What would Modern Orthodoxy be for me without Bnei Akiva? Bnei continues to inspire me and hundreds of thousand of people around the world, spreading zionism and unity. Bnei Akiva is the place to be every Shabbat and camp, promoting positivity and fun.

-Saadya Apple, chanich, Sydney, Australia
The World Council has now been active for two years. As we approach the next meeting, where we will be welcoming new members, it is an appropriate time to review our choveret, which outlines the activities of World Bnei A kiva (WBA). Hopefully this will provide useful information for our new members and refresh the memories of everyone else.

We have included:

1. A concise description of all projects
2. A three-year assessment of our projects' progress and the fulfillment of our goals
3. A budget description detailing financial investment in the projects

Please read the choveret; we will be dedicating time in our next council meeting on October 30 to examine some of the below topics.
Roi Abecassis
Location: Israel
Representation: Mazkal

Roi Abecassis is the Head of the World Bnei Akiva and took on this position in 2016. He is a graduate of Yeshiva Har El Zion and is a certified lawyer and holds a B.A. in Political Science from Bar Ilan University. Roi started his career with World Bnei Akiva in 1996, and was then with the World Bnei Akiva and World Zikaron Organization (WZO) Central Director in Greece. Following an admission as CEO of WZO’s Strategic Planning Department. Prior to his current position, Abecassis was World Bnei Akiva Deputy Mazkal (Deputy Chief) between 2011-2015. Roi lives with his wife and four children in Beit Shemesh.

Gideon Bratt
Location: Israel
Representation: UK

Mr. Bratt grew up in London, England and was a member of Bnei Akiva Harel until he applied for Yeshiva Har El Zion as part of the Torah Nachum program and then returned to the UK to study International Relations at the University of Birmingham. After graduating, he worked for Bnei Akiva UK as the Senior Worker and shortly after moved Aliyah to Jerusalem. After a few months at Uper El Zion, Mr. Bratt served in the IDF’s Foreign Relations unit, and now works in marketing for a documentary film production company in the Old City.

Nathan Feldman
Location: Mexico
Representation: South America

Mr. Feldman has been part of Bnei Akiva since the age of 11, and has been a machsiah and hachshara participant on Hashomer. He served in the IDF’s Bar Ilan University and returned to Mexico to be a Machsiah as he has studied in a Chemical Engineering Subsequently he has been Chairman of the Committee for the Youth of the Auschwitz community in Mexico, and President of the Board of Haneva school. Bnei Shemesh Community Center, the Executive Committee of the Auschwitz community, and now the Board of Directors of the Auschwitz community in Mexico. He is part of the Friends of the Bar Ilan University in Mexico and is on the Board of Trustees of the University. He is the on the Bnei Akiva Parents Council and part of the friends of the Shalom Youth Mexico Hospital. Mr. Feldman is married with a child.

Rob Fihrer
Location: South Africa
Representation: South Africa

Mr. Fihrer attended the King David School in Johannesburg, South Africa. He then went on to study at the University of the Witwatersrand and graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce degree. Mr. Fihrer also holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Management from the University of the Witwatersrand. Mr. Fihrer served for many years in multiple leadership roles among fellow B’nei Akiva members as well as other partners in 2003 and is currently the CEO. Mr. Fihrer sits on the board of Masbia South Africa, the South African Jewish Board of Deputies and for the past year has been integrally involved in Bnei Akiva South Africa through the Bnei Akiva Foundation, focusing on reviving the Campsite in Mossel Bay and supporting the Leadership.

Ita Garcia
Location: Israel
Representation: Europe

Mrs. Garcia was born and raised in the Portuguese Jewish community of Amsterdam. She taught physical education for many years to Jewish children in Amsterdam and other communities. She also spent many years volunteering with the Chevra Kadisha of the portuguese community. Mrs. Garcia entered the B’A’s movement was ravaged by the B’A movement. Her husband was a machsiah and she is a machsiah, she has two children, Naama who has been chabed in hachshara and helped in the movement, and some years in mantchach. She also works with the people of other Jewish youth movements in the Hashomer community. She and her husband made Aliyah five years ago and they continue to help members of B’A and their children.

