

2022 Bronfman Fellow Introductions



Elke Bentley
Brookline, MA
Maimonides School

Fast Facts

- I have been playing instruments since I was four years old.
- Before COVID I worked on an animal farm in Israel in the summer for three years.
- I did the graphics for some of my school's spirit sweatshirts.

Hi! My name is Elke Bentley. I am 16 years old, and I live in Brookline, Massachusetts. I go to Maimonides School, a Modern Orthodox co-ed school also located in Brookline. I love both appreciating and making art and music. Both have been my calm during the storm of the pandemic and quarantine and I am always on the look-out for new music to listen to. Languages and different cultures have also always interested me, especially the complexities of Judaic studies and how they impact our Jewish community.



Ilan Brusso
Mount Kisco, NY
The Leffell School

Fast Facts

- One of my passions is promoting the inclusion of individuals with special needs in Jewish spaces. I volunteer every Sunday with kids with special needs, and this past summer I was a *madrich* (counselor)-in-training for special needs campers.
- I am super committed to my school community, so most of my extracurricular activities reflect that. I

am vice-president of my school's student government, a lawyer on the mock trial team, the co-head of my school's debate club and a runner on the Leffell Track team.

- Over high school, I have become increasingly interested in learning about Existentialism and how that philosophy both challenges and compliments different aspects of Judaism.

Hi! My name is Ilan Brusso. I'm from Mount Kisco, New York and I go to The Leffell School. I have two older sisters, drive a 2006 nail polish red Subaru (my grandmother's old car) named Barb and love Jewish learning. Because I go to a Jewish school, Judaic studies is always structured into my day, but my most impactful learning always happens in informal settings. I love writing poetry, watching dramatic movies and am a firm believer that *Melodrama* by Lorde is one of the best albums ever created. I spent a majority of this year obsessed with Fran Lebowitz, but have since gotten over that phase.

In terms of my connection to Judaism, my father is the rabbi of my synagogue, so shul has always been a really special and personal space for me. While most of my experience with Judaism has been through the Conservative movement, I don't necessarily identify with one denomination and have different connections to each one. The final, and most important, thing to know about me is my proudest accomplishment: my Wordle average is 3.6 guesses.



Adam Buchsbaum

Houston, TX
Xavier Academy

Fast Facts

- I spent many happy summers at Camp Young Judea Texas.
- I'm Captain of my school's varsity tennis team.
- I play and teach piano.
- My Bar Mitzvah was canceled at the last minute due to Hurricane Harvey (it was rescheduled for a few weeks later).

Hi! My name is Adam Buchsbaum. I was born and raised in Houston, Texas. I am thrilled to be a Bronfman Fellow this year. It'll be a much-needed and exciting change from COVID isolation. From pre-K to 10th grade I attended Jewish day schools, but now I attend Xavier Academy. I love intense conversations that challenge my thinking. It doesn't matter if the topic is trivial, such as comparing ice cream flavors, or profound like discussing if capital punishment is ever ethical; I'm ready to talk about it for hours.

I am a classically trained pianist, but my favorite song to play is "Great Balls of Fire" by Jerry Lee Lewis (it almost makes up for over a decade of practicing scales). I played baseball my entire life, mostly 3rd base and pitcher. However, during lockdown I switched sports and started playing tennis. Now I love my time on the court competing for my school's team. I also enjoy BBYO and being an Engine of Change Student Ambassador at Holocaust Museum Houston. Growing up my favorite books were the Percy Jackson series. More recent reading includes *Pet Semetary* and *Moby Dick*, so any suggestions of other good books about homicidal animals would be much appreciated. My top shows are *Sherlock*, *The Office*, *Demon Slayer*, and especially *Anthony Bourdain: Parts Unknown*.

Travel and cooking are two of my passions. Now that COVID restrictions are lifted I take

advantage of living in the best eating city in America by exploring mom & pop ethnic restaurants in search of unfamiliar dishes brought here by Houston's very large immigrant population.



Niva Cohen

Philadelphia, PA
Jack M Barrack Hebrew Academy

Fast Facts

- I'm often at MacGuffin Theater and Film Company, either with my acting troupe, the Mechanicals, or acting in a play (currently Romeo and Juliet).
- I'm Editor-in-Chief of the *Cougar Chronicle*, my school paper. I joined because I love to write and stayed for the satisfaction of editing.
- I love to travel! Last summer, I took a cross-country road trip on a program called Etgar 36 to hear opposing perspectives and challenge beliefs I took for granted as "correct."

