



# GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

BUILDING  
BRIDGES  
WITH ISRAEL  
& AROUND  
THE WORLD

## LEADERSHIP HANDBOOK 2021-2022

### PARTNERSHIPS • PLURALISM • PEOPLEHOOD

**GLOBAL CONNECTIONS CHAIR, *Rebecca A. Gold***

**GLOBAL CONNECTIONS DIRECTOR, *Allison Nagelberg***

- Global Connections Overview..... Page 2
- Global Connections Platforms..... Page 4
  - Shared Society & Jewish Pluralism..... Page 5
  - Israel Partnership Network .....Page 7
  - Jewish Diaspora Communities.....Page 11
  - GMW Israel Engagement.....Page 13
- Professional and Lay Leadership..... Page 15



901 Route 10, Whippany, New Jersey 07981 • (973) 929-3070 • [anagelberg@jfedgmw.org](mailto:anagelberg@jfedgmw.org)  
[jfedgmw.org/global-connections](http://jfedgmw.org/global-connections)

## GLOBAL CONNECTIONS OVERVIEW

**Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ (GMW)** is committed to advancing the vibrancy and continuity of our people worldwide and to building meaningful connections between our Jewish community and our partners in Israel and around the world. **Global Connections**, the Federation department which manages a vast array of projects in Israel and overseas, is at the forefront of these efforts.

Inspired by former Israeli President Reuven Rivlin's concept of the "tribes of Israel," we support innovative programs, including a robust and diverse network of community partnerships and dynamic *mishlachat* (Israeli emissaries). GMW is a national leader in creating lasting connections with Israel and Diaspora communities and enhancing Jewish Peoplehood.

We invest in organizations that nurture the values of shared society and Jewish pluralism in Israel to ensure its future as a Jewish, democratic state.

We connect Greater MetroWest, Israel, and Jewish communities around the world. We have long-term partnerships with five communities in Israel (four Jewish and one Druze) and one in Cherkassy, Ukraine as part of our Partnership2Gether (P2G) Initiative, facilitated in conjunction with the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI).



*Kol Yisrael Arevim Zeh Baze!*  
**All the people of Israel are responsible for one another!**

## GLOBAL IMPACT

“With heart and *ruach* (spirit), we build enduring relationships with partner communities in Israel and around the world. We foster personal connections — living bridges — that support diverse Jewish expression and continuity for generations to come. Our commitment to Jewish Peoplehood is essential to our work. *Ahavat Yisrael* — love for the Jewish People — is in our DNA.”

—Rebecca A. Gold, Chair, Global Connections

Our commitment to our work in Israel and overseas is prioritized with **\$4.2 million in allocations**:

**\$2.7 million to our Core Partners:**

- Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI)
- American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC)
- World ORT (ORT)

and **\$1.5 million to fund elective programs**, distributed among four platforms: Shared Society & Jewish Pluralism, Israel Partnership Network, Jewish Diaspora Communities, and GMW Israel Engagement.

**Our Federation’s work, together with our Core partners, has global impact:**



**Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI)** helped absorb nearly **19,000 olim** to Israel from January-August 2021

- In 2021, JAFI sent **2000 shlichim** (emissaries) from Israel to communities and campuses in **30 countries**.
- From December 2020-March 2021, JAFI reunited more than **2,000 Ethiopian Jews** with family in Israel.



**American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC)** responds to disaster and other crisis in **69 countries**

- JDC serves more than **80,000 at risk and elderly Jews** in the Former Soviet Union.
- JDC pairs **5,400 Holocaust survivors** in Israel with volunteers who provide daily contact and other services.



**World ORT** educates Jewish children across the globe, focusing on excellence in STEM and Jewish Studies

- ORT schools serve more than **107,000 students** in **34 countries**.

