

# JEWISH FEDERATION

## Timeline of the Greater MetroWest Community

# 1920s

Incorporation papers are signed to establish Conference of Jewish Charities in Newark; incorporators were Louis Bamberger, Felix Fuld, Nathan Bilder, Leo Stein, Martin H. Goldsmith, and Frank I. Liveright. Bamberger and other German Jewish leaders in Newark realized that numerous agencies around the city were competing for the same dollars. Thirteen independent agencies join the Conference of Jewish Charities and Newark's Community Chest and Welfare Federation for one annual city-wide campaign to raise funds to support social services.

'23

The Y on High Street in Newark opens. Its programs — including a series of lecturers and performers as varied as folksinger Woody Guthrie and aviatrix Amelia Earhart — made the Y the “Hollywood and Vine” of Newark's Jewish community.

'24

Harry Lebau becomes executive director of a new Y on East Jersey Street in Elizabeth, which would be dedicated in 1929. A local paper would salute the YM-YWHA as “a vital community force in art, literature, drama, music, recreation, and social services.”

'26

The term United Jewish Appeal originates in the community in 1926, when the annual fund-raising campaigns of the three major local Jewish communal groups merged into one campaign. This was the first use of the name that was later adopted by the national UJA (founded in 1939), which soon became the best-known Jewish philanthropic organization in the world.

Newark Beth Israel Hospital opens on Lyons Avenue in Newark. The “Beth” would evolve into a state-of-the-art institution and a symbol of the generosity of Newark's Jewish community.

'28

The Elizabeth Y opens on East Jersey Street.

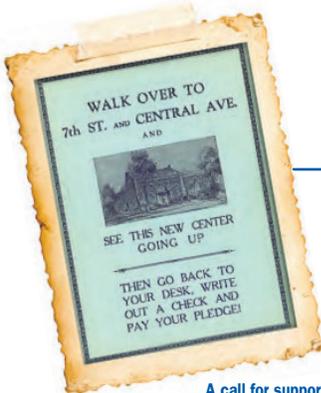
'29



Felix Fuld, left, and Louis Bamberger, founders of the Conference of Jewish Charities of Newark, c. 1923.

# 1930s

# 1940s



A call for support for the Plainfield Y



The first issue, Jan. 3, 1947

The Jewish Community Center of Plainfield opens on West Seventh Street.

'30

The Elizabeth Y establishes the David Blick Post of Jewish War Veterans.

'31

Hebrew Youth Academy is founded in Newark. The school would move to South Orange, Hillside, and West Caldwell and evolve into the Joseph Kushner Hebrew Academy in Livingston, a top-ranked Modern Orthodox yeshiva.

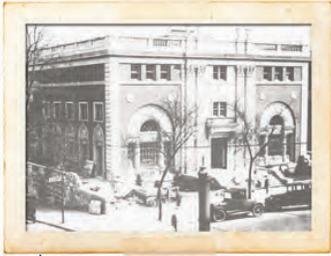
'42



At the Y Camp at Bear Mountain, 1920s

The Jewish Educational Center establishes Elizabeth Central Talmud Torah, incorporated and renamed Rabbi E.M. Preil Central Talmud Torah; early classes are held at the Elizabeth Y.

'35



The Y on High Street in Newark, 1924-54

Yavneh Yeshiva and Rabbi Preil Central Talmud Torah combine under the name Jewish Educational Center of Elizabeth, which moves to 330 Elmora Ave. Founder Rabbi Pinchas Teitz, who died in 1995 at 87, established a network of Orthodox schools and synagogues in Elizabeth that flourishes to this day.

'44

The Jewish News is founded; it merges in 1947 with the Newark-based *Jewish Times*, keeping the *Jewish News* name. The weekly newspaper would later publish editions for four other federated communities, changing its name from *MetroWest Jewish News* to *New Jersey Jewish News*.

'46

Women's Division (now Women's Philanthropy) founded by the Federation.

'36

The Jewish Education Association is established by the Jewish community in Newark to offer courses, license teachers, and coordinate efforts among a budding array of all-day and afternoon Jewish schools.

