



Inter-Agency Task Force on Israeli Arab Issues
Study Trip Participant Bios
January 6 - 9, 2008

Linda Alexander

Founder/Director

Jewish Community Foundation of Central New York

Linda Alexander is the founder of the Jewish Community Foundation of Central New York and has served as director of the foundation for seven years.

Linda grew up in the New York City area, attending PS 49 in Brooklyn, Jamaica High School, and Queens College in Queens. Her lay leadership experience includes serving as president of her congregation, Beth Sholom Chevra Shas, Federation campaign chair and president and board member of many of the Jewish agencies in the area, including the InterReligious Council of Central New York.

Linda has been married nearly 40 years and has three children who live in Los Angeles, Seattle and Portland. She has lived in Syracuse, NY since 1969.

Alan Aziz

Chief Executive

Zionist Federation UK

Alan Aziz is currently the Chief Executive of the Zionist Federation UK and is involved with running a pan-European Young Leadership Training Programme, which he set up.

Alan is a former chartered accountant and financial consultant. He held the posts of Director of the largest nursing home in the UK and was the Director of the Zionist Council of Europe.

Jessica Balaban

Executive Director

Inter-Agency Task Force on Israeli Arab Issues

In her role as Executive Director of the Task Force, Jessica Balaban focuses on Task Force efforts to keep the American Jewish community informed on majority/minority relations in Israel; to escalate awareness of economic, educational and social service weaknesses facing Israeli Arab communities; to support Task Force members with an advocacy mandate and to work with Israeli organizations to strengthen civil society.

Jessica Balaban comes to the Task Force from UJA-Federation of New York, where she managed Israeli Arab, Argentina Jewry and non-sectarian portfolios. Jessica concentrated on strategic planning for economic/leadership development in Israeli Arab communities, as well as programming education for the New York Jewish community on these issues. She also worked on special projects focused on fostering a sense of collective Jewish responsibility in New York and Israel. Prior to joining UJA-Federation of New York, Jessica worked at Ketchum Public Relations, New York City. Here, she focused on public affairs, crisis communications and media relations on behalf of Fortune 500 companies and non-governmental organizations.

Jessica holds a masters degree in the Management of International Public Service Organizations from New York University.

Sir Jeremy Beecham

New Israel Fund/Local Government Association

Sir Jeremy Beecham serves as Board Member of the New Israel Fund UK and is a solicitor and former Leader of Newcastle City Council, where he is currently Vice Chairman of the Local Government Association, having served for seven years as its first Chairman. A participant in two local government conferences organised by Tel Aviv University he is a member of the International Advisory Board of its Harold Hartog School of Policy and Government. He was Chairman of the Labour Party's National Executive Committee in 2005-6.

Sarai Brachman Shoup

Program Director

Mandell L. and Madeleine H. Berman Foundation

Sarai Brachman Shoup, program director of the Mandell L. and Madeleine H. Berman Foundation, has worked as a foundation and nonprofit employee and consultant for fifteen years, eight of which focusing on Jewish philanthropy. Currently, in addition to her role at the Berman Foundation, she is a consultant in policy research and program development for other foundations and nonprofits.

Sarai has an undergraduate degree from Harvard College and an M.P.P and a M.A. in Russian and Eastern European Studies from University of Michigan. She has written and published academic and policy papers in *Jewish Life After the USSR* (Gitelman, Glants and Goldman, 2003); *The Review of Rabbinic Judaism*; and *City Connect Detroit*.

Although she and her family usually live in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Sarai is based in Jerusalem for the 2007-8 academic year where she has an office at the Mandel Leadership Institute.

Rebecca (Becky) Caspi

Senior Vice President, Global Operations: Israel and Overseas Director General
United Jewish Communities - Israel

Rebecca Caspi joined UJC in September 2007 to lead the newly formed Division of Global Operations: Israel and Overseas. In this capacity, she is responsible for managing UJC's efforts to link North American Jewry, through the federation system to Israel and the rest of the Jewish world in a meaningful way.

Prior to joining the UJC team, Rebecca worked for over 16 years at the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. Her positions with the Joint included serving as Executive Director of Worldwide Human Resource Development, Deputy Director for International Relations, and Director of Human Resources and Administration for the Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute.

Rebecca was the first woman ever appointed to JDC's global executive management team. She has an extensive background in operational management, human resources and financial resource development.

Before joining JDC, Rebecca worked for the City University of New York. Upon making aliyah, she managed a private medical clinic in Tel Aviv and performed with the Israel Sinfonetta Orchestra.

Born in Boston, Rebecca grew up in Brooklyn. She holds an undergraduate degree in Archeology and Ancient History from the University of Pennsylvania, a Masters in Middle Eastern Studies from New York University, and an MBA from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Rebecca lives in Jerusalem with her husband Yair, their daughters Ruth and Lee, and their son Matan.

Shari Eshet

Director

National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) - Israel

Shari Eshet is the Director of NCJW Israel Operations of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW). As head of the organization's Israel office, Shari is responsible for the direction and administration of NCJW's funding and advocacy efforts in Israel.

Shari is active in international coalitions on issues of concern to NCJW including: poverty and food insecurity, civil rights issues particularly as it relates to promoting equality of opportunity for Israel's Arab citizens, Agunot rights, and the prevention and termination of trafficking women. She represents NCJW at NCJW Women and Gender Studies Program at Tel Aviv University, the NCJW Women Studies' Forum at Tel Aviv University and the NCJW Research Institute for Innovation in Education at Hebrew

University (RIFIE). Ms. Eshet is also a member of the board of directors of the Hebrew University High School, the Manof School and the RIFIE board.

Shari is responsible for the direction and administration of the Israel Granting Program fund, which includes literacy, programs for children-at-risk, as well as empowerment programs for Israeli women.

Prior to coming to NCJW's Israel office in 1996, Ms. Eshet worked as a freelance consultant to the Israel Museum in Jerusalem, The Biblelands Museum and was the director of volunteer activities at the Tower of David, City of Jerusalem Museum from 1988 to 1991. She also served as the director of the Torjeman Post Museum and was an educational guide at the Diaspora Museum.

Ms. Eshet has a degree from Yeshiva University in History and earned her masters in Boston College in Special Education for the Visually Handicapped. Shari worked with the blind and visually handicapped in New York at the New York Association for the Blind before leaving for Israel to supervise teacher-training courses for the Israeli Ministry of Social Welfare.

Ms. Eshet, a native of Miami Beach, is active in a number of community volunteer efforts in Jerusalem, Israel where she has lived for the past 29 years.

Marilyn Forman Chandler

Executive Director

Greensboro Jewish Federation

Marilyn Forman Chandler has served for the past 20 years as Executive Director of the Greensboro Jewish Federation. In that capacity, she oversees budgeting, allocating, fundraising, endowment development, mission planning, family services, staffing and many other functions. Some of her key accomplishments with the Federation include creating a state-wide endowment program based in Greensboro, piloting the UJC Create a Jewish Legacy Campaign, Limudim Adult Study, and the Foundation for Jewish Camping's Summer Camper Incentive Grant Program, working together with the North Carolina-Moldova partnership in developing a relationship with the Jewish community of Beltsy, Moldova, resettling over 400 individuals from the former Soviet Union and other countries, and bringing over 120 Greensboro community leaders to Israel on interfaith study missions co-sponsored with the National Conference for Community and Justice.