Gael Grunewald
Location: Israel
Representation: Ex-Mazkal

Mr. Grunewald was born in France and moved to Israel where he is. Mr. Grunewald served as Chair of the Vizai Amunia of World Bnei Akiva. Prior to that he headed the Jewish Agency’s Counselling Training Institute as educational adviser for the European Rabbinic Committee, Secretary General of World Bnei Akiva and Chair of the Youth Movements World Council. In 2015, he was elected to the World Zikaron Organization (WZO) Executive. Mr. Grunewald has been the leader of the Atharim World Bnei Akiva Movement since 2014 and has been serving as RAL-JNF Deputy Chairman. During the last Congress, Mr. Grunewald was selected as Head of the Ambassadors Division of the IAC. Mr. Grunewald is the Chairman of Vizai Amunia - Hachshara Proctor-Learning Institute. Gael and his wife Virginia is died Shemirah and have seven children.

Gideen Bratt
Location: Israel
Representation: South America

Mr. Bratt grew up in London, England and was a member of Bnei Akiva Harel until he applied for Yeshiva Har El Zion as part of the Torah Nachum program and then returned to the UK to study International Relations at the University of Birmingham. After graduating, he worked for Bnei Akiva UK as the Senior Worker and shortly after moved Aliyah to Jerusalem. After a few months at Uper El Zion, Mr. Bratt served in the IDF’s Foreign Relations unit, and now works in marketing for a documentary film production company in the Old City.

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Jeremy Kurnedz
Location: Israel
Representation: Ex-Shaliach

Mr. Kurnedz was born in Manchester, UK. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from UCL, a B.A. in Strategic Management from MGIMO University and a Masters in Business Administration from the Polish Open University School of Management. Mr. Kurnedz was a shaliach for World Bnei Akiva the Former Soviet Union (FSU) between 1991 and 1994. Since 2014, he has been the CEO of MIstroc Kornan. Mr. Kurnedz served as the Treasurer of WBA between 2002 and 2012 and has been Treasurer of World Mizrachi from 2001. He resides in Bnei Akiva in Ashkelon. They have seven children.

Wayne Yoffee
Location: USA
Representation: North America

Mr. Yoffee resides in Houston, Texas. He is a shareholder with Greenberg Traurig LLP and practices primarily in the area of real estate finance. He has served on the Board of Bnei Akiva of the U.S. and Canada for over ten years and is currently Chairman of the Board. He is also involved with Camp Mitzvah in Conroe, Texas. Mr. Yoffee is married with four children and has two grandchildren.

Sarena Koschitzky
Location: Canada
Representation: Without Portfolio

Mrs. Koschitzky lives in Toronto Canada. Her past community service includes chairing Toronto’s United Jewish Appeal Campaign and the March of the Living. She currently serves as a member on the Toronto Federation Board and is the Centre for Jewish Education. Mrs. Koschitzky is also involved in the work of Hadl and the Toronto Bnei Akiva Parent’s Council. She currently co-chairs the World Bnei Akiva Council. Mrs. Koschitzky holds a BA from the University of Toronto and is married with two children.
Bnei Akiva is a Jewish religious Zionist youth movement, which inspires and empowers young Jews all over the world with a sense of commitment to the Jewish people, the Land of Israel and the Torah, placing an emphasis on the value of Aliyah to the State of Israel.

World Bnei Akiva is the largest Zionist youth movement in the world, active in 22 countries, 43 cities, including over 100 snifim and represented by over 100 shlichim.

WBA’s activities are carried out by four departments:

1. Shlichut
2. Education
3. Israel Programs
4. Bogrim & Fundraising

These are supported by two auxiliary departments:

1. Operations
2. Finance

Aside from the departments, there are also ‘desks’ for each region in which WBA is active. The job of the Rosh Desk is to be in constant contact with local snifim around the world. Desks include: Europe (general), Germany, UK, North America, Latin America, Australasia and South Africa.