'37

The Elizabeth Refugee Coordinating Committee is established to help families fleeing the Nazis.

'38



The Jewish Educational Center's first home, Elmora Street, Elizabeth

Jewish Social Service is reorganized as Jewish Family Service of Essex County. Established in 1861, the Hebrew Benevolent Orphan Society served as Greater Newark's first organized response to widows and orphans, the poor, and the needy. As mergers followed, that society evolved into what is today called Jewish Family Service of MetroWest.

'47

Establishment of the State of Israel; Federation raises millions of dollars, and thousands march in support of the new state.

'48

National United Jewish Appeal is formed, and the Federation becomes a charter member in support of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and the Jewish Agency for Israel.

'39

The Community Employment Service — later called Jewish Vocational Service — is established in Newark. Between 1939 and 1954, it would find a total of 5,000 jobs for applicants.



Hebrew Youth Academy school bus

# 1950s



'53

United Hebrew Charity Organization in Elizabeth changes its name to Jewish Family Service of Central New Jersey.

**The JEC's Rav Pinchas Teitz broadcasting Talmud study via the radio**

'54

The Y on High Street in Newark closes as Newark's Jewish community migrates from that area to the less urbanized and more affluent Weequahic section.

'56

Daughters of Israel in Newark becomes a fully licensed nursing home.

JFS of Central NJ begins resettling families fleeing from Hungary during and after the revolution.

Union Township officials grant variance to construct a new Y on Green Lane in Union, the latest chapter in an agency formed in 1883 and rooted in the port city of Elizabeth.

'57

Jewish Vocational Service adopts a nonsectarian policy, ushering in decades of grant projects and services dedicated to the needs of individuals with significant barriers to employment.

'59

First graduation of Rav Teitz Mesivta High School of JEC in Elizabeth.

Joint Chaplaincy Committee founded by Rabbis Zev Segal and Jeshaiia Schnitzer, appointing chaplains to offer bedside prayers and religious services for hospital patients, and pastoral counseling.

Opening of the Chancellor Avenue Y serving the Weequahic section of Newark plus Irvington and Hillside. An enormous success when it opened, the Y remained at the location only until 1968, reflecting the fast pace of suburbanization in the 1960s.

# 1960s

'60

Camp Deeny Riback opens in Flanders. Affiliated with the Jewish Community Center of MetroWest, the 35-acre day camp promises the "significant impact of learning life-skills, making new friends, and having fun, all in a safe and quality camp environment!"

'62

Daughters of Israel residents move from Newark to a new state-of-the-art facility in West Orange via a cavalcade of rescue squads and chartered buses. The center would eventually offer extensive rehabilitation facilities, subacute care, a unit for individuals with Alzheimer's or dementia, and a resource center for caregivers, as well as Jewish cultural programs, a synagogue, and a full-time rabbi.

'63

Israel Exhibition & Trade Fair — the first in the country — is held at Chancellor Avenue Y in Newark.

'65



Solomon Schechter Day School holds classes at Temple Beth Shalom in Cranford.

'66

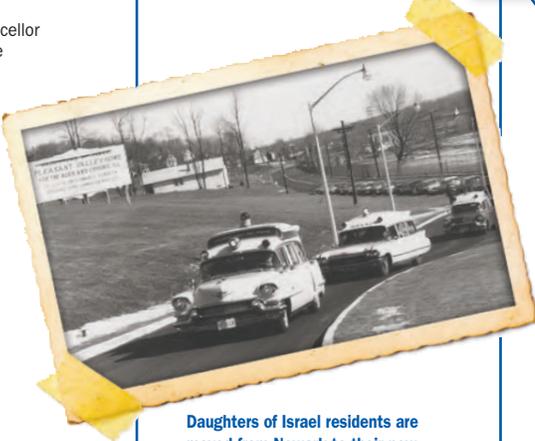
Dedication ceremonies for the "Green Lane Y," the YM-YWHA of Union County in Union.

