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## JCC Global Delegate's bios to JCCA 2016 Biennial and Post-Biennial seminar

[by alphabetical order of Family Name]

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## 1. Smadar Bar-Akiva, Executive Director, JCC Global, Jerusalem, Israel



Smadar Bar-Akiva has been the executive director of JCC Global since 2001. She was previously the director of Israel Experience Initiatives for JCC Association of North America, developing and directing teen and Birthright programs to Israel and supervising 12teen partnerships around Israel. From 1993 until 1996 she served as a Jewish Agency community shlichah at the Columbus Jewish Federation, Ohio. From 1987 until 1993 she was the program coordinator for 80 staff and lay leadership JCC Association Israel seminars.

Smadar received a BA (with honors) in international relations and English literature and an MA (with honors) in contemporary Jewry from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She is a graduate of the “Kolot” Pluralistic Beit Midrash, of the Mandel School for Educational Leadership, and of the course “Strategic Management for Leaders of Non-Governmental Organizations” at the Harvard Kennedy School.

## 2. Anna Bondar, Jewish Renewal Coordinator, JDC Kiev, Ukraine



Anna Bondar is 28 years old from Kiev, Ukraine. Anna has a master’s degree in pedagogics (English and foreign literature), as well as bachelor’s degree in law. Anna has been teaching business English at the university for a year and has had an experience in working as a lawyer.

Five years ago, Anna started working at the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, working with foreign delegations, doing fundraising and PR. Today Anna works as a Coordinator of the JCC in Kiev, as well as a coordinator of all Jewish renewal programs in Central & Western Ukraine. Anna is responsible for coordination of administrative and programming processes in JCC Kiev, control of the efficient budget distribution and developing the image of the JCC.

Anna is an active member of the local Jewish community in Kiev. She is not only taking part in various events inside the community,

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but also volunteers visiting Jewish elderly people at their homes and helping children at-risk.

Anna loves learning foreign languages. She is fluent in Russian and English, knows elementary German and is learning Hebrew. Anna loves reading books, swimming, travelling and is always eager to develop both personally and professionally.

### 3. Yigal Danino, Executive Director, Tikvatenu Community Centers, Israel Federation of Community Centers, Israel



Yigal Danino is the Executive Director of Tikvatenu Community Centers, an NGO operating community centers in the Israeli periphery. He is Chair of the Israel Federation of Community Centers in Israel and a board member of JCC Global.

### 4. Aviad Friedman, Chair, Israel Association of Community Centers, Israel



Aviad Friedman has been the chair of IACC since 2013. He was the founder and first director general of the Ministry for Social and Diaspora Affairs and later served as senior advisor to the minister of foreign affairs. He subsequently left the civil service and moved to the business world, serving as CEO of IGB - a communications holding company. During these years, Aviad served as personal advisor to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and as a consultant on issues concerning Russian immigrants. He is a founding board member of Taglit-Birthright. He founded the leadership academy Bnei Zion in Tel Aviv where he still teaches and also co-founded a liberal Orthodox religious community in Tel Aviv. Aviad studied at Yeshivat Har Etzion, earned a BA with honors from the Open University and an MA with honors in public administration from Bar-Ilan University.

### 5. Jane Gellman, Honorary President, JCC Global, Milwaukee, USA



Jane is past president of the Harry and Rose Samson JCC in Milwaukee and a member of the JCCA Board of Directors. She has been active in Jewish life in Milwaukee for many years, having served as president of Hillel Milwaukee and campaign chair of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation annual campaign.

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She is current chair of the Greater Wisconsin Committee, a progressive public policy organization. Jane is a former physical education teacher. Jane loves hiking and biking and is a beginner bird watcher. She lives in Tucson, Arizona in the winter and is a volunteer naturalist there.

## 6. Dasi Gordon, Executive Director, Neve Yaakov Community Center, Jerusalem, Israel



Dasi Gordon is the Executive Director of the Neve Yaakov Community Center in Jerusalem, Israel. Previously, she was the COO at Nitza - The Israel Center for Maternal Health. She had various economic and banking positions. Dasi has a B.A. in Finance (cum laude) from the Ono Academic College and a M.B.A also in Finance (cum laude) from the JCT Machon Lev.

## 7. Ariel Hochman, Vice President, CDI, Mexico



Ariel Hochman is Vice President of CDI in Mexico City, Mexico. He has been a board member and served in various roles at the CDI for over twenty years. For the past four years, he has been serving as President of the Mexican Zionist Council.

