

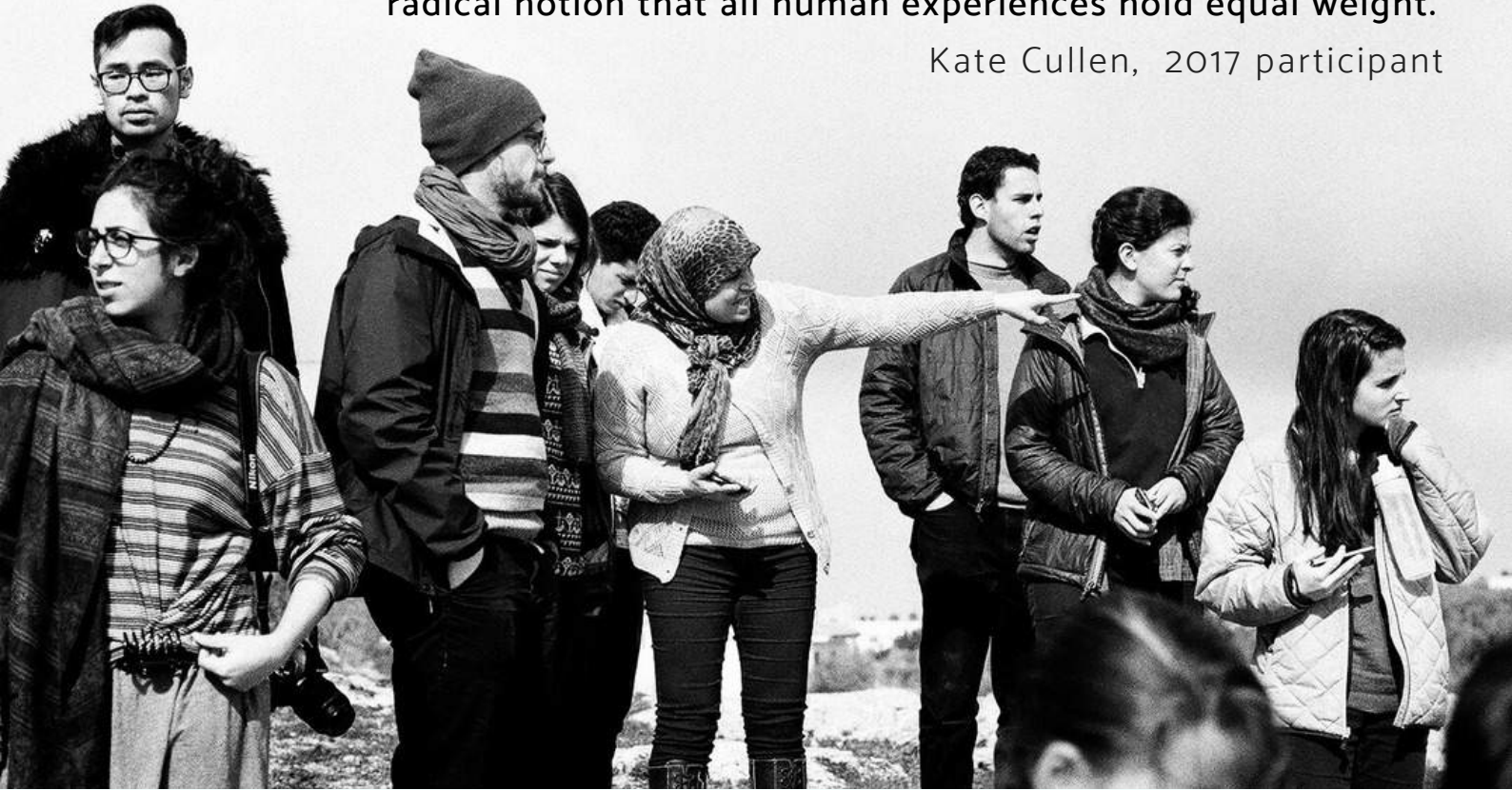
EXTEND



5 YEARS

“Extend complicated my politics because it opened my eyes...but [it also] illustrated for me our best shot at unraveling these decades of pain and violence: empathetic listening, genuine dialogue, unwavering respect, and the radical notion that all human experiences hold equal weight.”

Kate Cullen, 2017 participant



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Photos on cover top to bottom: Bilal Tamimi in Nabi Saleh, Nablus Old City by Michelle Cheripka, al-Shuhada Street in Hebron by Julia Peck

2013-2018

From the Team



Extend was founded five years ago on a simple conviction: our generation of American Jews should have meaningful opportunities to meet Palestinian activists.

Extend believes that genuine engagement with Palestinian partners is essential for American Jews to advocate a more just future for Israelis and Palestinians. Our programming empowers American Jews to recognize the moral urgency of human rights advocacy, deepens understanding of political particulars on the ground, and provides opportunities for collaboration with Israelis and Palestinians.

In the past five years, our generation --led by many Extend alumni-- has exceeded our most optimistic expectations: organizations like Open Hillel, If Not Now, and J Street U have mobilized a generation that believes support for Israel must not come at the expense of Palestinian human rights. In this report, we are proud to showcase the many ways our participants have used the Extend experience to be part of the movement for human rights in Israel-Palestine -- and beyond.

A special thanks is owed to our partners on the ground. The most rewarding part of our work has been learning from Israelis and Palestinians who have devoted their lives to human rights and dignity, and who persevere in this work despite the disproportionate attention given to those who choose violence. Their example offers our best hope toward a more just future.

