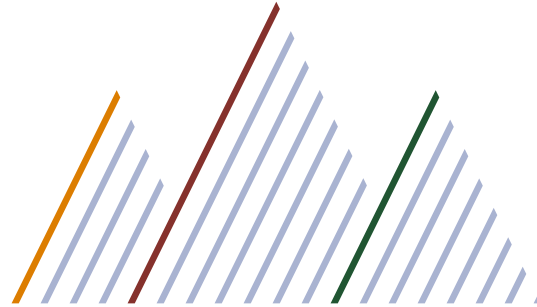


THE WEXNER FOUNDATION



WEXNER SUMMITS  
THE NETWORK IN ACTION

# SUMMIT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

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**BIO BOOK**

## PARTICIPANTS

Please note the colors in the participant directory indicate the Wexner program the individual has completed.

WEXNER HERITAGE PROGRAM

WEXNER ISRAEL FELLOWSHIP

WEXNER GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP

WEXNER SENIOR LEADERS



### YOSEF ABRAMOWITZ

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Jerusalem, Israel

Yosef Israel Abramowitz is the co-founder of the solar industries in Israel, East Africa, West Africa, and elsewhere and has been named by CNN as one of the six leading Green Pioneers worldwide. Yossi made *Aliya* to Kibbutz Ketura in the Arava Desert with his wife, Rabbi Susan Silverman, and their five children, and now lives in Jerusalem. He was part of the official Israeli delegations to the Paris and Glasgow Climate Conferences, serves on the Israeli Presidential Climate Forum, and was the first private-sector candidate for the Israeli Presidency. He was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by 12 African countries for his climate work and can be followed on Twitter here: @Kaptainsunshine. Prior to making Aliya, Yossi was honored with the Covenant Award for Excellence in Jewish Education for spearheading major initiatives such as MyJewishLearning.com, birthrightisrael.com, InterfaithFamily.com, BabagaNewz, and a dozen other projects. Yossi has been active on a wide range of political and social issues and his family's story is chronicled in his wife's piece, "Casting Lots: Raising a Family in a Beautiful, Broken World."

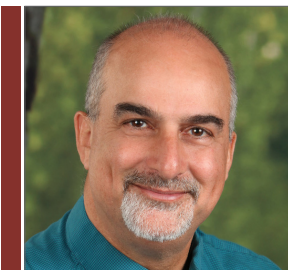


### CARYN ROSEN ADELMAN

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Winnetka, IL

Caryn Rosen Adelman was born and raised in the Midwest (USA) where she also completed college and post-graduate degrees. Caryn's focus has always been family first, then extended family, and then the families of world Jewry. Caryn has been privileged to lead organizations such as JTA, FIDF, Federation, OTZMA, PTA, LMV, and JAFI. Caryn's professional life has evolved from the CEO of a family foundation to a professional consultant to and for organizations for board development and donor engagement. More recently Caryn expanded her scope to work with philanthropists and philanthropies beyond the Jewish communal field, especially directed at programs for violence reduction and life skills enhancement for diverse populations. Recently Caryn chaired a federation task force to study Family caregiving and chaplaincy. Caryn also currently chairs The Women's Dialogue programs for JAFI where she sits as a member of the BOG.



### DAVID ARFIN

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Palo Alto, CA

David Arfin is the CEO of NineDot Energy and a globally recognized leader in creating innovative finance offerings that accelerate the adoption of renewable energy, energy efficiency, and other clean technologies. David invented SolarCity's SolarLease, the game-changing solar financing program. He is CEO and Co-Founder of NineDot Energy (New York), Co-Founder of Ener-Pacte (France), SolarVento (Mexico), and has served on the Board of Directors of Simpa Networks (India), and WattzOn (Palo Alto), and as an Advisor to Everyday Energy (San Diego), United Wind (New York), Tigi Solar (Israel), RayCatch (Israel), and eMotorWerks. Previously, David served as a Consultant to the US Department of Energy's SunShot initiative and an Entrepreneur-In-Residence at Israel Cleantech Ventures. David has also been an emissary for the US Department of State in Angola, Israel, and Palestine. David has a BA in Political Science from the University of California, Los Angeles, a Masters in Public Policy Analysis from the Claremont Graduate University, and an MBA from Stanford. He was a Coro Fellow and was President of the Gideon Hausner Jewish Day School. He is on the board of the Friends of the Arava Environmental Institute for Environmental Studies.

# THE WEXNER FOUNDATION SUMMIT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

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## **ITAMAR BEN DAVID**

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Givaatim, Israel

Itamar Ben David has been Chairman of the Haifa District Planning Committee since December 2017. Previously he served as Head of the Planning Unit in the Society for the Protection of Nature. He holds a BA in Geography from Bar-Ilan University and an MA in Urban and Regional Planning from the Technion. Itamar lives in Givatayim with his family.