She has been deeply involved as a leader in various local, national and overseas agencies. Prior to moving to North Carolina, she was the Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of Orange County in the Catskill Region of New York State.

She holds an MSW from the Wurzweiler School of Social Work of Yeshiva University and was a Fellow in the Mandel/Council of Jewish Federations Executive Development Program. She is married to Robert Chandler, is the mother of three daughters, Dori, a

graduate of the American Hebrew Academy and B'nai Shalom Day School, is spending her junior year abroad (from UNC-Chapel Hill) at the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies at Kibbutz Ketura. Hallie, a graduate of B'nai Shalom and a camper at Ramah Darom, is a junior at the Weaver Academy for Performing Arts (high school) and Shira, is a 7th grade student at B'nai Shalom and camper at Ramah Darom.

Allan Gelfond

Senior Financial Resource Development Officer
Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit

Allan (Geli) Gelfond has worked at the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit since 1980, and currently serves as Senior Financial Resource Development Officer. Prior to this Allan served as campaign director; director of two Operation Exodus campaigns; director of many capital campaigns and was heavily involved with endowments for a year. Allan worked for 15 years at the Detroit Jewish Community Center before coming to Federation.

Allan was born in Vancouver, British Columbia in 1935. In 1952, he went to Israel for a year with the Habonim Workshop, a work, study, travel program, then spent nine months at Kfar Blum (a few miles from Kiryat Shemona) in the Upper Galilee, and 3 months at Kibbutz Urim near Beersheva. Allan has served on boards and committees of the City of Detroit, a local Hebrew Day School and his synagogue.

Allan attended Wayne State University where I received degrees in Education and Social Work. He has a wife, Harriet, and three children: Gila, Noam and Deena.

Jay Golan

President
The Birthright Israel Foundation

Jay Golan has spent more than two decades in nonprofit management, and as the first President of The Birthright Israel Foundation is responsible for all private philanthropy from the United States to support the Taglit-birthright israel project, along with all efforts to continue the Jewish journeys of some 150,000 young Jewish adults who have taken this 10-day intensive educational experience in Israel since 1999-2000.

Before he joined Birthright Israel Foundation, Jay was at Carnegie Hall, leaving as Senior Director in 2005 with responsibility for the Hall's development, education, licensing, merchandising and strategic planning activities. He has also been Director of Development for WNYC and a variety of development positions and consultancies at The New York Public Library; The World Bank World Links for Development Program; The New York Public Library; the American Museum of Natural History; the New-York Historical Society; and others.

He is a graduate of Harvard University and of the Columbia University School of Business, and serves on the Board of the American Friends of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra.

He lives in Park Slope, Brooklyn with his wife, Rabbi Barat Ellman (JTS 2004) and their two teenaged daughters, Emma and Sophie.

Rachel Gross

Director of Planned Giving and Endowments

Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia

Rachel Gross is the Director of Planned Giving and Endowments at the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, and oversees all of the Federation's planned giving and endowment efforts. A graduate of Barnard College, Rachel received a Law degree from the University of Pittsburgh.

Prior to joining the Philadelphia Federation in 2002, she held the positions of Endowment Director and Assistant Executive Director at the Jewish Federation of Delaware. Before working in the Federation endowment field, Rachel practiced law.

Ilan Halperin

Planning Director

UJA-Federation of New York - Israel Office

Ilan Halperin currently serves as a Planning Director in UJA-Federation of New York's Israel office, looking after the progress of programs in the areas of aliyah, integration, absorption, strengthening of the Jewish collective and working with the Commission on the Jewish People determine policy and understand emerging issues in Israel. He also oversees and monitors loan funds serving olim and native Israelis. Before the commission structure was in effect, he staffed two regional committees in the New York office's direct funding of innovative programs through OSPAC in the areas of absorption, Jewish identity, the elderly, and reducing tensions between groups in Israel, as well as New York assistance to the underdeveloped cities of Lod, Ramla, and Hatikva through Project Renewal.

Prior to his position with UJA-Federation, Ilan established the Israel office of the Philadelphia Federation in Israel and was its first director. He served from 1983 to 1985 in the Jewish Agency for Israel's Project Renewal department as a liaison for 27 diaspora communities.

From 1981 to 1983, he served as an aliyah emissary in Chicago and had a weekly radio show on aliyah and Israel-related topics. He also served in the army from 1978 to 1981, and from 1971 to 1973, he worked as a dairy farmer on kibbutz Tel Kazir.

Born in Chicago, Ilan made aliyah in 1974. Ilan earned his bachelor's degree in Judaic studies from Spertus College of Judaica in Chicago and his Master of Science in management from Boston University.

Ilan is married to Ahouva and lives with their three children in the village of Tzur Hadassah where he is president of the local reform synagogue.

Gilad Hayeem

Chair of the Board

Labour Friends of Israel

Gilad has been Chair of the Board of Labour Friends of Israel since April 2007 and has served on the Board since 2005. He has been an active supporter of the Labour Party since his student days and has also built up extensive knowledge of Israeli politics over the years, having spent a considerable amount of time visiting Israel both in a personal and professional capacity.

He is a member of the adoption panel for Norwood - Children and Families First, and in his spare time he manages the U7 Maccabi Lions football club.

Gilad is CEO and Managing Partner of MBAM LLP, an international hedge fund based in London.

Joseph C. Imberman

United Jewish Communities

Joe Imberman is an educator by training and has been in the grant making and financial resource development business for over 30 years at federations, private and community foundations. He has lived in six cities since moving from New York as a young person to attend Washington University in St. Louis, where he received a BA in history and an MA in Education. He also attended the University of Minnesota, from which he received his Ph.D. in Educational Administration in 1976. His first professional position was as Grants Administrator of the Otto Bremer Foundation in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Over seven years ago, Joe became Associate Vice President for Planned Giving and Endowments at United Jewish Communities (UJC), a position that followed 18 distinguished years as head of the Detroit community's Jewish Community Endowment Fund and the Miami Federation's Foundation of Jewish Philanthropies. During his tenure, UJC's Planned Giving and Endowments program has grown substantially in size and service to the field. At UJC Joe supervises a staff of six to eight professionals in the office and is the lead endowment consultant to the field. He is also responsible for UJC's own Endowment Fund and its new Venture Fund for Jewish-Arab Equality and Coexistence.

He is passionate about endowment development at federations and foundations, is married and has two teenage boys one of whom is a McGill University senior and one of whom is a freshman at The College for Creative Studies in Detroit. He lives in Maplewood, New Jersey and has served on the boards of several non-profits, including his former temple in Oak Park, Michigan. He was also chair of the Council of Jewish Federation's Endowment Directors Advisory Committee before becoming lead staff in this area at UJC in 2000.