With thanks,
The Extend team

5 YEARS IN BRIEF

300

PARTICIPANTS
on Extend programs since 2013

24

TOURS
Programs run in East Jerusalem
and the West Bank

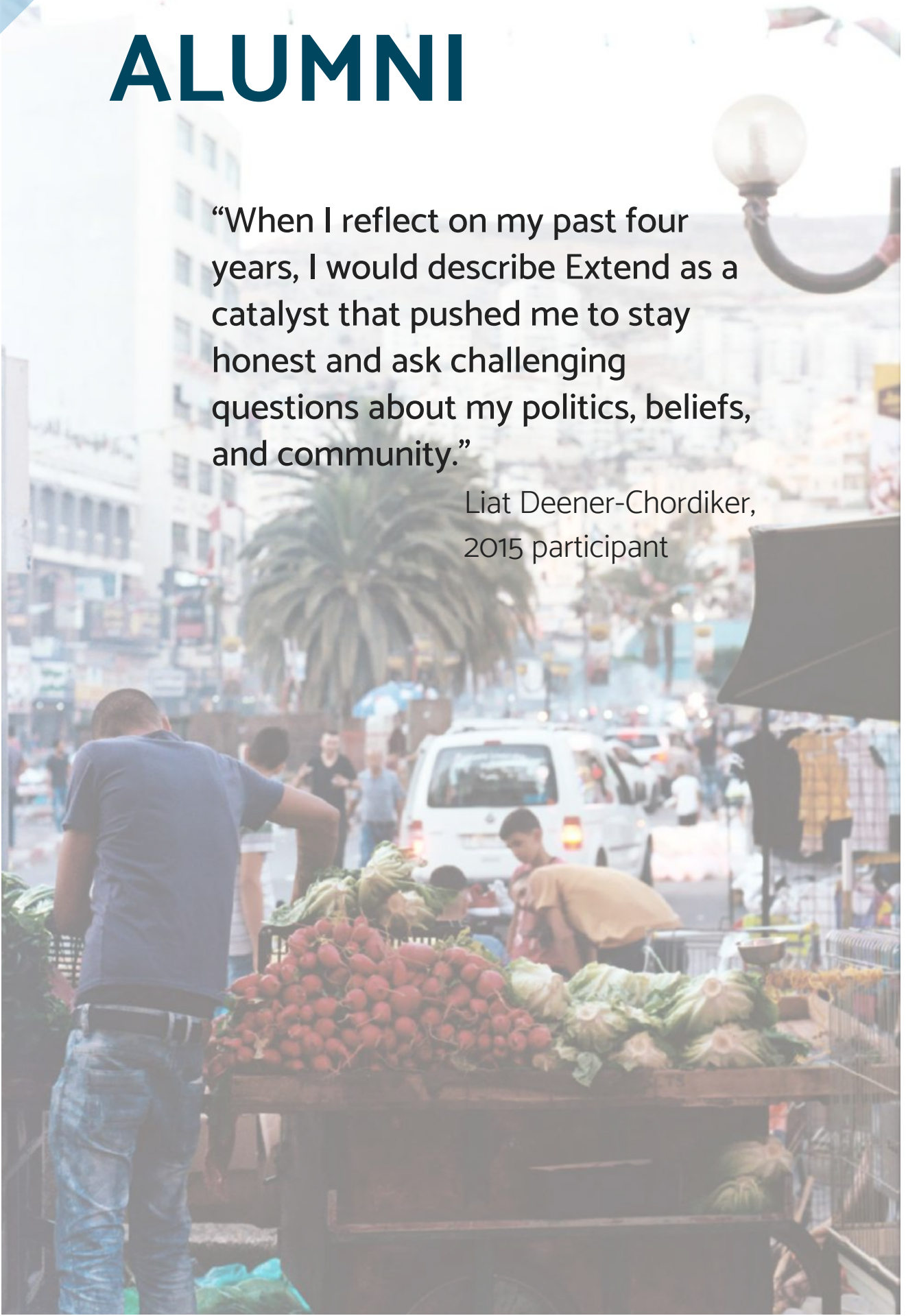
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PARTNERS
Palestinian and Israeli individuals
and organizations

SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNI

“When I reflect on my past four years, I would describe Extend as a catalyst that pushed me to stay honest and ask challenging questions about my politics, beliefs, and community.”

Liat Deener-Chordiker,
2015 participant



“Before Extend,

I felt completely paralyzed about how to understand the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. I thought that if I were to take a stance I would need to know everything there was to know, and have a perfectly formed opinion that I could defend against any attack, so I stayed away. A few months before going on Extend, someone suggested taking the exact opposite approach: rather than talking to nobody, talking to everyone, knowing that nobody has a monopoly on truth. Extend made it possible for me to do that in real life, not just from the other side of the computer.

It was a perfect introduction to the occupation for an American Jew: it helped me grapple with the truth and provided a safe context (both physically and emotionally) for me to explore and come to my own opinion from a range of conversations. It also made it clear to me what was going on on the ground in a way that I just couldn't have understood if I weren't there.

Whenever I talk about the occupation I refer to Extend and ask how we are supposed to form an opinion on the conflict without ever meeting Palestinians whom it affects. I tell everyone to go to the occupied territories and wish everyone could go on Extend. I think we'd have a really different world, a really different Israel-Palestine, and a really different Judaism.”

Rebecca Kagan, 2017 participant



AFTER EXTEND

TOWARDS RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP

Ryan Leszner, Rabbinical student, Hebrew College Boston

“I went on Extend the summer before I began rabbinical school. I felt a responsibility to myself: if I’m going to be a representative of the Jewish people in any capacity, I want to be engaged in Israel in a way that helps me understand not only the diversity of opinions but the diversity of people affected by the conflict. As a rabbi my core value is b’tselem elohim: all humans, not just Jews, are created in the image of G-d.



Extend opened my eyes. The pinnacle moment for me was going into [Ofer] military prison. I was horrified that a government running a Jewish state treats Palestinian people in a way that does not align with what I’ve learned about Jewish values from our sacred texts. I went straight from that courtroom to meet my 7th graders on the Israel trip I was about to run for the shul I was working for. After spending days with limited access to water in the West Bank, I drove 45 minutes from the prison to the Dan Panorama Hotel, where the air conditioning was blasting and water was running aplenty. I am still struggling with that image.

So I talked to my 7th graders about it. There was a moment when an IDF Air Force commander came to speak with them. I mentioned I had gone on a Breaking the Silence tour in Hebron and he got very angry and accused BtS of lying. I learned that that was the natural response to any criticism of the IDF, and later I was able to have a really nice conversation with my kids about it. I also said the word occupation. There were parents and children who were concerned about that, but I believe that if we refuse to use the word, or are adamantly against it, we are rejecting an entire group’s lived reality. The thing I’m most proud of is that the parents and kids listened. I wasn’t saying, ‘This is from a news website’ but ‘This is something I saw, this is a story and a struggle I heard from another human being.’ I gave a sermon during the High Holy Days following my Extend trip at a synagogue in my hometown. I had been working with the Jewish community of the San Quentin prison, and in the sermon I compared that experience to what I saw in the West Bank. I asked what it means for all to be created equal but some to be unequal in practice, what it means to put up walls and decide the futures of others. I talked about recognizing that we are privileged, but that to create a just world we need to fight for the people who our systems are not supporting. I am the grandson of Holocaust survivors, and when we say never again, we mean never again to anyone. This is a never again moment. I will go back – Hebrew College requires its students to spend a year learning in Israel, and I plan to spend some of that time in the West Bank. When I am a Rabbi, I will encourage my congregants to visit and speak to Palestinians. I will continue to be in conversation with those who made a profound impact on me on Extend. Palestinians have the right to self-determination and we need to continue to build relationships with them so that together, we can achieve peace in the country that I care about and love.”



AFTER EXTEND



TOWARDS PLURALISM ON CAMPUS

Rachel Sandalow Ash, Open Hillel Co-Founder and Eva Ackerman, OH National Organizer

Rachel co-founded Open Hillel while an undergraduate at Harvard in 2012 and grew it into a national movement. Eva, also an Extend alumna, has just been hired as OH's National Organizer following her leadership in OH as a student. Their stories are told here together.

