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This is us. We are leaders, inspired by the beauty and accomplishments of Israel, ingrained in our community, excited for the future of the Jewish movement, and passionate for the protection of our beliefs. We took the step into Israel over the summer of 2016 and experienced its true power. We learned more about each other and about ourselves, we learned about our Israeli friends in Beit Shean and Emek HaMa-

You are in for a treat!

With the help of our partners at the CJN, once a month you will experience two pages of news for and about our Cleveland Jewish teens. In the section titled "ic.news" israel.cleveland.next (icnext) participants will entertain and engage you with reflections on their Israel experiences and current events. Once a month, they will speak about their 10-day Mission to Israel in June, 2016, and comment on issues of interest to Cleveland's teens. icnext — is a two-year program that educates

yanot, we learned about the different perspectives in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

But that wasn't enough.

We can't just absorb all of this amazing knowledge and keep it to ourselves. We must share it with the community. That's why, for the first time, icnext presents Israel Cleveland News — ic.news.

In previous years, members of icnext have created a magazine supplement to the CJN, but this year we're taking it to the next step. We are creating an ongoing source of news about the

Cleveland Jewish high school students from all denominations in the core issues of Israeli society and the geopolitical situation in Israel today - a project of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland, administered through @akiva.

In "more.teen.news" you will hear about different programs in the community. From preparing students for the challenges that will face them on their future college campus, to learning Hebrew and how to advocate for Israel; from theater (testimony.theater.cleveland) to music (HaZamir Cleveland), there are so many opportunities for

our teens to form a special strong community - interacting with a whole new crowd of Cleveland as well as Israeli teens (our awesome shin.shinim). Most importantly, this programming fosters an incredibly strong connection to Israel, and trains teens to be Jewish leaders.

I love the constant innovation and energy that drives this organization. I'm so happy to introduce @akiva to you in this new forum.

Sharon Rosenbaum
Chair, @akiva Advisory Board

community, Jewish teens and Israel. We are forging a voice for the Jewish youth of Cleveland. We are expressing the values we've learned through our journey in the holy land. We are teaching the Cleveland Jewish world what it's like to be a young Jew, educated through our amazing opportunities, and ready to learn even more.

We will talk about Jewish identity, changing political, social, and cultural perspectives of Jews and Israelis, the realities of the Israeli conflict, and more. There will be photos that document our 10-day Mission during the summer of 2016,

and those that document current events, whether in Jewish Cleveland or Israel. We are prepared to communicate the values, teachings, thoughts, events, perspectives, ideas, opinions, programs, and truths of our Cohort — icnext Cohort 4 - and those to come.

That is us.
We are ic.news.

Zachary Nosanchuk
Editor in Chief

israel.cleveland.next is a project of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland, administered through @akiva



Dear Readers,
Wow. What a long day(s). From Sunday in Cleveland to Monday night in Israel seems like one long travel day. We begin our Israel Mission on an unfamiliar kibbutz, with many chairs forming a circle in the front yard. We sit, but before our speaker, Dr. Guy Ben-Porat, starts talking to us we hear a loud noise. It's wild peacocks. With screaming peacocks in the background, Dr. Ben-Porat, (scholar, and author) introduced the topic of Israeli identity. — Arielle Sternberg, Israel 2016

It is difficult to break down misconceptions and predetermined ideas about Israel. While my peers and I in icnext worked tirelessly to do that all throughout the year of study here in Cleveland, it was not easy. We have learned collectively as a group though, that to truly understand Israel, you must have a solid understanding of Israeli identity through the lens of diversity. In Israel we met with Dr. Guy Ben-Porat and learned a new way to truly look at Israelis. There are so many different types of identities in Israel and most all of them contradict each other.

Identity is huge in Israel. The Israeli government needs to take identity into account in-

everything it does because of the internal tensions. Everyone seems to have something different that defines them. Dr. Ben-Porat suggested these 5 main categories of identity in Israel as a way of understanding Israelis (although quickly we learned that there are thousands of ways Israelis ultimately identify).

