

*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

Eliana Yashgur, Hebrew High of New England Student, Second Recipient of Hilda Specter Morgenstern Merit Scholarship

Silver Spring, Maryland—May 29, 2014

Eliana Yashgur, a senior at Hebrew High of New England in West Hartford, CT, is the second recipient of the Hilda Specter Morgenstern Merit Scholarship. The Scholarship offers an outstanding young undergraduate woman a \$2,500 stipend towards study and service in Israel. This is the second year the Scholarship was awarded.

Miss Yashgur, from Longmeadow, MA, was among more than fourteen applicants who applied for the Scholarship. The Scholarship honors the memory of Mrs. Hilda Specter Morgenstern, who dedicated her life to serving the Jewish community. Mrs. Morgenstern was actively involved in many of the communities she lived in, and she and her husband, Mr. Arthur Morgenstern, gave generously to many charities during their lifetimes.]

Miss Yashgur is choosing to use her Scholarship towards a program called Midreshet Torah v'Avodah, the Israel gap year program of the religious Zionist youth movement Bnei Akiva of the United States and Canada. The program seeks to provide an immersive experience for students that stresses the movement's ideal of "Torah v'Avodah" (literally, "Torah and work").

Participants will spend blocks of time during the year in a seminary setting learning Jewish texts and ideas, and will apply this knowledge and give back to the state of Israel through volunteering, kibbutz work, individualized internships in Israeli industries, and leadership training programs. Miss Yashgur is eager for this opportunity because it will continue her heavily involvement in Bnei Akiva, through which she has gained an appreciation for the many ways that one can interact with Israel; and because she is excited to engage with Israel in multiple ways using her multiple different interests.

The Advisory Board, made up of Mrs. Morgenstern's three daughters, was impressed by Miss Yashgur's dedication to her studies and her community service.

“Eliana is a bright, ambitious young woman who shows a strong interest in investing in the public good. That's exactly the kind of woman we had in mind to honor when we created the Scholarship,” said Ahava Leibtag, Administrative Officer of the Scholarship.

The Advisory Board also felt her recommendation and essay personified a strong Jewish woman who will become a great leader on behalf of her people.

Applications for the next cycle of Scholarships will be available online next spring.

About the Hilda Specter Morgenstern Merit Scholarship:

THE HILDA SPECTER MORGENSTERN MERIT SCHOLARSHIP IS AWARDED ONCE A YEAR TO AN AMERICAN JEWISH UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT WHO WILL SPEND AT LEAST ONE SEMESTER STUDYING IN ISRAEL. THE SCHOLARSHIP IS IN HONOR OF MRS. MORGENSTERN, WHO WAS AN ADVOCATE OF JEWISH COMMUNAL WORK AND HAD A STRONG INTEREST IN PUBLIC POLICY. FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE WWW.MORGENSTERNSCHOLARSHIP.ORG.

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