We are all connected. That’s why I visited Puerto Rico in January with leaders from the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ. It was an amazing opportunity to see the difference that a small number of people can make when they are determined to engage in tikun olam, repairing the world. Our expert and scholar-in-residence was Edward Fukiel, a regional director for the Network, who has worked to redirect the difference that the Puerto Rican Jewish community for years.

We arrived with duffels filled with medical supplies for clinics in remote, impoverished areas, as part of our partner Ayla Foundation’s Luggage for Life program. We first worked with a team of marvelous young volunteers from NECHAMA, an American-based Jewish organization that responds to disasters in the U.S. They are still working across the island, many of which are covered with blue tarps. NECHAMA’s work is funded in part by a grant from the JFNA Hurricane Maria Emergency Relief Fund.

We headed with IsraAID, an Israeli NGO that works in disaster relief around the world, to Patillas, a small community that had no electricity or clean water for over six months after Maria. Immediately after the hurricane, IsraAID distributed water filters to about 1,400 people whose homes are not connected to the Puerto Rican water system. IsraAID, a grant recipient of JFNA’s Emergency Relief Fund, is now working on a long-term solution.

At Temple Beth Sholom in San Juan, we were briefed by Rabbi Norman Patz, one of its visiting rabbis, who was in Puerto Rico with his wife. Naomi, when Hurricane Maria hit just before Rosh Hashanah. The synagogue’s rooftop water cistern blew off, and they lost electricity—right before Rosh Hashanah, making the facility nonfunctional for many weeks. A JFNA grant, in part, helped fund a new solar energy system.

On our final day, we took a look into the future with Jon Borschow, founder and chair of the Foundation for Puerto Rico Partnership. The building, which was completed months before the hurricane, sustained significant damage. The Foundation’s building had electricity and was able to host Jewish community organizations and other NGOs to enable them to get in contact with those needing assistance, providing JFNA with a way to get emergency cash assistance to displaced Jewish families. The Foundation also received an Emergency Relief Fund grant.

We later visited a very moving Holocaust memorial, built opposite the capitol building on land given by the government. The building, which was completed months before the hurricane, sustained significant damage. The Zarchi主办 and the Wolf community center, and our kids with their counterparts in Israel through The Jewish Agency’s Global School Twinning Network. I could go on and on, from partnering with Birthright Israel to transform Jewish lives to collaborating with the Jewish Community Legacy Project to help synagogues thoughtfully plan for the future.

Partnership is in the Network’s DNA, which is why our fundraising efforts have been so successful. We don’t only partner with agencies, organizations and programs, we partner with our donors and community leadership. When our campaign was down in 2018, we all felt the loss of funds. When we thoughtfully plan for the future.

On behalf of all of us at the Network, I wish you a Shana Tova U’Metukah.

Leslie Dammin Rosenthal, Advisory Committee Chair, Network of Independent Communities

On the cover: Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia mission participants volunteering in Puerto Rico, a Network community.

NETWORK NEWS
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Network News is a publication of The Jewish Federations of North America. It helps to inform Network Jewish communities and organizations about opportunities and available resources to help strengthen and sustain Jewish life and Jewish peoplehood.

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Dear Friends,

It has been exhilarating to become part of a truly incredible organization, The Jewish Agency for Israel. I embark on this mission with a deeply rooted sense of purpose instilled in me by my family. I am the grandson of the first Chief Rabbi of Israel; the son of the sixth President of Israel, Chaim Herzog, and the nephew of Abbé Eban’s, diplomat and statesman. I see it as my responsibility to follow in their footsteps in the service of the Jewish people, in Israel and around the world.

The rise of anti-Semitism across the world underscores the significance of strengthening our resolve to keep our people safe and unified. The Jewish Agency, together with our partners, is prepared to tackle this scourge of anti-Semitism by ensuring the unity of our people and reinforcing the relevance of Israel as a vibrant democracy. For one another.

There is most certainly more that unites us than divides us. Our problems will not be solved immediately, but it is crucial that we work hand in hand to face them.

Thank you for your support of The Jewish Agency for Israel.

