



LEADERSHIP HANDBOOK 2021-2022

PARTNERSHIPS • PLURALISM • PEOPLEHOOD

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS CHAIR, *Rebecca A. Gold*
GLOBAL CONNECTIONS DIRECTOR, *Allison Nagelberg*

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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 *mishlachot* (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 Bazeh!

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

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS			
Total Allocations 4.2 million			
CORE Allocations \$2.7 million			
Divided Among JAFI, JDC and ORT			
ELECTIVE Allocations \$1.5 million			
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 Ofakim-Merchavim	Cherkassy Ukraine	Mishlachat
	Arad		Israel Celebrations & Commemorations
	Kibbutz Erez		Diller
	Rishon LeZion		GC Engagement Fund
	Hurfeish		FedEd GC
	Cherkassy Ukraine (see Diaspora)		
	Regional Projects		
Shared Society and Jewish Pluralism Coalitions	Community Initiatives	Other Global Jewry Projects	Passport to Israel

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/Shā'ar 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 (Diaspora)	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

Laulicht Community Development: community kitchen promoting awareness and training for healthy lifestyles

Isha Center: center for women and elderly providing stimulating programming

Igloo: local art center providing classes and enrichment activities to the community

Mitgalim: Jewish text and writing skills course

Supporting Youth Movements: expanding discourse on pluralistic Jewish identity and Israel-Diaspora connections

Neshamot: connecting teachers in Israel and in one of our NJ day schools, creating a model to build the relationship between students and communities

Spaces of Culture: exploring a variety of means of artistic and cultural expression

Edu2Gether: teacher training to deepen the Israel-Diaspora discourse

Bar Mitzvah Year: yearlong training regarding belonging, Jewish identity, love of country, Zionism; including volunteering, hiking, workshops, and program with parents

Botanical Garden: center for the exchange of knowledge in vegetation and botanical scientific development

To Dare for Adults: improving professional skills, career planning, and employment opportunities through mentorships

Study and Pizza: Beit Midrash (study center) for teens in Ofakim to explore ideological issues

Running2Gether: running and empowerment group connecting women in Ofakim/Merchavim with women in GMW

One Line: experiential art instruction and connections with people around the world through co-creation

PROGRAMS IN ARAD

Young Adult Center, Social Involvement Coordinator: center of cultural activities and assistance to young families to encourage community development

Business Hub Accelerator: supporting business owners with guidance, training and empowerment

Teen Leadership Program: strengthening connections to Arad and the South and encouraging teens to ultimately reside in Arad

From Arad With Love: tours, workshops, and activities to boost the local community

PROGRAMS IN KIBBUTZ EREZ

Community projects: Kabbalat Shabbat, community gatherings, security assistance, resilience, and projects to promote community development

PROGRAMS IN RISHON LEZION

Atzmaut Plus: building on early mastery of literacy and love of learning and integrating Ethiopian culture into school and community life

Yahel: leadership development program involving volunteering at schools in the Ethiopian and other underserved communities in Ramat Eliyahu

PROGRAMS IN HURFEISH

Youth Futures: 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 Hessed 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 **mishlachot** (Israeli emissaries). By working with more than 40 synagogues, JCCs, day schools, and other institutions around GMW, the **mishlachot** 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 Shlichah, Community Shaliach, Five Rishonim

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

Rishonim Leadership Training in Israel

Mishlachot 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
<p>Allison Nagelberg, Director of Global Connections NJ</p> <p>Justine Reuben, Logistics and Project Manager Hana Frankl, Operations and Program Manager Rabbi Scott Kalmikoff, Education Associate Theeasia Johnson, Administrative Assistant</p>	<p>Amir Shacham, Associate Executive VP of Global Connections Michal Zur, Director of Global Connections Israel</p> <p>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</p>

Mishlachat
<p>Tamar Reshef, Senior Shlichah Adir Assulin, Community Shaliach</p>

LAY LEADERSHIP

Rebecca A. Gold Global Connections Chair	
GLOBAL CONNECTIONS CABINET	
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
Nicole Levitt	Ed Zinbarg

NEW JERSEY LAY LEADERS

SHARED SOCIETY & JEWISH PLURALISM COMMITTEE	ISRAEL NETWORKPARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE	JEWISH DIASPORA COMMITTEE	GMW ISRAEL ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE
<p>Joyce Goldstein, Chair Yael Birin, Co-Chair</p> <hr/> <p>Phyllis Bernstein 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</p>	<p>Julia Malaga, Co-Chair Linda Rosenthal, Co-Chair Nicole Levitt, Co-Chair</p> <p>Sheri Goldberg, Peoplehood Chair Michael Belfer, Peoplehood Liaison</p> <hr/> <p>Dolly Belfer Lisa Lisser Ellen Berkowitz Maxine B. Phyllis Bernstein Murnick Debby Brafman Padi Nazmiyal Charles Brand Erica Needle Karen Brand Jim Paul Barbara Drench Kala Paul Lisa Dunst-Lissak Mark Polson Sheri Goldberg Debbie Rovner Tracey Hoberman Michael E. Safris Sanford Hollander Miriam A. Seiden Rabbi Paul Kerbel Alex Skibinsky Lori Klinghoffer Howard N. Tepper David Lentz Eugenia Yudanin</p>	<p>Ruth B. Margolin, Chair</p> <hr/> <p>Gary O. Aidekman Hope Aronoff Deborah Brody Ellen Goldner Caroline Goldstein Rabbi Paul Kerbel Michael Margolin Robin Polson Mindunn Rose Paula Saginaw Carol Simon Jackilyn Soslow</p>	<p>Faith Racusin, Chair</p> <p>Steve Needle, FedEd Chair Jenn Emdur, Diller Teen Fellows Chair Liz Liss, Passport to Israel Chair</p> <hr/> <p>Ellen Berkowitz Lesley Brooks Lisa Gutkin Elizabeth Liss Beth Miller Sydra Miller Shira Rothschild Debbie Rovner Ofar Steinberg Elisa Udaskin Rebecca Zarabi</p>

ISRAELI LAY LEADERS		
Ofakim-Merchavim	Arad	Kibbutz Erez
<p>Inbal Moshe, Chair Poly Biliya Mor Buhadana Iris Cohen Elisha Gringold Ronit Gringold Meirav Kimchi Naor Nohker Batel Ron Gali Shachaf Tal Siboni Orel Trech Daniel Uri</p>	<p>Chen Lenchner, Chair Avi Babiloni Ohn Cohen Yariv Inbar Shmuel Kaplan Chen Pagliari Shani Senior Yehudit Shefi Hila Tzachi</p>	<p>Yahel Ben Aris Vered Shpirer Aviva Yaron</p>