

# BE'ER SHEVA WORLD ZIONIST VILLAGE ADULT EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE NOTEBOOK



JEWISH  
NATIONAL  
FUND  
USA

*Your Voice in Israel*

jnf.org  
800.JNF.0099

 JEWISHNATIONALFUND

 JNFUSA

 JNFUSA



## BE'ER SHEVA WORLD ZIONIST VILLAGE

Imagine a conversation about Israel, about the future of Jewish leadership, about the next 25-50 years, wherein high school students, college students, post-graduates, teachers, young leaders, and older adults are all part of one crescendo of voices. Imagine the discourse. Imagine the brilliance. Imagine the outcome. Imagine the future. With the vision of creating this eco-system - the only one of its kind in the world - for global Jewry of all ages to convene on a single campus with programming, shared spaces, and accommodations, the World Zionist Village will harness the power of positive Israel/Jewish conversation. Jewish National Fund-USA is building this world-class campus in Be'er Sheva to revolutionize Zionist and Jewish educational engagement for the decades ahead.

## WHY BE'ER SHEVA?

With 90% of Israel's population concentrated in the expensive Tel Aviv-Haifa-Jerusalem corridor, there is a vital need for population growth and regional economic development in Israel's northern and southern regions. That is what forms the backbone of Jewish National Fund-USA's *Go North* and *Blueprint Negev* strategies and the goal of realizing the full potential of the Galilee and Negev as rich centers of agriculture, tourism, quality of life opportunities, and technology development.

The focus of Jewish National Fund-USA's *Blueprint Negev* campaign is the revitalization of the city of Be'er Sheva, the center of the Negev. Once considered just a place for a quick stop on the way to the resort port city of Eilat, Be'er Sheva, "the Gateway to the South," is now the fastest growing city in the country. Jewish National Fund-USA's Be'er Sheva River Park, with playgrounds, bike paths, promenades, two historical sites, a 13,000-seat amphitheater, a sporteque, and now a 23-acre lake, have spurred the construction of new apartment buildings, single family homes, Israel's largest indoor mall, high-tech and cyber companies, and a burgeoning night life, with a new vibrancy and interest in the future of the region that is evident in every corner of the city. Additionally, Jewish National Fund-USA's Lauder Employment Center places thousands with new jobs each year at companies like HP, PayPal, Dell, Intel, and CISCO Israel.





The Be'er Sheva municipality, with whom we've had an ongoing relationship through our *Blueprint Negev* campaign, offered Jewish National Fund-USA 15 acres of land for this project right on our Riverwalk. Located in the heart of the fastest growing city in Israel, it is just minutes away from a multitude of attractions which include: the amphitheater, sporteque, the Be'er Sheva Lake, Israel's biggest mall, a swim club, restaurants, a high-tech and bio-tech park, Ben-Gurion University and more.

Additionally, Be'er Sheva offers us a unique opportunity to recruit quality teachers from top universities like Ben-Gurion University, and provide access to the new cyber security headquarters for Israel with major American and Israeli corporations located there. Moreover, the new train system links Be'er Sheva with Tel Aviv and our ongoing urban development has made entertainment and recreation second to none in the area.

According to a report issued by Start-Up Nation Central with the Israel Innovation Authority, Israel has struggled to recruit enough workers to its technology sector. To find workers, Israeli companies are opening development centers overseas, but in the long term, more initiatives are needed to increase the pool of workers from within. The government is planning to address that by providing incentives in building an innovation system outside of the country's center while encouraging more tech companies to open branches there as well—read: Be'er Sheva.

In short, it is a flourishing, multi-cultural metropolis of opportunity.

## ADULT EDUCATION

### WE BELIEVE IN THE FUTURE OF GLOBAL JEWRY

Join the greatest conversation to build bridges across generations, denominations, and politics as we embark on the first global Zionist education center. This state-of-the-art center will inspire Jewish leaders of all ages and backgrounds from around the world. Educational content developed by acclaimed experts will allow learners of all levels to explore the richness and beauty of the Jewish world. A top-quality conference center with ample space for organizations and individuals will draw teachers, adult learners and scholars from Oklahoma to Dimona. Comfortable and modern overnight accommodations for short and longer term stays will allow visitors to connect with a rich mosaic of Zionists from all walks of life who are unified in their belief in a vibrant future for global Jewry.