## **JONATHAN BERNSTEIN**

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Pittsburgh, PA

Jonathan Bernstein is the Director of Research for Hefren-Tillotson, Pittsburgh's largest independent wealth manager. In this capacity, Jonathan oversees fund selection and monitoring, market updates, and investment strategies. He is the creator of the firm's Impact Portfolios, which integrate sustainable investment strategies. Jonathan is a graduate of Yale College and earned a master's degree in Creative Writing from Brooklyn College. He is a Chartered Financial Analyst charter holder (CFA®) and a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ certificant. Prior to moving to Pittsburgh, Jonathan spent six years as a financial advisor in New York, overseeing alternative investment strategies and client portfolios. In 2016, Jonathan published his first novel, "The Ivy League Impostor." In 2021, his play - "The Call" was commissioned by NYC theater company 24/6 for its series of telephone plays performed for senior citizens and others who are housebound. Jonathan serves as President of Hillel Academy of Pittsburgh and was Treasurer of the board of the *Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle*. In his spare time, he enjoys reading, art, theater, and spending time with his family. Jonathan and his wife Kara have three children.



## **ILAN CAPLAN**

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Denver, CO

Ilan Caplan has over 22 years of diversified renewable energy experience including the development, operations, and finance of utility-scale wind and solar projects. His particular area of focus includes management, analytics, resource management, development, trading, accounting oversight, and structuring. Prior to his current SVP role at HEP, Ilan was co-founder of Peak and before Peak, served as a Finance Director selling over \$260+M (160 MW) of solar and (280 MW) of wind projects. These key roles have resulted in 1.9+ GW solar and wind sold and built, \$2.0+ billion in value. Although originally born in South Africa, Ilan spent much of his life in Texas (including being an alum of the University of Texas at Austin), with a short stint in California to meet his wife and learn how to surf. Denver has been home to Ilan, his wife, and three young(ish) kids for the past 19 years. Ilan has a keen interest in family time, maintaining the fitness of oneself and the environment, and the growth of the local Jewish community.

# THE WEXNER FOUNDATION SUMMIT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

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## HAGAY CARMİ

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Bruchin, Israel

Hagay Carmi is a pivotal leader with more than 20 years of matchless expertise in the R&D of innovative technologies for the elite technology unit of the IDF Intelligence Branch. He has managed transformational cross-disciplinary large-scale high-budget national projects, collaborating across sectors, and harnessing teams and stakeholders towards mutual goals.

A *magna cum laude* graduate, Hagay has an MA in Public Administration from Harvard University, an EMBA from Bar Ilan University, an MSc in Electro-Optics Engineering from Ben-Gurion University, and a BSc in Physics/Electro-Optics -from Jerusalem College of Technology.



## LISA COLTON

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Seattle, WA

Lisa Narodick Colton is a consultant helping nonprofits, social causes, and small businesses with disruptive change, strategic planning, and communications strategies. She combines business acumen with awareness of the generational and technical changes in our society to help leaders position their work for success in today's connected age. She founded Darim Online as a nonprofit to provide such services to Jewish organizations, and Darim Consulting, LLC to serve other businesses and social causes. During the pandemic, Lisa produced the Great Big Jewish Food Fest and the Big Bold Jewish Climate Fest. Lisa is an alumna of Stanford University, Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies, and Livnot U'lehibanot. A native Seattleite, Lisa returned home after years in Burlington, VT, and Charlottesville, VA. Locally she's involved with Kavana and Limmud Seattle. She is a proud parent, along with her husband Jason, of teenagers Eli and Meira, plus their own pets and a rotating cast of fosters.

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## **SANDRA CURTIS**

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Berkeley, CA

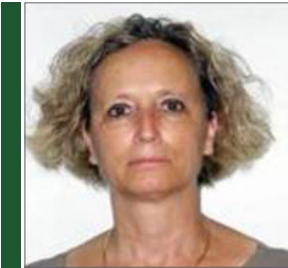
Sandra Curtis, PhD, has been committed to environmental action as a volunteer and a professional for over 30 years. She's focused on four areas: environmental toxins from the fossil fuel industry, renewal energy, redwood preservation, and ocean protection. She has created and managed innovative behavioral research, media projects, and programs in health, space sciences, and environmental education. She's an effective speaker, advocate, and mentor. At the Public Health Institute, she is developing and collaborating on projects to reduce exposure to environmental toxins. As Director of Innovative Projects at Plastic Pollution Coalition, she expanded the focus on environmental hazards of single-use plastic to health concerns from exposure to the toxic chemicals in plastics. She enjoyed a long career as Sr. VP at Zorro Productions, Inc., producing for stage, film, and television. Her company, XenoQuest Media, produced videos for NASA's Astrobiology Institute and the UN's Environment Program. She led international communications for a portable solar lantern company. The author of biographies and children's fiction, Sandra serves as a scientific advisor and mentor on non-profit boards and for the City of Berkeley Commissions.