Warm regards,

Isaac Herzog
Chairman of the Executive
The Jewish Agency for Israel

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**JEWISH AGENCY PROGRAMS HAVE GLOBAL IMPACT**

BY NIR BUCHLER, VP, ISRAEL & GLOBAL PHILANTHROPY, THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR ISRAEL

The Jewish Agency Opens New Project Ten Center in Puerto Rico

In May, a group of 32 Cornell students, accompanied by 5 Israeli volunteers, headed to Puerto Rico to spend three months helping at-risk children on the island. They are the first cohort to staff a new Project Ten center in San Juan. Project Ten, a Jewish Agency for Israel program, empowers young adults to create sustainable change for vulnerable communities around the world.

The Jewish Agency is partnering on this project with PR4PR, a nonprofit group founded in 2004 by a Jewish philanthropist to help break the cycle of poverty in Puerto Rico by working with children from low-income and high-risk communities.

The Project Ten center is located 50 minutes from San Juan in the Loiza district, home to many young families who are among the poorest in Puerto Rico. Forty percent of local children have not attended school since the hurricane. The volunteers will conduct day camps and work on rehabilitating abandoned homes and restoring schools.

Project Ten Puerto Rico has a wish list of needed items. For more information, contact Shulamit Cohen, the center’s director, at Puerto-Rico@project-ten.org.

**SCHOOL TWINNING BUILDS ISRAEL EDUCATION BRIDGES**

When American and Israeli schools are paired through The Jewish Agency’s Global School Twinning Network, everyone benefits. Students and educators on both sides of the ocean interact, bond, share and collaborate with each other. Everyone develops a deeper understanding of what it means to be part of an international Jewish community.

Global School Twinning is now fully funded, as a result of a generous private donation combined with funding from The Jewish Agency and the Israel Ministries of Education and Diaspora Affairs. The program connects local and Israeli Hebrew school students in grades 4 to 12 based on their needs, abilities, and interests. To date, 720 students from around the world have participated in the program, and now it’s expanding so even more schools can benefit.

The Network is partnering with The Jewish Agency on this program because we believe that it’s a wonderful opportunity to forge deeper connections with Israel. If your community has a Hebrew school that is interested in participating in the program this fall, please contact your regional director.

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**VOLUNTEERING BUILDS COMMUNITY AND LIFTS SPIRITS IN THE FSU**

BY ALEXANDRA SHKLAR, DIRECTOR, STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS, AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

Despite working for more than 40 years as an economist, 67-year-old Libya Braga struggles to survive on a measager pension of just over $2 a day. She lives alone in Rybnita, Moldova, one of the more than 95,000 Jews who rely on JDC for lifesaving assistance in the former Soviet Union (FSU).

“If not for JDC, I wouldn’t survive,” says Libya, who turns to the organization for medicine, winter relief, holiday food and a bank card to purchase groceries.

But don’t imagine that Libya sits at home and waits for help to arrive. She seeks out opportunities to give back to her community and to help those who are even less fortunate than she. She now volunteers with a program called “Peer to Peer,” visiting elderly Jews and people with disabilities to lift their spirits and keep them connected to Jewish traditions.

“When you visit them, they’re so happy just to see a human face,” she said. “I’m a lonely person myself, but a little younger, so I try to support others.” In 2017, she was honored as the volunteer of the year by JDC’s volunteer center in Chisinau—one of 37 such centers across the FSU.

Libya is one of more than 5,900 volunteers of all ages—including many teens—who magnify JDC’s impact on the lives of fragile, elderly Jews throughout the FSU. Volunteers bring food, help with household tasks and visit on special occasions. They often bring a Jewish connection into the homes they visit, lighting Shabbat candles or sharing shabbat.

“Every time we visit an elderly Jew, they just light up, they thank us,” said Pavel Kramarenko, a teen volunteer from Moldova. “It’s really sweet, and we can really see that we’re making a difference.” Another Moldovan teen volunteer, Eva Stupka, added, “Participating in this project makes our community stronger. As teenagers, we’re already taking on responsibility for the older generation. That’s what Jewishness means to me.”

In May, near Kiev, JDC held its largest-ever volunteer conference for Jews across the former Soviet Union. The three-day conference, including a traditional Shabbat experience, brought together more than 250 Jewish volunteers and professionals from Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Georgia. The majority of the sessions were led by local volunteer teachers.

