



## *Gateway to Optimism*

Tamar Shachaf Schneider  
Photograph, 2024

Winner of the Beautiful Days photography contest at Reichman University, 2024, *Gateway to Optimism* was taken at Masada. The photograph shows the southern edge of the northern basin of the Dead Sea. This is the place where, according to Josephus Flavius, approximately 1000 men and women fortified themselves while fighting the Romans.

Tamar Shachaf Schneider has been working at the Department of External Relations at Reichman University for almost 3 years. She holds a BA in Political Science from Tel Aviv University and a dual MA in Jewish Professional Leadership and Near Eastern and Judaic Studies from Brandeis University, Waltham, MA, USA.

Tamar has more than 7 years of experience in fundraising, including working for two non-profit organizations that support Israel's most at-risk children and youth.

Regarding this photograph, Tamar says, "At a time when we are fighting for the future of our country, I want to remain optimistic about our future, just as the Jews who fortified themselves on the mountain dreamed and refused to give it up."

The photo was taken with an iPhone 14.

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