## 8. Jackie Israel de Nichols, *Amitim*-Fellow, formerly from Caracas, Venezuela, residing in Miami, USA



Born in Caracas, Venezuela in 1976, Jackeline holds a Chemical Engineering degree with honors from the Universidad Metropolitan in Caracas. She had a 10 year career in R&D with Procter & Gamble, where she lead innovative projects in Health and Beauty Care for Low Income Markets, in places all over the world. In 2006, Jackeline decided to dedicate her time to her family, and her artistic interests and she developed the first Franchise model for Scrapbooking stores in Venezuela. She then became involved in the cultural department and later joined the Board of Directors at the JCC in Caracas- Hebraica. In October 2012, she became the youngest female board member to become President of Hebraica Venezuela. Her main focus has been to align strategic thinking and organizational culture with the long term vision for Hebraica as the preferred meeting place for Venezuelan Jewry.

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## 9. Etti Isler, Executive Director, Israel Federation of Community Centers, Israel



Mrs. Isler has been involved in community work and non-formal education for over 30 years.

Mrs. Isler has extensive knowledge of the community and society at the local, national and international levels. In Israel, she is considered one of the experts in the field and her advice is often sought.

During her long and rich career as the Executive Director of the Israel Federation of Community Centers, Ms. Isler has initiated, developed and run many seminars, conferences, and professional training, all in the field of community and non-formal education. These projects have been both on a national and international scale, with close partnerships with European organizations.

She has a BA in Informal Education and an MA in Community Education. In addition, over the last 6 years, Mrs. Isler has been a lecturer at the Academic Center Or Yehuda where she is an inspiration to the students.

## 10. Miki Ivanov, Program Director, OJB Shalom, Sofia, Bulgaria



Miki Ivanov is the Program Director in the Organization of the Jews in Bulgaria – SHALOM and Director of the Sofia JCC. He has been an active member of the community all his life. Miki has participated in many projects aiming at enhancing the Jewish life of the community. He is a graduate of Paideia - The European Institute for Jewish Studies and Portsmouth University. A positive thinker and a fast learner, a proud owner of great sense of humor and loves socializing and communicating.

## 11. Mario Izcovich, Board Member, JCC Global and Director, Pan European Programs, JDC Europe, Spain



A psychologist by training, Mario Izcovich is the director of both Pan European programs for JDC and Leatid, the European Center for Jewish Leadership.

He is also a founding member of the European Association of Jewish Community Centers (EAJCC.) In 2010, he participated in the Oxford Scenarios Program at Oxford University's Said Business School and went on to introduce Future Scenarios to the Jewish communities of Cape Town (South Africa) and São Paulo (Brazil) and to lay

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leaders and professionals of European Jewish communities through the ICCD – Leatid Europe seminars in Oxford (UK).

In Europe he supports the development of Jewish communities by lecturing on issues such as strategic planning, program development, outreach, developing staff, and innovation.

## 12. Alexey Lidovsky, Regional Coordinator, Active Jewish Teens, JDC Kryvoy Rog, Ukraine



Alexey Lidovsky has been a member of the Jewish Community in Kryvoy Rog since the age of 13. At the age of 18, he graduated from the Jewish Leadership Program "Metsuda". He then launched a project for children and elderly teaching them to use computers. In 2005 he became head of the local youth club. Between the years 2008-2010 he took a break and went to work for a Television Station where he works till this very day as a journalist, editor and broadcaster. From 2012, Alexey has been working in the field of public relations, promoting various campaigns, political and non-political. In 2013 he founded the "Lizard Film" company - his own PR and Media company. In that scope, he has worked as a PR consultant with various Jewish communities including the Jewish communities in Saratov Russia, Khmelnytsky Ukraine and Lviv Ukraine.

In 2016, Alexey joined the JDC Jerusalem office and is now heading the PR activities for Active Jewish Teens (AJT) - a youth movement in FSU.

Alexey holds a degree in Engineering Management and Automation Systems from the Krivoy Rog Technical University.

"For me the Jewish community was originally a chance to a normal existence for my family. Soon it became place for my self-realization, place where I have found like-minded people and support... I have been a part of the Ktyvoy Rog community for ten years and cannot imagine not being a part of it"

## 13. Maryna London, Jewish Renewal Coordinator, JDC, Odessa, Ukraine



Maria London, born in 1986, to a Jewish family in Odessa, Ukraine. When she was admitted to the Odessa National University, she began working with the Israeli Cultural Center in parallel to her studies in international economics. She was trained in three leadership programs, recruiting and leading the first group ever of Taglit from Odessa. Following her graduation, she took two years to works as an economist. When going to a youth

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club Hanukah event, she received an offer to work for the newly opened Jewish Culture Center as the Director of Jewish Programs. Realizing how much she misses working with programs related to Jewish life, she didn't hesitate for a moment and accepted the offer.

