



Reproductive Technologies, Inc.

THE SPERM BANK OF CALIFORNIA

INTERVIEW NOTES: 5456

Donor 5456 is a conscientious human being who follows his curiosity and enjoys creating engaging conversation on challenging topics. To our interview, he wore a black t-shirt and dark jeans. He wore his dark brownish-black hair in a low bun at the nape of his neck. His thin oval face was framed by full dark brows, stubble on his cheeks, chin, and upper lip, long lips, dimples and a great, full smile. In his extended profile, he mentions resembling actor Adrian Brody and I would say they do share features such as the thin oval face shape, olive skin tone and smile, however, donor 5456 has a less prominent nose, fuller brows, light brown eyes and dimples.

Born in Jerusalem, Donor 5456 described growing up *right in front of the conflict*. He acknowledges the different cities, languages, and education systems within the city of Jerusalem itself. 5456 and his younger sister grew up doing everything together including playing chess and hanging out with their grandfather. He describes himself as a bit of a jokester, although he never pushed it far enough to get into too much trouble.

Donor 5456 attended an International Baccalaureate school, which gave him the opportunity to meet peers from diverse cultural and geographic backgrounds, including Iraq and Palestine. His Israeli upbringing had prepped him for service in the Israeli military; however, after becoming friends with other young people from different cultures, he began to develop a disdain for serving as a soldier. 5456 managed to find a way to avoid service in the Israeli military and instead volunteered to do civil service. During this same time, he began to develop an interest and curiosity for protesting and politics, and soon he began to identify more and more with the radical left. 5456 paved the way for his younger sister, who also refused to serve in the Israeli military. Although their parents supported their choices, they might have wished for a little less political passion in their children. Their father expressed this by saying that *every parent wants their children to have plotless lives*.

Donor 5456 continued his education and received scholarships to attend college in the U.S. to study sociology and creative writing. He began his studies focusing on sociology, but decided to share his viewpoints on injustices through creative writing and storytelling. Currently, it is his goal to complete his MFA in creative writing and to publish his works.

Besides working on his MFA, donor 5456 continues to be vocal about issues of injustice in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Zionism, and mandated service in the Israeli Military. He enjoys the company of friends who have similar political affinities, and who enjoy complex ideological and intellectual exchanges.

We expect Donor 5456 to really make a difference in the world and we are excited that he is taking the time to be part of our program!

Interviewers: Maribel L. & Lauren A.

Date: 9/18/17



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DONOR PROFILE: 5456

The past and current personal and family medical history, physical examination, and laboratory test results determine that donor 5456 is eligible and approved for semen donation at THE SPERM BANK OF CALIFORNIA. This profile was prepared in MAY 2018.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

- Identity-Release® Program: **Yes**
- Month/year of birth: **April 1991**
- Education: **Bachelor's degree in Sociology & Creative Writing, MFA in Creative Writing in progress.**
- Current occupation: **Student, writer, translator**
- Ethnic origin: **Lithuanian, German, Israeli, Ashkenazi Jewish**
- Religion born into: **Judaism**
- Religion practicing: **None**

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

- Height: **6'**
- Weight: **160 lbs**
- Hair color: **Dark brown**
- Hair type: **Wavy**
- Eye color: **Light brown**
- Complexion: **Olive**
- Body type: **Medium**
- Blood group/Rh: **A+**
- Baby photo available: **Yes**
- Other distinguishing features: **Dimples, full eyebrows**

FAMILY MEDICAL HISTORY

KEY: **D** donor **Ch** child **F** father **M** mother **S** sister **B** brother

Co cousin **A** aunt **U** uncle **MGF** maternal grandfather **MGM** maternal

grandmother **PGF** paternal grandfather **PGM** paternal grandmother

Genital/Reproductive: **MGM: Ovarian cancer at 42, treated with chemotherapy, cause of death at 42. MU: Prostate cancer at 60, treated with surgery, resolved.**

Heart: **F: High cholesterol at 51, treated with medication, managed. MGF: High blood pressure at 70, treated with medication, change in diet, managed. PGF: Abdominal aneurysm at 65, treated with surgery, cause of death at 65.**

Metabolic/Endocrine: **M: Thyroid disease at 22 (hyperthyroidism), treated with medication, managed.**

Neurological: **M: Chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy at 55, treated with medication, managed. PGM: Dementia at 87, treated with supportive care, ongoing until death at 90. MA: Migraines in 20's, treatment unknown, ongoing.**