# GLOBAL CONNECTIONS PLATFORMS

<b>GLOBAL CONNECTIONS</b> <b>Total Allocations 4.2 million</b>			
<b>CORE Allocations \$2.7 million</b>			
<b>Divided Among JAFI, JDC and ORT</b> <b>ELECTIVE Allocations \$1.5 million</b>			
Support Israel & Overseas Projects and Partnerships in 4 Platform Areas			
PLATFORM	PLATFORM	PLATFORM	PLATFORM
Shared Society and Jewish Pluralism	Israel Partnership Network	Jewish Diaspora Communities	GMW Israel Engagement
Shared Society and Jewish Pluralism Organizations	Partner Communities	Cherkassy Ukraine	Mishlachat
	Ofakim-Merchavim		Israel Celebrations & Commemorations
	Arad		Diller
	Kibbutz Erez		GC Engagement Fund
	Rishon LeZion		FedEd GC
	Hurfeish		Passport to Israel
	Cherkassy Ukraine (see Diaspora)		
	Regional Projects		
Shared Society and Jewish Pluralism Coalitions	Community Initiatives	Other Global Jewry Projects	

**Learn how you can make a difference.**

**Join us in our mission to build lasting relationships with our friends in Israel and around the globe!**

# PLATFORM

## SHARED SOCIETY & JEWISH PLURALISM

*Chair, Joyce Goldstein*

### MISSION

We promote, foster, and partner with Israel's efforts to bring to fruition an Israel that is both Jewish and democratic, with pluralistic diverse means of Jewish expression. We support an Israeli society that is open and tolerant and that provides equal opportunity for all its citizens.

Our Federation has been a pioneer in supporting some of the most transformative projects in Israel. These projects are inspired by former Israeli President Reuven Rivlin's visionary concept of four "tribes" in Israel: secular, national religious, ultra-Orthodox (Haredi), and Arab, with the fifth "tribe" being the Diaspora.

Greater MetroWest's programs in Israel build connections between Jewish, Arab, and other religious and ethnic groups of Israelis, promoting multi-denominational streams of Judaism and helping at-risk populations. Our projects forge significant bonds among these diverse populations in Israeli society.



## SHARED SOCIETY AND JEWISH PLURALISM ORGANIZATIONS

**Hagar:** the only integrated, bilingual educational institution for Jewish and Arab residents in the south of Israel, with more than 800 Jewish and Arab members

**Tamar:** a school empowering Arab-Bedouin students to engage in Israeli society by developing their Hebrew language abilities – including conversational, reading, and writing skills

**Electrical Engineers:** a JDC program that trains Bedouin and Ethiopian Israeli engineers

**Hinam Center for Social Tolerance:** an award-winning center that brings together Arabs, Haredim, secular Jews, Ethiopians, settlers, and other diverse groups to study, travel, and explore one another's cultures, learning from each other and cultivating mutual respect

**Beit Tefilah Israeli:** a forum for engaging community and prayer in Ramat Gan/TLV, including services, lifecycle events, Jewish-Israeli Identity exploration, spiritual prayer, and activism

**Bina:** a hub of social action, education, and Jewish pluralism, bonding participants together through study, action, and community while focusing on Jewish culture and *tikkun olam* (repairing the world)

**Israel Hofsheet:** a grassroots movement that strives for an Israeli society that practices cultural and religious pluralism, protects civil rights, and upholds the principles of democracy and Zionism

**The Israeli Movement of Reform and Progressive Judaism/Sh'a'r Hanegev and Reform Conversion:** an umbrella of all Reform organizations in Israel that supports Reform conversion as well as numerous other initiatives

**Kolech:** the first Orthodox Jewish feminist organization in Israel which promotes values of gender equality and mutual respect, encouraging equal opportunities for women in the public arena and the advancement of women's rights in religious and *halachic* spheres

**Leo Baeck:** a pluralistic education center in Haifa that includes schools, community centers, and a progressive synagogue

**Machon HaChagim:** a center for pluralistic Jewish culture and education which merges modern and traditional practices in the celebration of festivals

**Masorti Kotel:** the only place at the Western Wall where the entire family can pray together and perform bar/bat mitzvah and other ceremonies without a partition

**Masorti Noam:** a pluralistic, after-school network for young children

## SHARED SOCIETY AND JEWISH PLURALISM COALITIONS

**IREP-Israel Religious Expression Platform:** an organization supporting expressions of Judaism in Israel, including marriage options, egalitarian prayer at the Kotel, and open conversion initiatives