## **FRED DOBB**

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Washington, DC

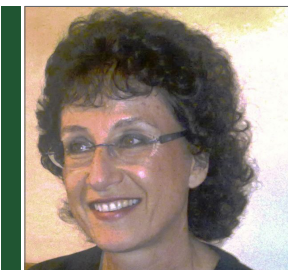
Rabbi Fred Dobb has served as Rabbi of Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation (Bethesda MD,) since before his 1997 ordination from RRC. Fred remains active as well in Jewish, interfaith, and environmental efforts. Past President of the Washington Board of Rabbis, he is now chair of COEJL (Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life) and serves on the national board of Interfaith Power and Light. He received a Doctor of Ministry from Wesley Theological Seminary in 2009. Fred still writes, speaks, and consults as time permits, but mostly is happy to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable at Adat Shalom. Together with Minna Scherlinder Morse, his pride and joy, and major projects are Gilad Martin (born in 2009) and Sara Penina Scherlinder (2005).



## **SHLOMIT DOTEN-GISSIN**

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Tel Aviv, Israel

Shlomit Doten-Gissin has just retired from her last position in the Public Sector as Head of Environment and Sustainability for Ariel Sharon Metropolitan Park, a park of 8,000 Dunams in the South East outskirts of Tel Aviv. Shlomit worked for 7.5 years as Head of Environment for NTA -the Light Train for Tel Aviv Metropolitan Area, 12 years as Chief Planner for the Central Region for the Ministry of Environmental Protection, and also five years as Head of a Subcommittee for Objection for the Central Region Planning Committee. Shlomit received her BA in Political Science and Geography and completed her studies for a Master's Degree in Geography and Urban Studies from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, along with a Master in Public Administration from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government as a Wexner Israel Fellow.



## **DALIT DROR**

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Mevasseret-Zion, Israel

Dalit Dror is the Chief Legal Advisor of the Ministry of the Environment and heads its Legal Bureau. She is responsible for all the legal aspects of the Ministry's activities, including writing legal opinions on environmental issues, preparing draft laws on environmental subjects to be submitted to the Knesset, representing the government in Parliamentary Committees on environmental issues, bringing to trial on environmental offenses, and ratification of international treaties and agreements. Before that, Dalit was a senior director at the Department of Legislation and Legal Counsel at the Ministry of Justice, a special assistant to the Attorney General, and an officer in the military prosecution of the IDF. She received her LLB and LLM from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and her master's in Public Administration from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government as a Wexner Israel Fellow.



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## **ERAN ETTINGER**

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Jerusalem, Israel

Eran Ettinger is a Former Deputy Director-General at the Ministry of Agriculture, head of environmental resources management such as soil, water, and forestry. Eran was a co-leader of the Ministry Committee for climate risks management for agriculture, and lead the process of consolidating the united ministerial policy for sustainable agriculture. In the last eight years, Eran was leading, with a vast group of partners, an up-to-date approach to mitigating flood risks in Israel. This new approach, called "Integrated Watershed Management," is now a major part of the formal governmental policy. Before his last position, Eran served as the Chief Legal Advisor of the Ministry, and as an Attorney at the Ministry of Justice. Today Eran is a private consultant for municipal and governmental agencies for climate change, sustainability, and strategic process and changes in organizations. Eran holds a BA in Soil and Water Sciences, an LLB, and an MA in Public Policy. Eran lives in Jerusalem with his family.



## **STEVEN FADEM**

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Evanston, IL

Steven Fadem is an innovative entrepreneurial executive with substantial leadership experience building media, entertainment, technology, information and business services, artificial intelligence (AI), and cybersecurity companies with experience in the digital transformation of traditional businesses. Steven's non-profit involvement intensified because of his Wexner training and has been the most satisfying experience of his life (other than family!) and his resulting small contribution to the growth, prosperity, and survival of the Jewish people is beyond any description of immense satisfaction.



## **RUTH FROM-ARICA**

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Tel Aviv, Israel

Ruth From-Arica is Director of the Planning Authority in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. In this capacity, she represents the Ministry in the National Planning Council and its sub-committees. Her responsibilities also include policymaking and planning in the rural areas, as well as coordinating approval of agricultural buildings in the regional councils and rural areas. She heads the ways and means for the new Rural Development Program that was adopted by the top management of the office as a major topic in its annual programs for the coming years. Until December 2003, Ruth served as Chief Engineer at the Beit Shean Valley Regional Council. In 2012, Ruth received her PhD in the Department of Geography and Environment, and in 2018 completed a Master's degree in law, both from Bar Ilan University. Ruth holds a BSc and MSc in Civil Engineering from the Technion Institute of Technology and a Master in Public Administration from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government as a Wexner Israel Fellow.

