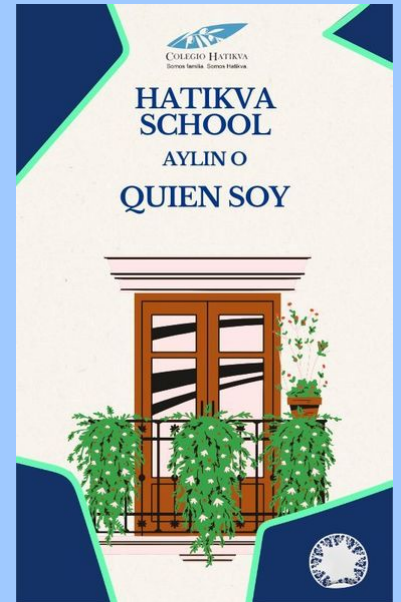




KALEIDOSCOPE

Who I am



Name: **Schneider Navarro A**

Country of residence: **Spain**

My identity has been built from many different stories: those of my ancestors, my family, the traditions from both sides, and the experiences I have had at Hatikva School.



My name is Aylin, and I was born in Catalonia, Spain, on August 25, 2010. My family consists of my mother, Clara; my father, Dario; and my younger sister, Suri. From a very young age, I have attended Hatikva School, a Jewish school located in Valldoreix, where I have grown up surrounded by traditions, celebrations, and values that have shaped an important part of my life.

However, in order to understand who I am today, I believe it is important to begin with the history of my ancestors, since their experiences and decisions are part of my roots and my identity.



On my father's side, my great-grandparents, Salomón Schneider and his wife, emigrated from Poland to Argentina while fleeing the war. There, they helped found a Jewish colony called Rivera, where they were able to rebuild their lives far from the persecution Jews were suffering in Europe.

My great-grandfather Moisés Kulisewski and his brother also managed to escape, leaving behind much of their family, who sadly died in a concentration camp during the Holocaust. Their story is an example of courage and survival that has always remained present in our family memory.

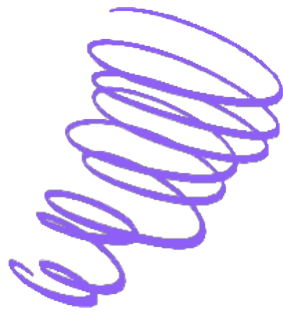
On my mother's side, the family stories are different, but equally meaningful.

On my maternal grandmother's side, my great-grandfather Rafael Juli Arnau and his brother, Banet Juli Arnau, were executed by firing squad on August 29, 1936, in Ripoll during the Spanish Civil War. Rafael was a teacher at a religious school, while Banet worked as a parish priest and teacher at a school in El Torn, in the Garrotxa region. Today, our family continues to research their story and the ideological changes that took place in the generations that followed.

After my great-grandfather's death, my great-grandmother Encarnació Danés had to raise her five children on her own. The youngest of them, Joaquina Juli Danés, married Josep Marí Rovira, who worked for Telefónica. Because of his job, the family moved to Mataró, where my grandmother, Maria Teresa Marí Juli, my great-aunt Nuri Marí Juli, and my great-uncle Rafael Marí Juli were born.

On my maternal grandfather's side, my great-grandparents Loreta Catalán and Julián Navarro were originally from La Puebla de Arenoso, in Castellón. During the Spanish Civil War, they moved to Barcelona, where they opened a fruit and vegetable shop. My grandfather, Juan José Navarro Catalán, grew up there together with his siblings, Ana and Enrique.

All of these stories are part of my family heritage. They are stories of effort, loss, resilience, and adaptation that help me better understand where I come from and appreciate the journey of those who came before me.



After learning about my family's history, my own life may seem much simpler. However, the environment in which I have grown up has had a profound influence on the person I am today.