## WHY ADULT EDUCATION?

Jews the world over are looking to connect with their roots. What better place than in Israel, on a campus that is alive with the sounds of the future? Our Zionist Education Center will offer comfortable, modern accommodations, programs for short-and long-term stays, ample facilities for all classes and webinars, and quality educators.

### THE ISRAEL STUDIES TEACHERS' INSTITUTE

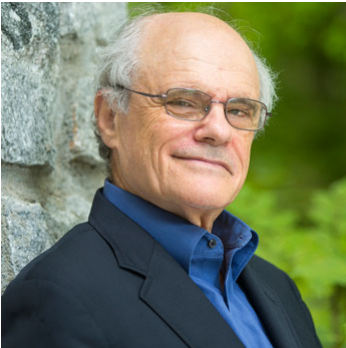
One of the things we have discovered throughout the Alexander Muss High School in Israel's 45 years of service is that the number of entry points of engagement in the field of Jewish and Israel studies must have a broad appeal. The Israel Studies Teachers' Institute does just that—it grows the number of entry points for students to develop a relationship with Israel by cultivating the broadest possible range of educators and rabbis.

The Israel Studies Teachers' Institute (ITI) will invest in educators from Jewish community schools focusing on pre-B'nai Mitzvah age (Jewish Elementary-Middle Schools and Hebrew-Sunday Schools) and Jewish Community High Schools across the United States, thus impacting the way we teach and the way our students learn. The program will provide space and time for ITI participants as they grapple with tough questions relating to history and society, complexities in modern Israel, and support their acquisition of skills to help facilitate important dialogue and curricular development for Israel studies classes in other communities.

The ITI workshops will take place over the summer and winter (20 educators per cohort) followed by monthly webinar sessions and video conference meetings to continue supporting teacher training and professional development.

This will prove to be a major contribution to the Jewish world.

# ADULT EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS



## Professor Kenneth Stein

Co-Chair, President and Founder, Center for Israel Education, Inc.

Dr. Kenneth Stein, Emory University and President, Center for Israel Education has taught at Emory University since 1977. Founding Director, Emory Institute for the Study of Modern Israel (1998); Stein holds a joint appointment within the History and Political Science Departments, and was a visiting Professor of Political Science at Brown University (Spring 2006). Primary responsibilities focus on undergraduate teaching. He developed International Studies at Emory in the late 1970s. In 2008, he founded and remains president of the Center for Israel Education, focusing on Israel learning beyond the university.



## Professor Shmuel Rosenman

Co-Chair, Co-Founder and Chairman,  
International March of the Living

Dr. Shmuel Rosenman teaches Health Policy and Health Economy at Shaarei Mishpat College in Israel. Prior to that, he lectured at Bar Ilan University in the field of Health Management. Dr. Rosenman also served as the Chairman of the Small and Medium Enterprises Authority in Israel for six years. He held the position of General Director of "Kupat Holim Leumit," a major health fund in Israel. He served as the Director of Secondary Education of Tel Aviv-Jaffa and project renewal in the city. Dr. Rosenman is a graduate of Pennsylvania State University and received his PhD in Administration from there. He was born in Israel.



## Rabbi Dr. Donniel Hartman

Hartman Institute President

Rabbi Dr. Donniel Hartman is president of the Shalom Hartman Institute and holds the Richard and Sylvia Kaufman Family Chair. He is author of the highly regarded 2016 book, *Putting God Second: How to Save Religion from Itself*. Donniel is the founder of some of the most extensive education, training and enrichment programs for scholars, educators, rabbis, and religious and lay leaders in Israel and North America. He is a prominent essayist, blogger, and lecturer on issues of Israeli politics, policy, Judaism, and the Jewish community. He is also the author of *The Boundaries of Judaism*.