“We’re proud of our role in fueling a trend among Jews in post-Soviet countries to enthusiastically give back and build community,” said Michal Frank, JDC’s director for the former Soviet Union. “As we work to strengthen Jewish life worldwide, we have much to learn from their example.”

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**FSU ELDERLY RELIEF MATCH BOOSTS YOUR IMPACT**

Once again this year, thanks to the generosity of multiple donors, JDC is offering a match opportunity for Federations and Network communities. The Network was involved in the first and second phases of a JDC 12 match for FSU Elderly Relief, with commitments in phase two from communities and donors in Charlottesville, VA; Corpus Christi, TX; Erie, PA; Gainesville, FL; Johnstown, PA; Kalamazoo, MI; Petersburg, VA; Williamsport, PA; Winston-Salem, NC and York, PA. We have been asked by JDC to participate in the third phase of this challenge campaign for FSU Elderly Relief.

The matching pool available is $1 million. Renewed gifts will be matched 1:2; increases and new gifts will be matched 1:1 (this applies to the amount of the increase). Gifts/pledges must be designated for Elderly Relief in the FSU, and they can be general or specific to a region or program. There is no minimum gift level. Pledges must be made before December 31, 2019 and paid by December 31, 2022.
Within just six months, two synagogues were attacked. Hate crimes directed at the Jewish community have increased, anti-Semitism is on the rise. There is a frightening new reality to being Jewish in the United States today—and an increasing concern for members of every faith.

America’s Jewish community needs to take action to keep our synagogues, day schools, community centers, campus organizations, senior centers and summer camps safe and secure. Secure Community Network (SCN) was founded in 2004 by the Jewish Federations of North America and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, as the official safety and security arm of the Jewish Federation system, including the Network of Independent Communities. The current chair of SCN is Harold Gernsbacher of Dallas, formerly the JFNA National Campaign Chair. SCN was established to keep communities safe and prepared, and to provide guidance and resources to synagogues and other Jewish institutions. We can also help your community access grants from the Department of Homeland Security.

SCN is a team of current and former military, law enforcement and homeland security experts. We are not volunteers or private consultants. We are professionals dedicated to serving and protecting our communities. We are dedicated to improving and deploying—or AID.

The guidance we provide consists of three main actions: assess, implement and improve. Where weaknesses exist, improvements must be made. It’s not hard to lock all doors except for one main entry, or to hold live shooter drills that teach leaders and congregants what to do in case of an attack. Security constantly needs to be worked on, updated, drilled and improved.

DEPLOY: We deploy our team of experts into communities to provide training, planning and thinking necessary to help communities prevent attacks.

SCN’s mission is to enable parents, children, seniors, rabbis and staff to worship and celebrate in peace, knowing that those with knowledge and expertise have worked to address security issues, build a plan, and implement it, all designed to create the shield our community needs. Every location where Jews gather today needs a detailed security plan. It needs to be realistic and it needs to be drilled, regularly. SCN can help you create and implement that plan in your community. Contact us directly at info@scnus.org, or get in touch with your regional director. We look forward to working with you.

IMPROVE: Improvements are important. We are constantly assessing and implementing new strategies and techniques.

On Saturday, Andrea Siegel, a Jewish educator from the University of Michigan, led the group in a full-day workshop, “Leading with Values.” She created a workbook that enabled each participant to journal about their Jewish experiences, concertizing the values that make them a strong leader. Participants focused on their communal priorities and brainstormed ideas to bring back to their communities.

This exercise was used to create a document to pass down to future leaders of the Network communities as an Ethical Will representing their board’s values.

Doron Honewitz, senior national security advisor at SCN (Secure Community Network), briefed the conference, and Steven Woolf, who staffs the JFNA Emergency Committee, provided an update on our work in Puerto Rico and our response to a range of natural disasters.

Alexandra Shklar, JDC’s director of strategic partnerships, spoke about growing needs in the former Soviet Union, where elderly Holocaust survivors can’t afford a hot meal. She shared pictures of young high school students learning about Judaism and celebrating Jewish holidays together across Eastern Europe.