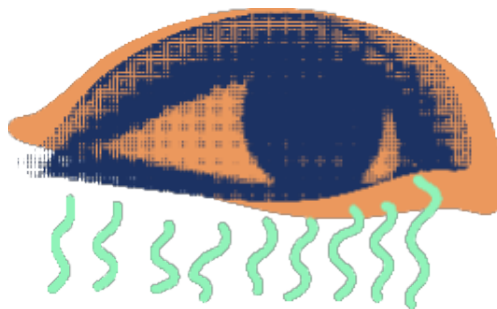
I am currently in the fourth year of ESO at Hatikva School, a place where I have spent practically my entire life. I have always felt very fortunate to have grown up at this school, because it has not only allowed me to build very important friendships, but also to become close to a culture that probably would not have played such a significant role in my life if I had not studied here.

For me, the school has been much more than an educational institution. It has been a safe, familiar, and welcoming place where I have learned much of what I know and where I have developed many of the values that guide me today.

Because my parents are separated, I have grown up between two different cultural and religious traditions. With my mother and her family, we celebrate Christian holidays such as Christmas, Easter, Saint Stephen's Day, and Three Kings' Day, as well as traditions such as the blessing of palm branches on Palm Sunday.

On the other hand, through my father and within the school environment, I have been connected to Jewish traditions. We have celebrated holidays such as Passover, Purim, Hanukkah, Shabbat, and Yom Ha'atzmaut, as well as lighting candles on different special occasions.

Living between these two traditions has allowed me to grow up with an open and enriching perspective on different cultures, learning to value diversity and respect different ways of living and understanding the world.



Hatikva School has been my second home. Here, I have grown up alongside classmates who have become friends and teachers who have accompanied me through many years of my life.

Now that I am coming to the end of this stage, I feel a mixture of excitement and nostalgia. It is difficult for me to imagine leaving behind such everyday moments as Friday Shabbat celebrations or the holidays we have shared for so many years. Even though I am not fully Jewish, all of these experiences are part of my identity and have helped shape the person I am today.

One of the most special memories I will take with me is my participation in the Ecology Summer Camp in Panama, organized by ORT. It was a unique and unforgettable experience for which I feel deeply grateful. Besides being an exceptional opportunity, it allowed me to meet young people from different countries, both Jewish and non-Jewish, and to learn about Panama's ecosystem in a much more practical and hands-on way than I could have in a classroom.

Another important part of my school years has been the Maccabiah Games. This tradition is one of the school's most special activities because it brings together and connects students of all ages. Beyond the competition, the games, and the dances, the Maccabiah Games strengthen the sense of community and belonging that characterizes Hatikva.

Outside of school, I practice swimming, an activity that also plays an important role in my life. I especially like it because it is an environment where religious differences are not important and where everyone shares the same goals and efforts.

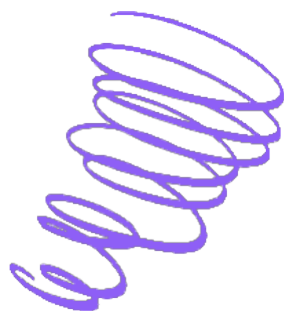
I have grown up with my teammates and coaches since I was very young, so I also consider the swimming pool a second family. There, I have learned values such as perseverance, commitment, and teamwork.

Looking toward the future

Looking ahead, I think I will probably become more distant from the Jewish environment little by little. It will not be a conscious decision or a rejection of that part of my life, but rather a natural consequence of leaving behind the place that has connected me most strongly to Judaism.

Although I will continue to have Jewish friends and maintain my connection with my father and his family, I am aware that school has been the main place where I have learned about Jewish history, traditions, and culture.

Even so, I know that everything I have experienced here will remain a part of me. The experiences, values, friendships, and memories I have built over these years will always stay with me.



When I look back, I realize that my identity has been built from many different stories: those of my ancestors, those of my family, the traditions from both sides, and the experiences I have had at Hatikva School.

I am closing a very important chapter of my life and beginning a new one full of changes and uncertainties. However, I am taking with me everything I have learned during these years. Every person, every celebration, every trip, and every experience has contributed to shaping the person I am today.

For that reason, even if the future takes me down different paths, I will always remember this stage of my life with gratitude and affection, because it is part of my story and part of who I am.