In his spare time, Joe is passionate about American jazz, American history, particularly the American Civil War and taking a little time out to travel and work out.

Rose Jagust

Director of Donor-Advised Programs

Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago

Rose Jagust has been the Director of Donor-Advised Programs at the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago since 2001. As director, she works with individuals and families to help them manage their philanthropy—specifically, Rose oversees the Federation's philanthropic fund program and works with donors who have established supporting foundations at the Federation.

Rose received her undergraduate degree from Beloit College and worked at a number of non-profit organizations in meeting planning, marketing, and member services. After completing law school at Chicago-Kent College of Law in 1995, Rose practiced employment law for a short time before returning to the non-profit world.

Charles Keidan

Director

The Pears Foundation

Charles Keidan is Director of the London-based The Pears Foundation. The Foundation seeks to put Jewish values of social justice into practice investing in charitable causes in the UK, Israel and the developing world.

Since participating in the first Task Force trip to Israel in June 2006, Charles has brought issues facing Arab citizens of Israel to Jewish communities in Europe through the London Symposium on Israeli Arabs (March 2007), the high level roundtable of Arab Mayors (July 2007) and the Human Rights Awards (July 2007).

Jeff Klein*Executive Director*

Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey – Jewish Community Foundation

Jeff Klein has been Executive Director of the Jewish Community Foundation Inc. (JCF) a supporting organization of the Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey, for 11 years. During that time he has grown the JCF from about \$4 million to nearly \$40 in current and testamentary gifts.

Jeff has been involved in the organized Jewish community since college, where he chaired the University Students Campaign for UJA at Case Western Reserve University where he also founded the Jewish Student Union at CWRU.

Following an internship at the Cleveland Jewish Federation, Jeff served as the Assistant Director of the Atlantic County Jewish Federation. Jeff later became the Campaign Director for the Buffalo Jewish Federation and then served as Regional Director for State of Israel Bonds for Upstate New York.

Jeff has continued to be an active volunteer and has served in various capacities on the boards of the Politz Day School as a Vice President, Jewish Camden Partnership as Finance Committee Chair, Jewish National Fund, and Congregation Sons of Israel as Treasurer, Leukemia Lymphoma Foundation, and Hillel New Brunswick.

Jeff's wife has just completed a two-year term as President of the Politz Day School. Their 3 married children all attended Jewish Day schools. Jeff's three grandsons live in NY, NJ and Costa Rica.

Robert Kleinman*Executive Director*

Jewish Community Foundation of Montreal

Robert Kleinman is Executive Director of the Jewish Community Foundation of Montreal. Robert is Past-President of the Conseil de la Philanthropie du Quebec, of the Table Ronde du Quebec of the CAGP, of JIAS Canada and JIAS Montreal. He is presently on the Ethics Committee of Imagine Canada.

Robert specializes in tax-assisted giving and has written numerous articles on the subject and has published the National Jewish Gift Planning Handbook. In his previous career he was partner in charge of tax of the then Westmount office of Ernst & Young. He is married to Alice Herscovitch, Executive Director of the Holocaust Centre of Montreal. Alice and Bobby have two children, Valerie and Brahm.

Laurie Kleinmann-Heller

The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation

Since 1975, Laurie Kleinmann - Heller has been actively involved in the funding, organizational development and social services areas of Jewish communal work in the US and Israel. For ten years as the Coordinator of Overseas Supplemental Planning and Allocations, Senior Overseas Executive and Director of the Legacy Fund of the UJA Federation of New York, Laurie directed the allocation process including all aspects of funding and monitoring of funds totaling between \$5 and \$13 million a year totaling over 100 million dollars. Prior to that she was overseeing planning and allocations for half of the Jewish Community Centers in N.Y.

Her extensive Jewish Community Center experience includes: Assistant Director, Community Centers of the NY Federation; Director of Extension Services of the Jewish Community Centers of Yonkers, initiating and overseeing the operations of four separate extension centers; and Director of the Singles Programs for the 92 Street Y, one of the most successful singles programs in the N.Y. area.

Laurie has a BA from Yeshiva University and a MSW from Hunter College. Making Aliyah with her family in 1993, she currently lives in Jerusalem where in July, 1999 she founded Laurie Heller and Associates, a consulting firm for Israeli non-profit organizations and American based foundations. Foundations include The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation, The Baron De Hirsch Fund, and Rosenzweig Coopersmith Foundation.

In January, 2002 Laurie began to form a group of professionals and lay people involved in Federations and Foundations who were concerned about the growing problem of hunger in Israel. The Forum to Address Food Insecurity and Poverty in Israel commissioned the first ever study of food insecurity in Israel. The Myers JDC Brookdale Institute and the Ministry of Health carried out this study. Another Forum initiative is the mapping of the non-profit sector to determine how many organizations are involved in food distribution and the scope of their activity. The Center for the Study of the Voluntary Sector at Ben Gurion University is the lead investigator. The Forum is also currently working with the Ministry of Health to develop a Good Samaritan Law. It is believed that this forum of funders is groundbreaking in its approach to cooperation between Government, Non Profits and Philanthropy.

Douglas Krikler

Chief Executive Officer

United Jewish Israel Appeal

Douglas Krikler is the CEO of the United Jewish Israel Appeal - the largest UK Jewish charity, investing in young people and education in Israel and the UK.

He was the founding Director of the Jewish Leadership Council, which for the first time formally brings together the leadership of the key Jewish organizations, to enhance communal representation and take a lead in setting strategic priorities for the community. Prior to that, he was Executive Director of the Community Security Trust, working in partnership with the UK Government and police to protect and defend the Jewish community from anti-Semitism and terrorism.

From 1992-2000 he was Director of the Maimonides Foundation, working to promote dialogue and co-operation between the Jewish and Muslim communities in the UK and Middle East.

Douglas currently holds a number of positions in a lay capacity within various communal bodies, including with the Britain Israel Communications and Research Centre (BICOM).

Douglas has an MA in Middle East Studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies and a degree in Modern Arabic Studies from the University of Leeds. He spent a year at Ain Shams University in Cairo and speaks Hebrew, Arabic and French.

Betsy Landis

UJA/Federation of New York

Betsy Miller Landis has just completed three years as President of the Jewish Women's Foundation of New York, and three years before as Co-Chair of the Foundation's Grants Committee. Just last month, she finished working at Hebrew Union College, creating and administrating an adult Jewish studies program in Jerusalem. It was called The Liberal Yeshivah. It was the vacation study program Betsy was looking for, and luckily, others were, too. Before that, she worked for CLAL – the National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership and before that, practiced public accounting. In between working and the Foundation – in her discretionary time – Betsy has become increasingly involved in Project Interchange, a 25 year old program, which brings peer groups of non-Jews to Israel.