'67

Programs to aid in resettlement of Soviet Jews undertaken by JFS of Central NJ, JFS of MetroWest, and agencies throughout the region.

With the outbreak of the Six-Day War on June 6, the Federation galvanizes the Jewish community, mobilizing an army of volunteers, raising some \$10 million, sponsoring missions of support to Israel, and strengthening the community's commitment to Zionism.

YM-YWHA of Essex County opens on Northfield Avenue in West Orange. Now the Leon & Toby Cooperman JCC, Ross Family Campus, the agency's relocation represents the culmination of the Jewish community's move from city to suburbs, after Newark's three largest synagogues, Oheb Shalom Congregation, Congregation B'nai Jeshurun, and Temple B'nai Abraham, leave the city.



**Daughters of Israel residents are moved from Newark to their new home in West Orange, 1962**

# 1970s

Jewish Vocational Service establishes the first support services program in New Jersey dedicated to older adults with disabilities in its Work Center on Aging program.

'71

The JEC's Bruria High School for Girls is dedicated in Elizabeth. Over the next four decades, the school population would grow to some 400 students, drawn from throughout New Jersey as well as Brooklyn, Staten Island, Manhattan, and even abroad.

'72

In June, Jewish councils representing eastern Union County and the Plainfield and Westfield areas merge to create the Jewish Federation of Central New Jersey.

'73



Hebrew Youth Academy (later Kushner Academy) in West Caldwell

The Federation community rallies to support Israel following the outbreak of the Yom Kippur War, raising \$15 million.

Hebrew Free Loan Association is reorganized with proceeds from the sale of the Hebrew Sheltering Home in Newark. The current society is heir to one that was founded in Newark in 1870, closed in 1955, and then reopened in 1996 to serve the MetroWest community, Essex and Morris counties, and eventually Jews in need around the state.

'75



Original home of JEC's Bruria High School in Elizabeth

JESPY House opens a 24-hour supervised residential program in South Orange, with four residents, enabling adults with learning and developmental disabilities to lead independent lives in the community.

'77

Jewish Vocational Service creates joint Emigre Resettlement Center in coordination with MetroWest member agencies.

The agency would grow to include 35 people living in its residential facilities and more than 100 out-clients living in apartments in South Orange.

'78

Ground breaking for Jewish Federation Plaza in West Orange, Dec. 10.

'79

Solomon Schechter Day School opens in Cranford.

# 1980s

When the Jewish Federation Plaza opens, the idea of independent senior living is still in its infancy, and it becomes one of the first facilities in northern New Jersey to offer the concept. It is the first of the Jewish Community Housing Corporation's four residences, which eventually include Village Apartments of Jewish Federation in South Orange, South Orange B'nai B'rith Federation House, and Lester Senior Housing Community on the Aidekman campus in Whippany.

'80

JFS of Central NJ purchases its first building on Westfield Avenue in Elizabeth.

'81

'82

Leaders of the Plainfield Jewish Community Center (founded in 1914) and its branch, the YM-YWHA of Greater Westfield, come together to form the JCC of Central NJ, formally incorporated five years later. Camp Noam is sold and Shackamaxon Elementary School in Scotch Plains is purchased as a permanent home for JCC of Central NJ. The JCC would grow into a center for Jewish life on Martine Avenue in Scotch Plains.

The Free Soviet Jewry Rally, Washington, 1987



Purchase of the 38-acre tract in Whippany for construction of Alex Aidekman Family Jewish Community Campus.

'83

The Jewish Community Federation of Metropolitan New Jersey and United Jewish Federation of Morris and Sussex merge to form United Jewish Federation of MetroWest. The merger combines the traditions of the former Newark community with communities in such places as Lake Hopatcong, White Meadow Lake, and Lake Hiawatha — onetime summer residences that eventually drew commuters who stayed year-round and founded more than 19 synagogues.

'87



JVS class teaching English to new immigrants

Jewish Service for the Developmentally Disabled establishes its first kosher group home, in Millburn

'89

The Union Y celebrates its 100th anniversary.

