We are all adjusting to our continued coronavirus-impacted reality. It feels as if even as we understand the implications of this landscape, the winds shift beneath us. Rather than assuming a "new normal" is right around the corner, we need a steady, steadfast and good-humored approach to finding success in this ever-changing landscape.

A major element of achieving a level of "best normalcy" and maintaining our cohesiveness, is continuing to engage in events like our Virtual Community and access other offerings, including Jewish Together Virtual Meetups and podcast recommendations by clicking below:

Stronger Together: This Week in Our Community

We have demonstrated that the power of togetherness is not exclusively facilitated through physical interactions, and that by bringing the sound of our voices and assembling our faces online, we can be together.

In this global pandemic reality, online events have become the norm for many, including some who weren't also able to participate in events before due to technology and accessibility barriers that predated the virus.

While we do not know what the future holds, we know that the sacrifices we each make, combined with the power of our online convening, and the strength our community has demonstrated during these difficult times are remarkable manifestations of the values we fear most dear and evidence of the great strength from which we will proceed to be Stronger Together.

Our community has come together in solidarity to protect the most vulnerable among us from life-threatening illnesses by making the sacrifice of staying home. This is a demonstration of chessed (loving kindness), of Am Yisrael chai (we are each responsible for one another), yediot yehudi (the preservation of human life supersedes all other priorities), and more.

Together our collective sacrifices have undoubtedly saved countless lives within our very community.

We have demonstrated that the power of togetherness is not exclusively facilitated through physical interactions, and that by bringing the sound of our voices and assembling our faces online, we can be together.

A Zoom Goodbye for Stu Mellan’s Retirement

After 25 years of service to the Jewish Federation as the President and CEO, Stu Mellan was celebrated by over 100 colleagues and friends, although a larger, in-person gathering is anticipated in the future. After 25 years, we felt it only appropriate to celebrate his retirement together online in the interim.

A Zoom Goodbye for Stu Mellan’s Retirement

Our community has come together in solidarity to protect the most vulnerable among us from life-threatening illnesses by making the sacrifice of staying home. While we do not know what the future holds, we know that the sacrifices we each make, combined with the power of our online convening, and the strength our community has demonstrated during these difficult times are remarkable manifestations of the values we fear most dear and evidence of the great strength from which we will proceed to be Stronger Together, leveraging our collective to overcome each challenge before us.

Wishing you all good health and great confidence that together we will continue to find success,

Graham Hoffman
President & CEO
Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona | Jewish Community Foundation of Southern Arizona
3778 East River Road, Tucson, AZ 85718 | (520) 577-9393
www.jewishtucson.org | www.jcsa.org | www.jffsonorg

SURPRISE!
A Zoom Goodbye for Stu Mellan’s Retirement

Encouraged by Fran and Jeff Katz, participants to the online party were asked to wear silly hats, change their Zoom backgrounds to festive scenes, and arrive five minutes early so that they could surprise the guest of honor when he arrived to his “important leadership meeting.” Around background images and video clips of Stu’s illustrious career, the attendees spoke about their memories of working with Stu over the years. "He was always a great leader and mentor to us all," one attendee said.

A Zoom Goodbye for Stu Mellan’s Retirement

Thank you for all of your hard work, Stu! Now, time for a well deserved pause!

Do you want to share fond memories or hopes for the future with Stu? CLICK HERE to do so in a private Facebook group.

DIARY

Yom Limmud at the Tucson J

This past Sunday, the Tucson J convened community members for a day of Shliach learning consisting of live talks by rabbis and professors, and classes for kids via Zoom. Talks included about "Takkanah: a conversation about patience during pandemic," and "Being a Jewish mom in a secular world.

Learn more about the Tucson J’s Virtual Community and access other offerings, including virtual personal training and podcast recommendations by clicking below:

Tucson J Virtual Community

Recent Online Events in Our Southern Arizona Community

Jewish Together: A Project of the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA)

JFNA is offering online programming to help our community stay connected and informed during this challenging time. They hosted a star-studded global celebration for Israel’s 72nd birthday on Facebook Live featuring a financial review and "A Year in Review: Anti-Semitism & Anti-Antisemitism on College Campuses." Review the full listing of events by clicking the button below:

Jewish Together Virtual Meetups