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## **SCOTT GARSON**

WHP Cleveland 05 | [sgarson13@gmail.com](mailto:sgarson13@gmail.com) | +1-216-496-2817  
Cleveland, OH

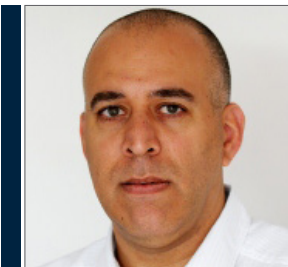
Scott Garson is a retired commercial real estate broker in Cleveland, Ohio. Scott spent 26 years in the industry where he specialized in inner-city properties and urban redevelopment. Previous to his work in the private sector, he was employed in the non-profit community development field as the Assistant Director of Development for MidTown Cleveland for ten years after a three-year stint working for the Historic Warehouse District Development Corporation. He has served on numerous boards of civic organizations during his professional career including serving as Board Chair of Cleveland Hillel. He recently ended a six-year term as Board Chair of the Shaker Heights Development Corporation, a local community development corporation, and is the Co-Chair of the Intergroup Outreach subcommittee of the Community Relations Committee at the Jewish Federation of Cleveland. Scott has been active in advocating for Bail reform as well as other issues related to social and racial justice. Scott is a graduate of Kenyon College. Scott is married to his wife Ann and has two adult children. His daughter Jessica lives in Alaska where she works with handicapped adults and his son Noah is a preschool teacher in NYC.



## **MIKE GILDEGAME**

WHP Boston 2 | [Mikeg125@gmail.com](mailto:Mikeg125@gmail.com) | +1-781-248-6877  
Arlington, MA

Mike Gildegame has 35 years of experience in natural resources project management and program administration. Mike has led multi-disciplinary professional teams developing and implementing natural resource management policies and programs, managed and evaluated domestic and international environmental programs and projects, and facilitated group discussions to resolve complex environmental problems and achieve consensus on community and statewide concerns. Mike is a practicing mediator in Boston area courts, Vice President, Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action, Chair, Governance Committee, Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence, past Chair, Friends of Israel's Environment in support of Adam Teva v'Din, Israel's environmental watchdog, and Member, Board of Directors and chair of the Climate Change Working group at Temple Emunah, Lexington MA.



## **SHONY GOLDBERGER**

WSL 2022 | [shony@sviva.gov.il](mailto:shony@sviva.gov.il) | +972-50-623-3184  
Mevaseret Zion, Israel

Shony Goldberger is the Director of the Jerusalem district in the Ministry of Environmental Protection. Before his current position, he was the Jerusalem District Planner. He holds a BA and an MA in Geography from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, specializing in urban planning, environment, and sustainability. Over the years Shony has specialized in air quality, water (streams, beaches, and wastewater treatment), waste treatment, hazardous materials, ecology, biodiversity and open spaces, noise and radiation prevention, and environmental planning. The training and experience have qualified Shony to manage the complex Jerusalem district. His responsibility is to handle all environmental issues and to lead the professional teams in the district and local authorities. Notable achievements include planning and construction of the light rail train in Jerusalem, promotion of a national (and cross-border) project - sewage infrastructure in the "Kidron" Basin, from Jerusalem to the Dead Sea, leading the resistance to oil shale production in the Adulam region, leading a project to reduce air pollution in the Atarot industrial zone, reducing air pollution in Jerusalem, creating a low emissions zone (LEZ), and leading environmental change for the Arab population in East Jerusalem. Shony lives in Mevaseret Zion with his wife and three daughters.

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## **SARIT GOLDSTEIN**

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Mikve, Israel

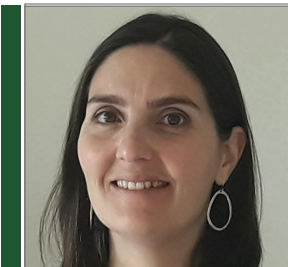
In 2021, Sarit Goldstein began working as Director General of “Mikve Israel - Kol Israel Haverim,” a governmental company owned by the government and Alliance - Kol Israel Haverim that manages Mikve Israel, the first school for agriculture (and much more) established 152 years ago. Today the company owns a large territory that includes three schools, two boarding schools, a diverse agriculture activity, and an innovation hub that is being built. Sarit is proud to be the first woman in that position in its history and faces the challenge of preserving Mikve Israel while marching it to the future of innovation in agriculture and other aspects of nature preservation and sustainability. Previously Sarit was the Deputy Director General in the Ministry of Jerusalem and Heritage, and before that, Sarit was in the Prime Minister’s Office, where she started her career in the public sector. She holds a BA in Eastern Asia Studies and Contemporary Judaism Studies and an MA in Conflict Management and Resolution from the Hebrew University. She lives in Beit Shemesh with her husband. Sarit has a Skipper’s license and loves sailing in Israel and abroad.