#### **14. Maria Maximova, JCC Senior Program Coordinator, Talinn JCC, Estonia**



Maria Maximova, 29 years old, was born in Volgograd, Russia, where she had lived until the age of 23. During her school and university years in Volgograd she was actively involved in the Jewish life of the local community, including volunteer work for the Community and for Jewish Agency. She is a graduate of the Volgograd State Technical University from the faculty of Economics and Management, specializing in Anti-crisis Management. Parallel to her Economics studies, she received her Master in Business Translation. In 2010 Maria got married and moved to Tallinn, Estonia and in 2011 gave birth to a baby girl. Starting from 2013, she began working for the Jewish Community of Estonia as a coordinator of different programs with a focus on young Jewish families and pre-school children.

#### **15. Sion Mercado, Vice President of the Executive Committee, CDI, Mexico**



Sion Mercado is the Vice President of CDI Executive Committee. He began his journey at the age of 15 when he joined Maccabi Hatzair in Mexico and has been an active at CDI for many years where he received intense community volunteer training. He spent much of his time at the CDI Executive Committee, as President of Youth, Treasury and Activities Committees. He was also the Producer of various projects: 1st International Meeting for Senior Adults, Summer Camps at CDI Mexico City and CDI Tepotzotlan, The 39th "Festival Aviv, Carlos Halpert de Danza Judía, Comunidad 100", and the Celebrations for the 67th Yom Haatzmaut, "Israel for the World." In 2012 he was part of a group that establishes a new CDI branch at one of the Monte Sinai Jewish Community Building. Sion holds a degree in Business and is the owner of an import company. Parallel to his business studies, he was part of a folk dance group at the CDI.

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Sion is married to Sara and together they have three beautiful daughters Sophia, Gabriela and Daniela, all involved in CDI with various activities .

## 16. Anna Michel, Program Director, JCC Global



Anna Michel joined JCC Global as Program Director in 2013. She previously worked as the Project Manager for the Wexner Israel Fellowship Program, focusing on recruitment, working with various public officials, and developing and working with the alumni community in Israel. Prior to that, she worked as the administrative assistant at the Institute for Monitoring Peace and Cultural Tolerance in School Education in Jerusalem. Anna is an active board member of Lada'at, an organization for the promotion of sexual health and sex education in Jerusalem. With a B.Sc. in molecular biochemistry from the Technion, she is in the process of completing her master's degree in public policy (MPP) in the Federman School of Public Policy Honors Program at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Born in Minsk and raised in Israel, Anna is fluent in Hebrew, English, Russian and knows some French. Anna and her husband live in Jerusalem and they are the proud parents of twin girls.

## 17. Mariano Mirelman, Director, Hebraica JCC, Paraguay



Mariano Mirelman has served as the Executive Director of the Jewish Community of Paraguay since 2007. His main responsibilities include the planning, management and development of social, cultural, sporting and religious activities. The Jewish community of Paraguay is a small community in South America of about 220 families with a strong desire to strengthen their Judaism. They constantly work on bringing the people to the community, especially the youth, through various activities. Prior to Paraguay, Mariano worked as a Director at the Jewish Community of Cuba (2004-2007) and in Venezuela at "Moral y Luces school (2002-2003). Mariano has an M.A. in Jewish Education from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and was a participant in a program for selected educators at the Melton Centre. Mariano was born in Argentina. He is married to Yael and they are the parents of two lovely children (Lior, 10 and Tali, 8). On his spare



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time, Mariano loves spending time with his family, play tennis, watch soccer and enjoy a good barbecue (asado).

## 18. Jonathan Ornstein, Executive Director, Krakow JCC, Poland



Since it's opening in 2008, Jonathan has served as the Executive Director of JCC Krakow. Prior to the JCC's opening in 2008, he lectured in Modern Hebrew at the Jagiellonian University for 6 years. A native of New York City, Jonathan moved to Israel in 1994, living for 7 years on a kibbutz and serving for 2 years in a combat unit in the I.D.F. before moving to Poland in 2001. Jonathan enjoys writing limericks, solving crossword puzzles, running, and playing basketball.

