

# SHAPIRO FAMILY FELLOWSHIP CLASS NINE FELLOWS



**GREG BOROFSKY** grew up in Roslyn Harbor, New York, and graduated from Emory University with a B.B.A. in finance and real estate. Greg is an acquisitions associate at Rockwood Capital, a real estate private equity firm, where he focuses on East Coast gateway markets. Prior to Rockwood

Capital, Greg was an investment banking analyst at Eastdil Secured | Wells Fargo Securities, where he worked on M&A and capital markets transactions, covering the real estate sector.

Greg is currently involved on the alumni selection committee for Emory's Campus Life Student Leadership Scholarship and is an active member of the New York Jewish community through various organizations. As a Shapiro Fellow, he hopes to explore the challenges facing the Israel-diaspora relationship with regard to defining and shaping Jewish identity.



**ELEANOR CARMELI** was born and raised in New York City, and, following high school, she traveled upstate to Ithaca, New York, where she completed her bachelor's degree in industrial and labor relations at Cornell University. Upon graduating university, Eleanor ventured out west to

begin her career at Google in Silicon Valley.

She recently moved back to New York, where she continues her work at Google as a diversity markets program manager. In her spare time, Eleanor leads activities for the "Jewglers" group at work, tutors middle school students in creative writing, and serves as the liaison to the Jewish community in Ghana through Kulanu, an organization that supports Jewish communities around the world. Eleanor is thrilled to participate in the UJA Shapiro Family Fellowship and is looking forward to embarking on an in-depth study of the State of Israel along with bright and diverse-minded individuals.



**SHARONA KAHN** is originally from Miami, Florida. She graduated from Barnard College with a B.A. in dance and mathematics and holds an M.A. in teaching. Since 2011, Sharona has been a middle school math teacher at Kinneret Day School in Riverdale. She actively volunteers as a Barnard

alumni admissions representative and has served as an administrator of 92nd Street Y Camps.

Through her experiences as a Shapiro Family Fellow, Sharona hopes to deepen her understanding of the political, social, and economic issues Israel faces today so that she can lead meaningful Zionist youth programming.



**ADRIANA KASSEL** grew up in Mexico City and has spent time living in Switzerland, Israel, and now in the United States for seven years. Adriana received a B.B.A. with a focus on finance at Goizueta Business School of Emory University.

She currently works at J.P. Morgan Private Bank as a business management analyst for the Fixed Income, Currencies, and Commodities Team. Adriana takes a strong role in learning and development with official and unofficial mentorship programs focusing on underrepresented minorities and women navigating the finance industry. As a Shapiro Fellow, Adriana is hoping to learn how to tie the values of Zionism, Jewish identity, and economic development together.



**SEFFI KOGEN** is the senior associate in AJC's Marketing and Strategic Communications Department. He manages all of the agency's social media efforts; coordinates briefings with top diplomats, journalists, and government officials; and contributes heavily to AJC's

written content. He graduated in May 2014 from

# SHAPIRO FAMILY FELLOWSHIP CLASS NINE FELLOWS

Columbia University with a B.A. in history, and from the Jewish Theological Seminary with a B.A. in Talmud and rabbinics.

Seffi grew up in Fair Lawn, New Jersey, and now resides on the Upper West Side. Before beginning at Columbia, Seffi lived in Israel for a year, first spending a semester studying at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and then living in Yerucham, a development town in the south of Israel, where he volunteered in a kindergarten class and on an ambulance. While at school, he served as president of Columbia/Barnard Hillel, worked as a resident advisor, and interned for then-Mayor Cory Booker in Newark, New Jersey. He remains involved in Columbia/Barnard Hillel as an alum, and recently founded a giving circle with a group of his friends.

Seffi looks forward to the Shapiro Fellowship as an opportunity to learn more about UJA-Federation of New York and engage with his peers on issues of great importance to him: Israel and Jewish identity.



**SAM KRAMER** grew up in Westfield, New Jersey. He received a B.S. from Fairleigh Dickinson University with concentrations in finance & economics, and is earning an M.S. in business intelligence & analytics from Stevens Institute of Technology. Sam is currently an associate at Goldman Sachs

in New York City, where he works on a data analytics team within the internal audit division.

As part of the Shapiro Family Fellowship, he is interested in gaining a deeper understanding of the social and economic challenges facing Israel, as well as its role as a leader in various applied sciences and high-technology sectors.