Betsy and her husband, Don Landis, have been spending part of the year in Jerusalem and part in White Plains, NY, where they are active members of a Reconstructionist synagogue. They have three children and three grandchildren.

Don Landis

UJA/Federation of New York

Don Landis is a member of many committees at UJA/Federation of New York. Additionally, Don is a board member of the American Jewish Committee (national and Westchester), the American Zionist Movement, ARZA-World Union for Progressive Judaism, the CLAL –National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership, the Jerusalem

Center for Public Affairs, Jewish Outreach Institute, and many others. Don is married to Betsy Landis and has three children and three grandchildren.

Dr. Arthur Levy

Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven

Arthur Levy is a graduate of Columbia College and The Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He practices Medical Oncology and Hematology in New Haven, Connecticut and is an associate clinical professor in the Department of Medicine of the Yale School of Medicine. A past president of the Beth Hamedrosh Westville Synagogue in New Haven, he has served as Medical Director of Medical Oncology in the Yale Cancer Center. He served as the first chairman of the Maimonides Society, a division of the NHJF for Medical professionals. He currently is a board member of the Jewish Community Relations Council and chairs its Israel Advocacy committee. He lives in New Haven with Betty, his wife of 43 years and has three children and five grandchildren.

Betty G. Levy

Jewish Federation of New Haven

Betty Levy practices law in New Haven where she specializes in family law and represents claimants in obtaining social security disability benefits. Betty has served on the Community Relations Council and the Foundation's Grant Committee and previously served on the Board of Directors of the Jewish Federation. She is currently on the Board of Directors of New Haven Legal Assistance and the APT Foundation an organization for treating drug addiction in New Haven, Connecticut and is a member of the Connecticut and New Haven Bar Associations.

Betty received her B.A. from Brooklyn College, her M.A. from City College and her J.D. from the University of Connecticut Law School. She is the mother of three children and grandmother of five and lives in New haven with her husband Arthur.

Geoffrey Lewis

Chair – Overseas Committee

Combined Jewish Philanthropies (Boston)

Geoffrey H. Lewis brings more than 25 years experience in civil, family, and international law to his role as of counsel to Prince, Lobel, Glovsky & Tye.

Geoffrey practiced law in New York City before moving to Massachusetts and opening his own law office in 1985. He currently has a general civil practice concentrating on litigation, family law, and international law and transactions. He is affiliated with the law firm of Allamand & Schaulsohn of Santiago, Chile, and has represented and worked extensively with individuals and businesses in both Chile and Israel.

Among his many community activities, Geoffrey was President of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston (2000-2003), is currently chair of the overseas committee of Combined Jewish Philanthropies and a member of its Executive Committee, National Vice-chair of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, and a member of the Executive Board of the Israel Policy Forum. He has also been a participant in the Wexner Heritage Foundation Leadership Program. In 2005 and 2006, Geoffrey was named a Massachusetts “Super Lawyer” as featured in Boston magazine.

Geoffrey is married to Amy Caplan, who is a Vice President of Network Sales for IMG Worldwide.

Moses Libitzky

President

Jewish Community Foundation of the Greater East Bay (Oakland, CA)

Moses Libitzky is the President of the Jewish Community Foundation of the Greater East Bay. Moses is active and on the boards of a number of Jewish and non-Jewish organizations, including the Jewish Community Federation, AIPAC, Friends of Israel PAC, Chabot Space and Science Center and the SETI Institute.

Born in Germany, Moses is the child of Holocaust survivors, who together with them emigrated to the United States in 1949. Moses graduated from Brandeis University with a degree in physics and currently live in the San Francisco Bay area where, he run a small real estate investment and management firm.

Moses is married and has a 19 year old son.

Ishka Lichter

Givat Haviva

Ishka Lichter is retired and splits her time between Boulder, Colorado, where her family lives, and Santa Monica, California. Ishka’s interest in Jewish affairs stems largely from her history as a Holocaust survivor. Ishka has worked on several short translations of documentaries in the Czech, German and Hebrew languages and soon will begin work on another documentary –a personal account of her father's 94 year old cousin, who was one of the Jews who was allowed to leave via the Danube on a ship which needed ballast to go down towards the Black Sea to pick up German Nationals for repatriation. He reached Palestine and eventually left for England to serve in the Air Force.

In Fall 2007, Ishka participated in a course at UCLA in Hebrew linguistics. In Santa Monica she rides my bike to go shopping and takes yoga twice weekly. Ishka organizes a yearly chamber music concert in her hometown in the Czech Republic.

Martha Lottman

Canton Jewish Community Federation

Martha Lottman is a native of Houston, Texas, where she is currently in the real estate business. Martha lived in Canton, Ohio for over 50 years, where she served as president of Temple Israel and is a life-time Trustee. Other activities include serving as officer and community relations chair of the Canton Jewish Community Federation and working on Jewish Welfare Fund campaigns. Martha currently is on the Commission on Social Action of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism and is involved with Jewish Family Services.

Martha has served on the Canton City Schools Board of Education and has been appointed to the Advisory and Advocacy Council for Stark County Children's Services. Martha has been an active member of several boards like the Canton Student Loan Foundation, Stark County Education Partnership and the United Way Board. Civil rights and race relations are a continuing area of interest and work.

For the past six years the program Partnership with Israel has been the focus of Martha's activities. Working with Israelis in Acco and Matte Asher, Martha recognizes problems Israeli Arabs face, many of which, she believes, can be compared to those of minorities in the United States.

Brian Lurie

President

Alfred and Hanna Fromm Fund

Rabbi Brian Lurie is the President of the Alfred and Hanna Fromm fund and serves as Co-Chair for the Inter-Agency Task Force on Israeli Arab Issues.

Rabbi Lurie served for seventeen years as Executive Director of the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties and for five years as President of the San Francisco Jewish Museum. He has worked in Israel and America to promote equality for Israeli Arabs and as Executive Vice President of the United Jewish Appeal (UJA), he was instrumental in launching the second phase of Operation Exodus and provided the vision and strategic direction under which UJA has begun to broaden its mandate. Rabbi Lurie developed the concept of "The Living Bridge", a metaphor which is redefining the broad range of relationships and the partnerships, as equals, of American Jews and Israelis. Both the Israel Experience for teens and Partnership 2000 were created as pillars of the Living Bridge.

Rabbi Lurie received his B.A. from Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania and a Masters in Hebrew Letters from Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati. He has been granted honorary degrees from both Lafayette College and Hebrew Union College.

Avi Mayer

Bronfman Fellow

Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life

Avi Mayer is the Bronfman Fellow at Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life.

Born in New York, Avi was raised in Jerusalem, Israel and Silver Spring, Maryland. A 2007 graduate of the University of Maryland at College Park, he holds a B.A. in Government and Politics and Jewish Studies, as well as a Scholars Citation in International Studies. While an undergraduate, Avi was highly involved in both the Jewish community and the general campus community at the University of Maryland, serving on the boards of numerous student groups and as a member of the campus government.