## **ODED GOUR-LAVIE**

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Moshav En Iron, Israel

Rear Admiral (ret.) Oded Gour-Lavie is CEO and co-founder of NT-Tao Ltd., an alternative energy startup focused on breakthrough compact fusion technology intending to democratize clean and affordable energy worldwide. Oded is also a Research Fellow in the Haifa Research Center for Maritime Policy and Strategy (HMS) and a publishing expert at The MirYam Institute. Previously, Oded was the Chairman of the Dolphin Association of veteran submariners. He concluded his military career in 2015 as the Head of the IDF’s Legal & Strategic Policy Team as part of the planning directorate. He is the former Head of the Sea Division in charge of Naval Operations, Training, and Doctrine for the Israeli Navy and former Commander of the Israeli Submarine Force. He graduated Cum Laude in Electrical Engineering from the Israeli Institute of Technology and received his Master’s in Public Administration (MC-MPA) from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. Oded recently finished a year as a Visiting Fellow at MIT Sloan School of Management.



## **SARAH HADAR**

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Jerusalem, Israel

Sarah Hadar serves as the Chief Economist of the Natural Gas Authority in the Ministry of Energy. In this position, Sarah implements national projects and government policy designed to promote the Israeli natural gas market – a key factor in increasing the economic growth of the Israeli market and improving air quality – to boost the well-being of Israeli society. A strong believer in the potential of multi-cultural education, Sarah also co-founded the Gonenim School, a Jerusalem-based public school open to all local residents, cultivating tolerance and community commitment among its diverse student body. Sarah holds a BA in Economics and Management from Bar Ilan University and an MBA from Hebrew University in Jerusalem.



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## **BRACHA HALAF**

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Rehovot, Israel

Dr. Bracha Halaf is a scientist, engineer, policy designer, and investor in energy, climate, and healthcare-related issues. As a Principal at Qure Ventures, a digital health fund, Bracha deals with all fund's related activities. Additionally, Bracha chairs the Investment Committee of NetZero Technology Ventures. Bracha is also the public representative at the Israeli Electricity Authority. Bracha served as the Chief Scientist of the Israeli Ministry of Energy and served as a Board member of the U.S.-Israel BSF and the U.S.-Israel BIRD ENERGY foundations. She was a member of the Israeli Industrial Committee of the National Council for Advancement of Women in Science and Technology, chaired the Advisory Committee for three National Research Institutes, and was a member of the Israeli Natural Gas Authority Council. Bracha holds a PhD in Biophysics from the Weizmann Institute of Science, and an MSc, and BSc in Chemical Engineering from the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. Bracha is a graduate of the Kennedy School at Harvard University and a program for directors and senior officers from Tel Aviv University.



## **LIZ HIRSCH**

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Lenox, MA

Rabbi Liz P.G. Hirsch currently serves Temple Anshe Amunim in Pittsfield, MA. She was ordained by the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) in New York. Originally from the Boston area, Liz was active in her Reform congregation, spending summers at the URJ Eisner Camp in the Berkshires and nearly every weekend with the North American Federation of Temple Youth (NFTY). Liz graduated from Brown University with a degree in Environmental Studies and spent a semester abroad at the Arava Institute in Israel. Between college and rabbinical school, Liz worked as a Legislative Assistant at the Religious Action Center, the Union for Reform Judaism's office in Washington, D.C. While at HUC-JIR, she served several congregations and organizations throughout the New York and Boston areas. Before serving Temple Anshe Amunim, Liz was the rabbi and one of the directors at Eisner Camp. Liz enjoys playing guitar, yoga, meditation, and hiking all over the Berkshires. She is married to Rabbi Neil P.G. Hirsch, who serves as one of the rabbis at Hevreh of Southern Berkshires. They live in Lenox with their two children, Lior and Mikah.



## **ROY LAVEE**

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Mazkert Batya, Israel

Roy Lavee is the Head of Planning for the Jerusalem Municipality and is responsible for all planning processes in the city, leading all conservation and development processes, promoting the urban planning strategy in cooperation with the city administration, government ministries, and the public. Before that, Roy was City Architect of Beer-Sheva, in charge of city planning, designing new neighborhoods, urban development, and strategic spatial planning. Roy also previously served as the Borough Planner of Jerusalem City Center, responsible for the design, planning, and public participation processes. Roy has a degree in architecture and an MA in Urban Design from the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design. Roy lives in Mazkeret-Batya with his wife and three children.