I'm Niva, and I'm from Philadelphia. I love long walks, especially through big cities with endless streams of people. I love hearing the amusing snippets of their conversations. Every Shabbat, my family and I gather around the table and engage with each other. Sometimes, we debate moral dilemmas, but usually, it's politics. I sit eagerly soaking up their perspectives, humbled by my comparative ignorance, and intruding every so often — let's face it, quite regularly — with questions. To be heard over the verbal sparring, I might have to yell. But if you're the youngest child like I am, you're used to it.

I go to a Jewish school and have my whole life. Although it's pluralistic, almost everyone identifies with Conservative Judaism, including my family. Personally, I don't know how I identify. I guess I'm a Conservative Jew, but I

2022 Bronfman Fellow Introductions

think that denominations are less important than we make them out to be.

Extracurricular activities provide me with a breath of fresh air. I get out of the suburbs (where my school is) and hang out with other city kids at my theater company. When I'm not at school or theater, I'm running one of my clubs. Some are intellectual outlets, while others, like my Environmental Action Club, are passion projects. My favorite way to decompress is spending time outside or in front of the TV: taking walks, running, hiking, playing soccer, or binging TV dramas (my favorite is *Parenthood*) with family.



Natalie Cosgrove
Los Angeles, CA
Harvard-Westlake School

Fast Facts

- I write for *The Chronicle*, my school newspaper.
- I'm an active member of the Ethics Bowl Team, where I compete on a national level on topics such as governmental invasion of privacy, corporate influence on the environment and police defunding.
- I've enjoyed playing on the Harvard-Westlake Varsity tennis team.

Hi! My name is Natalie Cosgrove and I am from Los Angeles, California. I go to Harvard-Westlake School, which is secular, but I used to go to Sinai Akiba Academy, a Jewish Day school. When I'm not studying in school, you can find me in the newsroom of my school newspaper, *The Chronicle*. I have been interested in journalism since I got to Harvard-Westlake and love writing for the News, Features, and Opinions sections. In my free time, I love to listen to music—specifically Mitski and Lana Del Rey—and I co-host a radio show every Thursday night.

I come from a Conservative Jewish family, but I definitely consider myself to be on the more Modern-Orthodox side. I have gone to Ramah, California, a Jewish sleep-away camp for as long as I remember and base most of my Jewish identity on the bonds and practices I learned there. I am so excited to be surrounded by people with similar or different backgrounds and customs.



Daphne Feigin
Vienna, VA
Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology

Fast Facts

- I'm president-elect of my school's Honor Council, which resolves academic integrity violations by facilitating restorative justice, a discussion-based and victim-centered alternative to punishment.
- I played violin for eight years before switching to viola two years ago for a new challenge.
- I love organization and planning and I've planned my family's parties and vacations (and a Zoom Seder last year!) ever since I was in fifth grade.

Hi everyone! I'm Daphne Feigin and I'm from northern Virginia where I live with my parents and younger sister. I go to Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, a public high school with a very small Jewish population. My parents raised me similarly to a Reform Jew (although we now belong to a Conservative synagogue), but my extended family members hold a wide spectrum of beliefs, from secular to Orthodox.

As my school name suggests I love all things STEM-related. I love to code and learn new programming languages (my current favorite is Python). My favorite project so far has been building an AI to play Othello- it also helped me

become better at the game! I'm also interested in math, especially data science because I think data can reveal a lot and it's always fun to find an unexpected pattern in your data. I also love the humanities - I'm a huge Latin nerd and I'm the secretary of my school's Latin club, which recently celebrated the Ides of March by marching through the halls dressed in black and chanting "Beware the Ides of March!", which elicited some interesting reactions from my peers.

I like to write and volunteer often as a peer tutor at my school's writing center. I love helping other people and working with kids, which is why I also work as a tutor on the weekends. Last summer I worked at a daycare and it was a very memorable experience. I loved meeting all the children and listening to their stories- there was never a dull moment!



Kiley Fray
Malden, MA
Malden High School

Fast Facts

- I am an intersectional Feminist and have been an active member of my high school's feminism club. We are fighting to change the policies in our city so they protect our students, and change the culture.
- I am a member of the Educational Equity Committee in my city, which is working to reconstruct the policies, fix gaps and inequity within the education system in our community.
- One of my favorite past times is knitting. My great-aunt taught me how to knit over quarantine; I have continued and gotten a lot better over time. There is something about this activity that is soothing and comforting; the motion of knitting and intention you can put in while doing this. Knitting is one of my favorite activities.

