

Jewish Community Relations Council

Meet the Israelis



Around 60 community members, including 35 religious school students in grades 6 and up, participated in the JCRC's Meet the Israelis program on April 18. Through Zoom, we met six different Israelis of diverse backgrounds who represent different communities and viewpoints in Israeli society. Participants had fascinating conversations discussing culture, ethnicity, personal life, politics, religious views, thoughts about Zionism, Judaism, life in Israel, discrimination, and more. The program was a taster of the diversity and complexities of Israeli society, and future JCRC programming that will build on this topic will be announced soon.

Featured in the photos are, clockwise from top left, Yuval Ben Ari from the Meet the Israelis organization, left-wing peace activist Boaz Ibbetson, Ethiopian-Israeli Smadar Taspai, and IDF soldier and Cleveland native Mayer Unterberg, who made Aliyah (moved to Israel) with his family seven years ago. Other speakers included an Arab-Israeli elementary school teacher, a Haredi-Israeli native to Los Angeles, and a settlement community leader.