Loram Housing and sold 16.5 billion NIS in shares in capital markets around the world. Mr. Gabbai holds an M.B.A., *cum laude* (specialization: finance), from the Hebrew University; an LL.B., *cum laude*, from the Hebrew University; and a Bachelor's degree in economics, *magna cum laude*, from the Hebrew University.

**Alexandra Kaganov**

*Israel*

Alex Kaganov has worked the Israeli Ministry of Finance since 2011, handling government expenses related to human resources and pension issues. Before that, she completed a legal apprenticeship at the High Court of Justice Department of the Israeli Attorney General. She is a B.A graduate of the Hebrew University in economics and law and is now studying toward an M.B.A. in the same school. Ms. Kaganov is also a former senior counselor for Green Horizons (Hugei Sayarut), a youth leadership group that provides informal educational programming focused on hiking, history, and culture.



**THE TIKVAH FUND**

165 E. 56th Street  
New York, New York 10022

**Tomer Kremerman**

*Israel*



Tomer Kremerman is parliamentary assistant to Knesset member Shelly Yachimovich. As part of his work he coordinated the 2013 budget struggle in the Knesset's Finance Committee, and he takes part in forming the Ha'avoda party's legislative agenda. He previously worked for four years as an analyst and team leader at the Israeli Prime Minister's Office. In 2013 Mr. Kremerman published "Ruling Damages with No Damage in the New Amendment to the Israeli Defamation Law" in *Mishpatim Law Review*. He studied law and philosophy at the Hebrew University and worked there as a research and teaching assistant.

**Aharon Ariel Lavi, Tikvah Fellow**

*Israel*

Aharon Ariel Lavi is the founder and director of the Nettivot Mission-Driven Communities Network, involved in re-engaging *haredi ba'alei teshuva* (returnees) into Israeli society. He is also the founder of Garin Shuva, a Jewish eco-mission-driven-community in the northwestern Negev, and co-founder and steering committee member of the National Council of Mission-Driven Communities. In addition to his institutional leadership, Rabbi Lavi has edited and written works on Judaism, economics, social justice, and environmentalism. He is a Ph.D. student in science, technology, and society at Bar-Ilan University and holds a B.A. in economics and geography from the Hebrew University.



**THE TIKVAH FUND**

165 E. 56th Street  
New York, New York 10022

**Noa Litmanovitz**

*Israel*



Noa Litmanovitz works as a Milken Institute Fellow at the National Economic Council, where she specializes in the Israeli housing sector. Before joining the Council, she worked in the Bank of Israel's research department, focusing on the public sector and specifically on mandatory pensions and local authorities. For several years before entering the field of economic policy she was part of an activist educators' community working in the Israeli periphery to promote social change. Ms. Litmanovitz received a Bachelor's degree with honors in economics and participated in the Amirim program for outstanding students at the Hebrew University, where she is currently pursuing her Master's degree in financial economics. She lives in Tel Aviv with her partner, Shai, and enjoys reading, dancing, and playing with her niece, Nom Nom.

**Michael Makovi**

*United States*



Michael Makovi studied in the *dati lenmi* (Religious Zionist) Machon Meir yeshiva in Jerusalem and in the undergraduate political science program at the Hebrew University. He is now pursuing a B.A. in economics



**THE TIKVAH FUND**

165 E. 56th Street  
New York, New York 10022

at Loyola University in New Orleans, Louisiana, concentrating on the Austrian School of economics of Mises and Hayek. He plans to earn a graduate degree and return to Israel, where he hopes to promote market liberalization as the foundation of human freedom and prosperity.

**Odelia Minnes**

*Israel*



Odelia Minnes is a researcher in the fields of bankruptcy, corporate, and contract law. She holds a Ph.D. and has recently completed post-doctoral research at the Hebrew University Law Faculty. Dr. Minnes lived in the U.S. for four years, until 2012, during which time she was a visiting researcher at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. She has written several articles that were published in American and Israeli law reviews and was editor of the *Bar-Ilan Law Review*. She is currently a teaching assistant at several academic institutions in Israel and will be an adjunct lecturer on the Hebrew University Law Faculty starting in fall, 2014. She is married to Refael, who has Ph.D. in physics; they have six children.

**Netanel Oded**

*Israel*





**THE TIKVAH FUND**

165 E. 56th Street  
New York, New York 10022

Netanel Oded is a senior economist at the National Economic Council in the Office of the Prime Minister of Israel. He is in charge of designing policies in the fields of research and development and investment incentives for the business sector, as well as forms of renewable energy. Currently he is coordinating a joint government effort to increase economic relations between Israel and China. Mr. Oded holds a Master's degree in financial economics from the Hebrew University.