Sight/Sound/Smell: **D: Right eye: 20/200, Left eye: 20/200. MU: Colorblindness at birth, no treatment needed, ongoing. Cancer (see above): **MGM: Ovarian cancer. MU: Prostate cancer.****

DONOR LAB RESULTS

Chlamydia: **Not Detected**
HIV 1 & 2: **Non-Reactive**
Hepatitis B: **Non-Reactive**
Urinalysis: **Normal**

Gonorrhea: **Not Detected**
CMV total antibody: **Negative**
Hepatitis C: **Non-Reactive**
Chem panel: **Normal**

Syphilis: **Non-Reactive**
HTLV 1 & 2: **Non-Reactive**
CBC: **Normal**

GENETIC SCREENING RESULTS: ALL TEST VALUES IN NORMAL RANGE

Genetic screening tests can significantly reduce, but never completely eliminate, the chance that a person is a carrier for a particular disorder.

Cystic Fibrosis: (> 500 mutations) **No mutation detected**
Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA): **Two copies of SMN1 detected (Normal)**
Hemoglobinopathies/Thalassemia: **No abnormal hemoglobin detected (including sickle hemoglobin);
No evidence of thalassemia**

Bloom Syndrome: **No mutation detected**
Canavan Disease: **No mutation detected**
Familial Dysautonomia: **No mutation detected**
Fanconi Anemia Group C: **No mutation detected**
Gaucher Disease: **No mutation detected**
Niemann-Pick Disease Type A: **No mutation detected**
Mucopolysaccharidosis Type IV: **No mutation detected**
Tay-Sachs Disease: (73 mutations) **No mutation detected**

DONOR NARRATIVE: 5456

The content of this narrative has not been altered by TSBC staff. It reflects the original written work of the Donor

Describe your personality: introvert, extrovert, funny, serious, goal-oriented, curious, shy, etc.

I'm a very friendly person, cheerful, independent, adventurous, and curious about all things. I try to prioritize relationships over work. I am often one of the least-stressed people in my circles. That said, I'm also quite ambitious and goal-oriented.

I try to be a good friend. I would go out of my way as much as is necessary to support a friend in need. I'm grateful for my friends' and family's reciprocal support, and love them deeply.

My mom says I was a charming baby boy that would smile to strangers and ask them for candy. My tendency to befriend strangers has been very useful in my adult life, especially during my extensive travels.

I enjoy hikes and tree-climbing, reading a book and writing a story, or an evening of silly theatrical games with friends. Life's good.

With three sisters, an authoritative bread-winning mom, and a trail-blazing community-organizing grandma, I believe the women in my life had shaped me in ways that I have only recently started to understand. This includes the incredible women I am so thankful to have had intimate relationships with. I've been learning to appreciate the strength of softness, the happiness in pure generosity, and the value in truly listening to others.

My politics are an important part of my life and personality since the time I chose to evade compulsory service in the Israeli military. I see myself as an aspiring anarchist, which means that I try to be extremely tolerant of differences while radically and actively critical of all forms of oppression.

What are your interests and talents?

I'm interested in social movements, deep ecology, literature, the curious histories of anarchism, self-care and mediation methods, Zapatista folklore, other people and other cultures, wilderness, libraries, self-defense practices... So many things! How can the arts and sciences be used to effectively increase human freedom without being co-opted by capitalism? What will move the peoples to rise up together and bring down the little few who oppress and exploit us? I often contemplate such questions.

My interest in languages, cultures, and political dissent led me to long hitch-hiking trips from one activist community to another, mostly in Europe. I went from protest encampments for environmental defense to urban squats that provide housing for hundreds of asylum-seeking refugees, and learned urban and wilderness survival skills, such as how to build tree-houses or break into abandoned buildings. Those were times in which I felt very alive, and they energize my fiction writing today.

Many activists burn out and drop out of the movement in the face of what some call "the hopelessness of it all," but I can't imagine not being active in my community. One of my ways to do this is to balance the stasis and ungratefulness of activism by staying creative and spinning fantasies in my fiction writing.

My grandfather taught me chess as a boy, and I played competitively on-and-off with minor local success well into my teens. I still play chess every now and then when I meet a fellow enthusiast. A friend once crowned me

the “Squatters' Chess Champion,” and my dad thinks that my skills in chess might make me a good writer of detective stories, as I foster a habit of thinking several moves ahead. My dad started nourishing his own fiction writing over the past couple of years, and he's been my toughest, harshest reader, so I take it as a compliment (he's otherwise a calm and funny ol' daddy-O' that sometimes likes to debate things too much).