Soviet Jewry rally in Washington, DC, draws 250,000 people, including busloads of local Jews organized by the greater MetroWest Council on Soviet Jewry, the Jewish Community Relations Council of Central NJ, and the National Mobilization Committee for the Washington Rally, headed by Jackie Levine. They are joined by dozens of synagogues, community organizations, the MetroWest Community Relations Committee, and defense organizations. Later, to aid in the resettlement of the Jews of the Soviet Union, the Federation was a major supporter of the 1990-97 Operation Exodus campaign, raising more than \$25 million.

# 1990s

'91

The upper school of Solomon Schechter Day School of Essex and Union, the first high school affiliated with the Solomon Schechter Day School Association, moves from Cranford into Eric F. Ross Upper School Building in West Orange.

MOR: MetroWest High School is founded in Ra'anana, the first step toward a "Kiryat Ha'hinuch" (Education Village) that is to include a sports hall, the AMIT Renanim school, and an arts center. The school exemplifies the local community's commitment to education and pluralism in Israel, two focuses of MetroWest's partnerships throughout the country. The Federation's religious pluralism projects in schools, institutions, and congregations become models for the rest of the country.

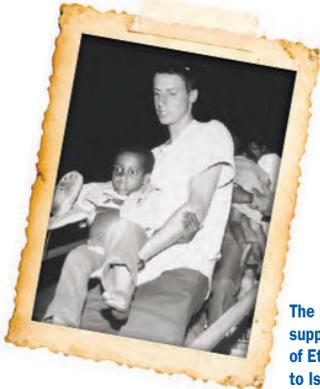
'92

The inauguration of the Alex Aidekman Family Jewish Community Campus in Whippany, which combines offices, meeting space, and a central address for an array of agencies, including the MetroWest Federation, Jewish Education Association, Jewish Community Foundation, Waldor Memorial Library, *NJ Jewish News*, Lautenberg JCC of Greater Morris, Brody Childhood Center, Harry Wilf Holocaust Memorial, and MetroWest Conference Center.

Jewish Historical Society of MetroWest opens on the Aidekman campus in Whippany. Its archives include records of administrative, legal, fiscal, and historical value; historical artifacts and books, and oral history and manuscript collections.

'93

The Lester Society is established under the Jewish Community Foundation of MetroWest to secure the future of the community; today, it is approaching \$100 million in commitments.



The Federations supported the airlift of Ethiopia's Jews to Israel

'96

JFS of Central NJ receives a grant from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims to assist Holocaust survivors applying for social services.

The \$125 million sale of the Newark Beth Israel Medical Center to the Saint Barnabas Health Care System leads to the founding of the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey, a tax-exempt institution that has put its largesse to improving health care in and outside the Jewish community by offering millions of dollars in grants. In addition to its partnership with agencies, hospitals, education institutions, churches, and synagogues, the foundation has become a driving force in providing

