



## **Message from the Director**

WITH THE 2011/12 FELLOWSHIP year coming to a close, this is a great time for reflection.

From six fellows in 2010/11, to ten fellows in 2011/12 to (hopefully) 12 fellows next year, the Fellowship is expanding and developing. The amount of organizations enquiring about hosting fellows is also increasing. Indeed the IRF is a unique program in Israel and, with no shortage of talented fellowship candidates out there, and no respite in the world of advocacy, we are confident that the IRF will continue to grow.



At the IRF, we also have some exciting projects lined up for the alumni in the next few months, so watch this space!



AS A RABID SPORTS FAN, for four years I await the Olympics with great anticipation. With this year's games being held in an Israel-friendly time zone, it has been a pleasure being an arm-chair fan. I especially love those more obscure sports, like synchronized swimming and equestrian. It's the only time I watch something I know absolutely nothing about and have even less interest. Yet I nevertheless find myself glued to the TV and rooting for people I have never heard of. For two odd weeks, 24-hour news channels take a back seat in my life. The Olympics is, truly, a welcome distraction of Olympic proportions (sorry, I couldn't resist).

Here's hoping Israel wins a medal!

Wishing you all the best ... *from (the apparently stateless city of) Jerusalem.*

**Ari Rudolph**  
**Director**

## ***IRF Newsletter*** ***Issue 5, Aug 2012***

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## **The Fellowship in Action**

*With the 2011/12 Fellowship year coming to an end, we thought it would be a good opportunity to show you what seminars and workshops we provided for the fellows.*

As you know, the seminar series forms an integral and crucial part of the IRF program. Throughout the year the fellows are engaged in educational programs that will allow them to hone their skills and develop expertise in their fields. The new skills and knowledge they acquire will enhance their effectiveness as advocates.

The educational component of the fellowship is managed under the auspices of Prof. Gerald Steinberg, Chair of the IRF Academic Advisory Board. Each seminar is tailor made to suit the needs of the Fellowship and devoted to the following key areas of expertise:

- Writing
- Public Speaking
- Online Media and Social Networking Skills Workshop
- TV Interview Workshop
- Updates and Expert Briefings
  - International conferences
  - Briefings with Media, NGOs, and experts that are working in the field

Here is a synopsis of the IRF workshops we held this year:

<b>Seminar/Conference</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>Speaker(s) and Information</b>
First International Regional Conference for Economic Regional Cooperation	Sep 2011	See <a href="https://events.d-u.co.il/du/RegionalCoop/">https://events.d-u.co.il/du/RegionalCoop/</a>
Writing Seminar	Oct 2011	Judy Balint, Benjamin Balint
Public Speaking Seminar	Jan 2012	Lilyan Wilder Center for Communication (Eva Rosenstein, Rena Lazarus)
Herzliya Conference	Feb 2012	See <a href="http://www.herzliyaconference.org/eng/?CategoryID=465&amp;ArticleID=2254">http://www.herzliyaconference.org/eng/?CategoryID=465&amp;ArticleID=2254</a>
Social Media Seminar	Feb 2012	Arnie Draiman; Niv Calderon
Briefing: NGO Monitor & World Jewish Diplomatic Corps	April 2012	Prof. Gerald Steinberg, NGO Monitor; Peleg Reshef, World Jewish Diplomatic Corps
President's Conference	June 2012	See <a href="http://www.presidentconf.org.il/2012/en/about.asp">http://www.presidentconf.org.il/2012/en/about.asp</a>
NGO Monitor/IRF lunch	July 2012	Prof. Francoise Hampson
TV Interview workshop: Headline Media	July 2012	Daphne Algom, Headline Media
IRF Farewell Luncheon	Aug 2012	N/A

## **Mazaltov!**

The IRF would like wish mazaltov to:

- 2008/9 fellow, **Monica Kugelmass** and **Oren Cainer** on their recent engagement
- 2006/7 fellow, **Elie Isaacson** and **Moran Maimon**, on their recent engagement
- 2005/6 fellow, **Jonathan Adiri**, on the birth of his daughter, **Carmel**