**Social Venture Fund (SVF) for Jewish-Arab Equality and Shared Society:** an organization bringing together individuals, foundations, and federations to support Israeli non-governmental organizations that promote economic integration and improved educational opportunities for Arab citizens of Israel

**Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF):** a coalition of North American Jewish organizations learning and raising awareness about Israel's Arab citizens

# PLATFORM

## ISRAEL PARTNERSHIP NETWORK

*Chairs, Julia Malaga and Linda Rosenthal*

### MISSION

We create vibrant partnerships in the Negev and elsewhere in Israel, supporting community development (social and economic) and programming that enhances Jewish life and identity. Our **Partnership2Gether (P2G)** programs create **Living Bridges** — connections and relationships between Americans and Israelis.

The GMW community and the partnerships in the Negev develop friendships and deep relationships, while learning about our shared Jewish values, common history, our similarities and differences. We strive to strengthen our relevant Jewish communities by engaging and educating volunteers.

Through collaboration, synergies, improved efficiency and communication, we expand and strengthen our networks WHILE maintaining the individual character of the communities.

Together, we will build, expand, and strengthen Jewish identity, leadership, living bridges, community pride, and mental, physical, and spiritual wellbeing.

By participating on the ground but maintaining a broader perspective, we can leverage resources for the Negev in addition to those of GMW to multiply our impact.

ISRAEL PARTNERSHIP NETWORK		
Partner Communities	Regional Projects	Community Initiatives
Kibbutz Erez Arad Ofakim Merchavim Rishon LeZion Hurfeish Cherkassy, Ukraine	Collaborative projects involving Negev partners and GMW	GMW supported and administered projects spanning multiple regions

## **PARTNER COMMUNITIES**

*Chair, Linda Rosenthal*

We have longstanding relationships with six communities, five in Israel and one in the Former Soviet Union (FSU), as part of our Partnership2Gether (P2G) initiative. This is facilitated in conjunction with the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI)



- ❖ **Ofakim and Merchavim (25 year partnership)** Ofakim is a development town of 28,000 in the northern Negev, about midway between Beer Sheva and Gaza. The Merchavim Regional Council consists of 14 small communities (moshavim) in the surrounding area, with a population of 9,000.
- ❖ **Arad (20 year partnership)** is located on the border of the Negev and Judean Deserts, near the Dead Sea. The city is home to a diverse population of 28,000 residents. The beautiful location, the commitment of local lay leadership, and the strength of our partnership have enabled Arad to develop into a leading city in the center of Israel.
- ❖ **Kibbutz Erez (20 year partnership)** is located in the Sha'ar HaNegev region on the border with Gaza. As our partner since 2001, we have been involved in building security rooms, bomb shelters, playgrounds, a library and more, as well as assisting Kibbutz Erez with developing its community.
- ❖ **Rishon LeZion (45 year partnership)** Our first partner community, is the fourth largest city in Israel. The partnership began with Project Renewal 37 years ago. We operate many social projects in this once predominantly Ethiopian neighborhood of Ramat Eliyahu and at the Feinberg Community Center.
- ❖ **Hurfeish (15 year partnership)** is a Druze village in the upper Galilee. We connected with this unique community as part of our Israel Emergency Campaign efforts during the second Lebanon War (2006). The encounter between the American Jewish community and the Israeli Druze community is unique and poignant. We are the only U.S. Federation with a partner relationship that connects a diaspora Jewish community to an Israeli Arab village.

## PROGRAMS IN OFAKIM/MERCHAVIM

<b>Laulicht Community Development:</b> community kitchen promoting awareness and training for healthy lifestyles
<b>Isha Center:</b> center for women and elderly providing stimulating programming
<b>Igloo:</b> local art center providing classes and enrichment activities to the community
<b>Mitgalim:</b> Jewish text and writing skills course
<b>Supporting Youth Movements:</b> expanding discourse on pluralistic Jewish identity and Israel-Diaspora connections
<b>Neshamot:</b> connecting teachers in Israel and in one of our NJ day schools, creating a model to build the relationship between students and communities
<b>Spaces of Culture:</b> exploring a variety of means of artistic and cultural expression
<b>Edu2Gether:</b> teacher training to deepen the Israel-Diaspora discourse
<b>Bar Mitzvah Year:</b> yearlong training regarding belonging, Jewish identity, love of country, Zionism; including volunteering, hiking, workshops, and program with parents
<b>Botanical Garden:</b> center for the exchange of knowledge in vegetation and botanical scientific development
<b>To Dare for Adults:</b> improving professional skills, career planning, and employment opportunities through mentorships
<b>Study and Pizza:</b> Beit Midrash (study center) for teens in Ofakim to explore ideological issues
<b>Running2Gether:</b> running and empowerment group connecting women in Ofakim/Merchavim with women in GMW
<b>One Line:</b> experiential art instruction and connections with people around the world through co-creation