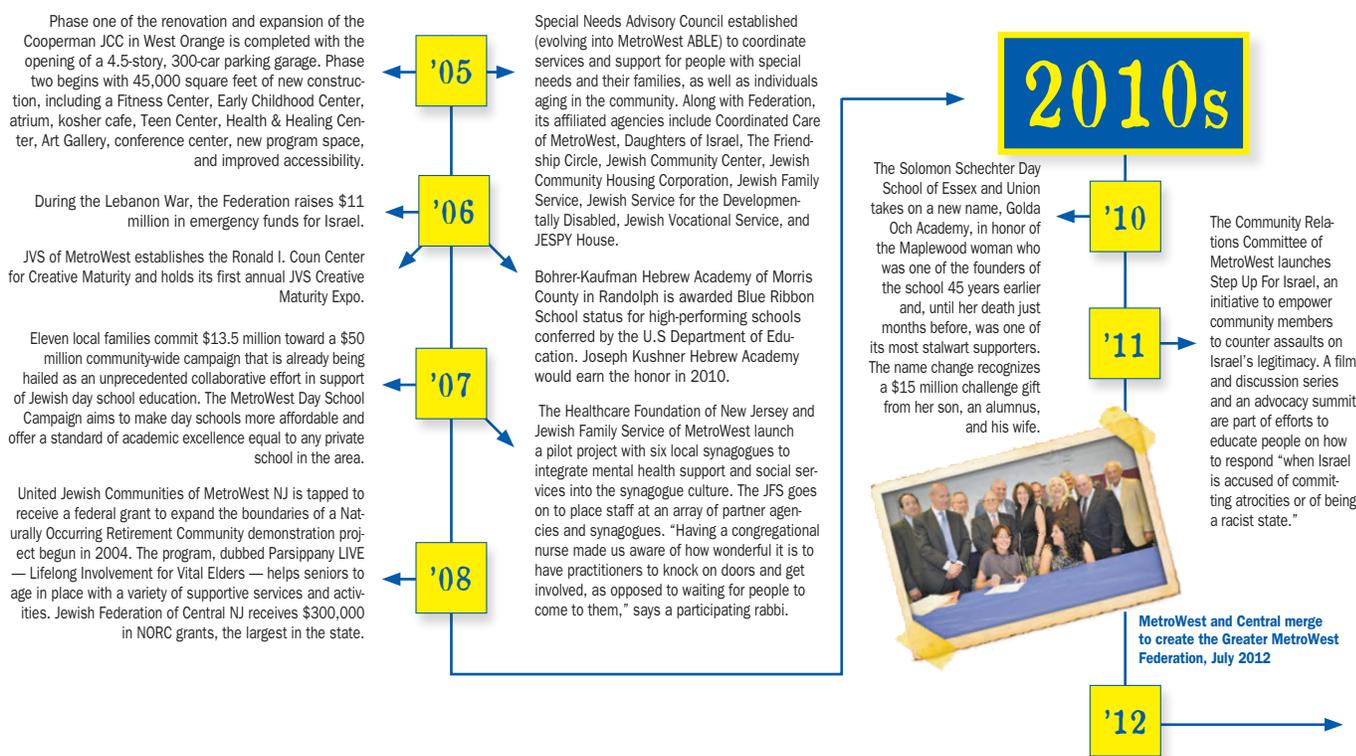
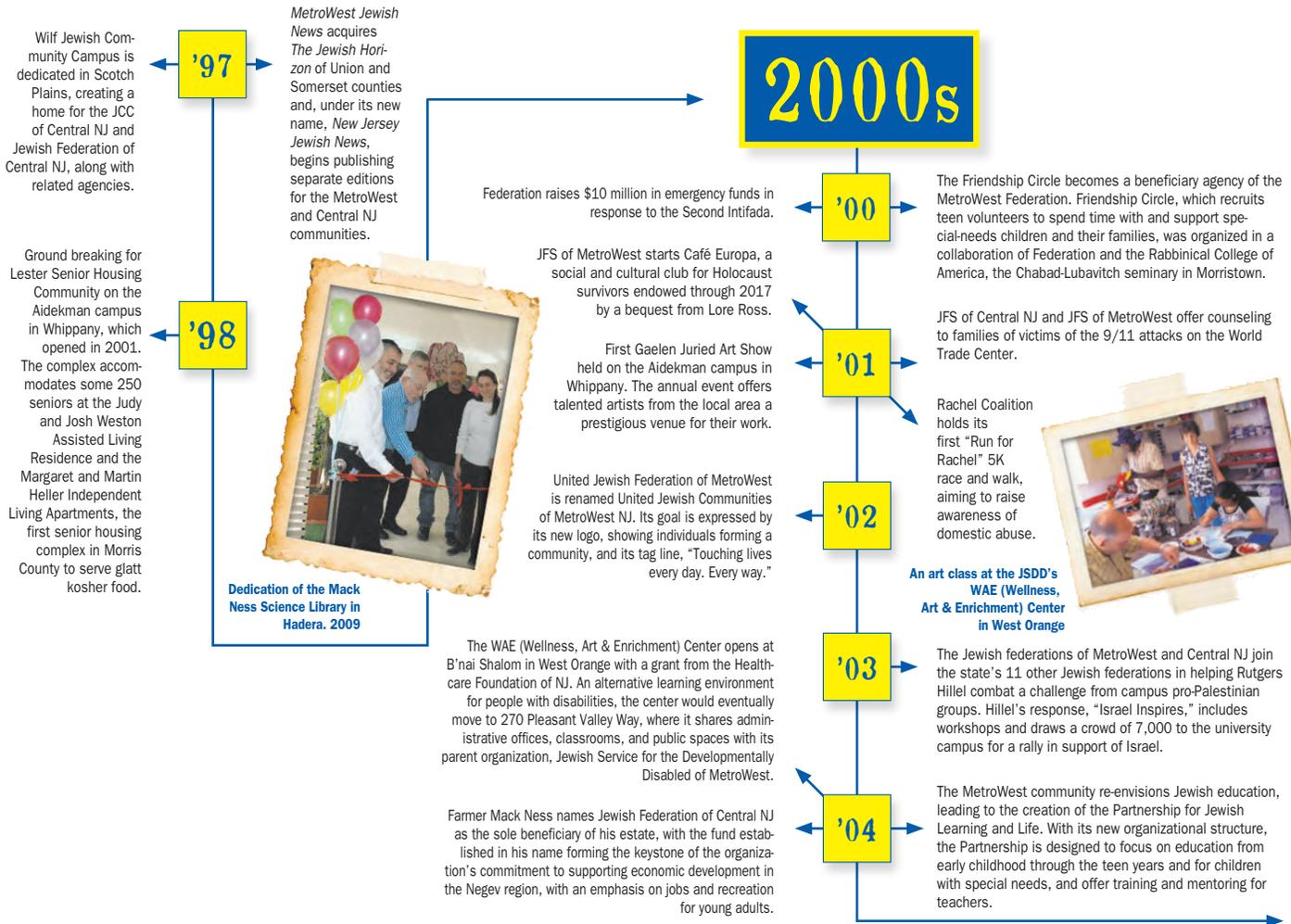
'97