I am Kiley Fray, I am a teen from Malden, Massachusetts. Most of my free time is spent reading feminist essay collections or picking up hobbies for short periods of time. Recently I have enjoyed intense games of chess with my father, and online games during free periods in school. Softball is another one of my interests; unlike chess, it is a long-term hobby of mine. I have been playing softball since the sixth grade; it allows me to express the competitive side of myself that I often push to the side. In most aspects of my life, I am not competitive because I am in settings where collaboration is the goal; But on the field, I am able to collaborate with team members and compete against another team.



Noah Frydberg
Houston, TX
Robert M Beren Academy

Fast Facts

- I have an e-commerce business that currently sells skin and home products.
- I enjoy reading all different kinds of books, from *We Should All Be Feminists*, by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, to *The 10x Rule*, by Grant Cardone.
- I am a competitive runner and triathlete.
- I am very close to my parents and three siblings.

Hi! I'm Noah, and I'm a rising senior at Robert M Beren Academy in Houston, Texas. I'm very passionate about marketing and business, and am always trying to improve as both a learner and leader. I try to express this through my extracurricular activities, including as a board member in NCSY, leader in my school's investing club, and through growing my e-commerce business. In my spare time, I enjoy exercising, watercolor painting, and reading.

Growing up, my family and I were more secular Jewishly, but have been observant for the past seven years. This came about as I always had a very positive outlook on Judaism, and wished to add more practices to my life. As a freshman, I chose to go to an Orthodox Yeshiva high school. Then my parents and I chose for me to continue my education at Beren Academy, where I currently go to school. Now, being in a co-ed Modern Orthodox environment, I feel like I am in the right place. I am able to put on tefillin in the morning, get a good secular and Jewish education, and still have time to pursue a variety of extracurricular activities.



David Garsten
North Haven, CT
Choate Rosemary Hall

Fast Facts

- I co-founded LingLeague (linguisticsleague.org), an international organization for teens interested in linguistics.
- I have a YouTube channel (youtube.com/c/shmililangs) and website (tsviii.wixsite.com/shmililangs) where I showcase my conlangs (constructed languages—think Dothraki, Klingon or Na'vi).
- I'm the co-head of Hillel at my school (not actually affiliated with Hillel International).

Hi, I'm David, but you can also call me Dudu. I live in North Haven, Connecticut. I attended a Reform synagogue until 7th grade, when I switched to a Conservative one with less than half a year before my Bar Mitzvah. However, during COVID my Judaism has become more personal, spiritual and cultural, rather than synagogue-based.

I'm interested in linguistics, creative writing, and Middle Eastern studies. I'm a student member of the Linguistics Society of America and the

Language Creation Society. I've gotten to meet some of my linguistics and conlanging heroes through LingLeague, and made friends from rural Czechoslovakia to Tamil Nadu to Dubai. In addition to being the Editor-in-Chief of my school's literary magazine I'm desperately trying to start a creative writing club called CWAC, pronounced "quack". I've written a (bad first draft of a) novel and many short stories. I'm the treasurer of my school's MENA club and part of the Arabic & Middle Eastern Studies program. I've been learning modern Hebrew for years and have also studied Arabic, Spanish, Esperanto and Latin, and speak Toki Pona.

I have a younger brother and a dog, a website and a blog. I love reading magical realism (*Keeper* by Mal Peet), mystery (*The Cemetery of Forgotten Books* by Carlos Ruíz Zafón), and modern fantasy (*The Green Bone Saga* by Fonda Lee). I am a huge *Avatar: The Last Airbender* fan—this deserves its own sentence. My music taste ranges from 90s-2000s R&B and hip hop to Israeli hip hop and Mizrahi to lo-fi and video game soundtracks, even though I don't play any. I love berry-flavored anything and olive oil on everything, and I'm super excited for this summer!



Adina Gerwin
New York, NY
Abraham Joshua Heschel High School

Fast Facts

- I am currently on the Congress Bundestag Youth Exchange Fellowship (CBYX) and have spent the past 7 months living with a homestay family in Hamburg Germany.
- I love writing and have spent the past two years as an editorial board member and contributing writer of the youth-led interfaith magazine, *KidSpirit*.
- I am very fond of photography and love taking and editing pictures. I enjoy

starting with a simple piece of art and through tools like changing the exposure, raising the contrast, or simply cropping an image, enhancing it into a more dynamic piece. I especially love black and white photos that depict everyday life.