Avi has worked for a number of Jewish organizations, including the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the American Jewish Congress, and the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, as well as on Capitol Hill, for the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs' Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia.

As Bronfman Fellow, Avi works within both the Office of the President and the International Division of Hillel.

Avi resides in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Jon Mendelsohn

Labour Friends of Israel, UK

Jon Mendelsohn serves on the board of Labour Friends of Israel (LFI), the United Jewish Israel Appeal (UJIA) and the New Israel Fund (NIF).

Jon currently serves as the British Labour Party's Director of General Election Resources and as the Principal at Red Capital, a niche investment company. He was formerly the Chairman of Issues Management at FD, the World's largest Business Communications consultancy and Chairman and Founder of LLM Communications, a Government and Public Policy Consultancy.

Jon was a former adviser to the Rt. Hon Tony Blair MP, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom he currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors of Policy Network, an international progressive think tank and as the Treasurer of Progress, the UK political organization for Labour Party members and Trade Unionists. Jon read politics at Leeds University.

Deborah Mintz

Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, Peninsula, Marin & Sonoma Counties

Deborah Mintz is currently a member of the Board of the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, Peninsula, Marin & Sonoma Counties, Vice Chair of the Israel and Jewish Peoplehood Commission and Chair of the Federation's Synagogue Initiative.

Since relocating to San Francisco in 1997, Deborah has been active in community organizations as both a volunteer and a professional. Deborah founded the parent organization at the San Francisco Day School and has been an enthusiastic volunteer for her children's schools. She and her family belong to Temple Emanu-El, where she was a member of the Synagogue 2000 team. Deborah also has served the Jewish community professionally as the grant writer for the San Francisco Jewish Community Center. She is a member of the Board and Chair of the program committee of Music in Schools, a nationally recognized pioneer in integrating arts education into classroom teaching at the elementary school level. Deborah is a Member of the San Francisco Opera Guild, which she formerly served as Treasurer. In 2005, Deborah joined the Israel and Overseas Committee of the Jewish Community Federation.

Prior to moving to San Francisco, Deborah Mintz was a land use planner and community development consultant in New York City for 15 years. In 1991 Deborah was appointed Deputy Director of the newly created Land Use Division of New York's City Council. She and her colleagues helped create a professional land use function within the Council and a new process for land use approvals in New York City. She was a member of the national press advance staff for Walter Mondale's Presidential campaign in 1984. In New York, Ms. Mintz and her family were members of Temple Rodeph Shalom, where their children attended pre-school and Day school.

Deborah did her undergraduate work at Smith College and Yale University. She holds an Ed.M in Administration, Planning and Social Policy from Harvard University. Deborah is a graduate of the first class of Yesod, Temple Emanu-El's two-year core Jewish Studies curriculum. She has been studying Hebrew for the past 2-½ years and attended Ulpan Milah in Jerusalem in summer 2006 and at the University of San Francisco in summer 2007.

Harriet Mouchly-Weiss

Chair, Commission on the Jewish People
UJA-Federation of New York

Harriet Mouchly-Weiss is the Chair of the Commission on the Jewish People and UJA-Federation of New York and managing partner of Strategy XXI in New York. Her experience in the communications field includes development of corporate planning and marketing strategies, as well as issues management and corporate social responsibility efforts for leading multinational companies and institutions. She has previously owned and operated a public relations firm in Israel, where she worked with the Prime Minister's

office, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, the Ministry of Finance and private corporations.

Harriet is a member of the Committee of 200, a professional organization of preeminent businesswomen and serves on the boards of The Abraham Fund, the Israel Policy Forum, the former Chair of UJC's Committee on Israeli Arabs and the Women's Executive Circle of the UJA-Federation of New York. She also is on the advisory board of the New Israel Fund and chairs the Israel Anti-Drug Abuse Foundation in the United States.

Harriet holds a B.A. from Muhlenburg University and a M.A. in psychology from Hebrew University.

Ami Nahshon

President and CEO

The Abraham Fund Initiatives

Ami Nahshon serves as President and CEO of The Abraham Fund Initiatives, a non-profit organization working since 1989 to advance coexistence and equality among Israel's Jewish and Arab citizens. Prior to joining The Abraham Fund, he served for 18 years as Chief Executive Officer of the Jewish Community Federation of Oakland, California. He is a founder and Executive Committee member of Foundations for Peace, an international network of funders working in divided societies, and of The Alliance for Middle East Peace, a US-based coalition of 42 organizations working for Jewish-Arab coexistence in Israel and the Middle East. In 2006, Nahshon was named "International Non-Profit Executive of the Year" by the Executive Council of New York.

Gila Noam

Director of the Israel Office

Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, Peninsula, Marin & Sonoma Counties

Gila Noam has been the director of the Israel Office of the Jewish Community Federation since 1998. For 17 years prior, she was a senior researcher and director of research on immigrant absorption at Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute. In the course of her work as Head of the Division of Immigrant Absorption at Brookdale, Gila directed a series of large-scale and in-depth studies on the integration of Ethiopian-Israelis into Israeli society, focused on employment, children's adjustment to school and social integration into mainstream Israeli society.

Gila is also a graduate (BA and MA in Sociology) of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem; mother of three and grandmother of one. Gila made aliya to Israel in 1968.

Susan O’Sullivan
Grants Manager
Rayne Foundation

Susan O’Sullivan joined the Rayne Foundation in London, UK as Grants Manager in 2005. Previously, she worked for two national healthcare charities and has over five years of experience in fundraising and marketing.

Trevor Pears
Executive Chair
The Pears Foundation

Trevor Pears is Executive Chair of The Pears Foundation, London, UK which was founded in 1991 and invests over \$8 million annually in charitable causes in the principal areas of Community and Young People, Genocide Prevention and Holocaust Education, Civil Rights in Israel, and International Development.

He is also a Director of the William Pears Group, a private investment company with an emphasis on property.

Sydney Perry
Executive Director
Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven

Sydney A. Perry has been the Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven for three years. Sydney Perry previously was the Director of the Department of Jewish Education, the educational arm of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, for 17 years. During her tenure, she has worked to improve the synagogue supplementary schools, served as consultant to the community on educational endeavors, including the Anne Frank project and “Sepharad ‘92”, Jerusalem 3000 and the Israel 50th celebration, and now the 350th anniversary of the settlement of Jews in America. Under her guidance the DJE has offered extensive adult educational opportunities and developed the new adult institute, *Midrasha*, initiated “A TASTE OF HONEY” which attracts more than 700 adults, and its offshoots, “A Taste of Milk & Honey” and “A Taste of Apples & Honey”, provided Israel programming for teens, spearheaded TIES, the Israel Experience Savings Program, a special education program, Talmud Torah Meyuchad, and developed the successful community Hebrew High School, MAKOM, serving 350 teens in our community.