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## **EHUD LAZAR**

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Herzliya, Israel

Lazar served as an Officer in the Education Corps and continued to serve as a Major 2008-2012. He received an award of excellence for his role in IDF from the President of the State of Israel. Lazar enrolled in a double-major program earning an LLB and BA in Diplomacy and Strategy at Reichman University (2012-2016). Lazar became a fellow at the Argov Fellowship Program for Leadership and Diplomacy. Lazar completed his legal apprenticeship in the State Attorney's Office, at the Department of International Affairs (2016-2017) and joined the Israel bar as an attorney in 2018. Lazar completed his LLM with thesis at Reichman University (2019-2020) and graduated with honors. His research focused on administrative law. Lazar's thesis received high praise. Prof. Amnon Lehavi, Dean of the Radzyner Law School, was Lazar's thesis supervisor. Lazar served in a myriad of positions in the Herzliya Municipality between 2013 and 2021, including: Director of the Municipal Strategy Department and Deputy Director General. Today he serves as the Director General of Herzliya Municipality. Lazar promoted several key strategic plans, collaborated with national and international



## **AARON LERNER**

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Los Angeles, CA

Rabbi Aaron Lerner drives the engagement of more than 3,000 students and community members at UCLA Hillel. Under his leadership, Hillel has expanded annual fundraising to more than \$2.5 million to support exponential growth in Jewish identity and pro-Israel programming. Aaron embodies a pluralistic approach to Jewish life while empowering others to lead and innovate. His career path started in commercial real estate finance after graduating from USC's Marshall School of Business. A graduate of YCT, he enjoys surfing and family life in LA with his partner and WGF/DS Alum, Dr. Rachel Lerner, and their three ridiculous children.

# THE WEXNER FOUNDATION SUMMIT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

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## **AARON LEVINE**

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Seattle, WA

Aaron Levine is a climate scientist who lives in Seattle, WA with his wife and son. He is an active member of Temple DeHirsch Sinai and a steering committee member for The Tribe at TDHS. He was also a participant in the Stroum Center Community Learning Fellowship in 2015. Before moving to Seattle, Aaron received his doctorate in Meteorology at the University of Hawaii in Honolulu, HI, and a bachelor's in Physics and Geophysical Sciences from the University of Chicago. He was active in the Jewish communities of Honolulu and Chicago, holding leadership positions in Hillel at both universities and teaching religious school while in Hawaii. He grew up on the west side of Los Angeles where his family were members of Temple Isaiah. He attended religious school there through confirmation in tenth grade and was a summer camp counselor at Isaiah Day Camp for two years. He spent summers attending Camp Alonim at the Brandeis Bardin Institute between the ages of 9 and 16.



## **JODI MANSBACH**

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Atlanta, GA

Jodi Lox Mansbach is a creative and strategic leader who inspires people and organizations to re-think what's possible. She is the Principal of Living Playgrounds, a boutique design firm that is re-imagining a nature-based approach in the playground industry so that children have the space, time, and permission to play freely in outdoor environments that inspire wonder and joy. Jodi served as the Chief Impact Officer for the Atlanta Jewish Federation from 2017-2021 where she led strategy, innovation, marketing, and grantmaking. Prior to working professionally in the Jewish community, Jodi worked with the City of Atlanta to launch Atlanta City Studio, its first pop-up urban design center incubating new ideas about the design of the City and engaging the community in the process. Previously she was Vice President of Development and Construction at Jamestown, a real estate investment and management company. As an urban planner, Jodi was involved in the firm's New Urbanist development and adaptive reuse projects including Ponce City Market where she led the design of Skyline Park, the rooftop entertainment project. At Jamestown, Jodi also served as Sustainability Director and started and ran the Jamestown Charitable Foundation.



## **STEPHEN MORITZ**

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Pittsburgh, PA

Steve Moritz brings over 25 years of experience in the energy and sustainability industries working for multiple industry start-ups. He has spent his career building and managing successful businesses that thrive in the ever-changing world of state and federal energy regulation. His passion is to create opportunities for energy savings, carbon reduction, and revenue generation by influencing and leveraging the regulatory process. Steve started Encentiv Energy in 2009 to help commercial and industrial customers permanently reduce their energy consumption. Today Encentiv Energy's software platform is used by thousands of industry professionals every day to help customers make better energy efficiency decisions. For the last four years, Steve has volunteered as a mentor for cleantech startups through the Cleantech Open, which operates as an incubator for the most promising cleantech companies around the world. He was awarded "Mentor of Year" in 2020 and recently was part of a partnership with the Canadian consulate to mentor women-led cleantech startups in Canada.