Hi! My name is Adina Gerwin, and I am from the Upper West Side in New York City. I am an observant Egalitarian Jew and speak Hebrew. In fact, when I was in first grade, my family lived in Jerusalem, Israel, for a year. I love sharing my voice and am passionate about interfaith dialogue. For the past two years, I have gotten to do just that through my work with the international interfaith magazine, *KidSpirit*. I also really enjoy Jewish text study and spent a lot of time learning Talmud and Tanakh this past summer at the Drisha Institute. I cannot wait to continue reading, learning, and thinking about Jewish texts with Bronfman. I also love playing soccer and following the U.S. women's national team.

Currently spending my junior year in Hamburg, Germany, through the Congress Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX) Fellowship, I am also very interested in global issues and citizen diplomacy. While in Germany, I lived with a secular Christian homestay family and attended the local school. Most days, my host brother and I actually bike to school together. I am an active member of the Hamburg Jewish community and a regular attendee at the Jewish youth club, Chazack. I would also describe myself as both an atheist and observant Jew. While I don't believe in God, I feel deep meaning in the communal observance of tradition and law. Now that the weather is finally improving, I am hoping to spend some time with my host mother at the community garden. Although we live in the city, my host family also has four chickens, so I will miss the fresh eggs and the amazing German bread. I also love going on long walks and listening to music often simultaneously.



**Marisa Warman
Hirschfield**
New York, NY
*Ethical Culture Fieldston
School*

Fast Facts

- I make movies and am currently finishing up a Nora-Ephron-esque short film about an independent bookstore.
- I am a student advisor to the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, a non-profit generating innovative ways of engaging K-12 students in history.
- I serve on the executive leadership board of HereNow, a youth mental health initiative.
- I dabble in basketball.

Hi everyone! I'm Marisa (she/her). I'm a Reform Jew from Manhattan and attend Fieldston High School in the Bronx. At school, I edit the literary magazine and co-lead the Jewish affinity group. I have three siblings and a dog, all of whom I love and tolerate (usually). At any given moment, you'll probably find me very sleep-deprived, defending pescatarianism, and wearing a sweater vest. I love music and play piano and vibraphone. I am neither a singer nor a dancer, but do both frequently, much to the dismay of everyone in close proximity; I apologize in advance. I like old movie musicals, Leslie Knope, brunch, walks with friends, Carole King, *Saturday Night Live*, Aretha Franklin, and reading plays. In terms of more purely academic passions, I am interested in constitutional history, political philosophy, literature, and Judaism. Really, I am happy to talk about all things humanities and social science. I very much value civil discourse, as well as Jewish culture and tradition, so this fellowship immediately appealed to me. I'm abundantly excited to explore Life's Big Questions this summer!

2022 Bronfman Fellow Introductions



Sofia Isaias-Day
Corvallis, OR
Corvallis High School

Fast Facts

- I play for the Corvallis High School girls tennis team.
- I am published on The Jewish Women's Archive in partnership with the Rising Voices Fellowship.
- My two favorite books are *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston and *Like Water for Chocolate* by Laura Esquivel.

Hi! My name is Sofia Isaias-Day, and I am from Corvallis, Oregon, located in the beautiful Willamette Valley. One of my favorite things to do is write articles and short stories for the Jewish Women's Archive. I like to discuss privilege, cultural identity and Jewish feminism in my writing, while adding elements of magical realism from my Mexican Sephardic heritage. I use pop media, Torah, midrash and my own personal experiences to digest aspects of society, as well as reimagine classic Jewish stories from a Feminist lens to convey modern issues.

I enjoy hiking, swimming and skiing in the beautiful Oregon outdoors. I play a lot of tennis with my dad and my friends, especially during the spring and summer. I also love reading classic books, with a bigger focus on women and people of color. I'm currently working on *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott and *Dust Tracks on A Road* by Zora Neale Hurston. In my free time I like to do ceramics, such as sculpture work, slab work, and throwing pots. During my free periods at school you can most likely find me in the ceramic studio with my hands and arms covered in clay.