RACHEL

“When I was an undergrad, I was a part of Harvard College Progressive Jewish Alliance. We prided ourselves on our work engaging in wide-ranging conversations about Israel and Palestine, partnering with both Harvard Students for Israel and Palestine Solidarity Committee (PSC). We thought that was normal! In October of my sophomore year, we tried to hold an event with PSC in Harvard Hillel which was to feature two speakers, one American and one Israeli, both of whom had participated in protests against home demolitions in East Jerusalem and the West Bank. They were going to talk about how their Jewish backgrounds affected their activism and provide advice for what students going on the upcoming Harvard Birthright trip could do after their trip. We booked the room, sent in the forms. Two weeks before the event was to take place, the Harvard Hillel director summoned us into his office and said he'd been called by Hillel International, Combined Jewish Philanthropies, and private donors. He told us our event violated the Standards of Partnership, which I'd never heard of. [They are a Hillel International bylaw from 2010 prohibiting Hillel chapters from partnering with or hosting groups that ‘delegitimize, demonize, or apply a double standard to Israel.’]

The Standards, we learned, we enacted at the behest of a small group of donors, not people with the best interests of the students in mind. The aforementioned bodies collectively threatened to pull out \$1 million from Harvard Hillel if we didn't drop PSC as a co-sponsor or move the event. We felt it didn't make sense to do an event about the occupation without involving Palestinians whom it affects, so we moved the event out of Hillel -- but felt that it wasn't a choice we needed to make. We started hearing about a lot of Hillel events around the country that had been barred -- no one was allowed to work with Palestinian groups on campus. That year, 2012, we started a campaign called Open Hillel.

AFTER EXTEND

“I kept thinking: so many people we met with on Extend would be barred from Hillel.”

That summer, I planned a long trip to the region and went on Extend. It was fascinating and horrifying, and something I kept thinking was that so many people we met with – be they Palestinian journalists, members of the PLO, or the Tamimi family – would be barred from Hillel. When I got back to campus we kept trying to do more events to challenge Hillel. We brought Avner from Breaking the Silence whom I’d met on Extend. [Hillel has since banned Breaking the Silence.]

When Open Hillel was starting out, people would say ‘But Palestinians don’t want to talk to us!’ and I would ask, ‘Well, have you tried?’ Because it’s not true, unless you create a very hostile environment as Hillel has. Now, I think there is an increasing understanding that it’s critical to talk to people who are most impacted by the conflict, that just having conversations among Jews is missing the point and replicating the dynamic of erasing Palestinians. I see Extend’s and OH’s work to be very similar that way.

We saw Open Hillel grow from a few Northeastern schools to a national movement. In 2014, we had a national conference with 350 people. We did a speaking tour of American Jewish civil rights activists who had traveled to the West Bank and drew parallels between the Jim Crow American South and Israel-Palestine. They went to just over a dozen campuses, and at twelve of them, Hillel barred the tour. Swarthmore and Guilford are the only Hillels that have ‘opened’ because they agreed to host the activists. Hillel International threatened to sue under trademark violation, so those schools had to change the names of their Jewish centers. It was really telling that Hillel would rather sue its own students rather than build vibrant and inclusive Jewish communities on campus.”

EVA

“When I got back to the U.S. from Extend, I quickly saw that nationwide, Jewish institutions were censoring the truth I had seen, leaving out Palestinian voices, and preventing domestic solidarity work with marginalized groups who had the ‘wrong views on Israel.’ I wanted to do something on my campus, where I have power. Open Hillel, I found eventually, allowed me to start work to change those power dynamics, so I became one of the main student organizers for the past year. On my campus of Bryn Mawr and Haverford, I initially got 15 people together who were not going to Hillel to find Jewish community. We called it BiCo Jews for Inclusion, where BiCo refers to our Bicollege Consortium. Finally, a lot of people came out of the woodwork who had been alienated from Jewish life for a plethora of reasons. Soon, we had a thriving community; we celebrated Jewish holidays, organized discussions on pluralism and Israel/Palestine, and invited dynamic guest speakers who would have been barred (based on the Standard’s of Partnership) from the Hillels at Bryn Mawr and Haverford.

Now that I’ve graduated, I’ve joined OH as National Organizer. Our big question now is how Jewish students can find spaces that are genuinely dedicated to justice issues and democratically run – even if Hillel doesn’t change. The way to do that is with independent groups that Jews on campuses are already creating for themselves. The strategy now is supporting those groups in new ways: through resource sharing and providing space for them to grow and thrive. I think it’s a great way to continue to challenge power dynamics, because if Jewish students go to these small groups instead, that troubles the monopoly Hillel has on Jewish campus life. I organized a national conference in Boston called Judaism on Our Own Terms in August 2018, and am planning a similar one in L.A. The resources we’ve compiled for student groups span from funding to song-leading to how to be radically inclusive. It’s really cool to see so many students excited to reframe Judaism for themselves, to create these spaces that are pluralistic, rooted in social justice, where Jews can come with their full identities.”





AFTER EXTEND

TOWARDS OPEN EARS

Ilana Levinson, Producer, Unsettled podcast

Ilana participated in Extend in June 2015. She has since founded Unsettled, as “a space for the difficult conversations and diverse viewpoints you *might not hear* in institutional Jewish communities”. She is based in New York City.

“I come from a really establishment, Conservative Judaism world. In college I studied Middle East Studies and went on a Hasbara Fellowship – yes, that’s what it’s called – which was the first time I felt like something was wrong. They took us to Hebron, and I remember thinking, ‘hold up, this doesn’t look like democracy!’ I ended up studying abroad in Jordan and unlearning a lot of the narratives I’d grown up with, and I decided I wanted to spend time in Palestine. My friend [an alumna] recommended Extend, which was amazing. I extended my trip further and stayed in Ramallah, where Souli [Khatib, of Combatants For Peace] took me to meetings of Alliance for Middle East Peace. It was so cool to see a part of how Palestinian civil society worked. I then volunteered with Tent of Nations [a multicultural Palestinian-led farm in the West Bank] -- I remember feeling really hopeful and thinking, ‘this feels like a great model of resistance: using your hands, making things grow.’ I was comparing the messages I’d heard about Jewish settlements in the early state and making those parallels with modern Palestinian struggles.



“We’re trying to allow people to plug into the issues and listen to Palestinian voices from home. It’s like Extend without traveling!”

One weekend I went to Jordan, and when I tried to come back I did not get in. The border control asked where I was going, and I told the truth. They heard the word ‘Palestinian’ and that was it. I got banned from Israel for 5 years. Suddenly, it made everything real. Of course my Palestinian friends in Jordan and their families can’t go back either. Now my opposition to the occupation had to involve connecting myself to Judaism in other ways. When I moved back to New York, I joined IfNotNow, which fights Jewish support of the occupation. But I started questioning what their messaging would mean to people I grew up with, who had never learned the history of the conflict and get inundated with racist anti-Palestinian messages. I wanted to create material that says, ‘Hey, I know you’ve been hearing all your life that the Nakba is about hatred of Jews. We need to talk about what that means for Palestinians and why they say it.’ There needed to be something that meets Jewish people where they are, examines what they learned about the occupation, and complicates it. I founded a podcast, called Unsettled, in summer 2017, and now we have five producers. We take a theme, like cultural resistance, and we have interviews with people doing great things. When the [American] embassy issue was happening, we talked about the geopolitical significance of the decision, but then we did a 5-part series on Jerusalem, asking our guests, ‘what does Jerusalem mean for you?’ I was lucky to have the resources to go abroad and see Palestine, was able to go to university and have access to Palestinian professors. Not everyone has that. So we’re trying to allow people to plug in to the issues and listen to Palestinians voices from home. It’s like Extend without traveling!”