The conference is named for Abe Brenner z”l, a leader from Winston-Salem who, along with his wife Mimi, was one of Winston-Salem’s long-time philanthropists. Their daughter Wendy Brenner shared stories about her experiences on a recent Jewish Federal mission to Ukraine. One of the highlights of her trip was joining the Active Teens (AJT) conference. When she saw Jewish teens from across Eastern Europe meeting other teens and feeling excited about being Jewish, Wendy recalled her own daughter’s experiences as a BBYO participant. “She was so happy to see other Jewish kids from places like Charlotte and Greensboro. Those kids in Oroslo really reminded me of our kids in Network communities.”

The conference was a highlight of the year for Network leadership. At this year’s conference, on February 23-24, attendees hailed from 100 communities, including Tallahassee, FL; Huntington, WV; and Greenville, SC. The keynote speaker at the 20th annual conference, held in Winston-Salem, NC, was Gloria Borger, CNN’s chief political analyst. Borger spoke on Saturday night at Temple Emanuel, with over 150 members of the Winston-Salem community in attendance in the conference’s main hall.

Michael Masters was a homeland security and law enforcement official and a former captain in the Marine Corps before joining SCN.

LEADERS BRAINSTORM AT ANNUAL ABE BRENNER NETWORK CONFERENCE

By Rachel Levy, Regional Director

The Jewish Communities of Vermont (JCVT) began in 2013 with a vision of linking Jewish communities across the state. Today, just six years later, Vermont’s 25,000 Jews, across 14 synagogues, know what’s available to them and how to access it. They feel more connected and more aware of the vibrancy and diversity of Jewish life in their state. This past April, more than 100 Jews participated in the JCVT Summit in Killington, which offered study and spirituality along with sessions on a variety of topics to strengthen Jewish engagement and address issues of concern. Spiritual leaders from all over Vermont provided attendees with a wonderful and spiritual Shabbat. Rabbis and synagogue presidents met to explore ways to increase collaboration, share expertise and offer more programming.

The JFNA Network of Independent Communities was a proud co-sponsor of the Summit. Several sessions highlighted the vital resources and critical work of The Jewish Federations of North America. Stephanie Hausern, deputy director of JFNA’s Israel Action Network, led a session on the new anti-Semitism of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement that is now spreading across Vermont, and addressed ways to protect Jewish spaces, especially on college campuses. Eva Stern, JFNA’s director of Next Gen Engagement, led a lively discussion about innovative and effective ways to connect with Jewish millennials and make Jewish community life attractive and relevant to them. I also had the opportunity to share more about JFNA’s global reach and impact.

To learn more about JCVT and Jewish life in Vermont, contact Susan Leff, Executive Director, at susan@jcvt.org.

Above: Rabbis Jan Salzman (far left) and Judy Frinstein, with local teens and University of Vermont students. Photo by David Funk.

By Michael Masters, National Director and CEO, Secure Community Network (SCN)
Emerging Leader Profile: Andre Tarraf

DREAMING OF JEWISH COMMUNITY ON FLORIDA’S TREASURE COAST

BY EDWARD FINKEL, REGIONAL DIRECTOR

In his community, Florida’s Treasure Coast, and has committed resources to Jewish communal and educational services to the area. Establishing a Jewish Federation there. In time, he hopes to bring the full array of family services, community center, day school estimated at 5,000, and there are five synagogues in the region. The Jewish population is to be a vibrant place for Jewish life, although vast land stretches over three counties: Martin, St. Lucie North of Palm Beach, the Treasure Coast for the influx of professionals who work in Greater Palm Beach. Many of them have an emphasis on southern Israel. IAUJC Chair Marcia Zax said, “Once we establish structure, we’re going to meet and discuss their needs. Andre has seen and learned of the power of community leaders and young families can meet and discuss their needs. He has big dreams for the Treasure Coast Jewish Federation, but he’s beginning by taking small steps and building upon small successes. He realizes that people need to connect area synagogues and Jewish organizations, and establish forums where rabbis, Jewish community leaders and young families can meet and discuss needs.

North of Palm Beach, the Treasure Coast stretches over three counties: Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River. The region has the potential to be a vibrant place for Jewish life, although it currently has limited Jewish communal infrastructure. The Jewish population is estimated at 5,000, and there are five synagogues over the three counties, but no Jewish family services, community center, day school or senior facility.

