



# WELCOME

*URJ Camps & Immersives  
Faculty and Friends Pre-Summer Call  
May 22, 2024 | 1 PM ET*

## Leading Our Conversation (slide number)

Ruben Arquilevich, URJ Vice President, Camps and Immersives (3)

Amy Dolgin, Director, URJ Camps and Immersives Integrated Wellness and Learning

Melissa Frey, Managing Director, URJ Camps and Immersives (4-9)

Anna Kislanski, CEO, Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism

Debby Shriber, URJ Camps Executive Director (10-15)

Lisa David, URJ Camps Executive Director (16-17)

Ori Rosental, Summer *Shlichah*, URJ Camp Harlam

Gal Atia, Director, Jewish Agency for Israel Summer *Shlichut* Program

Ari Vared, URJ Camps Executive Director (18-19)

Sean Blum, URJ North American Executive Board and URJ Camps Chair

Rachel Handloff, URJ Camps Executive Director (20-23)

Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President, Union for Reform Judaism (24-28)

Rabbi Josh Weinberg, URJ Vice President, Israel and Reform Zionism and Executive Director, ARZA

Rabbi Paul Kipnes, Congregation Or Ami, Calabasas, CA (29)

Welcome and Introduction  
Ruben Arquilevich, URJ Vice President, Camps and Immersives



Planting  
Seeds of  
Hope

May our camps be a shelter of  
peace and respite.  
May we soon see an end to all  
this suffering and grief.

תהיה לנו  
בית

# TODAH RABAH – WITH GRATITUDE

## URJ ISRAEL@CAMP WORKING GROUP

- Ruben Arquilevich, [Camps & Immersives](#)
- Melissa Frey, [Camps & Immersives](#)
- Amy Dolgin, [Camps & Immersives](#)
- Rabbi Allie Fischman, [Camp Newman](#)
- Rachel Handloff, [6 Points Specialty Camps](#)
- Julie Lambert, RJE, [Leaders in Action](#)
- Lisa Langer, RJE, [NA Congregational Services and Community Vibrancy](#)
- Ariel Fogelman, [Yallah! Israel](#)
- Rachel Margolis, RJE, [Leaders in Action](#)
- Amy Smyler McFarland, [Camp Coleman](#)
- Rabbi Dan Medwin, [6 Points Sci-Tech Academy](#)
- Rabbi Orli Moss, [Heller High School in Israel](#)
- Bryan Oren, [Teen Israel Organizing Fellowship](#)
- Ilana Picker, [Yallah! Israel](#)
- Ellie Tepper Schulman, [Camp Harlam](#)
- Rabbi Josh Weinberg, [ARZA](#) & [URJ](#)

## PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS & PROFESSIONALS

- [ARJE](#) – Lesley Litman, EdD, Rabbi Carrie Vogel, RJE
- [Bamidbar](#)
- [Foundation for Jewish Camp](#), *Israel Webinar Series*
- [HUC-JIR](#) – Sivan Zakai, PhD
- [iCenter](#) – Dan Tatar
- [IMPJ](#) – Anna Kislanski, David Bernstein, Oshra Noar
- [JAFI](#) – Gal Atia, Hanoch Greenberg, Lotem Eilon, Lior Argaman, Maayan Caplan, Libi Brief Alush
- [JCamp180](#)
- [Resetting the Table](#) - *Courageous Communication Across Divides*
- [RootOne](#)
- [The International Resilience Center](#), Sderot, Israel
- [Secure Community Network](#) – Stuart Frisch, Shaun Bailey
- [Ta'amod](#)
- [URJ Marketing & Communications](#) – Jill Peltzman, Rich Handloff, Lindsey Neary
- [URJ REDI Communities of Belonging](#) – Rachel Hall, Jaimie Green

*The 60+ URJ Camps and Immersives colleagues who participated in the March Spring Training event at Eisner Camp and the extended URJ Camps & Immersives team.*





**Many thanks to our partners from Yallah! Israel, Heller High, and the Teen Israel Organizing Fellowship, many of whom are based in Israel.**

This team was especially critical helping many of us, as Diaspora Jews, hold empathy in every decision that we considered, and to think about how each piece of our work would resonate with someone who would be joining us from Israel this summer.

*L to R: Yonatan Meir, Bryan Oren, Ruby Sommer, Judy Goldstein, Ariel Fogelman, Rabbi Orli Moss, Rabbi Rick Jacobs, Ilana Picker, Rabbi Josh Weinberg, Ruben Arquilevich, Ezra Monroy. Not pictured: Raya Seidman.*





israelatcamp.urj.org



*Online Resource Center*



*URJ Camps Statement on Israel*



*Welcome from Ruben Arquilevich*



### WHY AN ISRAEL TOOLKIT?

The Israel Toolkit is an *internal* URJ resource, developed to support the URJ Camps and Immersive Experiences. It was developed to be additive to Israel planning, grounded with clear messaging, and built upon our Reform

### QUICK LINKS

> WELCOMING ISRAELIS TO CAMP

> LEARNING OUTCOMES

> COMFORT TOOL KIT FOR STAFF

### TALK FOR A CHANGE

> WHAT IS TALK FOR A CHANGE?