The Rachel Coalition is founded as a division of JFS of MetroWest to provide services and support for domestic abuse victims. It has nine partner agencies in the Jewish community, and receives key funding from the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey.

health services in underserved communities and inner-city public schools and promoting compassion and kindness among health-care workers.



A corps of CareLink community volunteers





Operation Protective Edge



Dov Ben-Shimon, CEO and Executive Vice President



Global Connections



Morris County Jewish Festival

'14



Operation Protective Edge sees thousands of rockets fired from Gaza at targets throughout Israel, including in our partner community of Kibbutz Erez. Many IDF soldiers lose their lives defending their country, including our own Matan Gotlib, a former fellow in our Diller Teen program. Federation does everything possible to help the victims and show our solidarity with Israel, including participating in an assembly of Jewish leaders in Washington, D.C., and organizing a We Stand for Israel rally in our own community.

Dov Ben-Shimon takes the helm as Federation's new CEO and Executive Vice President.

Jewish Community Foundation, in partnership with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, launches the Create a Jewish Legacy program in Greater MetroWest. The program enables and incentivizes local synagogues and Jewish agencies to secure their own futures through legacy giving. The first cohort of 15 organizations far exceeded goals and secured more than 300 commitments for an estimated future value of \$11.2 million.

'15

Federation restructures its overseas work into a new department – Global Connections: Israel, Greater MetroWest, and the World – to more clearly focus on our values of Zionism, Peoplehood, and Innovation. Federation also launches the Outreach & Engagement department designed to create new pathways to connect people to Federation, remove many barriers to involvement, and bring new energies to our outreach endeavors.

In an effort to make our organization more efficient, flexible, and responsive, we streamline our Board of Directors from 210 members to 65. We also redesign our allocations process based on concrete assessment and establish clear criteria for determining the most effective way to allocate the dollars we raise.

'16



Starting a new life in Israel

Federation merges with the Partnership for Jewish Learning and Life, bringing their expertise in education and identity building with the youth and families in our community within the Federation fold. The intent of this merger is to deepen the opportunities for all individuals to make meaningful connections within the Greater MetroWest Jewish community.

