

## Message from the Director

Welcome Fellowship Class of 2012/13!!

SEPTEMBER IS ALWAYS an exciting month at the IRF – it marks the beginning of the Fellowship year. This year we have 10 fellows hailing from afar afield as Australia and Belarus. We also have some great new placements. The year promises to be an exciting one, with new programming and seminars for the group.

Each of the new fellows is profiled on our website, [www.israelresearchfellowship.org](http://www.israelresearchfellowship.org). We invite you to take a look. Each month, as has been our tradition, we profile one fellow here on the IRF Newsletter.

Good luck to them all!

WE ARE ALSO launching a new alumni network in the next few days, which should revolutionize our alumni community; from now on interaction should be dynamic, and those looking for employment, networking or contacts, will really benefit from the new platform. (See below for details).

WITH ROSH HASHANA, the Jewish New Year, almost upon us, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a happy, healthy and successful new year. All the best ... *from Jerusalem*.

**Ari Rudolph**  
**Director**

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Alumni and professional networks are powerful communities of trust and can provide valuable connections. Their websites, however, fail to fully facilitate this: they are outdated, boring and not frequented. Universities and professional networks are investing significant resources in alumni relations, but are not reaching their online potential. To coincide with the new fellowship year, the IRF has launched a new alumni network. To run this project we have teamed up with the exciting new start-up, *Alum.ni* (co-founded by our very own Edoe Cohen, Class of 2007/8).

[Alum.ni](http://Alum.ni) is an online platform for alumni that helps universities and professional networks increase engagement and empower their communities. *Alum.ni* offers a SaaS solution with a smart matching engine enabling alumni and administration to automatically send their request to the most relevant members in their community increasing their chances of receiving meaningful and useful answers, while mitigating spam and noise. The beauty of the platform is that it is linked to LinkedIn, which means that all your LinkedIn information is automatically uploaded to the platform, so that there is no need to put all of your

details in yet another website – its already there.

All IRF and Legacy Heritage alumni have been uploaded. Each alumnus will receive an email in the next few days, asking them to register. Once registered (through LinkedIn or email), the alumni are immediately able to become active members of the community. The IRF team is very excited by this new project, and we are sure it will make our community that much more engaging and helpful!

## **Board Members**

*In each monthly newsletter we profile a member of the Academic Advisory Board (AAB) of the IRF; this month, Prof. Steinberg, Chair of the AAB.*

### **Prof. Gerald Steinberg**

Gerald Steinberg is President of NGO Monitor and Professor of Political Science and the Program on Conflict Management at Bar Ilan University. A renowned scholar and public speaker, Steinberg's op-eds have been published in the Wall St. Journal (Europe), Financial Times, Ha'aretz, International Herald Tribune, Ottawa Citizen, and other publications. He has appeared as a commentator on the BBC, CBC,

CNN, and NPR, and has addressed the Israeli Knesset and European Parliament. He has written numerous academic publications, co-edited the The Goldstone Report "Reconsidered": A Critical Analysis (2011); and is co-author of Best Practices for Human Rights and Humanitarian NGO Fact-Finding (Martinus Nijhoff, 2012). In 2003, Prof. Steinberg founded NGO Monitor, an independent, Jerusalem-based research institution that provides information and analysis, promotes accountability, and supports discussion on the reports and activities of political advocacy NGOs claiming to advance human rights and humanitarian agendas.

### **Mazaltov!**

The IRF would like wish mazaltov to:

- 2011/12 fellow, **Gidon Shaviv**, on the birth of his son, **Shimon Yehonatan**
- 2005/6 fellow, **Zev Nagel**, on the birth of his son, **Da'el**

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

### **Fellows 2012/13**

*In each monthly newsletter we profile a fellow; this month, Dana.*

#### **Dana Ben Chail**

Born and raised in Israel, Dana currently lives in Tel Aviv. Following her army service in the Israeli Air Force, Dana graduated Summa Cum Laude from the Lauder School of Government, at the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya. She earned her B.A. in Government, Diplomacy and Strategy majoring in Homeland Security and Conflict Resolution. While studying at the IDC, Dana received the Sprintzak Award for Outstanding Research Paper.

Following her degree, Dana spent a year as a shlichah (emissary) for the Jewish Agency at the University of Florida Hillel. Returning from shlichut, Dana started working in Aardvark Israel, a gap year program, as the Tel Aviv City Coordinator.

For her fellowship, Dana is working at the Institute for Policy and Strategy (IPS), at the Interdisciplinary Center, Herzliya.