**Alisa Rubin Peled**

*Israel*



Dr. Alisa Rubin Peled is a senior lecturer in the Interdisciplinary Center-Herzliya's Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy, and Strategy, where she is also the founding academic director of the Shlomo Argov Fellows Program in Leadership and Diplomacy. At IDC, she also directs the Keren Hayesod Entrepreneurial Jewish Leadership Institute and previously served as the academic co-director of the Tikvah IDC Program in Political Leadership. Dr. Peled is also a non-resident senior fellow at the Saban Center for Middle East Policy at the Brookings Institution and an external faculty affiliate at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government Public Diplomacy Collaborative. She completed her Ph.D. in history and Middle Eastern studies at Harvard University and her M.A. in international economics and finance at Brandeis University. She specializes in international political economy with a focus on the Middle East, globalization, and business-government relations. Before her academic career she worked as an equity investment analyst in Boston, Massachusetts and Israel.



**THE TIKVAH FUND**

165 E. 56th Street  
New York, New York 10022

**Nachman Rosenberg**

*Israel*



Nachman Rosenberg has been the executive vice president of Tzohar since 2009. For the past decade he has taught a course on the writings of Rav Kook at a MASA (“Journey”) program in Beit Shemesh, as well as other classes for young students in the city. Nachman is a graduate of the Hesder Program in Ma’alach Adumim and still serves as active reservist in the Israel Defense Forces Paratroopers. Originally from New York, Nachman has lived in Israel since 1987. He currently lives in Beit Shemesh with his wife and their four children.

**Uri Sadot**

*Israel*



Uri Sadot is a research associate at the Council on Foreign Relations, where he supports the work of Elliott Abrams. He moved to Washington, D.C. last year after receiving a Master’s degree from Princeton University’s Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. His studies there concentrated on the Middle East, security studies, and international affairs. Mr. Sadot writes regularly for publications including *Foreign Policy*, *Commentary*, the *Weekly Standard*, *Ha’aretz*, and others. He earned his B.A. in economics



**THE TIKVAH FUND**

165 E. 56th Street  
New York, New York 10022

from the Hebrew University and worked for three years in the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He served in the Israeli infantry during his military service and is a lieutenant in reserves.

**Tal Sela**

*Israel*



Tal Sela is a lawyer and a recent graduate of Yale Law School's 2012-2013 LL.M. program. Before his studies at Yale, he clerked for the President of the Israeli Supreme Court, the Honorable Asher D. Grunis. Mr. Sela is also a graduate of Bar-Ilan University, where he earned his LL.B. degree, *summa cum laude*, in 2011. During his studies at BIU, Mr. Sela was the vice editor-in-chief of the *Bar-Ilan University Law Review* and worked as a teaching assistant in a wide variety of courses. He has authored and co-authored several legal articles on topics ranging from constitutional theory to contract procedure. Although his academic background is mostly legal, his main interest lies in public policy, to which he hopes to dedicate his career.

**Vance Serchuk**

*United States*



Vance Serchuk joined KKR & Co. L.P. in 2013 and is executive director of the KKR Global Institute. Before joining KKR, Mr. Serchuk served for six years as the senior national security advisor to Senator Joseph Lieberman (I-Connecticut). In this capacity, he worked on a broad range of international issues, including comprehensive sanctions legislation, the U.S. rebalance to the Asia-Pacific, and the U.S. response to the Arab



**THE TIKVAH FUND**

165 E. 56th Street  
New York, New York 10022

Spring, traveling to more than 60 countries in Asia, Latin America, Africa, and the Middle East. From January to July 2013, he was a Council on Foreign Relations-Hitachi International Affairs Fellow, based in Japan, and a regular columnist for the *Washington Post*. His writings have also appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and the *Los Angeles Times*. Mr. Serchuk is a *summa cum laude* graduate of Princeton University, holds a J.D. from Yale Law School, and was a Fulbright scholar in the Russian Federation.

**Ori Sobovitz**

*Israel*



Ori Sobovitz works as an economist and analyst at the Bank of Israel, where he writes the monthly survey analyzing the dynamics of the global economy and markets and their potential influence on the Israeli economy and presents it to the Governor and Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of Israel at the monthly meeting prior to their decision on the interest rate. He is a member of the Wide Forum providing the Governor and the MPC with monthly recommendations on the Bank of Israel interest rate and consulting with the Accountant General unit at the Ministry of Finance regarding the manner of the monthly issuance of Israel Government Bonds. Mr. Sobovitz is a lecturer in economics at Ariel University and the Jerusalem College of Technology (JCT) and leads workshops dealing with the Jewish view of personal character and values. Last year he participated in the Maoz-Seal leadership program, and he is now working towards his doctoral studies in Jewish philosophy. He lives in Jerusalem with his wife Oria and their three children.