Eight years ago she was appointed Associate Executive Director of the Federation. In that capacity, Sydney served on Long Range Planning, helped staff the Community Relations Council and leadership development, supervises the Holocaust Education-Prejudice Reduction Project, Stepping Stones and the new library at the JCC, and advocates for issues of Jewish continuity. She presently is Executive Director of the

Jewish Federation. Nationally, she has been called upon to give workshops in various settings including this year's General Assembly and has served as scholar-in-residence for several communities. She is also one of the coordinators of the Women's Tefilla group which meets on Simchat Torah.

The mother of six children, and grandmother of ten, four live in Raanana, Israel. Sydney lives in New Haven with her husband, Professor Theodore Perry.

Rhea Plosker

Director of Planning and Development in the Department of Federation Liaison and Development
United Jewish Communities - Israel

Rhea Glassman Plosker is the Director of Planning and Development in the Department of Federation Liaison and Development at UJC Israel. As part of her position, she liaises on behalf of federations without permanent Federation representatives in Israel and staffs Israel Initiatives, such as the Negev Work Group and the Arab-Israeli Roundtable.

Rhea has experience in both the non-profit and the private sector. This includes over two years providing job placement for hundreds of new immigrants at IDT. Prior to this, she spent nearly four years at JDC developing lay leadership across Israel within the Ethiopian-Israeli community and in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe with healthcare professionals.

Rhea made aliya from the US 18 years ago and served in the IDF working with Russian immigrants before returning to the US where she completed BA's in Psychology and Talmud from Barnard College and JTS and an MA in Organizational Psychology from Columbia University.

Rhea is married with one child and lives in Modiin.

Russell F. Robinson

Chief Executive Officer
Jewish National Fund

Russell F. Robinson became Jewish National Fund's Chief Executive Officer in September 1997, the youngest CEO in its then 100-year history.

Mr. Robinson has spent most of his professional life as a dedicated leader for the Jewish people. Mr. Robinson was raised in El Paso, Texas, where he spearheaded a movement to include Holocaust studies in the public schools. He traveled to Eastern Europe and visited refusniks in the Soviet Union and organized marches for the freedom of Jews to immigrate to Israel. He led a campaign against poverty in Israel raising over 35 million dollars to transform depressed neighborhoods throughout Israel.

Today, under his leadership, JNF has been instrumental in developing successful programs for Israel's water crisis, community development, environmental work, and the development of the Negev, all of which play a significant role in the quality of life of all Israelis. Under his direction, JNF has become one of the most recognized non-profits, for its work, business management, financial integrity and volunteer involvement.

Mr. Robinson traces his American family heritage as far back as the 1700's, when his was the first Jewish family to settle in Virginia. Today he resides in New Jersey with his wife Marci and two children, Sam and Alyssa.

Nancy Rosenfeld

Board Member

Federation CJA Montreal

Nancy Rosenfeld is the Executive Director of the Samuel and Saidye Bronfman Family Foundation and the Stephen R. Bronfman Foundation, and Vice-President, Canadian Affairs of The Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies. The opportunity to provide a senior leadership role in three foundations, spanning three generations, has provided Ms. Rosenfeld with much learning and experience in family foundation dynamics and decision-making styles across the generations. Nancy is involved with the Jewish Community Foundation of Montreal.

Areas of focus of these three Foundations include support of the arts, youth in difficulty, the environment, Canadian heritage and support of Jewish life in North America and Israel.

Prior to working for the Bronfman family, Ms. Rosenfeld worked as Special Advisor to Mayor Pierre Bourque, City of Montreal, as his liaison to the Anglophone and Cultural Communities. Before this, she served as Executive Director of the YM/YWHA and Director of Community Planning and Allocations for Federation CJA. She also taught Special Education at Vanier College for seven years.

Ms. Rosenfeld's presently serves as a member of the Board of Directors of Philanthropic Foundations Canada, le Conseil des relations internationales de Montréal, the Canada-Israel Committee, United Israel Appeal Federations Canada, Federation CJA and serves as Treasurer and Member of the Executive Committee of Sir Mortimer B. Davis - Jewish General Hospital Foundation.

Alan Rothenberg

Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, Peninsula, Marin & Sonoma Counties

Active in numerous community organizations, Alan Rothenberg is a board member of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee; a Trustee of Kenyon College; a board member of Mercy Housing; a board member of the Mt. Zion Health Fund; and is past President of the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, Peninsula, Marin & Sonoma Counties.

Alan was born in Wheeling, West Virginia, and received an BA in Economics from Kenyon College and an MBA in Urban Affairs from the University of Chicago before moving to San Francisco in 1969. He is President of Huret, Rothenberg & Co., an investment banking firm. Alan is the father of two daughters, and he and his wife, Susan, live in San Francisco.

Linda Rubin

Director

Givat Haviva Educational Foundation

Linda Rubin has worked for the Givat Haviva Educational Foundation since 1995 and currently serves as director.

Linda joined the Hashomer Hatzair Zionist Youth Movement at age 11 and in 1970 made aliya to Kibbutz Lahav, in the Northern Negev, where she lived for four years. Linda served as the Director of Americans for Progressive Israel (one of the partners that joined to form Meretz USA) for five years, and then worked for the Industries Department of the Kibbutz Artzi Federation for 14 years, where she managed the purchasing office in New York for the factories on 85 kibbutzim.

Robert Rubin

Jewish Community Center (JCC) of San Francisco

Robert Rubin is a former Fellow of the Wexner Heritage Foundation. He has served on the Boards of the American Jewish Congress and Jewish Community Relations Council. He currently serves on the Board of the Jewish Community Center (JCC) of San Francisco and for many years has been the basketball coach at JCC's, Congregation Beth Sholom and Brandeis Hillel Day School.

Robert has worked as a civil rights attorney for the past 25 years and is the Legal Director for the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area. He specializes in the areas of immigrant rights and voting rights. Prior to coming to the Lawyers Committee, Robert was the ACLU staff counsel in Jackson, Mississippi. He has lectured extensively including adjunct positions at Stanford Law School, University of

California School of Law, Boalt Hall and the University of California, Hastings College of the Law where he has taught a constitutional law seminar.

Robert is married to Toby Rubin and the proud father of 3 young women.

Bennett Samson

Director of Institutional Grants

New Israel Fund

Bennett Samson joined the New Israel Fund (NIF) as Director of Institutional Grants in January, 2004. In this role, he manages and seeks to expand NIF's partnerships with foundations and Jewish Federations around the United States, who collectively provide approximately \$10 million annually to support NIF programs and grants to Israeli NGO's working to strengthen Israeli democracy and to advance civil and human rights, social and economic justice, religious freedom and tolerance and environmental justice in Israel.

For more than 20 years prior to joining NIF, Bennett worked as staff and consultant to a wide range of nonprofit organizations in international development, the arts, human services, the environment and Jewish life.

He earned his BA in history at Dartmouth College and MA at Columbia University, and lives in Baltimore, MD with his wife and four children.