To illustrate, below is the structure of WBA.
1. Establishing a World Mechina: We realized that there is a demand for a religious pre-military mechina combining Torah education and leadership, for both Israelis and non-Israelis. The Jewish Agency asked to partner with us to open a religious mechina (in addition to the four existing secular Jewish Agency mechinos). The Mechina, a six-month program, opened successfully on September 1, 2017 in Kibbutz Migdal Oz.

2. Machon L’Madrichim: Until now, WBA had a Machon L’Madrichim – an institution to develop leadership and provide Jewish and Zionist education for our long-term Israel programs – however it didn’t have a permanent home. The new Machon L’Madrichim will share a site and resources, including tzvev, with the World Mechina, in Migdal Oz.

3. Increasing the pool of candidates for WBA: As part of a joint project with World Mizrachi, we significantly increased the number of candidates for family shlichut for the year 5778. The process of raising awareness within Israeli society has been successful; 750 people signed up for the shlichut recruitment presentation.

4. Fundraising: In 5777 we launched the first international fundraising day for Bnei Akiva and raised over $2,200,000.

5. Financial stability: 5777 was a year of financial stability, which came about through a conservative management of the budget, the arrival of WZO and KKL funds that were delayed in 2016 and the success of the fundraising campaign.

6. Olim and Bogrim: Following the successful fundraising campaign we want to renew and grow the activities for Olim and Bogrim.

7. Dream Team: The Education Department further developed the Dream Team, which made 10 visits throughout the world.

**OUR GOALS FOR 5778**

1. Opening the activities of the Mechina to new markets: Europe and the USA
2. Opening new locations for activities and shlichim
3. Removal of all the WBA’s debts

(For further description of these goals, read further in this choveret.)
The Shlichut Department recruits, selects, prepares and sends out shlichim throughout the world. The recruitment process is carried out in partnership with the Religious Zionist Shlichut Center, led by World Mizrahi, and the process of interviewing and accepting shlichim is carried out in partnership with the Jewish Agency. After this, shlichim are matched with communities by each Rosh Desk. Once shlichim have been assigned a destination, there is a shlichut preparation course, which focuses on Bnei Akiva’s ideology, learning professional skills required for shlichut, preparing the family and getting to know the destination community. Based on a satisfaction survey after this year’s course, participants rated it at 4.1 out of 5.

See below for where shlichim have been sent for the year 5778. On the right column you can see the level of investment made by World Bnei Akiva towards the cost of the shlichut. The remaining costs of the shlichut are funded by the local branch or the community.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>MISSION TYPE</th>
<th>WBA CONTRIBUTION</th>
<th>No. of SHLICHIM</th>
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Machon L'Madrichim – to develop leadership and Religious Zionist education

One of the most significant developments for the coming year has been to rent premises in Migdal Oz. The site will be able to house 60 participants, and offer high quality rooms, a Beit Midrash, dining room and offices. For the first half of the year, the site will be the base for the World Mechina and for the second, it will serve the Machon L'Madrichim. The tzvet for the Mechina are also the tzvet for the Machon.

The Machon serves our Hachshara (long-term) programs that are not part of the Mechina, as well as short-term groups throughout the year, but particularly in the summer.

DREAM TEAM – to educate and empower Bnei Akiva leaders

The Dream Team project was initiated two years ago. We formed a group of 40 bogrim from various countries, and send groups of 2-4 madrichim to run hadracha seminars in snifim around the world. The madrichim we have recruited all have significant hadracha and informal education experience. This project gives the snifim useful tools to improve the level of hadracha amongst their madrichim.

In 5777 the Dream Team visited over 10 countries around the world and met with hundreds of madrichim.

The Dream Team project costs $50,000 per year to run. This includes the development of educational materials and subsidizing flights for those snifim who are not able to pay.

Educational support for Shlichim

The Education Department employs a Rakezet (co-ordinator), who is in constant contact with the shlichim throughout the world, offering support and advice and resource material.
Hachshara (Long-Term Programs)

- ‘Torani’ Programs
  C hanichim on these programs spend most of their time in yeshivot and midrashot. During ‘Bein Hazmanim’ and throughout the year, Bnei Akiva organizes activities such as hadracha seminars, Shabbatonim, Poland trips and containing.