## Dalit Stauber

Former Director General, Ministry of Education,  
Ono Academic College Senior Executive Speaker/Lecturer,  
Mandel School for Educational Leadership

Ms. Dalit Stauber served twice as the Former Israeli Ministry of Education Director General, and is a strategic consultant in accompaniment, development, initiation, and project management for organizations, local authorities, non-profit organizations, government ministries, academia, and private businesses. She is a senior lecturer and director of the MBA Organizational Counseling practicum in Ono Academic College, as well as senior lecturer at Mandel Leadership Institute. Dalit is a member of the international advisory board of the Trump organization, was a member of the Advisory Forum of the IDF Chief Education Officer and the Chairman on the Committee for the Advancement of Women in Civil Science in the Prime Minister's Office.



## Professor Gil Troy

American Historian, Zionist Activist, Chair of Taglit-Birthright Israel's International Education Committee

Professor Gil Troy is an award-winning American presidential historian, leading Zionist thought leader, and best-selling author. He has written *The Age of Clinton: America in the 1990s*, *Moynihan's Moment: America's Fight against Zionism as Racism*, and *The Zionist Ideas: Visions for the Jewish Homeland – Then, Now, Tomorrow*, which was a 2019 National Jewish Book Award Finalist. His new book, co-authored with human rights activist Natan Sharansky, *Never Alone: Prison, Politics and My People*, was recently published by PublicAffairs of Hachette.

Troy has also appeared as a featured commentator on CNN's popular multipart documentaries, *The Eighties*, *The Nineties*, and *The 2000s*. Additionally, he chairs Taglit-Birthright Israel's International Education Committee.



## Dr. Eitan Chikli

Rector of Universidad Hebraica de Mexico

Dr. Eitan Chikli is the Rector of Universidad Hebraica de Mexico and the former Executive Director of the TALI Education Fund. Dr. Chikli teaches Jewish education at the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies and Oranim Teachers Seminary and has served as a lecturer at the Levinsky College, as instructor at the Mandel Institute, as the Director of Camp Ramah in Israel, and as the Educational Director of Kibbutz Hanaton's Education Center. He is also a graduate coach, an NLP coach, and a graduate organizational adviser.





### **Dr. Rani Jaeger**

Research Fellow, Director of Tanach Initiative and  
Co-Director of the Ritual Department

Rani is a research fellow, faculty member, and head of the newly formed Tanakh (Bible) Teaching Initiative and New Ritual department at the Shalom Hartman Institute. He was one of the founders of the Institute's Be'eri Program for Pluralistic Jewish-Israeli Identity Education. He was a participant in the first cohort of the Beit Midrash for Israeli Rabbis and received rabbinical ordination from the Shalom Hartman Institute and HaMidrasha at Oranim in September 2016. Rani is one of the founders and Rabbi of Beit Tefilah Israeli, a secular synagogue in the heart of Tel Aviv.



### **Dr. Zohar Raviv**

International VP of Educational Strategy, Taglit-Birthright Israel

Dr. Zohar Raviv is a recognized Jewish thought-leader and educator who currently serves as the International Vice President of Educational Strategy for Taglit-Birthright Israel. Raviv's professional experience spans Israel, North America, South America, Europe, South Africa, and Australia. He holds a B.A in Land of Israel Studies from Bar-Ilan University, a Joint M.A in Judaic Studies and Jewish Education from Brandeis University, as well as M.A in Near Eastern Studies and a Ph.D. in Jewish Thought — both from the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor). Raviv was the recipient of the 2015 Bernard Reisman Award for Professional Excellence from the Hornstein Jewish Professional Leadership Program at Brandeis University.



### **Rabbi Dr. Howie Dietcher**

Director of the Florence Melton Institute

Rabbi Dr. Howard Deitcher is a faculty member of The Hebrew University's Melton Centre for Jewish Education and a former Director. He is a past director of the Mandel Jerusalem Fellows Program for Jewish Educational Leaders worldwide. Deitcher is the current Director of the Florence Melton Institute at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem which offers programs in Jewish learning for adults worldwide. He also serves as the Senior Director of Legacy Heritage Teacher Institutes and is currently directing educational projects in five countries worldwide. He has published numerous articles, co-edited four books, and produced six teaching guides that are being used in schools in Israel and around the Jewish world.