I'd say my one unquestionable talent (which I share with my dad and his parents) is my capacity to learn new languages. I grew up bilingual, and achieved fluency in five other languages as an adult. It takes a lot of work and discipline to learn a language, but I love it, especially in the beginning when you open new worlds of communication each day.

I sometimes engage in public speaking and I think I do it well. I structure my thoughts concisely and prepare before talks, and employ audience participation and comic relief as creatively as I can afford. I have been trying to do the same as a language teacher.

Other talents: juggling, acting, I can focus and memorize things quite well, and I am an intentional and empathic communicator.

What are some of your goals and ambitions in life? Where do you see yourself in 5 or 10 years?

One of my big ambitions in life is to exercise my agency in a way that would have a positive impact on the planet. I've been revising a novel I had written over the past couple of years, and I hope to perfect and publish it. I am very ambitious in that I aim to produce writing that I can stand behind in terms of literary quality, but that would also move readers to affect change. This is why I am pursuing an MFA in creative writing. In the following years I would like to write and publish new work as well. I see myself trying to take the plunge as a professional novelist, becoming a teacher of creative writing, or perhaps enrolling in a PhD program. Yet I keep in mind the Yiddish saying: “People plan, God laughs,” and recognize that for many people and species, the apocalypse is now, and there's no telling when we might need to pick up our walking sticks and put those survival skills into action.

How would you describe your skills and interests in the following areas?

Math: I was always pretty good at it and did university-level math in my final year of high-school. I finished at the top of my accelerated class. I preferred pure, abstract math.

Mechanical: I like fixing bikes and building tree-houses. I'm good with knots and ropes. I can be clumsy sometimes but my spatial understanding is good, and I enjoy figuring out how things work.

Athletic: I grew up doing a lot of team sports and played in my local water polo team throughout high school. I was later a little turned off by the macho culture of organized athletics and got into yoga, dance, climbing, and some martial arts. Nowadays I practice yoga and personal fitness and think of picking up Jiu Jitsu.

Musical, Artistic, Creative: I often lament my late interest in making music. I taught myself some piano when I was 18, I play percussion instruments in a samba band, and I like singing (folk, punk, choir, metal – anything goes).

Language (what languages besides English do you speak?): Hebrew – mother tongue; Italian, French, and Spanish – reading, writing, and speaking; Arabic – speaking fluently (Palestinian dialect), basic reading and writing; Israeli Sign Language – spoke it fluently and formerly worked as an interpreter, but haven't used it in a while. I can also get by with German if I need to, and I'm learning Yiddish.

Writing: I want to be a professional author, so I better be good at it! I started writing seriously in an effort to shed light on grave injustices I had been exposed to in Palestine/Israel, and in order to deal with some traumatic events associated with my activism. I haven't stopped since, and found my calling in fiction writing. Some of my work appeared in journals and newspapers.

Literature: Love it. Especially anarchist feminist sci-fi. I'm a bookworm.

Science: I often wonder about the dystopian potential of some of our contemporary technologies, so I learn about them and explore their imagined social impact. I was good in math, so I took physics as a freshman in college, but realized I was mostly doing it for my grandpa. The hard sciences seemed entrenched in capitalist industry, and I looked for a more holistic worldview. I felt at home in the social sciences, and was trained to think in a socio-anthropological way, which I feel grateful for, despite its impact on my paycheck.

Please list a few of your favorite:

Movies: *The Lives of Others*, Spike Lee's *Bamboozled* and others, the Wachowskis' *V for Vendetta* and others, Almodovar and Haneke films, *Noviembre*, *El Violín*, some documentaries such as *END:CIV*, *Roadmap to Apartheid*, *Pickaxe*, *Kanehsatake: 270 Years of Resistance*, and *Breaking the Spell*. I also took some film classes in college and participated in friends' productions.