# THE WEXNER FOUNDATION SUMMIT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

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## **YUVAL PELED**

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Jerusalem, Israel

Yuval Peled served as Director of Planning and Development Division for the Israel Nature and National Parks Authority. He is a member of the National Planning Committee and is responsible for protecting the open spaces, planning, and developing all the elements in the Nature Reserves and the National Parks, and protecting the antiques and water preservation for wildlife and scenery. Prior to that, he was Director of Special Projects and also was the Director of the Central District of the Nature Reserves Authority, the largest of the four Israeli Districts, where he was in charge of teams of scientists, rangers, and instructors involved in the management and protection of Israel's landscapes and natural resources. He also directed the Eilat District for the same agency. Yuval holds a BA in Agriculture and an MSc in Botany, both from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He holds a Master in Public Administration from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government as a Wexner Israel Fellow. Today he is a partner of a startup that uses green energy technology and heading a project to protect crops.



## **NIRA LAMAY RACHLEVSKY**

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Tel-Aviv, Israel

A lawyer by training, Nira Lamay Rachlevsky is a Legal Advisor at the Knesset where she is in charge of all the legal and legislative issues that the committees deal with, such as drafting bills and regulations, supervising governmental actions, and recommending public policy and legal opinions. She is currently advising the Committee on Education, Culture, and Sport and the Committee on Children Rights, as well as the Committee on the Biometric Database. Previously, she advised the Committee on the Status of Women and Gender Equality and Science and Technology, among others. Nira was a co-founder of the Knesset Commission for Future Generations from 2002-2006 and advised the Knesset on the long-term impact of legislation and sustainability. She served in the IDF as an officer (Lieutenant) in charge of safety inspection. Nira graduated from Hebrew University of Jerusalem (1997 LL.b), Tel Aviv University Law Faculty (2007. LL.m in Public Law), Northwestern University School of Law (2007 LL.m), and Harvard Kenney School of Government (MC/MPA 2014). Nira was raised in a Jewish-Iranian Orthodox family and grew up in Holon. Lives in Tel Aviv with her husband Orr and son, Michael.

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## **ARIANA SILVERMAN**

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Detroit, MI

Ariana Silverman is the rabbi of the Isaac Agree Downtown Synagogue. She graduated from Harvard, was ordained by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, and is an alumna of the Wexner Graduate Fellowship. She lives in Detroit with her family.



## **DANIELAH SMITS-POSSEK**

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Tel-Aviv and Gush Dan, Israel

Danielah Smits-Possek was the chairwoman of the building and planning committee of the Tel Aviv district. In her former function, she was the head planner of the central district of Israel at the planning administration in the ministry of finance. She has served as the city engineer of Herzelia and as the city architect of Tel Aviv-Jaffa. She holds a BSC and MSC in architecture and town planning from the Technical University of Delft, the Netherlands. Currently, she teaches at the Bezalel Academy in Jerusalem in the master's program of urban design. Danielah lives in Givataim with her family.



## **SHAHAR SOLAR**

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Jerusalem, Israel

Shahar Solar is Deputy for Strategic Planning and the acting Deputy Director General for Budget and Human Capital at The Planning Administration. In this position, he heads the strategic plan for Israel 2040 and other complex topics like urbanism, climate change, public participation, housing, and so on. Shahar has a BA in geography and environmental studies, an MA in environmental and urban planning, and an MPA in public administration. Shahar is married to Yael and has four kids.



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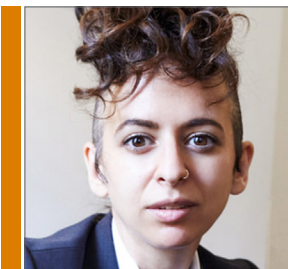
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## ZVI TSORAN

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Bat Hefer, Israel

Zvika Tsoran is the Head of Fire and Rescue National Academy of Israel. He retired from the IDF after 30 years of service in various positions as a commander in the combat-operation field. During his time as a commander in the IDF, he nurtured a generation of soldiers who are connected to their country, history, and values of the Jewish people. Thanks to that approach, dozens of young soldiers have decided to continue their service and become officers. Today, many of them are in key positions in the IDF. When Zvi finished his service, he chose to continue influencing others in the public sector, implementing his values and beliefs in a sector that has an impact on our lives. Zvika holds a BA in Human Resources Management and an MA in Military and Strategic Studies from AWC Carlisle. Zvika lives in Bat Hefer and is married to Talya and has four children. Zvi was born in Kiryat Gat to parents who came to Israel after the Holocaust and lived in a transit camp in the city. His family of three brothers were raised with a very Zionist education, loving the country, and were very patriotic. All three served in the army as officers in high positions dedicating their lives to the state of Israel.