Orthodox vs. secular - there are many contradictions because of the many types of religion. Even Israelis who are Jewish Israelis define themselves by how they believe or observe.

There is ethnicity — the divide between Sephardic and Ashkenazi Jews. These two different groups may hold the same Jewish values but often can hold very different lifestyles. There is a track record of tension between these two groups of Jews.

Economic class is another category. As time is moving on a class gap is growing, creating internal tension.

Next, is foreign policy - a tense division between the more leftist labor party pushing to create a policy with Palestine and often willing to give up land, and the right where there are not many who are willing to make compromises



- believing that this is a promised land that the Jews cannot give up.

Fifth is the separation between citizens who are Jewish and those who are not. While Israel was born to be "the Jewish state" its laws, policies, and more are complicated by the many different religions in present-day Israel including Islam. About 20% of Israel is non Jewish. How does Israel remain the Jewish state without discriminating against other religions?

There are so many reasons for separations between Israelis that it is not always easy to see how the country unifies as a people. Despite all of the differences each person - no matter what political party, race, ethnicity or religion - calls Israel their home.

- Lilly Rothschild, Cleveland 2016

Zeev Ben-Shachar is Jerusalem U's Director of Israel Education. He is Senior Educator for the JU Israel Gap Year Program, a leadership development program for post-high school students studying in Israel. icnext participants study with Zeev both in Cleveland during first year seminars and in Israel during the Israel Mission.

A year since the start of our journey through Israel advocacy, and I found myself yet again sitting in a slightly crowded, considerably silent room, surrounded by a new set of unfamiliar faces. As much as I wish I could join this new instalment of Cleveland teens in icnext's Cohort 5, I was only visiting for the day to see Ze'ev Ben-Shachar in action yet again, and to get to know the new set of future activists.

Even though I'd previously heard Ze'ev, both in Cleveland and in Israel, his stories still resonated as if they were being told for the first time, and the jokes still had the same freshness as before. His talk was about leadership, particularly in Israel advocacy. He emphasized again and again that any one of them could learn to lead, and looking at my group from Cohort 4, I see how that message has come true. Leadership, he argues, is simply crafting a solution to a problem, setting out to attain it, and encouraging others to do the same. If one is able to do all that (no easy feat, but still worthwhile), they possess the qualities of a leader. He gave contemporary examples of leaders and their goals, from Roger Bannister to John F. Kennedy to Theodor Herzl. His series



more.teen.news

cleveland.shin.shinim 2016-2017

The cleveland.shin.shinim are four teen emissaries from Israel who work for a year in our Cleveland Jewish community. They provide Israel education enrichment programs, and serve as Israeli representatives to our youth across settings and ages. @akiva administers and coordinates this program. The shinshinim are hosted by families in the community.

of talks to us as a group of leaders has shaped our goals and methods, which will hopefully become clear in the months to come.

- David Gold, Cleveland 2016

Did you know that the average Israeli eats about 10 liters of ice cream per year? Of course there's vanilla, chocolate and strawberry, or even Prime Minister Bibi Netanyahu's favorite flavor-pistachio. But Israelis like to experiment with unique Middle East flavors like hummus ice cream, made with chick peas and topped with olive oil and pine nuts. As Cohort 4 member Samantha Rose said, "This ice cream is as cold and good as Cleveland in the winter time." She was eating the Vaniglia best seller, vanilla. - icnext Sourcebook 2016

"You only live once, so eat all the ice cream you can."

This is a statement that I, and many of my fellow Cohort members, live by. After a long day in Jerusalem, we arrived at a boardwalk marketplace not far from where we had spent the rest of the day. We split off into groups and began interviewing Israelis about the different ice cream shops at the market.

At first, I was nervous to approach people. I was worried that I would appear like a typical American tourist or just a student who doesn't speak Hebrew, but with the help of my friends and Michal, one of our new shinshinim, it really wasn't so bad after all.