I enjoy studying the origins of Jewish mysticism, specifically of Sephardic women since a lot of that knowledge has been lost in my family. My mother converted to Judaism before I was born and my father's family is descended from Jews who came to Mexico during the Spanish

Inquisition, but lost all of their religious ties. I see my Jewish study and research as a triumph for my family lineage who were unable to express their identity.



Elnatan Kelman
Toronto, ON
TanenbaumCHAT

Fast Facts

- I'm a *madrish* (counselor) at my school, which means I organize and go on Shabbatons (weekend retreats).
- I play two instruments: piano at home, and flute in my school band. I'm currently learning "Viva la Vida" by Coldplay on piano.
- I'm one of the few Canadians who can call winter my favorite season. I love all winter activities and the overall vibe of November to February.

Hello! I'm 16 years old and my name is Elnatan. I live in Toronto, and go to TanenbaumCHAT, a Jewish community high school. I'm always down for a good game of chess or tennis, or any other challenging games. I love debate/discussion and am involved in a lot of public speaking-based extracurriculars, including Model UN and Competitive Debate Club, in which my teammate and I are the reigning champions. My five older siblings and I all have bright red hair, which makes for great group costumes and a lot of overused comments from friendly strangers. Though I have a great time bike riding with friends (or by myself), nothing beats a good run with a dog, or just about any other activity with a dog.

My school schedule is filled with all types of classes, from chemistry to history to music to Tanakh, and outside of school I spend my time tutoring, playing piano, and (at least trying to) cook, while also having a healthy dose of wasting

2022 Bronfman Fellow Introductions

my time on Netflix and social media. To that end, my taste in movies ranges from *Mrs. Doubtfire* to *Deadpool* and everything in between, and I'm allegedly way too obsessed with *Breaking Bad*. I like to hear new perspectives and have my views challenged as much as I challenge others.



Isabelle Kim-Sherman
Santa Barbara, CA
Dos Pueblos High School

Fast Facts

- I have a nearly 500-day streak on Duolingo.
- I made a corset from a 1909 pattern entirely by

hand.

- My favorite food is mandu, or Korean dumplings.

Hello! My name is Isabelle Kim-Sherman and I'm from Santa Barbara, California. I live with my parents and a five-month-old puppy named Wolfgang, and I have an older brother who's in college. I also developed a recent interest in historical dress and I've sewn or altered several articles of clothing to resemble those from the late 19th to early 20th centuries, which I wear as part of my daily attire. Both of these things have come together to make me look like the ghost of a Victorian school teacher.

Wallace & Gromit is one of my favorite franchises of all time. In my free time, I like baking and knitting. I had a *Ratatouille* themed birthday party at the ripe age of 15. In addition, I'm a huge writing and history nerd. I've been writing short stories and poems since as soon as I learned how to write, and I've been trying to weave historical elements into my writing for nearly as long. Additionally, my interest in historical fashion has opened my eyes to the world of historical costuming and I've come to care deeply about historical accuracy. I can't imagine that my parents appreciate me interrupting every movie we watch that was set earlier than World War II to point out what the

costume designers got wrong, but they assure me they've learned a lot.



Noam Medjuck-Bruckner
New York, NY
Abraham Joshua Heschel High School

Fast Facts

- I've been going to Eden Village Camp since I was nine, where I learned how to milk goats and cows, build shelters, plan and cook meals for over 70 people, and spin fire-staff. I've also witnessed a Kosher *shechita* (slaughter) at camp, which was a really complicated and cool experience.
- I play two main sports: Cross Country and Ultimate. This year, I took first place and got a personal record in the Cross Country Divisional Championships, and my team won first place overall. On the Ultimate Team, I am usually a cutter, but this year I've also been handling. I will definitely be bringing a few of my discs to Israel.
- I sing bass and beatbox in an a cappella group, the Heschel Harmonizers. We perform songs in both Hebrew and English, spanning a wide variety of genres. I also play a little drums, and I am so down to sing or jam with anyone!