- MTA (Australia & South Africa)
  Institutions: Midreshet AMIT, Midreshet HaRova, Yeshivat Eretz Hatzi, Yeshivat Har Etzion
  Number of participants in 2015: 57
  Number of participants in 2016: 56
  Number of participants in 2017: 55
  Cost of program: 88,000 shekels

Torani (UK with some from Europe)
Institutions: Eretz Chemda and the Matan Institute: Midreshet AMIT, Midreshet HaRova, Yeshivat Eretz Hatzi, Yeshivat Hakotel
Number of participants in 2015: 40
Number of participants in 2016: 34
Number of participants in 2017: 35
Cost of program: 88,000 shekels

Yeshivat and Midreshet Torah V’Avodah (US and Canada)
Institutions: Eretz Chemda and the Maftan Institute
Number of participants in 2015: 28
Number of participants in 2016: 54
Number of participants in 2017: 61
Cost of program: 25,000 shekels

Experiential Programs
These programs are aimed at those who do not want to learn a full year in yeshiva or midrasha. WBA offers a wide range of experiences including: seminars, Machon L’Madrichim, Yiflum, a period of time learning in yeshiva/midrasha, volunteering in MDA and the IDF (Marva), and on kibbutz.

Limmud (Australasia & South Africa)
Number of participants in 2015: 30
Number of participants in 2016: 45
Number of participants in 2017: 41
Cost of program: 88,000 shekels

Kivun (UK with some from Europe)
Number of participants in 2017: 17
Cost of program: 60,000 shekels

Amichai (Mexico)
Number of participants in 2015: 8
Number of participants in 2016: 23
Number of participants in 2017: 12
Cost of program: 60,000 shekels

The World Mechina
The World Mechina is a pre-army program that integrates Israelis and non-Israelis for six months of learning. The program includes Limmud Torah, Lessons in Zionism, leadership of the land of Israel, Israeli society. There are also Yiflum and navigation workshops. The Mechina prepares students who drafting into the IDF.

The Mechina opened in September 2017 and currently has 28 non-Israeli students and 24 Israeli students.

The Mechina is a joint project between the ‘Kol Ami’ network of mechinoth, the Jewish Agency and TVA frameworks. The Jewish Agency contributes $50,000 per year. The Ministry of Education will start sponsoring the Mechina for 2018. Until then, there is a deficit of around $50,000 for the first year. We are currently fundraising to attempt to cover that deficit.

3. Short-term Programs
The Israeli Programs Department also runs short-term programs that take place within the framework of Bnei Akiva’s Machon L’Madrichim. Programs for Bnei Akiva leaders – Mitzkirim, Rothshim and Madrichim – as well seminars for Bogrim, are run by the Israeli Programs Department in conjunction with the Education Department.

Amlat* (Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay)
Number of participants in 2015: 11
Number of participants in 2016: 0
Number of participants in 2017: 23
Cost of program: 60,000 shekels

* Starting from 2018 Amlat and Amichai will be merged into one program

Shalhevet-Neriah (Europe [Shalhevet] and Germany [Neriah])
Number of participants in 2015: 41
Number of participants in 2016: 45
Number of participants in 2017: 30
Cost of program: 88,000 shekels

Kivun
Number of participants in 2016: 40
Number of participants in 2017: 41
Cost of program: $25,000

Institute
Institutions: Eretz Chemda and the Matan
Number of participants in 2016: 56
Number of participants in 2015: 57
Cost of program: 88,000 shekels

Limmud
Number of participants in 2016: 28
Number of participants in 2015: 24
Cost of program: 88,000 shekels

WBA offers a wide range of experiences including: seminars, Machon L’Madrichim, Yiflum, a period of time learning in yeshiva/midrasha, volunteering in MDA and the IDF (Marva), and on kibbutz.

Shabbatonim, Poland trips and volunteering.

The Jewish Agency contributes $50,000 for the first year. We are currently fundraising to attempt to cover that deficit. Until then, there is a deficit of around $50,000 for the first year. We are currently fundraising to attempt to cover that deficit.