## JERICHO VINCENT

WGF/DS Class 33 | [jerichozvincent@gmail.com](mailto:jerichozvincent@gmail.com) | +1-347-517-8463  
Brooklyn, NY

Jericho Vincent is a writer and lecturer. Raised in an ultra-Orthodox rabbinical family, Jericho broke free as an adolescent in search of a self-determined life. While a night student in college, they founded Horizons Academy, an after-school program for at-risk teens. Jericho went on to earn a master's degree in public policy as a Pforzheimer Fellow at Harvard University, training in Public Narrative and Adaptive Leadership. After embarking on a spiritual journey through Buddhism and Sufism, Jericho returned to Judaism to excavate timely wisdom and practices from their family's ancient traditions. Jericho is the author of the memoir *Cut Me Loose* and the co-author of *Legends of the Talmud*. Their essays have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Rumpus*, *Salon*, *The Daily Beast*, and *The Cut*. They have been named to the *Jewish Week's* 36 Under 36 and to *The Forward's* Forward 50 for their writing and their community organizing with ex-ultra-Orthodox Jews. They have lectured on trauma, gender, and transformation at colleges, organizations, and houses of worship across the country and are certified in Internal Family Systems Therapy coaching. Jericho lives in Brooklyn with their family and is currently studying for the rabbinate.

# THE WEXNER FOUNDATION SUMMIT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

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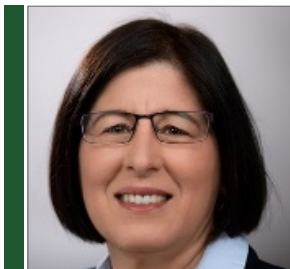


## EYAL YAHIEL

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Dr. Eyal Yahel serves as the chief scientist, an R&D program manager, and a deputy general director at the Nuclear Research Center – Negev (NRCN). His education includes a BSc in physics, an MSc in theoretical condensed matter physics, and a PhD in experimental condensed matter physics from the school of Physics and Astronomy at Tel Aviv University. Over the years, Eyal's duties included the head of the condensed matter laboratory, head of the physics department, and leading a large team of researchers and technicians. Before being appointed to his current position, Eyal served as the deputy director for the R&D division. In his current position, Eyal leads long-term R&D projects as well as collaborations with Academia and national laboratories in Israel and internationally, and is a member of international steering committees. Eyal's research aims to understand materials under extreme conditions and he is an author of about 100 peer-reviewed articles and scientific reports. Eyal teaches advanced courses at the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and supervises ca. 10 PhD and MSc students.



## HAVATZELET YAHIEL

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Dr. Adv. Havatzelet Yahel is a Lecturer and Senior Faculty member at the Ben-Gurion Research Institute for the Study of Israel & Zionism at the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. Havatzelet's PhD from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem is in historical geography and is titled "The Policy of the Israeli Government and State Authorities Regarding the Negev Bedouin: 1947 – 1989." She completed her MPA at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government as a Wexner Israel Fellow. She holds a BA in Economy and an LLB in Law from Tel-Aviv University. Before joining the academy, Havatzelet was the Deputy to the Southern District Attorney (Civil Matters). As a lawyer and litigator, she represented the State of Israel in high profile court cases and served as a member in many policy-making forums in her field. She is a member of the Israeli Bar Association, a board member of the International Committee of Regional Museums (ICOM) and editor of its newsletter, and a board member of the School for Sustainability and Climate Change. Havatzelet's diverse academic and professional background is reflected in her interdisciplinary and comparative research approach and publications. She has published more than 20 peer-review articles.



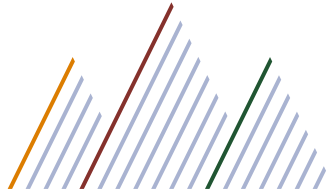
## LEORA ZABUSKY

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Penn Valley, PA

Leora Zabusky is a strategy and marketing consultant. Before launching her own consulting practice, she had several positions in the commercial business of Genentech in San Francisco. Prior to Genentech, she served as a strategic management consultant for Monitor in New York. Beyond her professional roles, Leora is an active leader and philanthropist in the Jewish Community. She serves on the Boards of Penn Hillel, BBYO International, and the Perelman Jewish Day School. Leora received undergraduate degrees in Economics and International Relations at the Univ of Pennsylvania, and an MBA from Univ of California Berkeley. Leora was born and raised in Cape Town, South Africa, and moved to Harrisburg, PA, in high school. Philadelphia is now home for Leora, her husband, and two high school-daughters.

# THE WEXNER FOUNDATION



## WEXNER SUMMITS THE NETWORK IN ACTION

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### THE WEXNER FOUNDATION

The Wexner Foundation trains and inspires leaders in the North American Jewish Community and the State of Israel. Through diverse, cohort-based educational programs, the Foundation invests in promising professionals and volunteers and gives them tools to exercise transformative leadership. Working in partnership with other foundations, philanthropists and communities, the Foundation strengthens North American Jewish life and Israel's public sector by making their leaders more skilled, visionary and collaborative.

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