AFTER EXTEND



TOWARDS BETTER U.S.-MIDDLE EAST RELATIONS

Jai Retter, Country Director for Syria, U.S. Dept. of Defense

“Extend opened a door that I didn’t think was going to open,” Jai says as she reflects on the path that started in 2014 and landed her at the Office of the U.S. Secretary of Defense at the Syria desk.

In between, Jai points to a series of things she didn’t expect: a “striking” visit to Nablus after her Birthright trip, a heatstroke from which she recovered in the home of a Palestinian family who took her in, a pre-Extend stay in East Jerusalem with constant invitations into people’s homes so they could tell her about their experiences, and then the power of Extend itself. “I was interested in movements and revolutions and I was studying them academically,” Jai said, “but I was underprepared for what I saw. We were a small group, and we got to ask every question we wanted to ask.”

Afterwards, Jai spent a semester in Kosovo, returned to university, and wrote an article for the Huffington Post about her experiences in the West Bank in which she declared it “our responsibility to understand the other side of our birth right.” Then, she did one more thing she says “wasn’t the plan”: writing her undergraduate dissertation on the

“Every administration wants to ‘solve’ Israel-Palestine....[but] few have actually spent time on the ground listening.”

Middle East peace process. Extend had sparked for Jai a new academic focus on conflict studies and an interest in traveling the whole region, but mostly importantly, she says, it challenged her grasp of truth in a conflict for which she had only known one narrative. “I already thought I knew everything I need to know, and Birthright tells you the same thing. That was the first time I learned there could be multiple truths.” It was a prescient insight for a future geopolitical analyst. That was also when she says she decided she would work on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict professionally one day.

She wasn’t far off. Between travels, Jai got a Master’s in international relations from the London School of Economics and then started at the U.S. Department of Defense, directing the Kuwait desk before moving to work on Syria. Her wish is to work on Israel now more than ever. “Every administration wants to ‘solve’ Israel-Palestine,” she says. “People in DC venture into the Israeli or Palestinian imagination through Said or Pappé or even Aaron David Miller and promise to understand Zionism, occupation, and everything in between. Few have actually spent time on the ground, listening to those living the occupation, living their Zionism, living in coexistence or conflict.” Jai has been back to the West Bank since, once with her father who had not been in the region since the Six Day War. “It was interesting to see his perspective change,” she said. “It’s very different when you see it.”



AFTER EXTEND

TOWARDS COALITIONS FOR JUSTICE

Noah Schoen, AFL-CIO, JOIN for Justice Fellow

Noah participated in the inaugural Extend tour in 2013. He then studied in Cuba, graduated from Columbia University, took the Adamah Fellowship in Jewish agriculture, and co-founded IfNotNow Pittsburgh. He received the JOIN for Justice Jewish Organizing Fellowship and was placed at the Massachusetts AFL-CIO.



“I went on the very first Extend tour. We visited Iyad Burnat’s house [in the Palestinian village of Bil’in], we went out to the spot where they protest the Wall weekly, and we saw the Jewish-only roads. We visited Susiya, the Palestinian village facing demolition, and we learned that the settlements get water regularly [compared to strict water rationing for Palestinian West Bank towns] even though they’re illegal under international law. We all say the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is so complicated, and the history certainly is, but when you’re in the West Bank it’s not that complicated. For a lot of Jews there’s a lot of proximity to a lot of historical trauma, but in this particular relationship with Palestinians it’s so clear who has the power and who doesn’t. I felt that not only what I knew about Israel wasn’t true, but that who I was as a Jew was being deeply troubled. I asked myself, ‘what else have I been fed that I thought was a truth that was just a narrative?’ It cracked me open to learning more about racism and sexism, too, because I could now say, ‘there’s definitely things I don’t know’. When I spoke with Palestinians on Extend and asked, ‘what should we do?’ many of them said, ‘tell people back home what’s going on here.’ So I doubled down on J Street U at Columbia and then went to a workshop in 2015 on the intersections of racism and anti-Semitism. I started to think increasingly that a lot of American Jewish feelings about Israel aren’t about Israel: instead, people are thinking, ‘if only Israel were better, and if we could criticize it less, then we would face less anti-Semitism at home.’ I believe if Jews have space to talk about anti-Semitism and let out how that’s impacted us, then we can actually hear Palestinians when they talk, and not use Israel as a proxy for feelings about our marginalization. Until we can heal from our historical suffering instead of wreaking it onto other people, we’re not going anywhere either.

I got trained by IfNotNow in 2016, and went back to my hometown and played a role in starting the Pittsburgh chapter of INN. It’s simultaneously a movement to end support for the occupation and a movement thinking about Jewish liberation. We want to tell the story of what it means to be Jewish without subjugating another people. But I don’t want to be just a lefty Jewish affinity group, an insurgency. I want everyone to be part of this.

When I moved to Boston to work for the labor movement, I made a decision to organize as a Jew. I applied to the JOIN for Justice fellowship to strengthen my base about what it means to be a Jew doing organizing work and to sharpen my skills. My next step is working in a Jewish institution. I want work on building a Jewish community that’s not so afraid, where we can say, ‘history has not been kind to us, but we won’t let that get in the way of who we are.’ That, ultimately, is a big piece of undermining Jewish support for injustice in Israel and Palestine.”



AFTER EXTEND



TOWARDS PRISON REFORM IN AMERICA

Lizzy Wolozin, Paralegal, Prisoner's Rights Project

Lizzy joined an Extend trip in 2014 while she was a student at Barnard College. After graduating, she remained in New York City to work for the Legal Aid Society, which ensures equal access to justice regardless of income.

"I work as a paralegal casehandler at the Prisoners' Rights Project, a small test-case unit of the Legal Aid Society that brings affirmative civil rights litigation against prisons and jails across New York State. Much of my work involves speaking to people who have been assaulted by

correctional officers, helping them preserve their right to bring a lawsuit in the future, and requesting investigations and disciplinary action against the officers.

When I went to Palestine with Extend in 2014, while still in college, I was profoundly affected by the visual evidence of the occupation that I saw all around me. When I started going to Rikers regularly for work, I would often look at the barbed wire fences on the island and recall those that I saw in the West Bank. The two spaces were always intertwined for me. Indeed, the similarities between the administration of the jail system at Rikers and the administration of military occupation in the West Bank were paramount: both ensured the absolute guilt of those incarcerated within their wired walls, and the absolute pardon of those administering discipline. [The conviction rate in Israel's military courts for 2017 was 99.7%.]