### **Tal Shaked Cretella, Esq.**

VP, Partnerships & External Relations - Rashi Foundation

Tal Shaked is the VP of Partnerships and External Relations at the Rashi Foundation, and was Executive Director of UnitEd, the initiative for strengthening Jewish day schools around the world, by the Ministry of Diaspora and CET. Tal was a Prosecutor at the District Attorney's Office in Tel Aviv. A random Havrutah around a Talmud page changed her professional path and diverted her career to Jewish education. Tal was the founder and the head of the First Secular Yeshiva of Bina and then Deputy director of Bina. She was an education Shlichah (Emissary) in JNF-USA, spending 2 years in Chicago and 3 years in California. Tal now lives in Moshav Kfar Ben Nun in Israel, with her husband and 3 children.



### **Dr. Simcha Leibovich**

Leadership Ph.D.

Dr. Simcha Leibovich is a consultant for the Leadership Development Center of Universidad Hebraica in Mexico and a consultant for the Chabad Leadership Development Program. He is the founder of ELIT - Experiential Leadership Training; founder and director of the World Leadership Center - Mt. Herzl; founder and director of the Outdoor Center for Leadership at Neot Kedumim (The Biblical Landscape Reserve) and founder and director of Dean of Experiential Education at Orot - Academic College for Education. He is the head of Shlichim of the World Zionist Organization in North America and an advisor to leadership development programs in the Israeli Defense Forces and Israeli Security Forces.



### **Dr. Sandra Lilienthal, MAJS, Ed.D.**

Independent Jewish Curriculum Developer

Originally from Brazil, Dr. Sandra Lilienthal is the author of several curricula for Jewish adult learners, including a new series for the Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning/Hebrew University. Sandra teaches weekly classes for independent groups of adult learners in the South Florida area and to Melton groups. Sandra is a sought-after speaker at Jewish education conferences, synagogues, and other Jewish organizations. She was the founding Chairperson of Limmud Boca and currently sits on the Board of Limmud North America. Sandra is a 2015 winner of the Covenant Award for Excellence in Jewish Education.





## **Dr. David Breakstone**

Former Jewish Agency Deputy Chairman

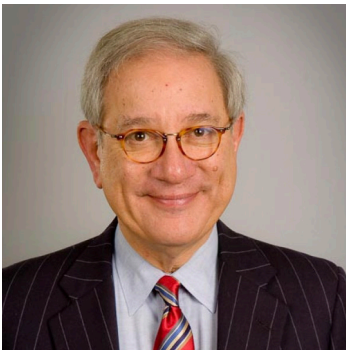
Dr. David Breakstone recently completed his term as deputy chair of The Jewish Agency Executive, during which he was also a member of the executives of the World Zionist Organization, Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael (JNF), and Keren Hayesod. He previously served as vice chairman of the World Zionist Organization and was the conceptual architect and founding director of its Herzl Museum and Educational Center. Additional positions he has held include Director of Hebrew University's Pedagogic Center for Jewish Education, Associate Dean and Director of Education at The Schechter Institute for Jewish Studies, supervisor of the TALI Education Fund, and Director of Ramah Programs in Israel.



## **Avi Warshavsky**

CEO, MindCET: Ed Tech Innovation Center

Mr. Avi Warshavsky is the founder and CEO of MindCET: Ed Tech Innovation Center, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Center for Educational Technology in Israel. He took part in founding and developing innovative initiatives in the field of digital books, and is the creator of new technology-driven educational environments. Among other roles, he founded Mikranet and Kotar platforms. Avi has worked in instruction, development, and management in educational technology for leading organizations in Israel and served as director of CET's Humanities and Social Studies Department.



## **Charles Fax**

Jewish National Fund-USA President's Society

Chuck Fax is a Jewish National Fund-USA President's Society and Century Council member who currently serves as Vice President of Israel Action and is the primary speaker for Jewish National Fund-USA's Positively Israel campaign, speaking on college campuses throughout the country about how Israel makes the world a better place. Fax has also previously served as Jewish National Fund-USA's Regional President for Baltimore, President of the Mid-Atlantic Zone, National Campaign Vice President, and Campaign Cabinet Chair.



## Dr. Steven Windmueller

Interim Director of HUC's Zelikow School & Emeritus Professor of Jewish Communal Studies

Dr. Steven Windmueller currently serves as the Interim Director of the Zelikow School at the Jack H. Skirball Campus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Los Angeles, where he is also an Emeritus Professor of Jewish Communal Studies. Previously, he was on the staff of the American Jewish Committee, directed the Albany Jewish Federation, and the JCRC (Jewish Community Relations Committee) of the Los Angeles Jewish Federation.

