



[Click to view this email in a browser](#)



## North American Arava Alumni Network Fall 2013 Newsletter



Alumni at the J-Street conference in Washington, DC!  
Send in photos from any alumni get-togethers you attend and we will publish them here!

Hello, North American Arava Institute Alumni!

This newsletter marks the launch of our quarterly North American alumni newsletter! These newsletters will bring you updates from the Institute, alumni profiles, job opportunities, and more.

Have something to contribute or ideas for future publications? Please email Sarah Rubin at [Sarah@friendsofarava.org](mailto:Sarah@friendsofarava.org).

### **Moriah Cohen is the New NAAAN Leadership Committee Chair!**



Please join us in congratulating Moriah Cohen, alumna from 2007, on being elected to the position of Chair of the North American Arava

Do you know someone who would love studying or interning at the Arava Institute? We are now accepting applications for Spring and Fall 2014 semester abroad and internships.

Please direct prospective students to [our website](#) to learn more and [APPLY!](#)

Questions? Email Sarah:  
[sarah@friendsofarava.org](mailto:sarah@friendsofarava.org)

### **Updates from North American alumni!**

**Alana Alpert**, 2004, is finishing her last year in rabbinical school at Hebrew College in Boston. She co-directs [Project Hayei Sarah](#), a community of emerging Jewish leaders speaking out about the situation in Hebron, the West Bank.

**Seth Goldsweig**, 1998, is Vice Principal at the Leo Baeck Day School in Toronto. He's married with twins who are in Grade 2. In Toronto he has worked hard on interfaith dialogue and has brought Jewish and Muslim kids together on numerous occasions.

**Natasha Whitney**, summer 2009, just started a graduate program at Stanford University in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department. The program is called Atmosphere/Energy and its focus is on the causes of and solutions for air pollution,



Alumni Network (NAAAN) Leadership Committee. In this role, Moriah will be assisting Sarah Rubin, Program Manager, in setting the agenda for monthly Committee calls, leading these calls, and thinking up creative ways for more alumni to get involved.

Congrats, Moriah!!

To learn more about how to get involved in the NAAAN Leadership Committee, please email Sarah: [sarah@friendsofarava.org](mailto:sarah@friendsofarava.org).

---

## Save the Date!

The Friends of the Arava Institute annual board meeting & NAAAN annual meeting is happening on **April 27 & 28, 2014** in Washington, DC.

**We want to hear your ideas for the NAAAN conference.** Do you want to plan for the future of NAAAN? Do you want time to meet and mingle with FAI board members? Do you want to hear from a local speaker?

Send your ideas to Sarah at [sarah@friendsofarava.org](mailto:sarah@friendsofarava.org).

---

## Fall 2013 Snapshot

The Fall 2013 semester started in early October, bringing 28 students, 8 interns, and 2 PAs to Kibbutz Ketura. 7 of those students are American, hailing from Smith College, Brown University, University of Colorado Boulder, Barnard College, Bennington College, and others.



On October 20th-21st, students and interns traveled to Jerusalem to explore dual narratives during the PELS field trip.

On November 18th - 20th, the students will be going on the much-anticipated Negev Trip to delve deep into environmental and political issues in the region.

---

## Alumni Profile: Zack Korenstein

climate change, and weather problems. She aims to research the effects of high percentages of renewable energy integration on the electrical grid.

---

## Arava Institute in the News

The Arava Institute was featured in an article on JNS.org: 'Two decades after Oslo Accords, Arava Institute seeks conservation over conflict.'

[Click here to read more!](#)

---

## Job & Internship Opportunities

MercyCorps Northwest is seeking an [Agricultural Program Manager](#) in Portland, Oregon.

[Urban Adamah](#) now accepting applications for spring, summer, and fall.

Interested in opportunities in the Middle East?

[No Borders is seeking a Founding CEO to work in Ramallah or Jerusalem.](#)

(submitted by alumna Katy Hansen.)

Want to share a job with your fellow Alumni? Email Sarah at [sarah@friendsofarava.org](mailto:sarah@friendsofarava.org) and join our [Alumni LinkedIn group!](#)



*Zack Korenstein (far left), with Rabbi Michael Cohen and Arava alumnus Mohammed Atwa*

Zack is an Arava Alumnus from spring semester 2000. Since that time Zack has continued on a career path focused on environmental health. Currently, he is a Senior Environmental Specialist for New York University working in NYU's Environmental Health & Safety department. At NYU Zack manages Industrial Hygiene (i.e. environmental exposure issues), Hazardous Waste, Indoor Air Quality, Water Quality, Ergonomics, and environmental health and safety government compliance for the university as a whole. Zack also sits on NYU's Sustainability Task Force and contributes to sustainability initiatives as a member and advisor on various sub-committees. Zack was also a senior scientific advisor to the sustainability start up company Partnership for the Environment, which had developed a sustainability certification system for restaurants. Zack graduated from Rutgers University's School of Environmental and Biological Sciences with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Policy, Institutions, and Behavior. Zack also has a Masters of Public Health in Environmental and Occupational Health from Hunter College.

Zack has fond memories from the Institute, thanks in large part to his roommates. One of them was Mohammed "Hamoody" Atwa, a Palestinian from Gaza. At first they were both shy around each other; as Zack put it, "Hamoody was the epitome of 'the other' for me." But before long, they began talking, exchanging narratives, and fully recognizing one another as people rather than stereotypes. Zack even had the opportunity to visit Gaza with Hamoody and stay with his family. Later, when Hamoody traveled to the US, Zack was able to return the favor by bringing Hamoody to dinner with his own family. Today, Zack and Hamoody remain friends and both hold leadership positions in the North American Arava Alumni Network.

Zack's experiences at the Institute were sometimes challenging, a sentiment most alumni can identify with. As he says, "The questions that came up about identity and dual narratives were very hard ones. But it is essential to ask those questions if we want the chance for peace."

Zack's passion for the Arava Institute has not dwindled in the decade since his time there. "The Arava Institute touched me in a profound and everlasting way," he states. Zack has maintained a strong connection to the Arava Institute through his involvement in the [North American Arava](#)

## Follow us on Social Media!



The Arava Institute for Environmental Studies is the premier environmental teaching and research program in the Middle East, preparing future Arab and Jewish leaders to cooperatively solve the region's environmental challenges.

[Alumni Network \(NAAAN\)](#), speaking at fundraisers in the NYC area, lobbying for the Institute in Washington DC, and serving as the Alumni regional co-leader in New York City.

---

## On-Campus Greywater System Nears Completion



Did you know that construction of a greywater treatment system has been happening at the Arava Institute? In July, the major construction components of the greywater treatment and reuse system for the new JNF Mountain State Region dorms were finally

complete. This system is connected to two units in these new student dorms, and will be a test site to monitor the system's treatment capacity and efficiency.

Six more similar systems will be constructed as part of the USAID-Conflict Management and Mitigation funded project – entitled “Mitigating Trans-boundary Wastewater Conflict” in the coming six months. Four of these systems will be built in Palestine and two in Israel. The institute is proud to have the first site built on Ketura at the dorms, allowing the researchers, interns, and students to continuously study, test and optimize the system for future implementation in rural decentralized households which are not connected to any wastewater infrastructure.

---

Friends of the Arava Institute  
(617) 266-7100  
896 Beacon Street, Boston MA 02215

[www.arava.org](http://www.arava.org)

---

If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please reply to this message with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line or simply click on the following link: [Unsubscribe](#)

---

Friends of the Arava Institute  
896 Beacon Street  
Boston, MA 02215  
US

[Read](#) the VerticalResponse marketing policy.