Hi! My name is Noam and I live in Manhattan with my parents and my three younger sisters. Having grown up in the city, I love walking, though I have yet to accomplish my goal of walking the five hours from Manhattan to my grandparents in Brooklyn. I went to a small elementary school called Beit Rabban, where I learned to read Torah in second grade. If you see a photo of me from back then, you might not recognize me because I had long blonde *peyot* (Jewish sidelocks) until the start of tenth grade. Another significant change I made last year was my decision to start eating meat. I live in a

2022 Bronfman Fellow Introductions

vegetarian household, so I am very grateful for the number of Kosher meat restaurants in my neighborhood. On Shabbat and *Chagim*, I alternate between Darkhei Noam, an Orthodox partnership minyan, and Ansche Chesed, the Conservative synagogue I grew up in. I am a firm believer in Egalitarianism, but I also love the energy of Orthodox davening. No matter where I pray, I always want to be an active member of the *tefillah* (which at the moment is my school's Orthodox minyan).

My main academic interest is math; I'm really intrigued by probability and game theory and love learning calculus. Last year I helped start the Heschel video gaming club, which is now the largest nonacademic club in the school. We host a schoolwide Minecraft SMP server which has been wildly popular, especially during COVID. Another pandemic achievement of mine was watching every Marvel movie in order, but I still prefer Flash comics and the DC universe.



Dahlia Miller
New York, NY
The Beacon School

Fast Facts

- I have been dancing at the Mark Morris Dance Center in Brooklyn since I was four and am in my seventh year as a member of the Student Company there, performing Mark Morris repertory and original works by other choreographers.
- For the past two years, I've played on my school's ultimate frisbee team; last year we were the league champions!
- I am currently at work on a project titled "Periods and ME: Menstruation Education," an online resource hub for young people about menstruation and menstrual justice.

Hi, everyone! I'm Dahlia Miller (she/her) and I live in Brooklyn, NY. I am a junior at The Beacon

School, a public school in Manhattan, where I helped to organize a voter pre-registration drive, and am a member of the Gxrls Ultimate Frisbee team. (Go, Beacon Egg and Cheeses! I wish our team name sounded more Kosher). I spend my time reading, crafting, hanging out with friends, dancing (both in the studio and in my kitchen), writing the occasional poem, and (more often than I'd like to admit) disappearing down Wikipedia rabbit holes.

I've grown up attending services and Hebrew school at Congregation Beth Elohim, a Reform synagogue, where I also teach as a *madricha* and serve on the youth-group board. I'm super committed to feminism, environmentalism, and a lot of other -isms and am really excited to explore Jewish pluralism!



Samuel Rosen
Dallas, TX
Lakehill Preparatory School

Fast Facts

- I am a co-founder and facilitator of the Diversity Discussion Group at my school.
- I am a three-sport athlete, participating in varsity football, soccer, and track.
- I am passionate about sustainable fashion, ethical manufacturing and distribution of clothing.

My name is Samuel Rosen - I go by Sam. I am born and raised in Dallas, TX. I am a Reform Jew, and I grew up in Temple Emanuel, a large, 2500-family, congregation. My mom is from Malaysia, and moved to the states for college; she also formally converted to Judaism last week! My dad grew up in Michigan, and they met in graduate school. Most of my time in the last year has been spent doing school work or playing sports. I play football, soccer, and I run track, so I'm always busy training for one sport or another. I have played soccer since middle school and am now

2022 Bronfman Fellow Introductions

the captain of my high school soccer team. I'm hoping to take the team to a state championship next year. My best sport is by far track, which I have also participated in since middle school. I run the 100m, 200m, and 400m dash, and I have goals of running in college.

In my free time I love thrifting. I have a passion for vintage clothing and sustainable fashion. I have also recently become interested in Legos again, which is a fun throwback to my childhood. Instead of Star Wars and Ninjago, I'm more interested in the architectural and botanical sets. During the summers, I love hiking and being surrounded by nature. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, my family has taken road trips up into the mountains of Colorado to get out of the Texas heat and the big city. Before the pandemic, my family would go to visit my family in Malaysia at least once per year. I've also traveled to India, Thailand, China, Japan, Australia, and Canada. I have a relatively small knowledge of music, but I am always open to new music and I love discovering new genres and bands.



Eliana Rosenfeld
Paradise Valley, AZ
Phoenix Country Day School

Fast Facts

- I am a 2021-22 Rising Voices Fellow.
- I am a competitive, nationally ranked rower (single sculler mostly).
- I love to write poetry and read romance novels (Jane Austen especially!).

My name is Eliana (Elle) Carmel Rosenfeld (unfortunately named after the mountain, not the candy), and I attend Phoenix Country Day School in Paradise Valley, Arizona. In my free time when I am not doing homework, you can find me rowing for hours in a single sculling boat on Tempe Town Lake—a sport I hope to pursue in college and beyond. This fall, I had the amazing

opportunity of racing at the Head of the Charles in Boston, and I am so excited to have requalified to compete again next year!

