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## **Nefesh B'Nefesh Announces Recipients of Inaugural 'Bonei Zion' Prize**

***Prizes awarded to Anglo Olim who have made  
a significant contribution to the State of Israel***

Jerusalem, Israel, January 14, 2014 - Nefesh B'Nefesh announced yesterday the six recipients of its newly-launched Bonei Zion Prize ([www.boneizion.org.il](http://www.boneizion.org.il)), an award recognizing outstanding Anglo Olim - veteran and recent - who encapsulate the spirit of modern-day Zionism by contributing in a significant way towards the State of Israel.

Over 200 Olim from English-speaking countries – including Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, UK, USA and Canada - were nominated for the Nefesh B'Nefesh Bonei Zion 2014 prize. The prize recipients were chosen by a prestigious panel of [committee members](#) in the following categories: Science & Medicine; Education; Community & Non-Profit; Entrepreneurship & Technology; Culture, Sports & Art; and IDF & National Service Young Leadership. Each of the winners will be awarded with \$10,000 in a special dedicated ceremony that will take place in the next two months in Jerusalem.

“I want to congratulate each of the winners of the Nefesh B'Nefesh Bonei Zion Prize for their remarkable accomplishments and important contributions to the State of Israel,” said Nefesh B'Nefesh Co-Founder and Executive Director **Rabbi Yehoshua Fass**. “We hope that accentuating the achievements of Anglo Olim will serve as a catalyst to inspire others to make Aliyah as well as highlight the achievements of these Olim who are helping to make a difference to our homeland.”

“It was truly inspiring to see the remarkable number of Anglo Olim who are making a significant impact on the country. The fact that the prize committee had such great difficulty choosing the winners from so many impressive candidates, is a testament to the caliber of the nominees and the immeasurable impact that Anglo Olim are making in Israel”, Rabbi Fass added.

The recipients of the 2014 Nefesh B'Nefesh Bonei Zion Prize are:

- **Community and Non-Profit:** **Joseph Gitler (USA, 2000), Founder and Chairman of [Leket Israel](#)**, a national food bank which has made a profound impact on the State of Israel and its residents by collecting food soon to be discarded from farmers, manufacturers and caterers and distributes them to the needy. Through Gitler's vision, Leket Israel provides food for over 140,000 people weekly.
- **Education:** **Rabbanit Malke Bina (USA, 1971), Founder and Chancellor of ["Matan"](#)**, a revolutionary women's learning center in Israel. Bina was one of the first educators in Israel to teach female students Talmud and Halacha (Jewish law), imbuing them with Zionism and a love for Torah learning. Bina helped revolutionize Israeli society's views on women's status and top level Jewish studies for women. As a result tens of thousands of women have been trained to become scholars and leaders in their communities.
- **Entrepreneurship and Technology:** **Yosef Abramowitz (USA, 2006), CEO and Co-Founder of [Energiya Global Capital](#) and Co-Founder of the [Arava Power Company](#)**. Abramowitz is a Nobel Prize-nominated educator and activist-turned-solar energy entrepreneur and the founding father of Israel's \$20 billion

solar market, along with his partners David Rosenblatt of New Jersey and Ed Hofland of Kibbutz Ketura. Abramowitz is Israel's premier solar energy pioneer, who continues to develop Israel's solar power market while also exporting his values of clean energy. Abramowitz embodies positive and powerful Hasbara as his effort showcase Israel – and by extension the Jewish people – as a compassionate driven provider of renewable energy development for the betterment of the world.

- Science and Medicine: **Professor Jeffrey Hausdorff (USA, 2000), Professor at Tel Aviv University and Director of the [Neurodynamics and Gait Research Laboratory](#) at the Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center.** Since leaving his faculty appointment at Harvard Medical School in 2000 to make Aliyah, Professor Hausdorff has made remarkable contributions to research in Neuroscience and Aging in Israel and worldwide, and established the Neurodynamics and Gait Research Laboratory at the Tel Aviv Medical Center. The internationally renowned team that he directs conducts pioneering and award-winning clinical and translational research in mobility, cognitive function, fall risk, and quality of life. His cutting-edge findings have been advancing science and medicine throughout the world, spreading the good name of Israel with them.
- Culture, Sports and Arts: **Yaakov Kirschen (USA, 1972), Creator of “Dry Bones”.** Since its inception in the Jerusalem Post in 1973, Kirschen's beloved comic strip [“Dry Bones”](#) has provided a quintessentially Zionist, satirical and unique view of Israel to the world. Kirschen's work speaks to Anglo Jews around the globe and has spread a deeper and stronger feeling for Israel and Zionism.

IDF and National Service Young Leadership: **Lt. Nira Lee (USA, 2010), Head of Hasbara at the headquarters of the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT).** Lt. Lee, an Arizona native, has been serving in the IDF for the past three years. In her previous position as assistant foreign liaison officer to international organizations in Gaza, she was charged with ensuring that international humanitarian aid makes it to the Palestinian civilians in Gaza and overseeing the movement of international organizations inside the buffer zone and the commercial visits to the Israel-Gaza border. Her outstanding service during Operation Pillar of Defense earned her the prestigious President's Citation of Excellence in 2013. Her dedication and determination were noted by all those around her.

- Lifetime Achievement: **Professor Shimon Glick (USA, 1974), Professor and Dean Emeritus of the [Faculty of Health Sciences at Ben Gurion University](#).** A lifetime achievement award was also bestowed on Professor Shimon Glick who made Aliyah after leaving a successful career in the USA to help found Ben Gurion University's Faculty of Medicine. He specializes in endocrinology research and treatment and is a world leader in the teaching and practice of medical humanism and medical ethics. He also developed the curriculum in medical ethics at BGU. Prof. Glick continues to serve as a role model for students worldwide as he continues to be extremely active in his 80's.

The selection committee members include:

- Lieutenant General (Ret.) Gabi Ashkenazi – Former Chief of Staff of the IDF
- Colette Avital - Israeli diplomat and Former Minister of Knesset
- Ambassador Yehuda Avner - Author and former diplomat and prime ministerial advisor.
- Dr. David Breakstone - Vice Chairman of the World Zionist Organization
- Michael Eisenberg - Partner at Aleph venture capital fund and General Partner at Benchmark Capital
- Rabbi Paul Freedman - USCJ Director Israel Strategic Partnerships
- David Gerstein - Internationally renowned painter and sculptor.

- Barbara Goldstein - Deputy Executive Director of Hadassah, Israel
- Vera Golovensky - Senior Advisor to the Chairman of the Executive Jewish Agency for Israel
- Professor Jonathan Halevy - Director General of Shaare Zedek Medical Center
- David Horowitz - Founding editor of The Times of Israel
- Russell Robinson - CEO of the Jewish National Fund (JNF)
- Gabriella Shalev – Former Ambassador to the UN, and President of the Higher Academic Council and Dean of the Law School at Ono Academic College
- Dr. Chaim Waxman - Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Jewish Studies at Rutgers University, Senior Fellow at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, and Research Fellow at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Harry S. Truman Institute for the Advancement of Peace.
- Rabbi Berel Wein - Founder & director of The Destiny Foundation

**About Nefesh B'Nefesh ([www.nbn.org.il](http://www.nbn.org.il)):**

*Founded in 2002, Nefesh B'Nefesh in cooperation with the Israeli government and The Jewish Agency for Israel, is dedicated to revitalizing Aliyah from North America and the UK by removing or minimizing the financial, professional, logistical and social obstacles of Aliyah. To date, Nefesh B'Nefesh has assisted over 38,000 newcomers to Israel.*

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