Born and raised in Brazil, where the Tarrafs were active members of the Jewish community, Andre moved to the US with his family in the late 1990s. After a stint in New York (too cold!), they moved to Florida, where they settled in the area known as the Treasure Coast and maintained their commitment to Jewish life.

Many area residents were active in their communities up north and moved to the area to retire. Now the demographics are shifting, and it’s becoming a bedroom community for the influx of professionals who work in Greater Palm Beach. Many of them have young families and are seeking Jewish community life, just like the Tarrafs.

Looking for deeper engagement, Andre turned to the Network for help. He is now a member of JFNA’s National Young Leadership Cabinet and serves on the JFNA Network Advisory Committee. Through JFNA, he has travelled to London, Paris, Spain, Morocco and the former Soviet Union. He has witnessed the reach of the Federation’s mission.

The Jewish Agency for Israel and JDC, the impact it makes on improving lives and building Jewish community. He is eager to experience Jewish life all over the world, find out what he can do to help, connect with other young leaders in the process, and bring what he learns back to his own growing Jewish community.

The Network’s Annual Campaign receives individual gifts from dedicated donors, which are pooled to support local and global needs. But the Network’s mission also benefits from generous grants awarded by foundations and funds, which often request our guidance in selecting programs to support. Here’s a look at three different foundations/funds that make grants to or through the Network.

The Onicon King and his Support for the Jewish State

Annette Cottingham’s father, Abe Katz, was the largest onion grower in the U.S. A resident of Corpus Christi, TX, he was originally from Lithuania, where the family he left behind was murdered by the Nazis. Abe was a committed supporter—it was important to him that Jews have a safe place to call home. He set up a foundation to perpetuate his support for his Israel, which his daughter now administers.

Annette gives an unrestricted gift from her father’s foundation to the Annual Campaign every year, and her Network regional director also brings her proposals for programs she might want to support. She has a passion for JDC’s work, and she continues her father’s tradition of charitable giving and Jewish leadership. A Lion who has fully funded her Lion of Judah Endowment (LOJE), she is a leader in Corpus Christi, encouraging others to become Network donors. ”I believe that Jews should help Jews, the ones who are most in need.” Annette said. “Whenever there’s a crisis, I want to help.”

A Generous, Anonymous Gift for the Negev

An anonymous donor family gave the Shiloha Area United Jewish Community (IAUJC) a gift of $500,000, to be distributed over 10 years for social service needs in Israel, with an emphasis on southern Israel. IAUJC Chair Marcia Zax said, “We decided to look at need in our own community, our state, the country and the world,” Carolynn said. With so many nonprofits to choose from, and such a broad mandate, the committee members turned to the Network for guidance.

For the second round of grants, the Colef Tzedakah committee turned to the Network again. The programs they chose to fund this year include The Jewish Agency’s Project TEN Puerto Rico and JDC programs that aid needy families in Israel, Jews in Venezuela and children in the former Soviet Union. “Working with the Network was a way for us to get our feet wet and learn what’s going on in the world of Jewish aid. We saw that the projects were worthy, and we wanted to support them.”

Over 250 Jewish Mainers and leaders of other small Jewish communities convened in Waterville, ME on June 23-24 for the 9th Annual Maine Conference for Jewish Life. The JFNA Network of Independent Communities co-sponsored the event with the Colby College Center for Small Town Life. Several sessions spotlighted JFNA’s activities. Doron Horowitz, senior national security advisor of SCN, presented on security preparedness, and Dr. Jane Kirklin, The Jewish Agency’s senior VP for Israel and Global Philanthropy, shared how The Jewish Agency is making an impact. Network Advisory Chair Leslie Dunnin Rosenthal and Regional Director Edward Finkel participated, engaging with Maine’s Jewish communal leaders throughout the conference.

The Center for Small Town Jewish Life, directed by Rabbi Rachel Isaac, has been nationally recognized by The Covenant Foundation. To learn more about the Maine Conference for Jewish Life and the Colby College Center for Small Town Jewish Life, visit www.colby.edu/jewishlife. Please consider attending next year, June 12-14, 2020.
STRENGTH
A TEST OF

BY RABBI EMILY LOSEN-OSTROV
SPIRITUAL LEADER OF TEMPLE OF ISRAEL
WILMINGTON, NC

There are many ways to test your strength. I don’t recommend it, but preparing for, living through and cleaning up after a Hurricane is a great way to assess your fortitude. My community and I learned our strength last year as a result of dealing with Hurricane Florence.