I am a current Rising Voices Fellow, part of the Jewish Women's Archive, where I am able to delve into my interests of feminism, Jewish history, and social justice by writing blog posts and engaging in conversation with academics and my amazing peers across the country. This experience thus far has opened my eyes to a pluralistic lens of Judaism, as compared to my relatively homogeneous and predominantly Ashkenazic, Arizona community.

I am a 6-year volunteer at Friendship Circle Arizona and a current 2-year teen Board member, where I work planning events, fundraising, and educating mentors and the community about FCAZ's mission to provide a safe and fun space for disabled kids and those facing severe health challenges. I also have a deep passion for great banana peanut butter oatmeal, the daily NYT mini, and Hozier.



Noah Segal
Ardsley, NY
Ardsley High School

Fast Facts

- I love writing and currently have a blog.
- I really like to cook (I make a mean stir-fry).
- I am the founder and president of my school chess club and give free chess lessons to local kids in my community.

Hi! My name is Noah Segal. I am from Ardsley, which is a suburb outside of New York City. I am interested in people, places, and things. More specifically, I have been reading lots of philosophy for fun (it's not fun). I really enjoy hearing the thought processes of people I

2022 Bronfman Fellow Introductions

disagree with and thinking about large depressing problems.

I'm the founder and president of the Ardsley Chess Club, and I play varsity soccer. I'm a staff writer at the school newspaper and a violinist in the school chamber orchestra. My family and I are members of the CSAIR synagogue in Riverdale, and I've attended Young Judea camps (Tel Yehuda and Sprout Lake) for the past 9 years.



Eliana Simmons
West Hartford, CT
Hall High School

Fast Facts

- I'm an engineer on my school's VEX Robotics Team.
- I'm a writer and editor for the French section of my school's foreign language magazine and have been learning French since third grade.
- I'm a member of the Einayich Yonim Fellowship, where we study environmental issues and leadership through a Jewish spiritual framework.

Hello! My name is Eliana Simmons. I live in West Hartford, Connecticut and go to Hall High School. I attend a Conservative synagogue, but I've gone to both Conservative and Reform religious schools. I'm interested in a lot of things, which can be either inconvenient or exciting depending on what mood I'm in. One thing I'm really passionate about is art. My preferred art form is painting (especially oil paints), and I paint mostly landscapes and/or plants. I love all things plant related, whether that's hiking in the forest, gardening, or taking care of houseplants. I have five plants in my room, but my family has over 30 plants in total. I also read a lot. I tend to prefer fantasy, but over the past few years I've been introducing a bit more variety into my reading. My other big hobby is knitting. Currently I'm working on a sweater that I'm hoping to finish in

time for next winter. At school, some of my favorite classes have been European history, painting, and robotics. I'm on my school's VEX robotics team, where we build mostly functional robots.

I have several life goals. The first is to get kicked out of a literary conference for scholars of Edgar Allan Poe for my breathtakingly bad opinions on his life (which I haven't come up with yet). The second one is to make gold using a particle accelerator. I'm hoping to come up with a third goal this summer!



Lia Sokol
Somerville, MA
Somerville High School

Fast Facts

- At school I recently joined the robotics team and I have been learning how to program and build our robot, Bonk, for competitions.
- Over quarantine I created a woodshop in the basement and built a garden bed. I hope to maybe plant more flowers in it this spring.
- In 2018 I convinced my parents to get a dog and we adopted a 7-year-old shih tzu named Odie. Besides a bit of separation anxiety and a lack of teeth, he is a good dog and very important to me.

Hi! I'm Lia (she/her) and I live in Somerville Massachusetts which is right outside Boston. I went to a Jewish private school for elementary school, but now I go to Somerville High, where very few people are Jewish. In school I enjoy most subjects, but I especially like physics and history. In the future, I'm thinking about studying psychology or education. I work at an after-school program and am in charge of twenty hyper first-graders for a few hours three days a week. Outside of school I volunteer at a domestic violence shelter and spend a lot of my time

2022 Bronfman Fellow Introductions

extreme couponing. My other hobbies include doing art, baking (and eating), re-watching *Friends*, and reorganizing my room.

