



Noam Shalev

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Hi Everyone!

My name is Noam Shalev and I am going to be a shin-shinit in Cleveland for the 2017-2018 school year. We will meet each other a few months from now, but until then, let me tell you a little bit about myself.

I have lived in the northern part of Israel, in a small community (village, or yeshuv as we call it) called Rakefet, with my family since the day I was born. There are five people in my family: my father, my mother, my older brother and my older sister. My mother, Einat, is a social worker and my father, Offer is an instrumentation and control engineer. After serving eight years in the Israeli Navy as a naval officer, my brother, Ido, now lives and works in Nigeria as a military advisor. My older sister is Maya. After finishing her service as an officer in the intelligence corps, she is now working for a private intelligence company and lives in Tel-Aviv. We are a very close family and do a lot of things together such as: eating Shabbat dinner on Fridays and going to the Kinneret on Saturdays.



My favorite hobby is dancing. I have been dancing since I was a little girl and I still devote many hours a day to it. Over the last three years, dance has become more than just a hobby for me. Because of my decision to major in dance during high school, it has become a more professional direction. As part of the dance program I perform regularly, and this year I finished the final exams in dance. This is a very high accomplishment for dancers in Israel.

In addition, I chose to major in Bible Studies. I chose to do so, because analyzing these stories is highly interesting to me. In my free time, when I don't dance or study, I like to cook, bake, and hang out with my friends.

In addition to dancing and studying in school, and after taking a hadracha course for ten days, I became a guide in my village when I was in grade ten. I was a guide for two years in my village under the "working and learning youth" movement, which abroad is called "habonim dror". In my first year as a guide, I guided a ten year old group with two of my friends. In my second year I guided eighth grade students by myself. Through these two years I had many different experiences with both groups. My hadracha included many overnight trips, including two five day camping trips, and one seminar called "A Big Head". This seminar dealt with the issue of socioeconomic gaps in Israel.

In addition to my hadracha, I volunteered for four years in "Nitzanim", an association for kids with special needs "Nitzanim" is a special place which is also located in the municipality where I live. The kids who are a part of "Nitzanim" meet twice a week to hang out and socialize with other kids just like them. My role was to play with the kids, give them a place to express themselves, be supportive and give them things they might be missing in their everyday life.



So after telling you about myself, I'm now so excited to meet and get to know you all!

**See you soon,
Noam**