Last summer, we had no idea a storm of this magnitude was heading our way. As we finished the book of Numbers and began the book of Deuteronomy, part of our annual cycle of reading the Torah, we recited the traditional words, “Chazak, chazak, v’nitchazek.” Those words literally translate as, “Strength, strength, we will be strengthened.”

What is so powerful about this tradition is its communal aspect. We shout to one another to have a little ceremony to present the pin to her. I hope that she enjoys the community and gets other women involved with her.”

This year, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Lion of Judah Endowment (LOJE), the Jewish Federations have launched a new $100 million endowment campaign for women, called LOJE25, to encourage more women to strengthen their philanthropic power. There are 201 Lions and 26 LOJE2s in the Network, including 1 LOJE2 that is already funded and generating consequential annual income.

Catherine Sussers would probably have bonded with Wendy Block z”l from Wilmington, NC. Wendy, who served as chair of the Network, was a proud LOJE. She encouraged many women to become Lions of Judah and to endow their annual Lion gifts, and it’s because of her efforts that the Network has a concentration of LOJE2s in the South. In Wendy’s memory, the Network is actively participating in the LOJE25 effort. Please contact your regional director to find out more.

Sophie survived the terrors of the Holocaust. But decades later, her loneliness was too terrible to endure.

Then Rina, a caring Volunteer, started visiting her. Today, Sophie says she’s not lonely on the days Rina visits, and she no longer feels forgotten.
A legacy gift is a demonstration of your belief in the continuity of life for generations to come. By leaving financial resources to Jewish causes you care deeply about, you can ensure future generations have an opportunity to embrace Jewish life for centuries to come.

With a little planning, you can make sure your generous support of Jewish charitable endeavors lasts for generations by establishing an endowment, ensuring the work of your heart will flow into the future.

Network endorser Elliott and Sue Weinstein share with us their reasons for establishing legacy gifts and how they accomplished it.

“we’re part of a long chain”

Elliott Weinstein and his wife, Sue, met at Penn State and raised their family in Sue’s hometown, York, PA. There he connected with Weinstein Realty Advisors, Elliott and Sue have actively served all aspects of the York Jewish community and beyond, including holding leadership positions at Olah Shabbat Congregation, the York JCC, Israel Bonds, AIPAC and The Jewish Federations of North America.

To ensure that there’s a strong Jewish future generation to generation, we’re part of a long chain, and we have no right to break that chain.”

“I’m doing as much as I can to have greater impact”

Jeffery Helcher moved to Gainesville, FL just a few years ago, but when he was asked to join the board of the Jewish Council of Northern Florida, he said he would do whatever he could to help. After a career as a dentist in the military, and a second career in the travel industry, helping others is second nature to him.

“I was raised by a family that always gave to charity, and I wanted to do something with my money.”

After making sure his only son was taken care of, his brother, he was provided, for him to be included for Federation for “has many options, and meets so needs.”

With his love of international travel, JDC’s work was especially inspiring to him. “On a trip to Ukraine, seeing a community that was almost wiped out coming back so strong gave me so much pride,” he said. So he was left a legacy gift to JDC through Federation. He also set up a Charitable Gift Annuity, and has arranged for his IRA distributions to be directed to charitable causes. “I’m doing as much as I can to have greater impact.”

You can ensure future generations have an opportunity to embrace our heritage

Please contact your regional director to find out how the Network can help you structure your gift to fit your lifestyle, needs, and goals.

ANYONE CAN CREATE A JEWISH LEGACY: THE FUTURE STARTS WITH YOU

BY EDWARD FINDEL, REGIONAL DIRECTOR

The Jewish Federation of North America network annual campaign

Pursuant to state regulations regarding charitable solicitations, we are required to include certain disclosure language on printed solicitations.

Pursuant to Federal law, registration with any state agency does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state. Registration does not imply endorsement.

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Mayfair Disclosures and information submitted under the Maryland Solicitations Act are also available, for a cost of postage and handling charges.