As for my Jewish life, I am a bit between Modern Orthodox and Conservative. I go to a partnership Minyan where both men and women participate in leading the service, but there is still a *mehitzah*. I'm excited to get to know everyone and learn more about my own Jewish identity and ponder important philosophical questions.



Leona Teten

New York, NY
Bronx High School of Science

Fast Facts

- I'm the president of my school's Jewish Student Union and am also on the JSU NY State Board.
- I love Israel, and this will be my second year of going on a program there.
- I run in circles of various sizes for fun.

Hi! I'm Leona. I was born and raised in New York City, and I'm a junior at the Bronx High School of Science. I graduated from an Orthodox middle school in New Jersey but chose to go to a public high school in search of new experiences and diverse viewpoints. The vastly shortened commute didn't hurt either! I attended an environmentalist-Jewish summer camp called Eden Village for seven years, and since then I've been in love with running, hiking, kayaking, and generally exploring nature. One of the coolest things I ever did was an overnight kayaking camping trip, even if I did capsize on the second day. I'm on my school's Varsity Cross Country and Varsity Track teams; I won the Cross Country JV Bronx Borough Championships in 2021. Other things I love include French press coffee, the poems on the subway, my family, and poi (ask me what that is!). I also love to read, occasionally on Jewish topics, but more often sci-fi, fantasy, math, economics, or psychology books. My

favorites include *Flatland*; *I, Robot*; *Freakonomics*; and *The Tale of the Dueling Neurosurgeons*.

I was raised Modern Orthodox, and it's been a struggle to stay true to that in a public school. I'm super involved in the Bronx Science Jewish community: I'm the president of our Jewish Student Union and also help organize events for Jewish public school students around New York. I fell in love with Israel this past summer, and since then I've been working on advocating for Israel through StandWithUs, AJC, the Jewish Student Union, and by myself. Other things I'm passionate about include equal access to information, religious equity, the environment, anti-antisemitism, and educational equity.



Ilan Weiner

New York, NY
SAR Academy

Fast Facts

- I co-founded a Behavioral Economics Club.
- I co-founded a new initiative for Jewish high school students to learn about the Abrahamic Accords and create relationships with UAE high schoolers.
- I'm a member of Model UN and the Tennis Team.

Ilan Weiner lives in NYC and attends SAR High School. Ilan is a member of SAR's Model UN Team and Tennis Team and also co-founded the Behavioral Economics Club and an initiative for Jewish high school students to create relationships with UAE high schoolers in order to promote mutual understanding.

**Daniela Woldenberg**

New York, NY
Yeshivat Ramaz

Fast Facts

- I volunteer at Repurpose, a nonprofit consignment store that donates 100% of its proceeds to organizations that work to support women.
- I've been playing soccer since I was five years old in the West Side Soccer League and am the captain of my school team.
- I love art in all its forms. I enjoy painting portraits, playing guitar, writing poetry, and editing *Parallax*, my school's literary magazine. Last summer I took a poetry writing course at the Iowa Young Writers' Studio and loved it.

Hi everyone! My name is Daniela Woldenberg and I am from New York City. I am a sister of triplets who are only a year and a half older than me. Some call us Irish quads. My father is from Monterrey, Mexico, and my mother is from Brooklyn, though ultimately both their families hail from shtetls in Eastern Europe not far from each other.

I go to Yeshivat Ramaz, a Modern Orthodox Jewish day school. My favorite classes this year are English, history, Talmud, and surprisingly math; however, now that I'm starting calculus things may change... One of my favorite activities is walking, although my soccer coach insists that I do more running. I walk with my friend Tova (almost) every day to school and, when she sleeps in, my music accompanies me. I have an extensive playlist that I have been expanding since my Christina Perri days. It is 74 hours and 16 minutes long (and growing) and some of my current favorite artists include Phoebe Bridgers, Frank Ocean, and HAIM.

I am also an avid reader and a compulsive movie watcher. I am obsessed with Sally Rooney's

novels and one of my current favorites is a book by Banana Yoshimoto entitled *Kitchen*. Some of my favorite movies include *Juno*, *Hunt for the Wilderpeople*, and *The Royal Tenenbaums*. Recently I've gotten into spoken word and am mustering up the courage to perform one of my pieces at the end of the year during my school's "Celebration of the Arts." I enjoy doing the daily *New York Times* crossword puzzle, although time usually only allows for the mini, and playing Bananagrams and Egyptian Ratscrew whenever I get the chance.