The author of four books and numerous articles, Dr. Windmueller also serves as a Fellow of the Jerusalem Institute of Public Affairs, as a Board Member of the Pat Brown Institute at Cal State, Los Angeles, and on the faculty of the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture.



## Yaffah Batya daCosta

Adult Education Specialist, Founder and CEO of Ezra L'Anousim

Ms. Yaffah Batya daCosta is the Founder and CEO of Ezra L'Anousim, an Israeli non-profit that supports the descendants of the forced converts of Spain and Portugal who wish to return to the faith and traditions of their Sephardi ancestors of over 500 years ago.

A career businesswoman, daCosta previously spent over 30 years in the United States as a leader, manager, management consultant, executive coach, curriculum developer, and adult educator in the world of High-Tech Engineering for Fortune 100 companies. Her book, *Cancel Culture from Ancient to Modern Times: The Riddle of Calling a Dog's Tail a Leg*, which discusses the root cause of Jew hatred and the Sephardi Secret Jews, comes out shortly.



## Dr. Yakir Englander

Senior Director of IAC Gvanim and Leadership Education

Dr. Yakir Englander is the Senior Director of IAC Gvanim and Leadership Education. He also teaches at the Academy for Jewish Religion. He is a Fulbright scholar and was a visiting professor of Religion at Northwestern and Rutgers Universities, the Shalom Hartman Institute, and Harvard Divinity School. He previously served as a director at Kids4Peace, an interfaith youth movement in Jerusalem and several cities in North America.

A published author, Englander's books about body, gender, and sexuality in the Ultra-Orthodox and Zionist-Orthodox communities have changed the discourse on sexuality and gender inside Jewish religious societies in Israel.



## Dr. Doran Katz

Doctor of Education, Assistant Professor of Curriculum and Pedagogy at the George Washington University

Dr. Doran “Dodie” Katz currently serves as an Assistant Professor of Curriculum and Pedagogy and Applied Linguistics as well as the Assistant Director of Graduate Studies at the Middlebury School of Hebrew. In her current role, she teaches and advises Masters and Doctoral students at Middlebury Language Schools, works in graduate admissions, and helps oversee the quality and strategy of the program’s academic offerings. Katz is also a scholar participant in the Psychoanalytic Studies Program at the Washington Baltimore Center of Psychoanalysis. She is also an experienced researcher, teacher, mentor, consultant, and curriculum designer, and was previously a high school teacher.



## Rabbi Rikki Arad

Rabbi and Executive Director at Congregation Agudas Achim

Rabbi Rikki Arad is the Rabbi and Executive Director at Congregation Agudas Achim. Previously, she was the Executive Director at Rescuers Without Borders, an Israeli volunteer organization.

A seasoned leader in the non-profit and philanthropic space, Rabbi Arad was previously appointed as Rabbi/Executive Director at Congregation B’nai Torah in Boca Raton, Florida, one of the largest and most vibrant synagogues in the United States, where she was awarded a Fellowship in Synagogue Administration by the North American Association of Synagogue Executives in 2019. She also served as Rabbi/Executive Director of the Southeast Region for Bnai Zion Foundation and served on the board of Face The Music Foundation.



## Rabbi Charles E. Savenor

Executive Director of Civic Spirit

Rabbi Charles E. Savenor serves as the Executive Director of Civic Spirit, which provides training in civic education to Jewish and other faith-based day schools. He previously served at the Park Avenue Synagogue in New York as the Director of Congregational Education.

Rabbi Savenor is also the co-Executive Producer of “We Are Here - The Songs of the Holocaust”, a concert that sold out Carnegie Hall in January 2023 in honor of International Holocaust Remembrance Day and is being brought to other communities. He currently sits on the international boards of Leket Israel (the National Food Bank of Israel) and Gesher.





