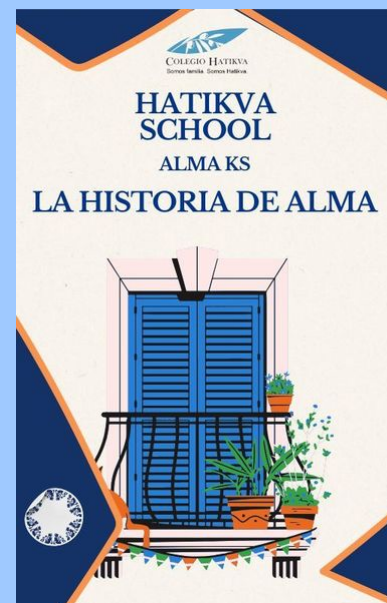




Alma's Story



Name: **Alma K**

Gender: **Woman**

Country of residence: **Spain**

Writing language: **Spanish**

I have always found it very special to think that such an important part of my story began within the Jewish community of my city, Barcelona. Years later, my grandparents met there, and some time afterwards, my parents also met in that very same place. It makes me feel that my own story is deeply connected to the place where my family's story continued.



My name is Alma Katz Schorr, I am 15 years old, and I am currently in my fourth year of secondary school at Colegio Hatikva, the only school in Barcelona that provides a Jewish education.

I come from a family with Ashkenazi roots, deeply shaped by the history of the Jewish people. My father's family lived in Poland and Lithuania. During the Second World War, they were persecuted by the Nazi regime and, like so many other European Jews, were forced to leave their homes in order to survive. They emigrated to Argentina, settling first in Moisés Ville, one of the country's most important Jewish agricultural colonies. Years later, my grandparents decided to move to Israel.

My mother's family also suffered the consequences of antisemitism and war. On my grandfather's side, my ancestors lived in Poland and Ukraine. My grandmother, Dalia Levinsohn, and her family lived in Romania and were persecuted during the Holocaust. After the war ended, they decided to emigrate to the Promised Land, hoping to build a safer and freer life. During their journey, they passed through Barcelona and, fortunately, fell in love with the city and decided to settle here permanently.

Years later, on the fifth of May, my grandparents met at the Jewish Community of Barcelona. Some time afterwards, my parents also met in that very same place during a Mimouna celebration. I have always found it very special to think that such an important part of my story began within the Jewish community of my city, Barcelona.

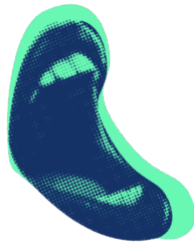


For as long as I can remember, I have been part of Colegio Hatikva, a place with which I share a very special and profound connection. My grandmother was involved in the creation of the school and was also president of the Jewish community at one point. Whenever she has the opportunity, she is invited to tell the stories of our ancestors who survived the Holocaust and to convey the importance of keeping their memory alive. Growing up hearing these stories taught me from a very young age about the value of our roots, our identity, and the resilience of the Jewish people.

Whenever I can, I try to become involved in the community because, for me, it is not simply a place where I pray or celebrate holidays; it is a fundamental part of who I am.

One of the most important moments of my life was my Bat Mitzvah. For an entire year, I prepared with Jorge Burdman, who taught me how to read the siddur, recite the brachot, and sing. This process was not only a religious preparation, but also a deeply personal one. I learned so much about myself, my traditions, and the responsibility of becoming a young adult within Judaism.

The day of my Bat Mitzvah was, without a doubt, one of the most beautiful days of my life. I was able to bring together all the people I love: family members who came from Israel and other countries, friends, and people who are very important to me. It was a huge celebration, filled with emotion, joy, and togetherness. That day, more than ever, I understood the value of family, tradition, and community.

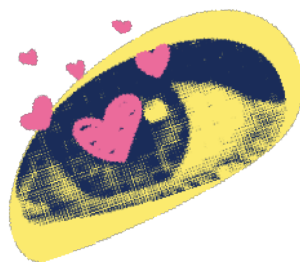


From the age of 13, I began attending the peulot of my community's tnua more regularly. Although I had participated before, it was during this period that I truly fell in love with the youth movement. Beyond spending time with my friends, I discovered a genuine passion: the hope of one day becoming a madrija myself and being able to pass on to other young people everything that the tnua had given me.

For this reason, together with my friends, I began my year of escuelita within Yajad, a year of training to become youth leaders. This experience helped me grow enormously, develop responsibility and leadership skills, and understand the importance of educating others through values and by setting an example.