> TEEN PROGRAM GUIDE FOR CAMPS

> CONVERSATION CARDS - 8.5 X 11

# URJ CAMPS STATEMENT ON ISRAEL



*Our commitment to a strong, vibrant, Jewish, and democratic state of Israel, secure within its borders, is unyielding. Since October 7th we have repeatedly called for measures that ensure that Israel remains strong and secure, that the hostages are released immediately, that humanitarian aid reaches Palestinians in Gaza, and for a future in which an Israeli and a Palestinian state exist side by side in peace.*

[URJ Statement on Israel: The Moment We Are In, The Future We Pray For.](#)

## *How our Values Help Shape our Thinking About the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*

Rachel Margolis, RJE

The URJ's values are the moral and ethical imperatives that undergird everything we do and inform our approach and thinking about the world. Using our values involves critical thinking, challenge, and reflection. We might understand "justice" differently today than 25 years ago. This is because moral problems cannot always be easily solved. We may manage a question about learning in one way today but approach it differently in five years.

An enduring dilemma occurs when there are two moral answers to the same question. The question cannot be "solved," because there isn't a single solution. Instead, we manage it, recognizing different ideas and acknowledging that our understanding may change over time. How can we hold more than one perspective as equally valid? The rabbis had a Hebrew phrase for this: "eilu v'eilu divrei Elohim Chayim," which translates to, "these and those are both words of the living God." For centuries, Jews have held multiple opinions; part of the Reform ethos is an understanding that the world is always changing, and we can change our practice accordingly, even as we hold tight to certain values and ideals.

Below are the URJ's values accompanied by questions about Israel and the West Bank/Gaza. Just as Jacob wrestled with an unnamed heavenly being and had his name changed to Yisrael – one who wrestles with God – so too do we grapple with different ideas and honor varying perspectives of the world's big issues. At times, our values may be in dynamic tension with one another. Instead of rejecting a value, we grapple with all of them together, finding where we might lean in, where we might question the tension, and where we can affirm our commitment while understanding that ideas change over time.

You might use these questions together with the [Civil Discourse guide](#) to hold conversations about current events. As you do, remember – having a conversation around a challenging idea need not end in shouting or agreement. Carving multiple understandings and paths forward has always been a staple

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## VALUE: BELONGING

אַתֶּם נֹצְרִים הַיּוֹם כְּלֶכֶם | *Atem nitzavim hayom kulchem* – We build, connect, and enrich communities – congregations, camps, programs, social justice work and more – where youth and adults across all identities, generations, and lived experiences feel a deep sense of belonging. (Deuteronomy 29:9)

- What do you know about the diversity of people and identities in Israel and the West Bank/Gaza?
- How do you feel connected with Jews?
- How do you feel connected with Palestinians?
- What does a mutually respectful community look like to you?
- What does a mutually respectful community feel like to you?
- What do you need to participate as your full self?





# ENDURING UNDERSTANDING & LEARNING OUTCOMES



## Enduring Understandings/Learning Outcomes/Questions Connected to URJ's Values

URJ fosters communities of belonging where all campers and staff have open conversations, even around difficult topics. We believe it is most necessary to have respectful dialogue and engage with curiosity when we have different points of view.

Our approach to Israel education is to invite different perspectives into learning, conversation, and understanding. The in feel a sense of belong

It is based around a springs. It then lists e should come from a and benefit from the

This is not an exhaus not intended to be yo partner organizations

This is a tool for your Some may decide to Others may explore to adjust the outcom your community.

Our hope is all these most for your commu

### VALUE: ISRAEL AND JEWISH PEOPLEHOOD

כל ישראל ארבים זה בזה | *Kol yisrael arevim zeh ba'zeh*

“All of Israel and the Jewish people are responsible, one for the other.” (Shevuot 39a)

#### Enduring Understandings

- Jews everywhere are inextricably linked to the land and people of Israel.
- Individual relationships with Israel and Jewish Peoplehood change over time and can include both senses of belonging and separation.

#### Learning Outcomes

- Express your personal connections to the land and people of Israel.
- Explain how and why your relationships with Israel and Jewish Peoplehood have changed.

#### Questions

- In what ways are you linked to the land and people of Israel?
- How does where you live (North America, Israel) shape your relationship with Israel?
- How has your relationship with Israel and the West Bank/Gaza changed over time?
- When have you felt a connection to the Jewish people, Israel, and Palestinians?
- When have you felt a sense of separation from the Jewish people, Israel, and Palestinians?
- How has the current conflict impacted your feelings of belonging or isolation?

# WHAT WE MEAN WHEN WE CALL OURSELVES A ZIONIST MOVEMENT



## What is Zionism about?

about a commitment to Jewish peoplehood and a sense of collective responsibility.

אני | *Im ein ani li* | If I am not for myself...

about reimagining what it means to be Jewish in the Jewish State.

לי? | Who am I?

about having power *and* how we treat the 'Other.'

לעצמי | *Oo'ksheani le'atzimi, mah ani?* | If I am only for myself, what am I?