**ALLIE LIPNER** grew up in Verona, New Jersey. She graduated from the University of Maryland at College Park, where she was enrolled in the University Honors College, with a B.A. in history. She completed her master's in public administration from Baruch College - CUNY. Allie currently

works at AJC in the national development office. In her spare time, Allie volunteers with her synagogue. As a Shapiro Fellow, she hopes to delve deeper into the intersection of religion and politics in Israel.



**LAUREN NEWCORN** grew up in Scarsdale, New York. She received a B.S.W. in social work from New York University, where she served as co-chair and founder of the Bronfman Philanthropy Fellowship and is currently finishing up her M.S.W. Outside

of her studies, Lauren is a member of AIPAC's Young Leadership Division.

As a Shapiro Fellow, Lauren hopes to gain a comprehensive understanding of the social, economic, and political issues from an Israeli perspective and learn how to make an impact from 6,500 miles away.



**ORA NIKNAMFARD** grew up in Great Neck, New York, and received a B.A. in politics from New York University. She is currently a marketing analyst at CA Technologies, an enterprise software provider. Ora is a mentor for Young Women Tech Leaders, a

Girls Who Code program.

As part of the fellowship, Ora is looking forward to learning more about the domestic and international political issues Israel faces.



**MAX SCHOENFELD** grew up in Evanston, Illinois, on Chicago's North Shore, and earned a B.A. in international studies from Washington University in St. Louis before moving to New York. He is the co-founder & CEO of College Truckers, a white-glove

storage and shipping start-up with a model aimed at advancing student entrepreneurship on college campuses nationwide.

As a Shapiro Fellow, Max hopes to better understand the complex internal and external challenges facing

# SHAPIRO FAMILY FELLOWSHIP CLASS NINE FELLOWS

Israel today in hopes of more effectively helping to bridge the widening gap between American youth and the Zionist cause.



**EZRA STEINBERG** grew up in Huntington, New York, and earned his B.S. in business administration at the University of Maryland Smith School of Business. He is currently working toward his M.B.A. at the NYU Stern School of Business, specializing in marketing and entrepreneurship/innovation.

Ezra works in the tech space as an account executive at Grovo Learning, an online learning software company that helps companies and organizations better train, develop, and inspire their employees to do their best work.

In his free time, Ezra and his brother run the New York Knowledge Society, a social and political debate club for young working professionals.

As part of the fellowship, Ezra hopes to network within the Israeli business/tech community and promote the importance of career growth and skills development as a means for making Israeli businesses more productive and successful.



**DANIEL TAVAKOLI** grew up in Great Neck, New York. He received his B.B.A. in corporate finance from Queens College, his M.B.A. from the University of Rochester, and his J.D. from Georgetown.

He is currently a corporate associate at Kirkland & Ellis LLP, where he works on public and private mergers and acquisitions. Daniel is on the Young Leadership Council for AIPAC, serves on the Board of Directors of the Queens College Hillel as a UJA Observership Fellow, and is heavily involved in the Chabad Young Professionals of the Upper East Side community.

As a Shapiro Fellow, Daniel hopes to explore Israel's multifaceted society and unspoken challenges in order to become a better advocate.



**JONO WAGMEISTER** grew up in Santa Monica, California, and attended Harvard-Westlake School. He then received a B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania, where he studied communication and consumer psychology. Jono is currently a manager in the U.S. consumer

group at American Express, focusing on strategy and planning for the company's card products business. He also serves on the board of Amex's BAFA Employee Network.

In his free time, Jono volunteers as a Big Brothers Big Sisters mentor and is currently serving as a vice chair for UJA-Federation of New York's Global Leadership Society.

As a Shapiro Fellow, Jono seeks exposure to varying perspectives of leaders and peers, with hopes of deepening his knowledge and understanding of the complex global, political, and societal issues that face Israel and Jews all over the world.



**ANDY WEISS** was raised in Irvington, New York, and received a B.S. in business administration and a master's in accounting from Northeastern University. Andy is a licensed CPA in New York and is a CFA® Charterholder. Currently, he's a senior associate in PwC's Financial Markets group, focusing

on fixed-income capital markets.

In addition to work, Andy is very active in various New York- and Boston-based Jewish organizations, serving as a co-chair for a pro-Israel political giving group, serving on AIPAC's Young Leadership Council, and serving as vice president for Northeastern University Hillel's Advisory Board, among other leadership roles.

He's very excited for this incredible opportunity to explore the issues the Jewish community faces and hopes to continue to develop as a leader by learning to ask deeper questions.