## Dr. Ronit Ziv-Kreger

Director of Education and Leadership Development at Momentum

Dr. Ronit Ziv-Kreger serves as Momentum's Director of Education. She has more than 25 years of experience in designing and leading large-scale educational initiatives. Since coming to Momentum in 2016, her responsibilities include collaboratively advancing bold ideas and overseeing data-driven success in fostering positive outcomes for communities, institutions, families, and individuals.

Author and Editor of *Year of Growth* and the upcoming *Soul Full: Gateways to Jewish Prayer*, she has a proven track record of collaborating with the global Jewish community in creating learning resources and publications that foster unity without uniformity.

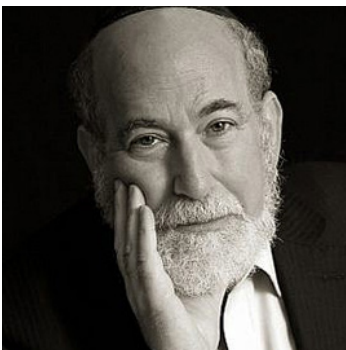


## Rabbi Mike Uram

Chief Jewish Learning Officer for Jewish Federations of North America

Rabbi Mike Uram serves as the Chief Vision and Education Officer for Pardes North America, where he built a new platform for Jewish education in North America. Before that, he served for over 16 years as the Executive Director and Campus Rabbi at Penn Hillel.

Rabbi Uram is the author of the best-selling book, *Next Generation Judaism: How College Students and Hillel Can Help Reinvent Jewish Organizations*, which won a National Jewish Book Award. He is a sought-after speaker and consultant and has worked with dozens of Jewish organizations, including Jewish Federations of North America, United Synagogue, The Rabbinical Assembly, Central Conference of American Rabbis, and Hillel International.



## Rabbi Joseph Telushkin

American Rabbi, Author and Lecturer

Rabbi Joseph Telushkin is a respected lecturer and bestselling author of over 15 books, including volumes about Jewish ethics and literacy that have made *The New York Times* bestseller list. His book, *Jewish Literacy: The Most Important Things to Know About the Jewish Religion, Its People and Its History*, is the most widely sold book on Judaism in the past twenty-five years.

Rabbi Telushkin tours the country as a lecturer on Jewish topics and has been named by Talk Magazine as one of the 50 best speakers in the United States.



## Rabbi Marshall Lesack

Barrak Academy Philadelphia, Head of School

Rabbi Lesack is an educational and organizational leader with senior management experience in both the formal and experiential education fields. From 2015 to 2021, he served as the Principal of the Claire and Emanuel G. Rosenblatt High School at Donna Klein Jewish Academy. During his tenure, he led the development of the school's specialized programs in medicine, engineering, and law, redesigned the Judaic Studies curriculum, and oversaw the growth of student life programming and enrollment in the high school. Rabbi Lesack previously served as the Assistant Director of Camp Ramah Darom and worked as an educational and organizational consultant for summer camps.



## Rabbi Elisha Paul

Rudlin Torah Academy, Head of School

Rabbi Elisha Paul is a career Jewish Day School educator with 30 years of educational leadership experience throughout North America. He is currently the Head of School at Richmond Hebrew Day School in Virginia, and previously served as Head of School at Addlestone Hebrew Academy in South Carolina.

Rabbi Paul was also Head of School at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy in Stamford, Connecticut, where he helped merge two schools into a PreK-12 institution. He has earned numerous education awards throughout his career.



## Zohar Vloski

Global Executive Director of Zionist Education - Jewish National Fund-USA

Mr. Zohar Vloski's entire career has been dedicated to educating and inspiring the next generation of Zionist leaders. He currently serves as Jewish National Fund's Global Executive Director of Zionist Education. He previously served as the KKL-JNF's Israel Representative in the United States and the Head of the Education Division. Vloski is a Lieutenant Colonel (res) in the Israel Defense Forces, where for over 25 years he has commanded education units and provided Zionist enrichment, connecting young Israelis and Diaspora youth through programs like Birthright. As an educational entrepreneur over the course of three decades, Vloski has implemented training programs in Jewish and Zionist identity, Holocaust memorialization, and Jewish leadership and culture.



JEWISH  
NATIONAL  
FUND  
USA

*Your Voice in Israel*

jnf.org  
800.JNF.0099

 JEWISHNATIONALFUND

 JNFUSA

 JNFUSA