On Extend, one of the experiences that resonated with me long after the conclusion of the trip was a lecture by Mr. Gerard Horton of Military Court Watch. He explained the ways in which the violence and brutal intimidation I witnessed were legally justified through parallel legal systems in the region: Palestinians living in the West Bank are subject to military law, where detainment and conviction of children for small-scale offenses like rock-throwing are virtually guaranteed, whereas Israeli residents are subject to Israeli civilian laws that have a much broader system of rights and due process protections. His lecture was revelatory for me. As a history student interested in civil rights and criminal justice issues I'd always been interested in the law as an agent of social change, but spending time in Palestine helped to push me to think about how contemporary laws, written by ordinary, politicized, and flawed people like you or me, come to absorb a certain reverent power. The Palestinian people of the Occupied Territories, robbed of due process or any claims to civil rights under the law, have no option but to question that law's legitimacy. Observing and contemplating that process in Palestine helped me to identify and question parallel processes happening at home in the United States. That same process of dehumanization and (very brave and human) resistance to it happens every day at Rikers."



AFTER EXTEND

TOWARDS ACTION, BEYOND DIALOGUE

Liat Deener-Chordiker, Enrichment Program Coordinator at the Adams Street Foundation

"Before I went on an Extend trip, Israel felt very familiar. I had visited on family trips, on a leadership program in high school, and had lived there for three months. I cared deeply about Israel and social justice, but had never visited

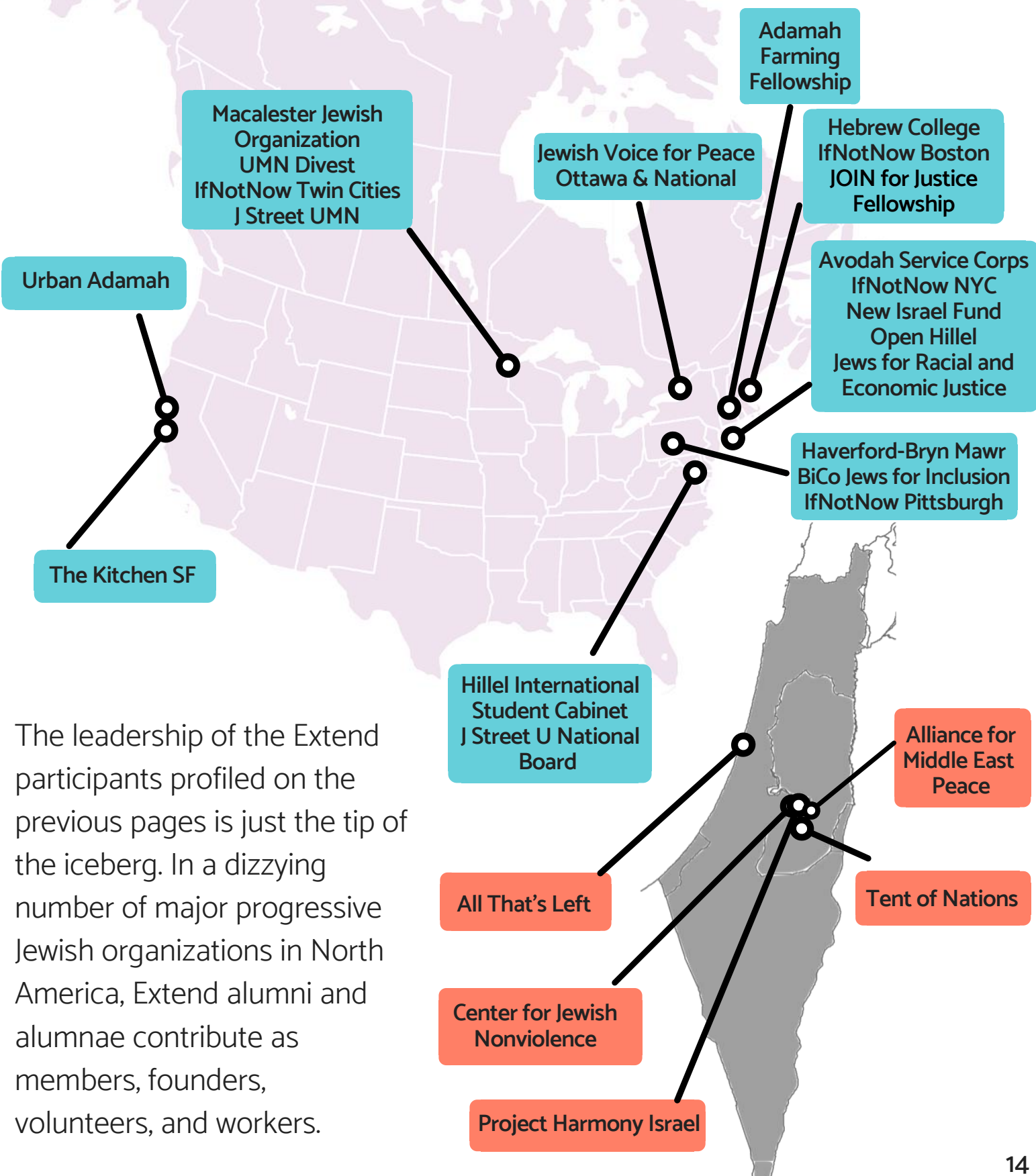
Palestinian communities beyond the Green Line. I had a very limited understanding about what it is like to live under occupation. Extend was where I took my theoretical knowledge of occupation and put faces to it.

I was thrown into a productive crisis: I had always supported Israel's identity as a Jewish and democratic state, but I left with skepticism and a lot of questions. How do we get to a place where every person has basic human rights? How can we ensure that the state of Israel lives up to our Jewish values of justice? It was the starting point for my deeper involvement and my evolving politics. When I got back from Extend, I became more involved in J Street U at my college, and eventually in the leadership of the national student board. My experience on the ground gave me the foundation I needed to organize for the Jewish community's support for a two-state solution and an end to the occupation. I helped bring organizations such as B'tselem and Breaking the Silence to speak on campuses and worked on a national level to track and stop funding going from American Jewish communities to settlements. For my senior capstone project, I wrote about how the American Jewish community responded to the Movement for Black Lives platform, which has a clause supporting BDS. I was hurt and ashamed when this incredible platform came out, and so many Jewish organizations rejected it because of one small part. If we want to do genuine solidarity work domestically we can't side-step the conversation about the occupation and the injustices Israel perpetrates. We need to force the Jewish community to recognize the occupation as the grave injustice it is. [This project won Liat the Best Senior Paper Prize from the American Studies department at the University of Maryland]. When I graduated, I was accepted to the Avodah Jewish Service Corp. In my placement, I work with high school students in NYC on college access by connecting them to enrichment programs. In Avodah, corp members live communally and celebrate Shabbat, and we spend time discussing how to build values-based Jewish community. It was the urgency I felt on Extend that helped me turn my knowledge into action: Extend is a catalyst for further organizing for human rights in Israel-Palestine. This is so important because learning about the occupation is not an end in itself; education and dialogue are insufficient. Dialogue about the conflict often has the end goal of the American Jewish communities' emotional safety, which is simply not as important as the physical safety (access to water, freedom of transportation, the right not to endure house raids, being tear gassed, interrogations under unsafe conditions, terror attacks, etc.) of Palestinians and Israelis on the ground. It's a political problem, not an interpersonal one, and the Jewish community holds a lot of power when it comes to what happens on the ground. Extend alumni can and do play a role in creating the conditions necessary for this change."



WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Extend Alumni and Alumnae in Jewish Life



The leadership of the Extend participants profiled on the previous pages is just the tip of the iceberg. In a dizzying number of major progressive Jewish organizations in North America, Extend alumni and alumnae contribute as members, founders, volunteers, and workers.

FURTHER AFIELD

Extend in the Activist World

It comes as no surprise: Extend alumni and alumnae dedicate themselves to building a more equitable planet on nearly every front. From the courtrooms of New York City to the halls of the United Nations, they work towards racial, socioeconomic, and environmental justice.



“After Extend, I feel much more rooted in an anti-occupation political stance. The experiences of the Palestinians, diplomats, and activists we spoke to made a lot of my amorphous thoughts about the occupation concrete and real. I feel like I am part of an international network of Jews who are working to create a more just world in line with our faith. In this way, I feel less alone.”

Gabriel Schwartz, 2016 participant

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Breaking the Silence-Hebron International Resources Network-Military Court Watch-Combatants for Peace-
 Dr. Daniel Bar-Tal-Dr. Chen Bram-Dr. Bernard Avishai-Terrestrial Jerusalem-Ir Amim-The Educational Bookshop-

Samer Travel-Women's Center for Legal Aid and Counseling-Hamed Qawasmeh-PCRI-Iyad Burnat & family-
 Jerusalem Youth Choir-Sarwa Street Kitchen-All That's Left-BINA Center-Jack Sabra-Youth Against Settlements

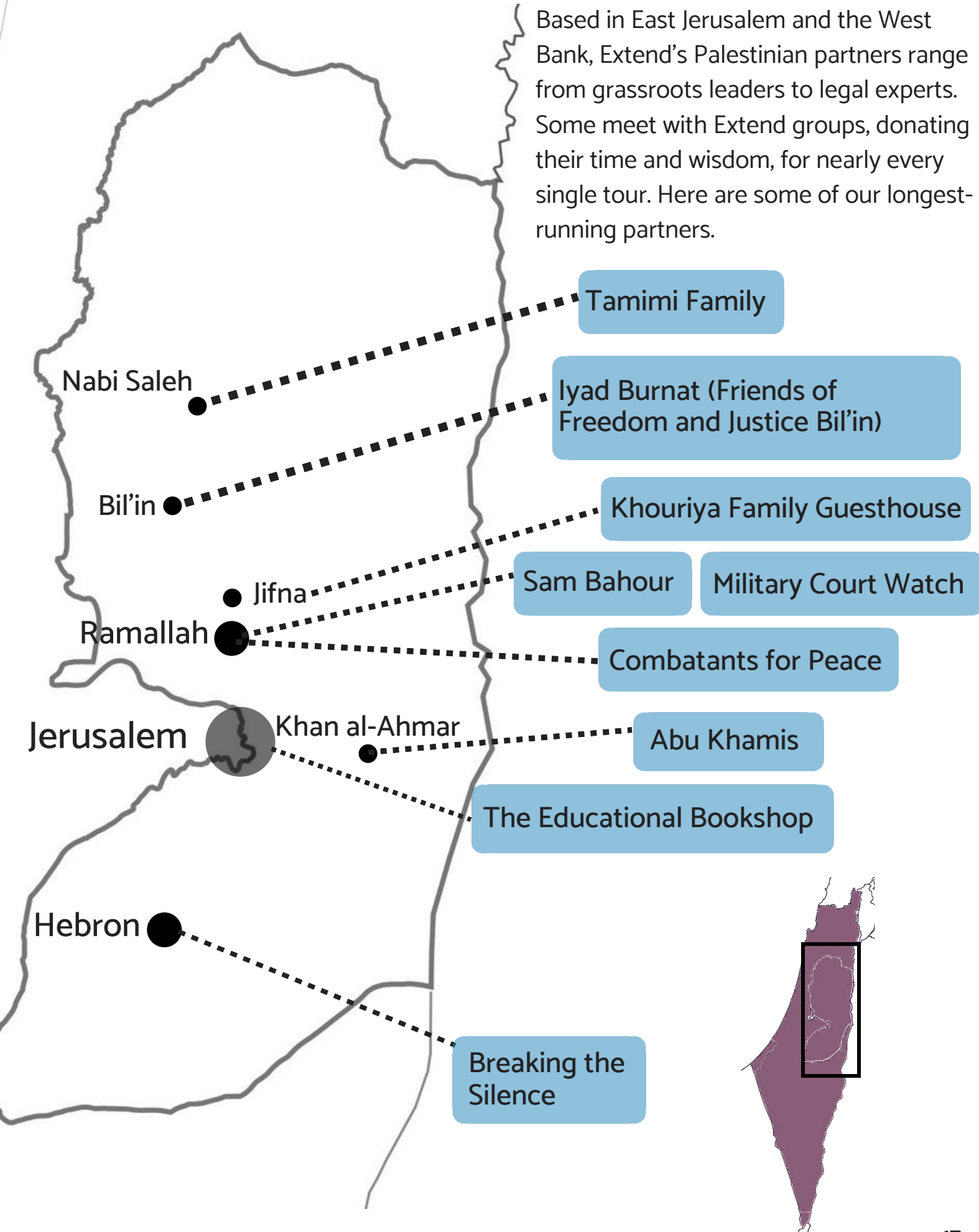
Wall2Windows-Tamimi Family-Sam Bahour-Peace Now-Applied Research Institute-Bil'in Friends of Justice-
 Israeli-Palestinian Creative Regional Initiatives-Achvat Achim-Palestine Heritage Museum-All for Peace Radio-



Just Vision-Truah (Rabbis for Human Rights)-Molad, the Center for the Renewal of Israeli Democracy-B'Tselem
 Machsom Watch-Birzeit University Right2Education Campaign-Khouriya Family Guesthouse-Abu Khamis

WHERE THEY ARE

Based in East Jerusalem and the West Bank, Extend's Palestinian partners range from grassroots leaders to legal experts. Some meet with Extend groups, donating their time and wisdom, for nearly every single tour. Here are some of our longest-running partners.





Rawda and Issa Khouriya operate the Khouriya Family Guesthouse in Jifna, where they have generously hosted, fed, and shared their story with hundreds of Extend participants.



Sam Bahour is an American-Palestinian entrepreneur and public intellectual who founded the Palestinian Telecommunications Company and has contributed to the New York Times and other international media.

WHO THEY ARE

“We were so struck by the persistence and leadership of the women of the Tamimi family [of Nabi Saleh]. A few of us we went back to join one of the protests after Extend, experiencing the tear gas residents face every week.”