**Fellow**

**Country of Origin**

**Placement**

**Ben Chail, Dana**

Israel

Institute for Policy and Strategy

**Cohen, Etan**

USA

Reut Institute

**Ferman, Cynthia**

USA

The Media Line

**Forsyth, Yoni**

UK

World Union of Jewish Students

**Kosky Sachs, Mascha**

UK

UN Watch

**Mitchell, Gabi**

USA

Shalem Center

**Pinfold, Rob**

UK

Jewish Diplomatic Corps

**Rozen, Avi**

Israel

Reut Institute

**Ryvchin, Alex**

Australia

NGO Monitor

**Shapiro, Ora**

Belarus

NGO Monitor

## **Fellows on the Web**

### **[Handing Jerusalem to the Palestinians](#)**

#### ***ALEX RYVCHIN, August 13, 2012***

*Blatant distortions of history, denial of Jewish Jerusalem have shifted from Palestinian arena to domain of NGOs, UN.*

## **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.*

## **Chaim Landau**

Raised in the United States, Chaim has since lived in Israel, London and Brussels. After making Aliyah and living in Israel for six years, including serving in the IDF, Chaim left for London where he pursued a Masters in International Relations at the London School of Economics. In 2006/7 he worked as a Legacy Heritage Fellow at the European Union of Jewish Students in Brussels. Upon returning to Israel he studied Talmud and Jewish thought at Jerusalem's [Pardes Institute](#).

In response to the divisive discourse on Israel within Jewish communities abroad Chaim founded [Perspectives Israel](#), a grassroots initiative that works with rabbinical students, Jewish educators and other emerging leaders studying in long term Israel programs.

During this two-day study tour participants learn about diverse [Jewish-Israeli] perspectives on the [Arab-Israeli] conflict, in a respectful and open setting. Through the facilitated reflection sessions *Perspectives* changes the discourse on Israel from one initially centered on slogans and categories to a more constructive one centered on actual people and the issues and concerns that motivate them. The next *Perspectives* study tour is scheduled for this coming November.

Chaim also works at *Shatil*, the New Israel Fund's initiative for social change, is a coordinator for *Joe's Israel*, and serves as chair of AJC's ACCESS Israel. Recently, in the latter capacity, he organized a tour of south Tel Aviv in order to learn firsthand about the refugees/migrants/asylum seekers challenge facing Israel.

Chaim lives in Jerusalem with his wife Simi and daughter Dali. A news junkie, he is trying train himself to read less news and more books.

## **Alumni on the Web**

*Here are a few articles and social media sites published by our alumni recently.*

### **[Yad Vashem – Gedenken im Wandel](#)**

**URIEL KASHI, Class of 2005/6 (American Jewish Committee, Germany)**

**August 2, 2012**

Der Gedenktag für die Opfer des Holocaust – Yom Hashoa – hat in Israel auch 67 Jahre nach Ende des Zweiten Weltkrieges nicht an Bedeutung verloren. Wenn um 10 Uhr morgens die Gedenksirenen aufheulen, ist das ein bewegender Moment für das ganze Land. Arbeiter unterbrechen ihre Tätigkeiten, mitten auf der Straße steigen Menschen aus ihren Autos und selbst im sonst so turbulenten Supermarkt wird es plötzlich ganz still. Schweigend legen die Menschen eine Trauerminute ein.

### ***New Social Media Israel Website: [Joe's Israel](#)***

**ANDRE OBOLER, Class of 2007/8 (NGO Monitor);**

**CHAIM LANDAU, Class of 2006/7 (European Union of Jewish Students)**

Andre and Chaim recently launched the social media site, Joe's Israel. It uses a website, YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter to discuss the connection between the Jewish people and Israel, the legal basis for Israel's rights, and things about the public discussion on Israel that drive people up the wall. The campaign is a project of AICE with major partners: WZO, StandWithUs, Hillel and the Israel on Campus Coalition; other partners include the Israeli Embassy in Washington DC, NGO Monitor, Honest Reporting, AZM and more. The campaign is still accepting new partners. Check it out at [www.joesisrael.com](http://www.joesisrael.com) or watch this video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31IhyoMgb4c&feature=plcp>

### **[Relying on Reservists will Hobble the UK Military](#)**

**DAVID LEWIN, Class of 2009/10 (Henry Jackson Society);**

**TAMIR LIBEL, Class of 2010/11 (Dan Shomron Center)**

**September 3, 2012**

*It might be the government's friendly fire that causes the most trouble for Britain's army.*