Rachelle Schilo

Ombudsman

The Jewish Agency for Israel

Rachelle Schilo is the first appointed ombudsman to the Jewish Agency. In her previous positions she has served as Director of the Jewish Agency's Allocations Program since 2000. In 2004 she assumed the position of Director of the Jewish Agency's Fund for Lone and Needy Immigrants. She previously served as Executive Director of the Abraham Fund, which promotes coexistence education between Jews and Arabs in Israel, and Director of the National Council of Jewish Women in Israel. She is a member of the Steering Committee of the Citizens Accord Forum between Arabs and Jews in Israel of the Office of the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, and a member of the Executive Board of the Voluntary and Non-Profit Sector Association. She has presented papers on intercultural contacts between Arabs and Jews in Israel and on the voluntary and non-profit sector at various conferences.

Ms. Schillo has a BA in communications and Hebrew literature from Hunter College and an MA in communications from the Hebrew University. She also has earned certificates from the Hebrew University in Mitigation Studies, Directorship, and Early Childhood Education.

Shepha Schneirsohn Vainstein

President and Founder

Salaam Shalom Educational Foundation

Shepha Schneirsohn Vainstein, LMFT, President and Founder of Salaam Shalom Educational Foundation, is a California state licensed psychotherapist practicing in the Los Angeles area and is on the board of the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Ethics, an institute which currently focuses on fostering Jewish-Muslim dialogue. She helped to develop Salaam Shalom Educational Foundation's groundbreaking four year High School Peace Leadership Program which promotes pro-social development, community participation and matriculation into university for both Jewish and Arab students living in the Galilee.

Charlene Seidle

Vice President, Philanthropy

Jewish Community Foundation of San Diego

Charlene Seidle serves as Vice President, Philanthropy of the Jewish Community Foundation of San Diego. Charlene started at the JCF as an intern in 1997, and during her tenure, JCF assets have grown from \$20 million to \$265 million. Also, during that time, the JCF awarded grants totaling more than \$400 million. Charlene has held increasingly responsible positions at the JCF including a stint as Director of Donor Services. She was promoted to Associate Director in June of 2004 and then to Vice President, Philanthropy in December of 2007.

As VP Philanthropy, Charlene works with hundreds of families to match their charitable interests with key community needs. She also helps build strong partnerships with organizations in the community, across the U.S. and in Israel to further their charitable programs. Charlene oversees the JCF's grant making programs--for the past three years, the JCF has been the most generous giver in the San Diego region, awarding more than \$55 million last year. Charlene also directs the Jewish Women's Foundation. She also plays a key role in community planning and oversight through her positions on various local and national committees.

Charlene holds a B.A. with Honors in Political Science and Writing from the University of California, San Diego.

Hannan Serphos

Israeli Representative

Levi Lassen Foundation

Hannan Serphos is the Israeli representative of the Dutch based Levi Lassen Foundation. The Levi Lassen Foundation is engaged in Israel in grant making to NGO's in the field of social change and social and economic justice. Hannan is also the CEO of Minuf, a

philanthropy management consultancy, which specializes in representation and consulting to foreign philanthropy foundations working in Israel.

Hannan was born in Holland. Hannan has a BSc. from the Technion in Haifa, and an MBA from INSEAD in France. He lives in Maccabim - Israel with his wife and 5 children.

Binyamin (Binny) Shalev
Russell Berrie Foundation

Binyamin (Binny) Shalev currently represents the Russell Berrie Foundation and specializes in resource development and philanthropy in Israel, with a special connection to the Galilee.

From 1991-1997, he was the driving force behind the excavations and development at Zippori National Park, one of the most visited historical sites in Israel. Between 1997 and 2000, Binyamin was involved in Israel-Diaspora relations, first as a representative of the Jewish Federations of Palm Beach and Pittsburgh, and then as a Senior Advisor to the Minister of Diaspora Affairs in the Prime Minister's Office. During 2001-2004, Binyamin served as Director of the Safed Foundation, established to restore and promote Safed's cultural and historical resources. Binyamin founded EPI Consultants - Effective Philanthropy in Israel, which provides a full range of planning, strategic and management services for individuals and organizations committed to philanthropy in Israel.

Binyamin lives with his family in the Galilee community of Hoshaya.

Stephen D. Shapiro
Chair

Task Force on Arab Citizens of Israel, UJA/Federation of New York

Steve Shapiro chairs the UJA/Federation of New York Task Force on Arab Citizens of Israel; is a member of Inter Agency Task Force on Israeli Arab Issues and is active in this area with UJC. He is Executive Director, American Friends, CJAED - Center for Jewish-Arab Economic Development, which is currently in development.

Steve was a lay leader for the Technion for over 25 years and is an Honorary Technion Fellow. He was a member of the International Board of Governors of the Technion and its Academic/Scientific Committee; served as President of the New York Metro Region of the American Technion Society (ATS) and chaired ATS's National Planning Committee. He has also served as Trustee and Secretary/Treasurer for the The Dibner Fund.

Steve has been engaged in business and commercial activity for many years. He has a BS and PhD from Columbia. He held a Leading Professorship academic chair and was Chair

of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Stony Brook University in New York.

Steve Shaw

Consultant

Arnow Family Foundation

Steve Shaw serves as a consultant to a variety of non-profit organizations and has a long-term association with the Arnow Family Foundation. In Israel, Steve represents Mr. Robert Arnow, chairman emeritus of the Board of Governors of Ben Gurion University (BGU), who, ten years ago, along with Professor Ismael Abu Saad, established and endowed the Center for Bedouin Studies at BGU. Among other things, the Center has revolutionized Bedouin life in the Negev by providing scholarships that have enabled several hundred Bedouin women to receive a university education.

Steve is a graduate of the University of Michigan, where he studied both philosophy and forestry. He later studied in Israel, first at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and later at Yeshivat Mercaz Ha-Rav Kook and the Lubavitcher Yeshiva in Kfar Habad. He has a rabbinical degree from the Jewish Theological Seminary, and has done graduate work at a wide variety of institutions including the Institute for Not-for-Profit Management at Columbia University's Business School and the Antioch New England Graduate Center, where he studied environmental ethics and forest ecology.

Along with Elie Wiesel and Yitz Greenberg, Steve helped found CLAL and served as its first executive director. He has served as a Hillel director at Rutgers University, a rabbi in Rutherford, NJ, the founder and director of The Radius Institute--an innovative programming and policy planning center at the CUNY Graduate Center, which had a major impact on Jewish renewal in the 1980's. For more than twelve years he headed the Jewish Theological Seminary's Department of Community Education.

Among the non-profit organizations he has consulted with are the National Audubon Society's Seabird Restoration Project in Bremen, Maine; The Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel's Derech Ha-Teva Program; Elul: A Pluralistic Study Center in Jerusalem, and Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz's Israel Institute for Talmudic Publications.

Steve currently lives in Israel and spends summers in Waldoboro, Maine.

Barbara Sherman

Director of Donor Development

United Jewish Federation of San Diego

Barbara Sherman is currently the Director of Donor Development at United Jewish Federation of San Diego, where she began her career in the early 80's. During that time she was intensely involved with Women's Division on both a local and national level. In her role as a volunteer she was Women's Campaign Chair and President. She also served on the UJA Women's National Board and Executive Committee.