Rachel Sandalow-Ash, Emily Unger, Rachel Unger, 2013 participants



Manal Tamimi has led the nonviolent civil disobedience movement in Nabi Saleh focused on the removal of the village’s well for the past decade. Her niece is Ahed Tamimi, whose imprisonment has gained international attention.



Abu Khamis is the public spokesman for the Bedouin community facing demolition in Khan al-Ahmar.



Sulaiman Khatib is co-founder of Combatants for Peace, an egalitarian, bi-national, grassroots organization founded on the belief that the cycle of violence can only be broken when Israelis and Palestinians join forces in nonviolent resistance.



Salwa Duaibis is co-founder of Military Court Watch, a non-profit organization which monitors the treatment of children in Israeli military detention, and then litigates, advocates, and educates on their behalf in the region and beyond.

WHO THEY ARE

“I’ll never forget Ahmad [Muna] saying to us, ‘One state or two states? Red state or blue state? I don’t care. I want a state that gives me rights.’”

Ryan Leszner, 2017 participant



Iyad Burnat has led the nonviolent civil disobedience movement in Bil’in for the past decade. He and his family are the makers and protagonists of the Oscar-nominated film Five Broken Cameras.



Ahmad Muna operates The Educational Bookshop in East Jerusalem, the landmark of Palestinian culture and literature his family has run since 1984.



IN THEIR WORDS

Mossi Raz

Member of the Knesset for Meretz,
founder of All for Peace Radio

“Six years ago I met two young Americans with a great idea, a lot of enthusiasm and wisdom. They saw so many young American Jews who come to Israel and see only Israel and only the Israeli narrative. They wanted to take them to listen to other narratives: to the Palestinians and to human rights activists, to take them to the occupied territories. And they did: again and again. Every time that I get mail from Extend Tours I am happy to think about the next group of young excellent people that I am going to meet. As we say in Hebrew: if we didn’t have Extend, we would have had to invent it. Thank goodness it exists!”



Extend groups meet with Mossi to learn about his life in politics and activism on the airwaves.

Avner Gvaryahu Director, Breaking the Silence

“We at Breaking the Silence tremendously value the work of Extend. It is hugely important that diaspora Jews encountering Israel have the opportunity to gain more than a superficial understanding of this place. As former Israeli soldiers who oppose the government’s policies in the occupied Palestinian territories, it is important to us to bring together Jewish communities around the world in a joint struggle against the occupation, and Extend is an invaluable partner in this process.”



Extend participants join Breaking the Silence for a guided tour of Hebron, learning about the history and contemporary policy that led to segregation there and elsewhere in the West Bank.



IN THEIR WORDS

Sulaiman Khatib

Co-Founder,
Combatants for Peace



“It always feels important to welcome Extend participants in the West Bank. Extend is among the small number of groups that are working towards true change, starting from opening our eyes together to see what we call the ‘other.’ Meeting with young Jewish leaders of this mindset always leaves me with hope and respect. It is also essential that my Palestinian community sees through conversations with Extend that many Jewish people are open to listening to them. We must keep believing that each one of us has a story and also a responsibility to help create a better future for all of us, and Extend is a great example of how this can be done.”

Extend participants meet “Souli” in Ramallah to chat about the movement rooted in nonviolence that he has built.

Sam Bahour

Palestinian-American business leader



“Young American Jews coming to see the occupation for themselves is the most impactful act that can start the long and difficult journey of realizing that there is a significant information gap on what the reality of the occupation is. I view these trips as living proof that we can disagree politically and have dual narratives at play, but it can no longer be acceptable [to think] that the facts being forcefully established on the ground are relegated to merely a narrative. The Jewish establishment is not educating on the reality on the ground, and Extend trips fill this knowledge gap. I have witnessed time and again minds and hearts opening up through these Extend trips, including my mind and heart as well.”

Extend participants meet Sam in Ramallah to learn about running a business and building economic prosperity under military occupation.



IN THEIR WORDS

Ahmad Muna Manager, The Educational Bookshop

“Over the past few years, I have met a large number of students that came on Extend tours and have always enjoyed talking to them. I admire people who go out of their comfort zone to try and understand more deeply, and Extend offers exactly that: a perspective that American Jews may have not been aware of before going on the trip.

I deeply believe in the work Extend does for two main reasons. First, it highlights some of the most important issues in the conflict that are hardly spoken about amongst the Jewish American community. Secondly and most importantly, it is my belief that the more Americans know about the real daily life of Palestinians the more likely we are to have a fair and just resolution.

Extend participants meet Ahmad in East Jerusalem, where they speak to him about Palestinian life in that city in the bookshop’s renowned Literary Salon.



Salwa Duaibis Founder of Women’s Center for Legal Aid and Counseling, co-Founder of Military Court Watch

“Five years ago Military Court Watch (MCW) met with Extend’s first delegation to Israel/Palestine and provided a briefing on Israel’s military detention of children. During the ensuing five years Extend delegations have become an important fixture in MCW’s diary and we consider ourselves privileged to be associated with this outstanding organisation. Extend’s work of bringing young, thoughtful and courageous individuals from the US and beyond, with a thirst for knowledge and justice, is needed now perhaps more than ever before. We continue to be inspired by the dedication and vision of the founding members, staff and individuals associated with Extend.”

Extend groups meet Salwa in Ramallah for a briefing on military law with her and co-director Gerard Horton, then join them at Ofer Military Court to speak to families of the detained and witness a trial.



IN THEIR WORDS

Gideon Levy Journalist, Haaretz

“Extend offers an intensive study of the occupation. As part of the broader change that the American Jewish community is undergoing, Extend helps create new, younger voices that must be taken into account.”

[Gideon joined an Extend tour himself in 2014.](#)



Peter Beinart American writer and political commentator

“Extend offers young American Jews a chance to do something that is very rare in the American Jewish community: interact with Palestinians. That’s extremely important for creating a more humane dialogue inside the American Jewish community about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.”



Rabbi Andrea London J Street Rabbinic Co-Chair

“I came away from the trip more energized to continue working for peace and committed to taking the small steps that will make a difference on the ground today.”



Rabbi Tom Weiner Congregation Kol Ami

“For many years, like most of us, I have grappled with the complexities of the struggle between Israelis and Palestinians. I could always read in the press the thoughts and attitudes of the of decision makers. But Extend gave me an amazingly intimate view from the ground: hours of wonderful and often difficult conversations with individuals from all points of the spectrum and all walks of life. Do I have the answers now? No. But as least I feel I more fully understand the questions.”



AN EXTEND TRIP

Alumni will know that our trips vary to reflect the political situation, and that the schedule is packed with meetings with an array of partners. But any Extend program, whether three days or two or five, will share these core themes.