Through Yajad, I was also fortunate enough to take part in a joint seminar with the Portuguese tnua in Lisbon. There, I was able to meet other young Jewish people, make new friends, and discover how their youth movement operates and what Jewish community life is like in another country. It was an incredibly enriching experience that helped me better understand the diversity of the Jewish world while also showing me how much we all share.

Today, I am a madrija for children in the third and fourth years of primary school, and I have recently also been chosen for the role of Rosh Arjava. The aim of this role is to attract more chanichim to the movement, motivate families, distribute flyers, and raise awareness of the tnua so that more and more children can discover and become part of it.



At the beginning of my fourth year of secondary school, my school selected me, together with two other students, to represent Spain at the first World Zionist Youth Congress, created by Miriam Peretz in Budapest. It was an incredible experience in which I spent time with young leaders from all over the world, especially from Israel. There, I was able to express my beliefs, share my connection with Israel, and learn about many different realities and perspectives. I also made many Israeli friends, as well as friends from other countries, which had a profound impact on me.

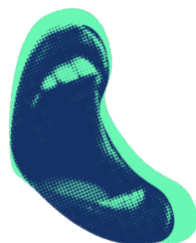
At the same time, over these past few years, I had the opportunity to discover BBYO, an international organization created by and for Jewish teenagers. BBYO completely opened my mind. It is much bigger than I had ever imagined: it gives you the opportunity to travel, meet people from different countries, and connect with Jewish teenagers between the ages of 14 and 18 from all over the world. Through this organization, I came to understand even more deeply just how global and connected the Jewish people are, even while living in completely different realities.

Within BBYO Spain, I am an active member of the Barcelona chapter, where I help organize activities, participate in projects alongside the board, and manage social media. In addition, I recently applied for a new position within the Spanish region at a national level, with the aim of representing the potential of young Spanish Jews internationally and helping to build the future of our youth community.

Every BBYO National Convention impresses me more than the last. From my first convention in 2024, which was the experience through which I discovered the organization, to the most recent ones, I have been able to see how much BBYO Spain has grown. Seeing the number of young people involved, the friendships that are created, and the sense of belonging that develops fills me with pride.

I am currently the future Aym Hachaverot of BBYO Spain. I prefer this title to “morah” because it carries a much deeper meaning for me. In Hebrew, Aym Hachaverot means “the mother of the friends,” and I feel that it perfectly represents the role I want to have within the organization.

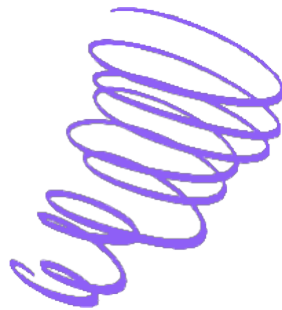
Within the regional board, BBYO is divided into BBG, the girls’ section, and AZA, the boys’ section. As part of the BBG board, my role is to support, bring together, and recruit Jewish teenage girls from all across Spain so that they can become part of this community. Beyond that, however, my main goal is to create genuine connections between the girls, helping them feel heard, included, and connected not only to the organization, but also to their Jewish identity.



My main motivation for being so involved in all of these activities is that one of my greatest goals in life is to inspire other people and leave a positive impact. I feel that I have received so much from my community, my youth movements, and all of these experiences, and now I want to give something back by helping other young people find their place, feel heard, and feel proud of their Jewish identity.

Sadly, I am now coming to the end of my time at the school that has watched me grow and that holds a large part of my heart. It is a very meaningful stage in my life because I am leaving behind a place filled with memories, childhood friendships, and experiences that have shaped me into the person I am today. Even so, I am beginning a new chapter with excitement, while also respecting and appreciating everything that lies ahead.

I will begin the International Baccalaureate programme at Salesians, two years that I know will be demanding and require a great deal of effort. However, I am ready to give my very best in order to achieve my goals and continue growing.



Looking towards the future, I am quite certain that I would like to move to Israel for at least a year after completing my studies. I would love to take part in a national volunteering programme, learn, develop a deeper connection with the land of Israel, and have an intense experience of personal growth and connection with my identity.

The current situation in Israel has affected me emotionally and continues to do so, especially because of the strong connection I have with the country and because I have friends and family living there. Everything that happens feels very close to me, and it has made me value even more deeply the importance of community and of supporting one another.

For me, being Jewish is not simply an essential part of my life; it is the essential part of my life. It gives me identity, a sense of belonging, and continuity with my history and my family. What I value most is the feeling that I am part of something much greater than myself. What I sometimes find most difficult is living that identity in an environment where we are a small community, although that very challenge has also made me appreciate it even more.

