

# Gil Geva Keinan

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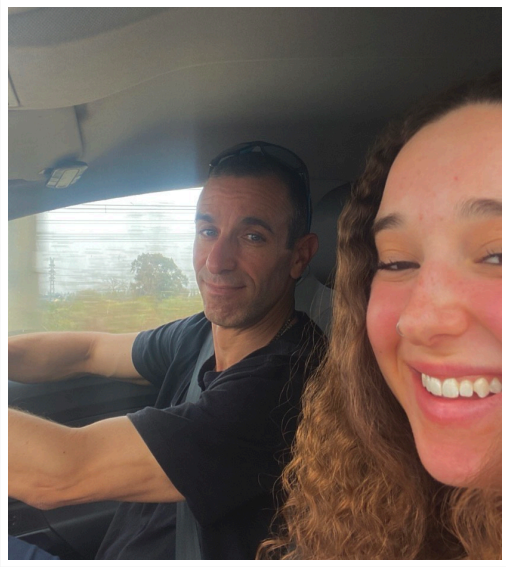


Hey Cleveland my name is Gil Geva Keinan, and I'm one of Cleveland's Shinshinim this year!

So, before we meet face to face, I would like to tell you a little about myself.

I am 18 years old from Alfei Menashe, which is a Yeshuv (a small neighborhood with a very small community) in Judea and Samaria.

My mother Yulit, is a sports and nutrition instructor for women, and also a photographer. I have a very special relationship with my mother, and she is my best friend. Last year she was diagnosed with breast



cancer and underwent many medical treatments, so this experience only strengthened our relationship and proved to us that together we are the strongest and that it is most important to maintain optimism and joy. She's my inspiration! My father, Sivan who is the kindest person I know, works at the United States Embassy in Tel Aviv. My parents divorced six years ago, and they both have new relationships. It's very interesting to meet new families and new people, and of course it's satisfying to see my parents happy and loved. In addition, I have one little sister Noam, who is 13 years old and we are very close. My grandmother (Mother's mother) and my uncles live next to us, so I grew up with them and they are the most important people to me in the world! They are an integral part of who I am today.

So now that you know a little about my family, I would like to tell you about the things I love to do.

Ever since I was little sports has been a very significant thing in my life.

I have been a gymnast since I was six, and I have competed in many competitions and won many prizes. Ground gymnastics has been my whole life, and has been my source of adrenaline and determination. It taught me to set goals for myself and work hard to achieve them.

About two years ago I retired, but this sport will always be my favorite!

Since retiring, I have been training myself in the gym almost every day of the week, and this is my best meditation. I can't wait to train in Cleveland and watch sport games.

And in addition, I really like to paint, and one of the walls in my room is filled with paintings that I painted myself. Adding a new painting symbolizes a meaningful experience I've had, so in this way I both





enjoy and immortalize feelings and experiences from my life.

Moreover, I've been in scouts since fourth grade and guiding for 3 years now.

This year my trainees are in ninth grade, and I am guiding with three other very good friends of mine. This was a course year for the trainees and we taught them how to mentor for next year. I have a very close relationship with my trainees, and I like to feel important to them. Being there for them and experiencing adolescence with them was the most amazing experience I have had.

So now that you know me a little I'll say I'm so excited to get to Cleveland and get to know each one of you in depth. We're going to have the BEST year together, I promise! See you soon!