1. Experiential Programs
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BOGRIM & FUNDRAISING
DEPARTMENT

1. Establishing a world network of Bogrim
The world fundraising day exposed us to dozens of bogrim of WBA who live in Israel. After a number of meetings with a team of interested bogrim, we decided to renew and strengthen the connection with our bogrim. This will be done through establishing an online platform, which will connect bogrim throughout the world.
The goal of this network is to create connections between bogrim, allowing them to help one another find alumni friends from their time in Bnei Akiva. It will also allow us to maintain a connection with bogrim, which will help us to fundraise in the future.
The framework and the training to run the network was donated by a boger of Bnei Akiva UK.

2. World Fundraising Day
After the success of the previous fundraising day (“GivingBAck”), it was decided to hold a world fundraising day annually, for all snifim of Bnei Akiva. The achievements of the previous fundraising day included:
1. Raising $2.2 million
2. Reaching 3447 donors
3. Renewing connections with previously non-engaged bogrim
4. Positioning WBA as a global organization and connecting snifim around the world

3. Yad Achim
The Yad Achim organization is an initiative of a group of Bnei Akiva bogrot. The principal idea is the desire to connect bogrim who have made Aliyah to WBA activities and introducing them to current Hachshara participants. The group organizes Shabbatons at host families’ houses in olim communities for Hachshara participants of various countries. Around 15 participants attended each Shabbaton, where they were hosted by families. The families also arranged an Oleg Shabbat and invited bogrim of the community. In 5777, three successful Shabbatonim took place, in Ra’anana and Jerusalem.
The plan for 5778 will include three Shabbatonim, which will be followed by a fundraising event for the Yad Achim communities.

4. Welcoming Olim and Social Events
The department has made progress in the area of welcoming young olim who arrive without family. The assistance provides information for a new oleh/olah. In addition, the department organizes various social events for olim, such as: ‘Shabbat Olami’ for bogrim, Yom Ha’atzmaut teffilla and an annual Aliyah meal.

www.worldbneiakiva.org
@WorldBneiAkiva
European Department

Bnei Akiva snifim in Europe are monitored closely by WBA. The fact that there are a number of relatively small snifim, all with close geographical proximity to each other, allows us to offer a more hands-on approach in addition to the regular support system, and create Europe-wide activities:

- European Shlichim’s Conference
- European Leadership Seminar, attended by over 150 madrichim from all of Europe.
- European Jewrovision – song contest between European snifim
- Machane Sayarim Europe – a summer camp for those finishing Grade 10 for around 200 chanichim from throughout Europe, joined by a group of Israelis.

Special Projects

- Bnei Akiva and Tlalim Educational Tours partner to run two successful projects, whereby Bnei Akiva provides educational input and Tlalim operates the logistical side.
- Camp Amichai is a summer camp in Israel for Israeli youth whose families have made Aliyah. The style of the camp is similar to Bnei Akiva camps outside Israel, where a few weeks are spent at a campsite. The aim of the camp is to be able to offer much-needed support to children of olim and help them integrate into Israeli society. Around 300 campers participate in the camp.
- Tochnit Kfar is a joint program between Bnei Akiva South Africa and Yeshiva College schools in Johannesburg. The program is designed for students in Grade 9 and runs for three months, and has 60 participants. The chanichim learn in Israel in a high school yeshiva and ulpana, and take part in Bnei Akiva-organized seminars.
The figures below reflect the budget for 2017. We are currently finalizing the budget for 2018. An in-depth review of the budget will be brought to a World Council meeting.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>-19,267,486</td>
<td>19,143,916</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>-4,781,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income from National Institutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shlichut</td>
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<td>3,151,075</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shlichut income</td>
<td>-3,267,879</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support for communities</td>
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<td>Shlichut Department HR</td>
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<td>268,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shlichut preparation course</td>
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<td>Education Department</td>
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<td>Dream Team</td>
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<td>HR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Olim &amp; Development resources</td>
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<td>Fundraising Expenses</td>
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<td>HR</td>
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<td>Projects</td>
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<td>Camp Amichai</td>
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<td>Kfar Program</td>
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<td>Office Expenses</td>
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<td>Salaries – headquarters</td>
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<td>Loans payments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Israel Programs in Israel</td>
<td>-11,448,687</td>
<td>11,117,101</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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