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Interview with the cleveland.shin.shinim

Question: What is the role of the Shin Shinim in Cleveland?

Our role is to simply reach out to teens, congregations, schools - wherever there are youth that we can engage in Hebrew, and Israel. We want to bring teens to be more involved and to learn more. We share our own Israel in every area - our close environment at home, our youth movements, hobbies, music and even family stories - with the people our age. It's so fun! We've become connected, the teens have become our friends, and then they really know an Israeli.

Q: What's a 'typical' day for you at the office?

In our typical day we work from 7am to 11pm. This involves teaching in schools - Hebrew and about Israel - spending time in youth programs at schools, congregations and youth groups. We all work with @akiva programs and do Hebrew tutoring. We spend a lot of time together planning activities and sometimes we just relax together over a Starbucks, and, well, work at the same time. A typical day means we are always working, but there's nothing more satisfying than that :)

Q: How did you decide you wanted to become a Shin Shin?

We've always liked volunteering, and so, we always knew we wanted to do a gap year, and to serve Israel - our country that we love so much - for one more year besides our service in the army. We learned

about this program of The Jewish Agency For Israel from our friends who have done this before. It seemed fascinating, and we all thought it would be an opportunity to become more involved in Jewish life outside of Israel. Being a Shinshin is a more global involvement, and a great way of making a contribution to Israel. By sharing our personal Israel experience and strengthening the relationship between Israel and Cleveland, we are helping Israel, and developing connections that are meaningful for both sides.

Q: So far, how has it been?

It's been amazing! Every day is a new adventure that leads each of us to new insights about Israel, Judaism, the outstanding Jewish community of Cleveland and ourselves. Yes, we are far from home, but our host families and the people that surround us make it feel almost like we have been here forever; and though by now we have already settled into a routine and it is not that exciting to see squirrels anymore, we still wake up smiling every morning, preparing ourselves for another meaningful experience. We have also been able to get to know Cleveland - your sports, your road construction - all the things that are obvious to Americans and seem odd to us. In fact, we made our first video with a basketball theme - we are trying to be real Clevelanders! We're really happy doing all the things we do. We see how the community loves us and supports Israel, and wants to hear what we have to say.

Honestly, the 'scoopers' at Vaniglia (the ice cream store) were not particularly friendly, but I did learn that the most popular flavor was... drum roll please..... vanilla! With so many unique flavors to choose from, this surprised me. I was expecting something more exciting, for example their white chocolate gianduja (which was delicious!) or the Sicilian pistachio which I would definitely taste if I ever return.

After enjoying our extremely refreshing and great tasting ice cream that Leah Marek exclaimed "makes me so happy", we decided to ask some other customers about their opinions. Israelis are generally super friendly or at least polite towards strangers, and let's be real, who doesn't like talking about ice cream? We found a family with three young kids and talked to them in both Hebrew and English about why they came to Vaniglia and compared all of our favorite flavors. One of the kids actually did say vanilla. I guess it must be a good flavor after all! This turned out to be a fun and light conversation to break the barrier between American tourists and Israeli locals, and we got to enjoy great ice cream in the process! I hope that there will be much more ice cream tasting in the future, and maybe next time I'll have to try the vanilla.

- Allison Cohen, Israel 2016

From Israel advocacy, leadership training and college prep for Jewish students to HaZamir Cleveland Choir and original Jewish theatre, @akiva offers Hebrew and so much more!

@akiva is a beneficiary agency of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland and a partner agency of the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland. For more info visit www.akivacleveland.org.



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JOIN US FOR A DAY EXPLORING JEWISH LIFE ON A COLLEGE CAMPUS!

On Sunday, November 20th, @akiva will lead a **free** communal day trip for juniors and seniors to the **University of Michigan**. Learn about Jewish life on campuses in the Midwest. We will leave Cleveland at 7am and will return at 7pm on the same day.

Kosher food will be provided. To Register, please send an email to Tina Keller: tkeller@akivacleveland.org