## PROGRAMS IN ARAD

<b>Yung Adult Center, Social Involvement Coordinator:</b> center of cultural activities and assistance to young families to encourage community development
<b>Business Hub Accelerator:</b> supporting business owners with guidance, training and empowerment
<b>Teen Leadership Program:</b> strengthening connections to Arad and the South and encouraging teens to ultimately reside in Arad
<b>From Arad With Love:</b> tours, workshops, and activities to boost the local community

## PROGRAMS IN KIBBUTZ EREZ

<b>Community projects:</b> Kabbalat Shabbat, community gatherings, security assistance, resilience, and projects to promote community development
---

## PROGRAMS IN RISHON LEZION

<b>Atzmaut Plus:</b> building on early mastery of literacy and love of learning and integrating Ethiopian culture into school and community life
<b>Yahel:</b> leadership development program involving volunteering at schools in the Ethiopian and other underserved communities in Ramat Eliyahu

## PROGRAMS IN HURFEISH

<b>Youth Futures:</b> mentoring program that fosters academic and social skills for at-risk youth and their families
--

## CHERKASSY, UKRAINE (See Jewish Diaspora Communities)

## REGIONAL PROJECTS

*Chair, Nicole Levitt*

**Peoplehood Project:** creating a fulfilling two-year encounter and leadership training program, joining Israelis and NJ adults

**Peoplehood Alumni:** the successful outgrowth of our immersive Peoplehood program

**Uniper:** installing communications devices in 80 homes (in Union County and Israel) enabling connections to each other, as well as content on health, lifestyle, and leisure

**Desert Wolves:** empowering girls in NJ and Israel, culminating in a five-day outdoor Negev challenge

**Koach Hazair:** youth development program integrating concepts of Peoplehood and Diaspora

**Negev Now Network:** association of North American Federations supporting development of the Negev, including public spaces, health and wellness, and leadership training

**Tsliley Negba:** youth musical ensemble spanning Ofakim, Merchavim, and Arad

**Youth Futures:** mentoring program that fosters academic and social skills for at-risk youth and their families

## COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

*Chair, Julia Malaga*

**Kehila:** connecting global GMW young adults living in Israel and the US – former *shlichim* and *rishonim*, lone soldiers, students, Diller alumni, *olim* (immigrants) from NJ and Cherkassy, and more.

**Leaders for Cohesive Society:** working on solutions to promote social cohesion among Israelis from diverse backgrounds, including representatives from private companies, non-profits, and government agencies

**Special Hesed Unit (SAHI):** empowering at-risk youth to give back to various communities, helping to deal with the issue of food insecurity



# PLATFORM

## JEWISH DIASPORA COMMUNITIES

*Chair, Ruth Margolin*

### MISSION

Jews are uniquely responsible for the well-being of other Jews around the world, especially for those who do not have a safety net. We raise awareness and educate our community about Jews anywhere in the Diaspora, but we have a special partnership with the Jewish community of Cherkassy, Ukraine.

We support Diaspora Jews in communities around the world, partnering with the **Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI)**, the **American Joint Distribution Committee (JDC)**, and **World ORT (ORT)** to provide assistance for the world's struggling Jews. One of our signature programs is the year-round Hesed Community Center and annual Family Camp that provide robust Jewish engagement for Jews in Cherkassy, Ukraine.

### GREATER METROWEST IN UKRAINE

Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ has been partnering with the city and Regional Council of Cherkassy, Ukraine since 1996. The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) matched us to the area with the goal of helping the Jews of Central Ukraine focus on developing their Jewish community after World War II and Communism.

