

Shani was born in Petah Tikva but moved to Shoham soon after. Shani has a fraternal twin sister and an older sister who is about to have her first child any day now. Shani attended Tzfira High School, an all-girls school from 7th-12th grade with over 800 students. It has always been a dream of Shani's to participate in the Bnot Sheirut program. She feels it is important to visit and interact with Jewish people outside of Israel and promote Israel in a positive light. She wanted to be an ambassador for her country and inspire Jewish Children in America and continue to foster their strong commitment to Zionism. She had heard great things about Houston from Aya and Neta, our previous Bnot Sheirut and was sold. Shani likes to play piano or do art in her spare time or hang with family and friends.

Renana was born and raised in Shoham and is one of four children. She has two older brothers and a younger sister and attended the same High School as Shani. Renana had visited the United States on a family vacation a few years ago and enjoyed experiencing the culture and sites. She was unsure if this was the right experience for her as the idea of being away from family and friends for a whole year sounded crazy but as soon as she began the application process it all felt right and fell into place. Hearing glowing reports about the Houston Jewish community and RMBA from Aya and Neta led Renana to select Houston as her home for the next year. She has found the students and their families to be really warm and inviting after only 2 short weeks and the students.

They are currently staying with the Tessler family and it feels like home already. They are both excited to improve their English while helping students improve their Hebrew and also continue to foster the love of Israel through fun and engaging programs and activities during the school year. Please give a warm welcome to Shani and Renana!