## *All ourselves a Zionist Movement*

an unyielding commitment to a strong, vibrant, Jewish, and democratic state of Israel, within its borders.

and support the establishment of a Jewish State in Israel, the homeland of the people.

to foster a living, breathing national culture that represents the highest ideals of Jewish identity; that we are free and liberated citizens of the world who contribute as Jews to our civilization.

to make the State of Israel a nation devoted to pursuing justice and creating a better world.

to channel our love for Israel into efforts that advance the vision of what we believe Israel can become – yet be.

to ensure a Jewish state must also be a democratic state that celebrates the pluralism of culture, practice and identity.

to affirm the notion of *Klal Yisrael* (the unity of the Jewish people).

to integrate Jewish tradition into the realities of the modern world, believing in the right to shape their own Jewish identity and way of life.

to be committed to securing an Israel that ensures “complete equality of social and political rights for all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of





***URJ Camp Directors with 250+ URJ Camp Shlichim  
JAFI Seminar at Ma'aleh HaHamishah  
March 2024 | Jerusalem, Israel***

*The following photos of camp Mishlachat groups were also taken at the Seminar in March.*











































URJ  
**CAMP  
NEWMAN**







6 POINTS  
**CREATIVE  
ARTS  
ACADEMY**  
A URJ SUMMER CAMP









**6 POINTS**  
SPORTS ACADEMY

# PIRKEI AVOT 1:18

With *Ahavat Yisrael*, love for the Jewish people;

With gratitude *al hanissim*, for the miracle of the State of Israel:

the in-gathering of Jewish exiles, the defense of Jewish lives,

the flourishing of Jewish culture, the rebuilding of our ancient homeland;

With dedication to Jewish values that sustain the world:

*Din, Emet, Shalom,*

Justice, Truth, and Peace.





Not Alone

**We'll all lend a hand  
we're not alone  
partners in a painful destiny and love as one people  
we'll cry and we'll overcome  
like before we won't break  
we have only each other and nothing more**

**לא לבד  
נושיט כולנו יד  
אנחנו לא לבד  
שותפי גורל כאב ואהבה כעם אחד  
נבכה ונתגבר  
כמו אז לא נישבר  
יש לנו רק אחד את השני ולא יותר**

Doron Talmon, lead singer of Jane Bordeaux, wrote a new song, "Lo Levad", לבד לא לבד meaning "Not Alone," to help process the October 7 attacks.

[https://theicenter.org/icenter\\_resources/soundtracks-for-this-time](https://theicenter.org/icenter_resources/soundtracks-for-this-time)





## Standing Together

Hostage Square Tel Aviv | Havdalah with IMPJ

Motzei Shabbat March 2, 2024

*Rabbi Rick Jacobs, Beth Rodin (OSRUI), Shelley Nicely Groff, Jackie Gordon (6 Points Sports), Rabbi Jonah Pesner*





**Shir Attias** (She/Her)

Foreign Policy and National Security  
Legislative Assistant, U.S. Senate  
Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer

**URJ Camp & NFTY**







**Martina Sogaard**

Sweden

Mevasseret Zion

Eisner Camp





# We Are Deeply Connected

## Gal Meir Eisenkot z"l

It is with deep sadness we share the news of the death of Gal Meir Eisenkot, a brave member of the IDF who was killed in Gaza today while in combat.

We are proud to say Gal was a beloved part of the Harlam community. He served as an Israeli staff member in 2021, as a counselor in Arava and K'Far Noar, and as a mountain biking specialist.

Our hearts are with Gal's family and friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing him. He will be greatly missed. As we light the Hanukkah candles during this dark time, we are reminded of the light Gal brought into our world. May his memory be a blessing.



## Welcome Home to Camp [insert camp name]

By Rabbi Paul Kipnes

Welcome to Camp [insert camp name] -  
A Land of Promise,  
A place where we promise,  
You will come to call "home".

Welcome home to camp,  
(Even if it's your first time here),  
Because as you soon will be aware,  
Camp is a place of overflowing love  
and unceasing care,  
That we daily try to share -  
With them,  
With us,  
And with you.

Welcome home,  
To your new home,  
(for the summer at least),  
Where we hope you'll find some peace,  
From all that has plagued you...  
On college campuses and in the Mideast  
Wherever you sleep and wherever you feast,  
From invaders and misstaters,  
And those who are our existential haters.

May you find camp an oasis,  
To return to homeostasis,  
Or at least to form a new foundational basis -  
Just to breathe.

And may Israel be blessed,  
And the hostages be released,  
And Hamas' reign soon cease,  
And those in mourning -  
Be they Israelis or Palestinians or us -  
Find peace.

We are thrilled, that's for sure,  
That for a moment or even more,  
You might rediscover and explore,  
An inner peace, deep in your core.

So join us as we express,  
Our appreciation, as we convalesce,  
And our love, as we bless,  
This special moment -  
with Shehecheyanu...  
Together...

Baruch Atah  
Adonai Eloheinu  
Melech Haolam  
Shehecheyanu  
V'keey'manu  
V'higeeanu lazman hazeh.



TODAH RABAH, THANK YOU!