1 East Jerusalem & West Bank villages: Palestinian communities



2 Hebron & segregation in the West Bank



3 The role of military law & visit to military court



4 Israeli civil society including 972, Haaretz, Btselem, Molad, Peace Now, CJNV, and more





MEET THE TEAM

Founders, Trip Leaders, and Organizers

Founders



Sam Sussman, Co-Founder and Director

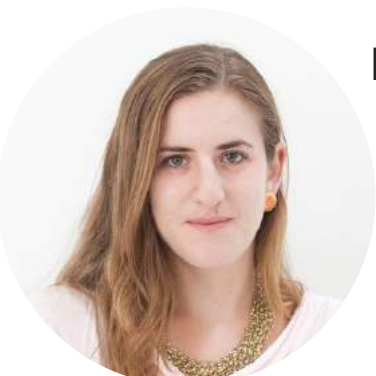
Sam is the co-founder and current director of Extend. He holds an M.Phil in International Relations from Oxford. He wants to thank all the tzadiks out there who helped take an audacious idea cooked up by two 22-year-olds and turned it into a sustainable reality.



Jon Emont, Co-Founder

Jon co-founded Extend in 2013. In 2015 he took a Fulbright in Indonesia to begin a career in journalism. He has since written on foreign affairs for the New York Times, Financial Times, and Foreign Policy. He is now a reporter for the Wall Street Journal based in Hong Kong.

Volunteers



Elisheva Goldberg, Trip Leader

Elisheva is a writer and political analyst who formerly served as MK Tzipi Livni's parliamentary aid, worked as an international relations analyst at the progressive Israeli think tank Molad: The Center for the Renewal of Israeli Democracy, and was assistant editor for Open Zion, a group blog edited by Peter Beinart, aimed at cultivating an open and unafraid conversation about Israel, Palestine and the Jewish future. She hails from Seattle, WA.



Aaron Press Taylor, Trip Leader

Aaron is completing an MA at the Hebrew University and conducting research on tour guiding practices. Aaron has worked at URJ camps and been involved with various arms of Progressive/Reform Judaism. Most recently, Aaron served as Resource Development Manager at the non-profit, Jindas: Urban Regeneration in Lod, and Program Manager with Tiyul-Rihla-Trip, a bi-national Palestinian-Israeli tourism project based in Jerusalem. He is from Teaneck, NJ and Spokane, WA.



Isaac Kates Rose, Trip Leader

Isaac is a Toronto boy born and raised, and has lived in Jerusalem for the better part of six years. After graduating with an Honors Specialist degree in Jewish Studies and Near and Middle Eastern Studies, Isaac moved to Jerusalem to continue contributing as an educator and organizer. In that time he has worked with Rabbis for Human Rights and Breaking the Silence and participated in the Dorot Fellowship. Isaac currently serves as the Israel Palestine coordinator of the Center for Jewish Nonviolence.



Julia Peck, Trip Leader and Organizer

Julia has led educational trips that range from affordable housing-focused programs in post-Katrina New Orleans to outdoor treks. She was an Extend participant in 2014 and joined the team after graduating from Columbia University in 2016. She moved from New York to France to the U.K., where she is currently a graduate student in linguistics at Oxford researching the Judeo-Spanish still spoken in Istanbul. Outside of class, she is a core organizer of environmental justice campaigns. She is from Washington, D.C.



Ethan Blake, Organizer

Ethan Blake is an educator, writer, urbanist, and musician who attended Extend and joined the team after graduating from Brown University in 2017. He has directed the after school enrichment program for the Seattle Jewish Community School, written a book of essays, and is a fellow at Urban Adamah and an apprentice at Green Gulch Farm Zen Center. He is passionate about bicycling, vegetable gastronomy, and his unsung hometown of West Orange, NJ.

EXTEND IN THE NEWS



HAARETZ, JULY 2018

Why More U.S. Jews Will Walk Off Birthright This Summer

“These young American Jews are graduates of Jewish day schools, active in synagogues, and leaders in campus Jewish organizations. They speak with courage and conviction of their Jewish values: freedom for all people from the oppression that has plagued Jewish history; equality for all people irrespective of religion, nationality or race; and the obligation of each person to help repair the world. They have learned well from Jewish institutions that taught them to reach for truth and strive for justice.”



FORWARD, NOV 2017

Why Doesn't Birthright Believe in Israeli Democracy?

“Birthright’s conviction that its participants should not encounter Palestinian citizens is a troubling sanitization – one that does justice neither to young Diaspora Jews nor to Israel itself. Rather than ask American Jews to face Israel in all its complexities and contradictions, Birthright has chosen to offer what one congressman once described to me as ‘Disneyland Israel’ after a trip by the American Israel Public Affairs Committee that met with no Palestinians.

By exposing participants to a fuller canvas of perspectives, Extend helps young American Jews see the genuine challenges faced by Israelis and Palestinians struggling for peace, freedom and human rights – a struggle in which American Jews have both the ability and obligation to help.”

OXFORD UNION, 2016

Debate: Two State Solution in the Middle East

Extend director Sam Sussman participates in a fiery debate about the future of Israel-Palestine at the Oxford Union that included Haaretz journalist Gideon Levy and Israeli Ambassador to the UK Yiftah Curiel.



TIKKUN, OCT 2015

On the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, Back to Democratic Basics

“Democrats are freer than ever before to approach the Israeli-Palestinian conflict with the values that make our party great: our unequivocal beliefs in civil rights. These values should inspire us to work with Israelis and Palestinians to end a forty-eight year old occupation that has left nearly four million Palestinians without basic rights.”



TIKKUN, JAN 2015

The View from Palestine: American Jewish Journeys into the West Bank

“Many American Jews seem convinced that if we visit Palestine and speak to the people who live there, we will somehow become alien from our own faith, culture, and commitments. After leading more than fifty American Jews on five delegations through the West Bank, I have come to believe something different – if we speak to Palestinians, we will not become estranged, but instead begin to hear inflections of our own people’s historic aspirations.”



HUFFINGTON POST, SEPT 2014

Understanding the Other Side of Our Birth Right

By Jai Retter

“What I learned from my experiences in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories is that identifying as an American Jew does not disqualify me from being pro-Palestine, pro-peace, and pro-Israel all at the same time – but ignorance does.”



SLATE, AUG 2014

The West Bank By Bus

By Jon Emont

“Extend wants to engage directly with Palestinians as players of equal standing in a tragic conflict. That is no consolation to the millions of civilians trapped in the current fighting, but perhaps it’s a tiny glimmer of hope.”



U.N., AUG 2014

United Nations International Youth Assembly

Selected to present as the leader of Extend, Sam Sussman said, “Resolving any ethnic conflict requires treating both sides as equal partners.”



HAARETZ, JAN 2014

The Places a Regular Birthright Tour Doesn't Take You

By Gideon Levy

After joining an Extend tour himself, Gideon Levy wrote of the program: “Intensive, balanced and horizon-broadening. Few young Israelis ever get to see what this group from America saw.”



HELP MAKE 2019 THE BEST YEAR FOR EXTEND



1 Invite Extend to speak at your synagogue

2 Recommend Extend to your friends and family traveling to Israel

3 Organize an Extend program for your synagogue, community center, campus, or workplace

4 Sponsor a young American Jewish leader's full trip with Extend

5 Contact Extend today to discuss supporting our work!