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The Federation of Jewish Organizations of the North American (JFNA) 2019 HERITAGE SOCIETY AND BOOK OF LIFE

Please Join Us. Create Your Legacy Today.

The Heritage Society pays tribute to individuals who have made a bequest or other planned gift to The Jewish Federations of North America in order to ensure that JFNA’s life-saving work will continue far beyond the lifetime of these donors, they also inspire others to commit themselves to the Jewish community in Israel, the United States and throughout the world.

The Book of Life affords special recognition to Heritage Society members who have created a bequest or permanent endowment of at least $10,000 for JFNA.

Please note: This list is not exhaustive and is subject to change.

“With all people, you can make sure your generous support of Jewish charitable endeavors lasts for generations by establishing an endowment, ensuring the work of your heart will flow into the future.”

Your gift to fit your lifestyle, needs, and goals.

“we’re part of a long chain”

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“I was raised by a family that always gave to charity, and I wanted to do something with my money.”

After making sure his only son was taken care of, his brother, he was provided, for him to be included for Federation for “has many options, and meets so needs.”

With his love of international travel, JDC’s work was especially inspiring to him. “On a trip to Ukraine, seeing a community that was almost wiped out coming back so strong gave me so much pride,” he said. So he was left a legacy gift to JDC through Federation. He also set up a Charitable Gift Annuity, and has arranged for his IRA distributions to be directed to charitable causes. “I’m doing as much as I can to have greater impact.”

You can ensure future generations have an opportunity to embrace our heritage

Please contact your regional director to find out how the Network can help you structure your gift to fit your lifestyle, needs, and goals.

ANYONE CAN CREATE A JEWISH LEGACY: THE FUTURE STARTS WITH YOU

BY EDWARD FINDEL, REGIONAL DIRECTOR
Around Our Communities

Top Row L-R: Guest speaker Avi Melamed and Howard Stein at the UJA of Wilmington Annual Banquet in Wilmington, NC; Rabbi Emily Losben-Ostrov, Regional Director Abby Levine, President Barry Greene, Regional Director Rachel Levy, guest speaker Avi Melamed, Bucky Stein, Rita Katz, Alan Gerberg, Rita Katz, Alan Katz, guest speaker Avi Melamed, Bucky Stein, Rita Katz, Alan Gerberg, guest speaker Avi Melamed, Bucky Stein, Rita Katz, Alan Gerberg, and Sheldon and Sharyn Rosenberg at the UJA of Wilmington Annual Banquet in Wilmington, VT.

Second Row L-R: Susan's House Director Avital Goel, Gail Bretan, Winston-Salem, NC; Melanie Piha, Susan's House; Betsy Klein, Huntington, WV; and JDC’s Avi Narrow-Tilonsky visiting Susan’s House in Jerusalem, run by JDC to engage teens at risk, Cape Cod Synagogue President Dr. Marc Silverstein and Rabbi David Frolich join Regional Director Edward Finke in welcoming participants to its first performance in a Cape Cod synagogue; Regional Director Jaquelyn Shapiro with UJA Board President Harriet Miller at a partnership Federation Campaign event for the Columbia, Greene, and Ulster County communities in Coxsackie, NY.

Third Row L-R: Executive Director Danny Nathanson; Committee Member Rhys Stahler, Treasurer Gary Altman, Committee Member Larry Stahler, Chair Don Kraft, Honoree Arnold Simon, Speaker Jeff Helicher and Goldman, Committee Member Tracy Tauben, Committee Member Jill Alper, Rabbi Jay Sherman of Temple Shalom, and Committee Member Alan Baron at Colorado Springs; Annual Campaign Brunch. Guest speaker JDC Oksana Galkevich at campaign event in Corpus Christi, TX; Regional Director Andrew Feuerstein with Annette Cohington at campaign event in Corpus Christi, TX; Jewish Community of Greater Houston; Regional Director Edward Finke, President of JEDCC New York; Rosenbaum, Regional Director Rachel Levy in Israel.