*If you have any personal news that you would like to share, please let us know*

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## **Fellows 2011/12**

<i>Fellow</i>	<i>Country of Origin</i>	<i>Placement</i>
<b>Duda, Patrizia</b>	Germany	The Institute for National Security Studies
<b>Greenberg, Alex</b>	UK	Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs
<b>Looks, Elka</b>	USA	Headline Media
<b>Persiko, Yinnon</b>	Israel	World Union of Jewish Students
<b>Phillips, Yael</b>	UK	Reut Institute
<b>Shampanier, Shir</b>	Israel	Institute for Policy and Strategy
<b>Shaviv, Gidon</b>	UK	NGO Monitor
<b>Stern, Margot</b>	USA	World Jewish Diplomatic Corps
<b>Valk, Jonathan</b>	Netherlands	UN Watch

*In each monthly newsletter we profile one or two fellows; this month, Jonathan.*



### **Jonathan Valk**

Dutch-born and raised in a range of different countries, Jonathan Valk is a rootless cosmopolitan adept at making sense of the world around him. He holds a First Class BA from the University of Oxford in Oriental Studies and an MA from the University of Chicago in Middle Eastern Studies, where he wrote his thesis on the British suppression of the Arab Rebellion in Palestine between 1936-39. Jonathan has served in the IDF as a researcher and translator with the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories and studies Assyriology in his free time.

For his fellowship, Jonathan is working with UN Watch; after the fellowship year, he will pursue his PhD at NYU. Jonathan is also the gushing father of 10 month old Aya.

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## **Alumni in Profile**

*An exciting new feature of the newsletter is our 'Alumni in Profile' section where we profile two ex-fellows and see what they are up to.*



### **Elie Isaacson, 2006/7**

After completing his Fellowship at the Knesset, Elie founded a start-up company [Agilite](#), before re-joining the IDF as Head of the North American Desk at the IDF Spokesperson's Office. He appeared as the English language TV Spokesperson for the IDF throughout Operation Cast Lead in 2008 during which he and his team also created the IDF's Youtube channel.

Elie later served as Foreign Affairs Advisor to Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat and left to join Agilite on a full time basis in 2011. The company, which designs and manufactures military and rescue equipment, has grown incredibly and now supplies its products to elite military and law enforcement units worldwide, including, most recently, the US Marine Corps, The Australian Army and the US Dept. of Homeland Security. Among other products, Agilite created the Injured Personnel Carrier (IPC) that allows for an injured person to be carried like a backpack.

Elie recently joined Prof. Gerald Steinberg (Chair of the Academic Advisory Board of the IRF) on an AIS Panel on Cognitive Warfare in Asymmetric conflicts at Haifa University. On a personal level, Elie recently got engaged to Captain Moran Maimon who is Head of the IAF's International Affairs Dept.



### **Ophelie Namiech, 2007/8**

Born and raised in Paris, Ophelie obtained her BA at "Science Po" in France and an LLM in International Public Law at the Amsterdam Law School, where she specialized in International Humanitarian Law. As a student, she interned at the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of Doctors Without Borders in Amsterdam as well as at the ICJ (International Court of Justice).

Ophelie then worked (as a Legacy Heritage Fellow) for UN Watch – a human rights NGO based in Geneva and affiliated with the American Jewish Committee – where she monitored human rights violations in Africa and the Middle East, and reported to the UN Human Rights Council. After her fellowship, she became a political advisor to the Delegation of the European Commission at the United Nations in New York, where she followed the work of the Security Council on peace-building and peacekeeping issues in Africa and the Middle East.

Eager to enhance her specialization in the field of peace-building and development, Ophelie then completed a Masters of International Affairs at the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University. While at the University, she continued working

at the UN on several peace-building/peacekeeping-related projects, especially at the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

Fulfilling her life-long dream, Ophelie made Aliyah in February 2011.

Ophelie is now the [South Sudan Country Director at IsraAID](#), the “The Israel Forum for International Humanitarian Aid,” where she is in charge of designing and implementing sustainable development programs in the world’s newest country in close cooperation with local partners on the ground.