Books/Authors: Ursula K. Le Guin (*The Dispossessed!*), Octavia Butler (*Kindred*), Margaret Atwood (*The Year of the Flood* and the whole *MaddAddam* trilogy), Kurt Vonnegut (errythang!), Emile Habibi (*The Pessoptimist*), Toni Morrison (*Sula*), Orwell, Nabokov (*The Defense*), Edward Abbey (*The Monkey Wrench Gang*), and so many others. All fiction so far. Nonfiction: Peter Gelderloos, Ilan Pappé, Joseph Massad, David Graeber, Rebecca Solnit's *A Paradise Built in Hell*, Assata Shakur's autobiography (!), Emma Goldman's *Living My Life*. Did I mention I'm a bookworm?

Albums/Musicians/Performances: Chumbawamba (!), Nina Simone, Fabrizio De André, Chicho Sanchez Ferlosio, Pink Floyd, Habiluyim, Toot Ard

What are a few of your reasons for becoming a sperm donor?

One of my friends is a donor-conceived person. I met his brother and two moms some years ago. I was inspired by the story of their amazing family and by the possibility of using my privilege to enable the creation of other such alternative families. Since then I've been wanting to apply, but didn't want to donate to the profit-driven sperm banks where I had been living. Now that I moved to California, I am excited to be able to donate to a feminist-oriented non-profit that provides service for lesbian couples and single women (people whose reproductive rights have been in jeopardy). The folks at TSBC have been truly amazing to work with so far.

While the financial compensation will be helpful, I would also donate for free, given the knowledge that I could support good people in need. As a longtime political activist, feminist and queer issues – and reproductive rights as a part of them – are close to my heart. I would be grateful for the opportunity to contribute.

Finally, I am looking forward to meeting the fascinating people I might help to conceive, if they so choose.

You have joined the Identity-Release® Program . What appeals to you about this program?

I believe donor-conceived people have the right to know where they came from, so I'm happy to participate in a program that is committed to that principle. I'm also excited about the idea of meeting the adults one day. I really hope they reach out (no pressure though, you do what's right for you).

Is there anything else you would like to share with participating families and offspring?

You're doing an amazing thing, good luck!

I realize this document might be the only real, personal thing a child will know about 50% of their genetic origins until they're over 18. It's a heart-wrenching moment for me to sign this and think of what it could mean for a curious young person. I am tempted to share everything I know. I'm very excited about the life you will lead. Make your own choices. Find your tradition. Live fully.



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HEALTH PROBLEMS DONOR 5456

FAMILY MEMBER	HEALTH PROBLEM	TREATMENT/RESOLUTION
Mother	Thyroid disease <i>Hyperthyroidism</i>	Age at onset/diagnosis: 22 Treatment: Medication Outcome: Managed
	Chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy* <i>CIDP</i>	Age at onset/diagnosis: 55 Treatment: Medication Outcome: Managed
Father	High Cholesterol	Age at onset/diagnosis: 51 Treatment: Medication Outcome: Managed
Maternal Grandfather	High blood pressure	Age at onset/diagnosis: 70 Treatment: Medication, change in diet Outcome: Managed
Maternal Grandmother	Ovarian cancer	Age at onset/diagnosis: 42 Treatment: Chemotherapy Outcome: Cause of death at 42
Paternal Grandfather	Aneurysm <i>Abdominal</i>	Age at onset/diagnosis: 65 Treatment: Surgery Outcome: Cause of death at 65
Paternal Grandmother	Dementia	Age at onset/diagnosis: 87 Treatment: None Outcome: Ongoing until death at 90
Maternal Aunt	Migraines	Age at onset/diagnosis: 20's Treatment: Unknown Outcome: Ongoing
Maternal Uncle	Colorblindness	Age at onset/diagnosis: Birth Treatment: None needed Outcome: Ongoing

Paternal Uncle #1

Prostate cancer

Age at onset/diagnosis: 60

Treatment: Surgery

Outcome: Resolved

The above family medical history information has been self-reported by the donor. We work with each donor to obtain as complete and accurate information as possible, but we are unable to completely rule out the existence of other health information that is not known, or that remains unreported to us.

As a board certified genetic counselor, I have reviewed this donor's family medical history for identifiable patterns of inheritance that may place the donor or his biological offspring at increased risk for certain health problems. ("Increased risk" is risk that is greater than the risk in the general population).

***CIDP is not known to be inherited and is considered an acquired disorder. No clear genetic predisposition or other predisposing factors for CIDP have been identified.**

Upon review of the remaining available family medical history information from this donor, the risk for similar health problems occurring in offspring is not expected to exceed the risk in the general population.

Cynthia Kane, M.S., C.G.C.
Genetic Counselor