We work on projects that address Jewish and professional education, foster Jewish identity, support and aid the elderly along with children and the most vulnerable Jewish families.



## PROGRAMS IN CHERKASSY

**Hesed Center and Family Camp:** community center for year-round cultural and religious activities, multigenerational summer family camp, women's center, child center, vocal studio, and senior programs

**Community Initiatives:** youth workshops, transportation, theater, and newspaper

**Computer Center Cherkassy (ORT):** computer skill-building classes with an emphasis on increasing education and employment

## OTHER DIASPORA PROGRAMS

**Active Jewish Teens (AJT) in Former Soviet Union (JDC):** connecting thousands of teenagers across the Former Soviet Union, providing access to cultural and religious expression as well as volunteerism, all of which teens can then share with their families

**Project TEN (JAFI):** service-learning program that takes place in Israel and developing regions around the world in which volunteers participate in an integrated curriculum focusing on Jewish values and community and engage in a global dialogue on Jewish identity with their peers.

**Humanitarian Aid – Argentina (JDC)**

**Tuition Support Argentina and Brazil (ORT)**

**Regional Volunteer Centers in Former Soviet Union (JDC):** helping thousands of Jews in post-Soviet countries give back and build community, aid the elderly and vulnerable, cultivate local humanitarian institutions, and engage their peers in Jewish culture and ideals.



# PLATFORM

## GMW ISRAEL ENGAGEMENT

*Chair, Faith Racusin*

### MISSION

We bring Israel to life in Greater MetroWest by creating authentic Israel connections through our ***mishlachat*** (Israeli emissaries). By working with more than 40 synagogues, JCCs, day schools, and other institutions around GMW, the *mishlachat* spread spirit, knowledge, and love of Israel throughout our community. They engage more than 9,000 people annually, including 2,860 kids at Hebrew schools and synagogues, 1,000 Jewish day school students, 90 college students, and 800 campers.

In partnership with **JAFI**, we create authentic Israel connections through our delegation of ***rishonim*** (pre-army emissaries who defer their IDF service for one year to teach in Greater MetroWest) and ***shlichim*** (professionals who have completed their IDF service and university and build community here in GMW).



### MISHLACHAT PROGRAMS

#### ***Senior Community Shlicha, Community Shaliach, Five Rishonim***

**Family Engagement:** community-wide events to introduce GMW families to our Rishonim host family program

#### **Rishonim Leadership Training in Israel**

#### **Mishlachat Training in GMW**

**Host Family Programming:** activities to engage host families and encourage their continued Federation involvement

**Rishonim Work:** Coordinated Rishonim volunteer work at schools, synagogues, and JCCs across the community

## CELEBRATIONS AND COMMEMORATIONS

**Yom HaZikaron (Israel's Memorial Day):** poignant annual commemoration of Israel's fallen soldiers and victims of terrorism

**Yom Ha'Atzmaut (Israel's Independence Day):** community-wide events in GMW celebrating Israel's Independence Day; concerts, children's programming, exhibits and more

## DILLER TEEN FELLOWS

**Diller Teen Fellows:** premier leadership development program for Jewish 10th and 11th graders in GMW as part of the National Diller Teen Fellows program. The program empowers Jewish teens to be active and effective leaders with a strong Jewish identity, a sense of belonging to their community, a connection to the Jewish People and Israel, and a commitment to *tikkun olam* (repairing the world).



## ENGAGEMENT

**Unpacking Series:** virtual, multi-part educational series about many facets of Israel and Israeli society as well as the Jewish Diaspora

## FEDED GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

**FedEd Global connections:** a program modeled on the Borinsky Young Leadership Program. FedEd GC inspires leaders to learn about and deepen their involvement with Federation generally and with GC.

