



# Shaked Shachar

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**Hello everyone**

**I am very excited to introduce myself to you for our up-coming year together. There are many things I really want to tell you about myself, so let's start:**

**My name is Shaked, which means "almond" in English. Usually when I am abroad, I run into lots of distortions of it- one time I was even called 'Shakira'. I am 18 and I live with my father, my mother, my two little brothers, our cat and four noisy hens in a small town (we call it in Hebrew 'Yeshuv') in the north of Israel. It is called Shimshit (literally- Sunny). It is pretty sunny, actually. Shimshit is part of the 'Jezreel Valley", which is in my opinion one of the most beautiful areas in the country. There are streams and springs in the Valley, and lots of fields. It was really fun growing up in a place like this. I will tell you a bit about my family.**

**My little brother, Lior, is 12. Lior likes building things (he is very creative) and hanging out with his friends. Together we like playing and singing. My other brother is Amit. He is younger than me but**



that's very confusing because it's crazy how tall he is. Amit has played tennis for 6 years now and he is really good at it. My mother, Ronit, works as a teacher in a primary school, but she is just finishing her Naturopathia (holistic medicine) studies. She, and all of us, are very excited about it. My father, Omri, works as a VP in a communication infrastructures company and likes listening to Israeli artists, such as: Arik Einstein, Berry Saharof, Tislam, etc. We love running in the fields together. My grandparents, and most of my uncles and cousins, live in a Kibbutz north of our town. We go there every holiday and it is very unique and fun.

As I mentioned before, I really love music and it is a major part of me and of my life. I have played the recorder and the piano for 11 years now. I also sing, and try to play the guitar (but I am not sure how that works...). Three years ago, I decided that I wanted to learn in a school that would be more challenging for me so I found a boarding school for arts and science in Jerusalem and started studying there. Living in Jerusalem and in a boarding school was definitely a great and interesting experience. Besides music, I major in Arabic and Physics. They both really interest me (I have to admit that Arabic is a bit more interesting) and I will hopefully have a job which includes both the army, in the Intelligence corps.



Another thing which I like doing, and try to do as much as I can, is hiking- especially in the desert. The landscapes of the desert are so different from the views in my area. There is something special about them that just calms you down. Every year I travel to the desert at least three times: in Sukkot- with my father's family (from the Kibbutz); on Passover- with a group of families from my town; and in over-night trips with my school or youth movement.

Speaking of youth movement... I was a part of the 'Bnei Ha'Moshavim' youth movement for 7 years both as a hanicha (student) and a counselor. I was also a counselor for 2 years in the 'Shelach' youth movement which is focused mostly on hiking in the county. Being a part of a youth movement, especially as a counselor, has taught me a lot about Israel, friendship and responsibility, and I am glad I was a part of it.

I have heard a lot about your community and I really look forward to meeting and working with you next year.

See you in 4 months! Shaked