In 1990, Barbara embarked on a career as a professional in the Jewish Non-Profit world. Her first position was as Area Director of AIPAC. In 1994 she assumed the position of Women's Division Director at the United Jewish Federation of San Diego. After 6 years in that position she was promoted to Annual Campaign Director. Barbara moved on to become the Financial Resources Department Director in 2006.

In her spare time, Barbara enjoys traveling, music, art, and flower arranging. She is married and has two children and three grandchildren.

Natie Shevel

Israel Regional Director

United Jewish Israel Appeal

Natie Shevel is the Israel Regional Director of the United Jewish Israel Appeal - the largest UK Jewish charity, investing in young people and education in Israel and the UK.

In March 1994 he joined the UJIA as the National Coordinator of Volunteer Programmes, managing the UJIA's multiple volunteer programmes throughout Israel. From 1998 – 2002 he was UJIA Israel's Renewal Director overseeing the organisations varied educational interventions in Israel. From 2003 – 2005 he supervised the organisation's planning and development work in Israel. His current role involves responsibility for the strategic implementation and development of the UJIA's Israel Programme.

Natie studied Economics and Industrial Sociology at the University of the Witwatersrand, is a registered Israeli Tour Guide and speaks Hebrew and Afrikaans.

Natie made Aliya from South Africa in early 1989 and is active in several local communal organisations. He resides in Hod Hasharon with his wife Lisa and their four children.

Sarah Silver*Executive Director*

Alan B. Slifka Foundation

Sarah Silver is Executive Director of the Alan B. Slifka Foundation, a family foundation in New York committed to the advancement of coexistence – the proactive embrace of diversity and difference – and socially cohesive societies.

A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania (B.A.) and Columbia University (M.A.), Ms. Silver has worked to advance progressive policy in a career in journalism, politics, advocacy and philanthropy. From 1996 to 2001, Ms. Silver was a television documentary producer with ABS News Peter Jennings Reporting, Rain Media, PBS Frontline, and others. Her subjects included the politics of global warming, the Internet stock market bubble, and more. Prior to 1996, Ms. Silver worked in public policy advocacy and communications. In the early 1990s, under the auspices of the Independent Journalism Foundation and other funders, Ms. Silver developed a public relations training manual and curriculum for the growing civil society sector in the new democracies emerging from the former Soviet Union. From 1991 to 1993, she was an associate director of media relations for the Natural Resources Defense Council, based in Washington, D.C. From 1986 to 1991, Ms. Silver served as press secretary to the late Congressman Mike Synar (D-OK), and managed communications efforts for the Environment, Energy and Natural Resource Oversight Subcommittee, chaired by Synar. She serves on the board of several organizations and is an active volunteer in her community.

Carol Smokler*Chair*

UJC Venture Fund for Jewish-Arab Equality and Coexistence

Carol Shalita Smokler is the chair of the UJC Venture Fund for Jewish-Arab Equality and Coexistence; past chair of the UJC Emergency Fund; member of Hillel International's Board of Governors and Board of Directors; chair of Hillel's Human Resources Committee and serves on the Executive Committee.

Carol is a clinical psychologist with post-doctoral training in Sport Psychology. She has worked with athletes and teams at the collegiate, professional, and Olympic levels, as well as weekend warriors, teaching them performance enhancement skills.

Carol and her husband, Irv, are proud to be part time residents of Jerusalem and the parents of three sons.

Howard Sohn*Vice Chair and Executive*

Fohs Foundation

Howard Sohn is Vice Chair and executive of the Fohs Foundation, a 75-year-old private foundation located in Roseburg, Oregon, that focuses its efforts on Arab-Jewish relations within Israel. Howard also chairs the board of Lone Rock Timber Management Company, serves as Vice President and Director of the Oregon State Board of Higher Education and is a director and executive committee member of The Abraham Fund Initiatives.

Jeffrey Solomon*President*

The Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies

In his capacity as President of the Bronfman Philanthropies, Dr. Jeffrey Solomon provides professional leadership to its philanthropic efforts primarily in the Jewish community, focusing on projects and initiatives in Canada, Israel and the United States such as birthright Israel and Reboot, two initiatives aimed at connecting young, assimilated Jews to their tradition. Dr. Solomon previously served as the Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of UJA-Federation of New York, as well as executive positions at Altro Health & Rehabilitation Services, Miami Jewish Home and Hospital for the Aged and Jewish Family and Children's Services in Miami. Dr. Solomon also served with the City, State and Federal Governments and sits on numerous nonprofit and foundation boards including the Council of Foundations and the Foundation for the Jewish Community. Dr. Solomon is author of over 70 publications and serves as adjunct associate professor at New York University.

Michal Strisover*Program Officer*

Alan B. Slifka Foundation

Michal Strisover has been a program officer with the Alan B. Slifka Foundation since 2002, initially based in New York City and now in Israel. Michal's portfolio focuses primarily on shared society projects and institutions.

Michal has an M.A. in Peace and Development Studies from Gothenburg University, Sweden, in a program that brought Israelis and Palestinians together to explore theories and practices of peace and coexistence. Her undergraduate degree is in International Relations from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Prior to working for the Slifka Foundation, Michal worked at Maariv Promotions NY and The Second Television and Radio Authority in Israel. Michal served in the IDF.

Marc A. Wallman

Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven

Marc Wallman is a partner of Brenner, Saltzman & Wallman, LLP in New Haven, CT and is head of the firm's Real Estate Practice Group and is also a member of the firm's Corporate Practice Group. Marc joined the firm's predecessor in 1966 and has been a principal since 1970.

Marc serves as counsel to the Retirement Board of the Town of Hamden, Connecticut and is currently a member of the Board of the St. Raphael Foundation, Inc. Marc is past Chairman of Narcotics Addiction Research and Community Opportunities, Inc., past President of Congregation Mishkan Israel in Hamden, Connecticut and has served on the boards of several other non-profit and charitable organizations in the greater New Haven community.

Marc received his B.A. (1963) from Queens College, and his LL.B. (1966) from Yale University Law School. Marc is a member of the Connecticut and Florida bars.

Yair Zivan

Campaigns Director

Union of Jewish Students

Yair Zivan is the Campaigns Director at the Union of Jewish Students (UJS) and responsible for political activity and representation of Jewish students in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

Yair represents Jewish students nationally and works with government, national media and the wider Jewish community. He is Israeli-born and has lived in England since the age of 5. He has plans to return to live in Israel after working at UJS.

Yair graduated from University College London (UCL) with a first class honours degree in History having completed a dissertation on early relations between Israel and the United Nations. Whilst at UCL he was President of the Debating Society, a university hockey player (2nd team level) and heavily involved in union democracy. With strong connections in the North of Israel, he has a personal as well as professional interest in the issues surrounding Arab-Israeli citizens.