## PASSPORT TO ISRAEL

**Passport to Israel:** grant from Federation for travel to Israel on an educational peer group trip, open to all GMW Jewish high school students (grade 8 - gap year)

# PROFESSIONAL AND LAY LEADERSHIP

## PROFESSIONALS

US Professionals	Israel Office Professionals
<b>Allison Nagelberg, Director of Global Connections NJ</b>  Justine Reuben, Logistics and Project Manager Hana Frankl, Operations and Program Manager Rabbi Scott Kalmikoff, Education Associate Theeasia Johnson, Administrative Assistant	<b>Amir Shacham, Associate Executive VP of Global Connections</b> <b>Michal Zur, Director of Global Connections Israel</b>  Noa Kachlon, Educational Coordinator Miri Bernovsky-Tibon, Partnership Network Coordinator Ayala Bar On, Israel MetroWest Partnership Coordinator Tal Ven Der Horst, Operations Coordinator Denny Frank, Diller Fellows Coordinator

## Mishlachat

Tamar Reshef, Senior Shlucha  
 Adir Assulin, Community Shaliach

## LAY LEADERSHIP

<b>Rebecca A. Gold</b> <b>Global Connections Chair</b>	
<b>GLOBAL CONNECTIONS CABINET</b>	
Gary O. Aidekman	Jonathan Liss
Yael Birin	Lisa Lisser
Stephanie Bonder	Julia Malaga
Debby Brafman	Ruth Margolin
Renie Carniol	Maxine B. Murnick
Barbara Drench	Scott Newman
Lisa Dunst-Lissak	Kala Paul
Joyce Goldstein	Faith Racusin
Sanford Hollander	Leslie Dannin Rosenthal
Jeri Kimowitz	Linda Rosenthal
Lori Klinghoffer	Debbie Rovner
Robert Kuchner	Paula Saginaw
Michael Landau	Jane Susswein
David Lentz	Howard Tepper
	Ed Zinbarg

### NEW JERSEY LAY LEADERS

SHARED SOCIETY & JEWISH PLURALISM COMMITTEE	ISRAEL NETWORKPARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE	JEWISH DIASPORA COMMITTEE	GMW ISRAEL ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE
<b>Joyce Goldstein, Chair</b>  Phyllis Bernstein Yael Birin Howard Blank Meredith Cohen Elyse Deutsch Susan Dickstein Roberta Elliot Sanford Hollander Murray Laulicht David Lentz Robert Lichtman Julia Malaga Jim Paul Mindunn Rose Paula Saginaw Jane Susswein Ed Zinbarg	<b>Julia Malaga, Co-Chair</b> <b>Linda Rosenthal, Co-Chair</b>  <b>Sheri Goldberg, Peoplehood Chair</b> <b>Michael Belfer, Peoplehood Liaison</b>	<b>Ruth B. Margolin, Chair</b>	<b>Faith Racusin, Chair</b> Steve Needle, FedEd Chair Jenn Emdur, Diller Teen Fellows Chair Liz Liss, Passport to Israel Chair
	Ellen Berkowitz      Erica Needle Phyllis Bernstein      Jim Paul Charles Brand      Kala Paul Karen Brand      Mark Polson Barbara Drench      Debbie Rovner Lisa Dunst-Lissak      Michael E. Safris Tracey Hoberman      Miriam A. Seiden Sanford Hollander      Alex Skibinsky Lori Klinghoffer      Howard N. Tepper David Lentz      Eugenia Yudanin Nicole Levitt Lisa Lissner Maxine B. Murnick Padi Nazmiyal	Gary O. Aidekman Hope Aronoff Deborah Brody Ellen Goldner Caroline Goldstein Michael Margolin Robin Polson Mindunn Rose Paula Saginaw Carol Simon Jackilyn Soslow	Ellen Berkowitz Lesley Brooks Lisa Gutkin Sydra Miller Michelle Retik Shira Rothschild Debbie Rovner Ofer Steinberg Elisa Udaskin

### ISRAELI LAY LEADERS

Ofakim-Merchavim	Arad	Kibbutz Erez
<b>Inbal Moshe, Chair</b> Efrat Baruchi Poly Biliya Mor Buhadana Iris Cohen Elisha Gringold Ronit Gringold Meirav Kimchi Naor Nohker Batel Ron Gali Shachaf Tal Siboni Orel Trech Daniel Uri	<b>Chen Lenchner, Chair</b> Avi Babiloni Ohn Cohen Chen Pagliari Shani Senior Hila Tzachi	Yahel Ben Aris Aviva Yaron