**THE TIKVAH FUND**

165 E. 56th Street  
New York, New York 10022

**Philippe Suchet**

*France*



Philippe Suchet is a serial entrepreneur and an investor in the internet and real estate industries. He was recently the chief strategy officer of Shopzilla, which acquired his latest start-up, Zappli. Before that, he was CEO and co-founder of Zappli, one of the first players in the mobile shopping and payment market. He is also a board member and co-founder of Apsalar, a leading provider of mobile analytics and data-powered targeting solutions. Mr. Suchet was previously the CEO and co-founder of Kefta, a leader of dynamic/behavioral marketing solutions, which was acquired by Acxiom Corp (ACXM). He has also worked for the Boston Consulting Group, Goldman Sachs, and Abuzz (acquired by the *New York Times*) and has had the chance to live and work in Africa, Asia, Europe, and the United States. He is a graduate of the Harvard Business School, the HEC School of Management in Paris, and the ENSAE graduate school of economics, statistics and finance in Paris (statistics).

**Eyal Tsur**

*Israel*



Eyal Tsur is a research fellow at Kohélet Policy Forum and a research student in the department of political science at the Hebrew University. He holds a Bachelor's degree in political science and in Islamic and Middle Eastern studies, *magna cum laude*, and a Master's degree in political science, *magna cum laude*, from Hebrew



**THE TIKVAH FUND**

165 E. 56th Street  
New York, New York 10022

University. Before his work at Kohelet Mr. Tsur took part in the work of the Maggidor Committee, which examined the governmental system of Israel. In addition, he was a teaching assistant at Hebrew University and the Interdisciplinary Center-Herzliya and worked as a research assistant at Hebrew University, the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies, and the Israel Democracy Institute. His research interests include Israeli politics, French politics, world Jewry and its relations with Israel, national security and democracy, and Israeli media. He co-authored, with Professor Gabriel Sheffer, *For the Sake of Zion I Shall Not Stand Still*, as well as two articles with Professor Oren Barak on Israel's military elite and an article based on his Master's thesis. He has written several op-eds for the Israeli daily newspaper *Makor Rishon*.

**Avraham Weber**

*Israel*



Avraham Weber is a lawyer at Weber & Co., specializing in German and European law. Since 2008 he has been a consultant to the Ministry for Senior Citizens, chartered by the Israeli government for the purpose of negotiating with foreign governments for the restitution of property and Jewish rights. Because of his academic studies in Germany, followed by work experience at the German Bundestag, Mr. Weber has good contacts in, and knowledge of, both Israeli and German political, academic, and economic circles. Since 2005 he has been a board member of the Israeli-German Chamber of Commerce (IHK) and since 2010 has been a founding member of the Czech-Israeli Chamber of Commerce. In 2012 he was appointed by the Tel Aviv Bar Association to chair the Czech-Tel Aviv Lawyers Friendship Association.



**THE TIKVAH FUND**

165 E. 56th Street  
New York, New York 10022

**Jason Weiss**

*Israel*



Jason Weiss is a principal and dealflow manager at Axis Innovation. He is part of the founding team and is responsible for managing events in Israel and abroad, dealflow between investors and startup companies; and strategic initiatives. Most recently he helped lead the Axis Tel Aviv 2014 event that brought 24 Israeli start-ups together with investors from over 15 countries. He is also program director and co-founder of Bizrael, a non-profit organization bringing students and young professionals on business-focused trips to Israel since 2012. Bizrael has run six trips with over 150 participants from around the world. Previously, Mr. Weiss was lead associate at Bootcamp Ventures, helping launch global start-up events in four countries and coaching over 100 start-ups from Israel, Turkey, France, and Korea. He also worked at the Israeli Ministry of Economics and the Jerusalem City Council and was selected as an Israel Government Fellow 2009-2010. He received his B.A. with honors in business economics and international relations from the University of California Santa Barbara in 2009. He made *aliyah* in 2012 and lives with his wife and daughter in Jerusalem.

**Dov Zigler**

*Canada*



Dov Zigler is a financial markets economist in Scotiabank's Global Fixed Income group in Toronto. Before joining Scotiabank, Mr. Zigler was an associate covering global macro and special situations investing at a



**THE TIKVAH FUND**

165 E. 56th Street  
New York, New York 10022

Canadian fund management company and held a teaching fellowship at McGill University in the department of North American studies. He has also held a research fellowship at the Shalem Center and worked as an analyst at the Canadian Department of National Defence. He holds an M.A. from The Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, a B.A. (Hons.) from McGill University, and a B.E.I. certificate from Sciences-Po in Paris and has been an Asper Fellow at the Hebrew University. He is vice chairman of the Montreal Bach Festival.