

Nisan 19, 5780

April 13, 2020

TO:

Mr. Mark Wilf, Chairman of the JFNA Board of Trustees

Mr. Eric D. Fingerhut, JFNA President and Chief Executive Officer

To our peers – Jewish lay leaders from around the world,

We, Israeli lay leaders of nonprofit organizations, want to reach out to you at this challenging time, to extend a hand of friendship and support as we witness our communities and organizations, battle through the COVID-19 Virus. We also want to particularly acknowledge the level of pain being experienced by communities across the USA (with New York at its epicenter) and Western Europe, where the virus has spread badly and where losses are high.

We are all adapting to this new reality, with unprecedented challenges, frightened of the human, social and economic costs. Yet, we believe that though our struggle, we can not only overcome this difficult period but also strengthen the values of Jewish peoplehood, ערבות הדדית (collective responsibility) and *Tikun Olam*.

Here in Israel, the situation is also difficult. Aside from the tragic loss of human life, unemployment continues to climb, now at a rate of approximately 25%, and many organizations that support our social infrastructure are struggling to stay afloat. As we weather through this storm – we are finding creative and innovative ways to support these organizations and ultimately their clients. We have no doubt that you are doing the same and are ready to share and extend our knowledge and experience to mutually improve our ability to cope with the situation.

Pesach, the celebration of freedom for the Jewish people, is coming soon. What will be different about this night from all others? This year it will be clearly different! Around the globe, we will all be gathering around the table with only our immediate, close family at best. Some of us will use technology to try to feel connected, but it will be a strange and different holiday celebration. Much like the Israelites before leaving Egypt, who were frightened of the unknown ahead and yet prevailed, our faith and heritage provide us with the confidence that we will come out of this crisis stronger than we were and thankful for what we have: strong communities with committed leadership. Together, we can hope for a healthy future.

Wishing you and yours our warmest regards and a Happy Pesach,

JDC ELKA Lay Leadership Programming Steering Committee and the Israeli Lay Leadership,

Bella Abrahams, Public Affairs Director, Intel Israel, EMEA

Boaz Albaranes, Partner at Mindset Ventures

Oshik Feler-Gil, SFI board member

Alex Greenbaum, Co-founder, Excursionist

Nimrod Goor, Managing Partner Helios Energy Investments

Adv. Rani Haj Yihie, CEO of the Jordan Gateway Industrial Park Consultant, Gornitzky & Co
Dr. Haia Jamshy, Shahaf Foundation CEO
Adv. Ophir Katz, Chairman of Civil Leadership
Merav Mendelbaum, JDC Board Member
Moshe (Moshik) Mor, Venture Partner at aMoon

Israeli Lay Leadership

Surname	First Name	NPO	Role
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