Fourth Row L-R: Diana Minsky, Jewish Federation of Central Alabama Executive Director; Tzlil McDonald, Leon Minsky, University of Iowa kidney Executive Director David Weidman, Regional Director Andrew Feuerstein, Rabbi Esther Hugenholz, President of Agudas Achim-Kathy Jacobs in Iowa City, IA; Regional Director Jackie Shapiro with Keshet campers in Kalamazoo, MI; network; David Levine, Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia Mission to Puerto Rico; Regional Director Edward Finke; Rabbi Matthew Durbin, Debbie Mills, Michael Miller, Andre Tarraf, Treasure Coast, FL.

Top Row L-R: Regional Director Abby Levine with Tiel Fristch and Macom, GA FJF; President Dr. David Fristch; Dr. Adam Levy, Dr. David Buxton, Macom, GA; President Samantha Friedman; Dr. David Fristch, Rabbi Aaron Led Moffitt of Temple Beth Israel, Regional Director Abby Levine, Regional Director Rachel Levy and Samantha Friedman in Macom, GA; Rabbi Brie Alper and Regional Director Rachel Levy in Manchester, VT.

Second Row L-R: Regional Director Edward Finke congratulates Colby College Center for Small Town Jewish Life staff members Melanie Weiss, Rabbi Rachel Isaacs and Rabbi Erica Asch on a phenomenal 6th Annual Maine Conference for Jewish Life in Waterville, ME; Executive Director Danny Nathanson with community leaders Bucky Stein and Rita Katz at the UJA of Wilmington Annual Banquet in Wilmington, NC; Community leaders Reba Alper and Jon Alper with Executive Director Danny Nathanson at the UJA of Wilmington Annual Banquet in Wilmington, NC.

Third Row L-R: Event host Harold Kane and his wife Karen at campaign event in Corpus Christi, TX; President Barry Greene, Regional Director Rachel Levy, guest speaker Connecticut College Professor and Author Andrew Press and Eudie Greene in Hartfordville, CT; Regional Director Edward Finke with new York JCC CEO Dani Fessler in York, PA; Left to right: Oak Ridge Campaign Committee Member Zane Bell, Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge Rabbi Victor Raskinovoy, Regional Director Edward Finke and Campaign Committee Member Jim Bogard at Oak Ridge, TN Annual Campaign Kickoff.

Fourth Row L-R: Gail Hardy, JFNA Emergency Committee Chair; JFNA Network Regional Director Edward Finke; guest with JDC of Puerto Rico religious school class and teachers during recent Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia Mission to Puerto Rico; JDC Mission to Ukraine Chair Wendy Breuer of Winston-Salem, NC; Jeff Hacker of Gainesville, FL, and other participants with a JDC recipient; Lori Alper, Dana Alper, Regional Director Edward Finke, Rabbi/Rose Dubin, Rabbi Matthew Dubin, Debbie Milner, Michael Milner, Andie Tarnof, Treasure Coast, FL.
MESSAGE FROM JERRY SILVERMAN

Dear Friends:

Each week as Shabbat begins, we bless our children by summoning the merits of our ancestors. “May you be like Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah” we bless our daughters, or “May you be like Ephraim and Menashe” we bless our sons. These were great leaders of our people, in good times and in difficult times, but at their core, they were just human beings. It reminds us that any of us can rise to address what the times demand of us—that we don’t need to be superhuman, but we do need to be present and ready to do what is necessary for our people, our community, and our world. We need to say “hineni”—here I am.

Each one of you has said hineni many, many times, and I am so grateful to have met many of you during my tenure as president & CEO of JFNA. The Network of Independent Communities is a jewel in the crown of the Federation system. You are compassionate, devoted members of the Jewish community who have made an iron-clad commitment to the well-being of the Jewish people in Israel and around the world. No matter how remote your residence, you have engaged in the sacred act of kiruv—of bringing the Jewish community closer together through your acts of kindness and generosity.

I am also thrilled to introduce you to the incoming president and CEO of JFNA, Eric Fingerhut, a stellar leader. I am certain he will be as proud of and inspired by your extraordinary support of Jews everywhere.

As I reflect on the past 10 years and prepare to move on from my position, I am moved and inspired by the Network, and will take your lesson with me wherever I go. It is not the place that honors the person, but the person that honors the place. You have made the Jewish people your place, and you have brought honor to us all. I am very grateful to you, as is the entire Federation movement, and I wish you continued strength and determination as you build upon your great and sustaining legacy of tzedakah.

With great appreciation,

Jerry Silverman