As global tensions intensify and anti-Semitism is on the rise, Federation continues to support our overseas partners in the work they do to ensure the safety of the Jewish people throughout the world. This year, our partner, the Jewish Agency for Israel, secretly rescues 19 Jews from Yemen and brings them to safety and a new life in Israel.

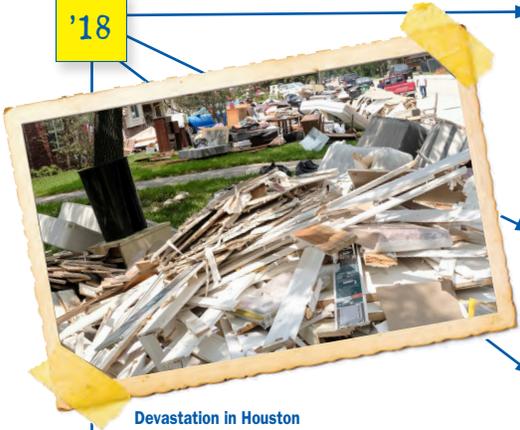
In response to increased anti-Semitic acts in Greater MetroWest, nationally, and around the world, Federation makes a commitment to address security issues in the community. To this end, we hired our first-ever Chief Security Officer, established a community-wide alert network system that will enable us to immediately communicate emergency information to Jewish organizations throughout the area, provided funding to increase security at our three community centers, and more.

'17

In our continued effort to broaden the scope of involvement throughout the community, our Outreach and Engagement Department including the newly renamed NextDor for 25 to 45 year olds, has produced a variety of community events this year, throughout the area. The first-ever Morris County Jewish Festival held at the Gottesman RTW Academy in Randolph was a huge success.

The close of the 2017 Campaign year brought to an end the three-year term of Federation President Leslie Dannin Rosenthal. We welcome Scott Krieger as our new president.

'18



Devastation in Houston

Our community responded swiftly and efficiently to the natural disasters that struck during the summer of 2017, and Houston in particular. As soon as we became aware of the devastation the Jewish community in Houston sustained from Hurricane Harvey, we called an emergency Board meeting and voted unanimously to allocate \$36,000 from our Emergency Reserve to help victims in immediate need. In total, our community raised more than \$250,000 in funding, a quarter of a million dollars. Then the Board allocated an additional \$54,000 to help in the rebuilding efforts there.

As part of our efforts to keep our community safe, we implemented a Secure Community Network System and have given out tens of thousands of dollars in security matching grants for our synagogues to make improvements in their security systems.

After the tragic shooting in Parkland, Florida, it became clear to us that our community was in agreement on the need for common sense gun legislation. We also recognized the need to come together to express our sorrow and outrage. In response, we hosted a rally where incredible teens from Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School spoke to more than 2,000 members of our community. And we followed that up by providing buses to March for Our Lives in Newark, as well as lunch and discussion sessions afterward. In the spring, our CRC led a Teen Task Force to Trenton to lobby representatives to vote for gun legislation in the state.



Community hosts teens from Parkland, FL

Our Federation celebrated Israel's 70th birthday with a historic endeavor, taking 475 community members on a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Israel. Our commUNITY Mission was an eye-opening experience connecting with the people and places in Israel that are impacted by the dollars we raise through our UJA Annual Campaign.

Women's Philanthropy launched its Lions' Leap program and raised \$50,000 to fund the much-needed renovations of the Arad Music Conservatory in our partner community in the Negev. The initiative also brought in an additional \$500,000 for the 2019 UJA Annual Campaign.

This year we witnessed violent attacks against Jewish communities at synagogues in Pittsburgh and Poway, California. In response to these heinous attacks and a rise in anti-Semitism across the nation and the world, our Federation's Community Security Initiative has increased its efforts to ensure that Greater MetroWest NJ remains a safe and secure place to live a Jewish life.



Lions' Leap Program

commUNITY Mission

'19