## 19. Isaac Podbilewicz, Vice President of the Executive Committee, CDI, Mexico



## 20. Mark Ramer, President, JCC Global, New York, USA



Mark Ramer, a graduate of NYU's Dental School, practiced dentistry for 10 years before moving into real estate.

He is the current president of his synagogue, the Jewish Center of Atlantic Beach, and previously served as the president of the Schechter Day School in Lawrence Long Island for 15 years. He is a board member of the JCC of the Greater Five Towns, the Jewish Education Project (formerly known as the BJE of New York) and UJA Federation of New York.

He recently sponsored a unique one year program training graduate students at Yeshiva University in marketing and fundraising.

## 21. Fanny Sarfati Misrahi, Director of the Sports and Cultural Activities, CDI, Mexico



Fanny Sarfati Misrahi is the Director of the Sports and Cultural Activities at CDI, Mexico. For the past six years, she has been in charge of: Academies, Events, Adults and seniors,

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Gallery, Library, Toy Library, Festivals, Auditorium programming, and Summer Camp Director.

Fanny is also an Actress and a scenic Director. She has been involved in artistic projects since 1990, as an actress a producer and scenic director.

## 22. Ester Sela, Israel Federation of Community Centers Board Member, Ra'anana, Israel



Ester Sela has been a board member of the Israel Federation of Community Centers for the past 23 years. She is an expert in informal education. For 25 years, she headed the Division of Supplementary Education at the Ra'anana Municipality, designing and implementing complex projects involving hundreds of people. Ester planned and facilitated many community events for the children and youth of Ra'anana.

Ester is married and lives in Ra'anana. She is the mother of four daughters and grandmother of eleven grandchildren.

## 23. Yamit Shanon, Director, International Relations and Resource Development, Israel Association of Community Centers, Israel



Seasoned Nonprofit professional with 16 years' experience in the philanthropic and NGO sector, both local and international .

Current employment: External Affairs Director, IACC - Israel Association of Community Centers Ltd and Academic Manager and lecturer - IDC academy Institute.

## 24. Rabbi Fabian Skornik, Executive Director, Lamroth Hakol, CLAM, Buenos Aires, Argentina



Rabbi Fabian Skornik holds a degree in Administration, with a focus on Marketing. He completed a postgraduate degree in Management of Educational Systems from FLACSO.

He received his rabbinical training from the Latin American Rabbinical Seminary, taking the last year of his training at the Rabbinical Institute A. J. Heschel in Israel. He has earned the title of Rabbi in 2002.

Rabbi Skornik participated in the second cohort of the Training Program in Management and Development of Jewish Community Organizations, organized by Joint Leatid in 1997.

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Since 2002 he has been serving as the Rabbi and Executive Director of the Jewish Community Cultural and Religious Center Lamroth Hakol located in the northern part of the province of Buenos Aires, Argentina.

**25. Daniel Vaisbuch Bitran, Board Member,  
Comunidad Israelita Sefaradí de Chile, CLAM,  
Chile**



Daniel Vaisbuch Bitran is a board member and advisor to the Sephardic Israelite Community of Chile.

He has been a member of the Israelite Stadium of Santiago, one of the most important community centers in Chile, all his life. Growing up, Tnuat Noar Maccabi Hatzair took a big part in his life where he also served as Executive Board member. After leaving Maccabi, he was elected President of the Young Zionist Federation of Chile for a period of one year. Between the years 2011-2012, Daniel attended the New Generation Leadership program developed by Keren Hayesod and the Israelite Circle of Santiago. He then became a board member for the program for two more years.

Daniel is a graduate of the Hebrew Institute of Santiago and has a Law degree from the Law School, University of Chile. He is a lawyer at the Drinking Water and Sanitization Regulatory Authority Agency for the Chilean government. Daniel is married and lives in Santiago, Chile.

**26. Einat Zinger Bar, Manager of Strategic  
Partnerships Development, IACC**



For the past 18 years Einat Zinger Bar has worked at the Israel Association of Community Centers (IACC) in various positions. Currently, she is the Manager of Strategic Partnerships Development. Her previous positions at the IACC include: Business Community Relation Manager, Program Manager at Shachaf - Prime Minister's office for handling all the South Lebanon Army families and Palestinian families who moved to Israel for rehabilitation and Director of Educational programs for immigrants.

Einat views the IACC as a major player in all social changes and processes in the Israeli society, where each individual should have an equal opportunity for personal growth and expression.

Einat lives in Kibbutz Eylon in the western Galilee. She is the mother of two daughters. Einat holds a BA in Communication and Sociology and MA degree in Public Administration for Directors.