



Shira Romanoff (SSDS '11):

After graduating from Muhlenberg College with a degree in psychology and English, Schechter alumna Shira Romanoff (SSDS '11) is using her passion to connect and engage with others as a legal associate recruiter at MindSpring Partners, LLC. In her role, Shira works with clients to identify potential candidates, and then guides them through the entire recruiting life cycle process from inception to placement.

Shira traces her interest in communication and building connections to her English classes at Schechter. "Reading and analyzing literature piqued my interest in how to communicate -- and recruiting is all about building connections with people and teaching them how to better represent themselves in interviews, networking meetings, and in everyday life."

Shira also credits her involvement in the annual Sager School musical with building her toolbox of skills. "From 6th to 8th grade I loved being a part of a performance group -- and nothing teaches you resiliency like the consistent effort and practice that requires. Learning lines, taking direction, improvising, and working in a team taught me resiliency and collaboration! Singing "Money Money" from Cabaret is a highlight I think about often and treasure."

On a personal level, Shira said that although there was not an explicit presence of a queer role model for her until she was a bit older, the Jewish values of *tikkun olam* and *b'tzelem elohim* that she learned at Schechter gave her room to appreciate her own identity and how it fits into a ever-evolving Jewish American world.

"I struggled with coexisting as a Jewish queer woman and how that fits into my understanding of *halacha*," she said. "However the initial values I learned at Schechter about acceptance and community were ultimately how I learned to grow and love my identity."

In her free time, Shira enjoys practicing the guitar, taking fitness classes, crocheting, and going to concerts -- her favorites in Chicago include Japanese Breakfast at Thalia Hall and Car Seat Headrest at Millennium Park. She has traveled to 14 countries outside of the U.S. and lived in Israel during her college years. While she loves living in Chicago with her cat, Kugel, she said that if she could live anywhere in the world, she would pick New Orleans for the comfort food and Jazz scene.

Shira's mother, Randee, was a resource teacher at Schechter for 10 years. Shira still has classmates tell her they loved spending time in Randee's classroom and that she was an amazing resource teacher.

Shira's sister, Dena (SSDS '14), is a senior at Boston University majoring in sociology with hopes of working in child welfare. Her brother, Elie, attends an adult program in Boise, Idaho for students on the autism spectrum.

