

FUCHSBERG
JERUSALEM CENTER

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

THE FUCHSBERG JERUSALEM CENTER'S YEAR IN REVIEW





A WORD FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON & CEO

Since its inception the Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center (FJC) has been a meeting point, a bridge of community, education, and prayer connecting Jews from around the world with Israel. In the wake of the atrocities of October 7 and the ensuing war, FJC has evolved beyond what has always defined us. We are now an integral part of the Israeli Jerusalem landscape, welcoming a wide array of people of all backgrounds as a local beacon of pluralism, inclusivity, and hope.

Immediately following that fateful day in October, one thing became clear: The Jewish people need each other. We will always have our differences, but we are linked by a common bond of history and purpose. For several months, FJC opened our guest house to evacuees from the North and South, providing housing, human services, and programming for children and adults. The *Sha'arei Bracha* program, founded by Marty and Bracha Werber and their family, now hosts Israeli musicians, artists, and prayer leaders from throughout Israel to develop contemporary spiritual music and prayer. Our Shabbat minyan continues to grow to include not only yeshiva students, visiting Diaspora communities, *olim*, and tourists, but a population of local Israelis seeking a spiritual path. The weekly song circle brings comfort and togetherness to a diverse cohort of individuals navigating a traumatic time in Israel. The Jewish people need each other, and we bring them together from near and far.

As we build a spiritual community in the heart of Jerusalem, we also continue the sacred work of educating a new generation of Jewish students from abroad. Educational tourism brings an array of Jewish Day School students and community members from throughout North America to understand both ancient and contemporary connections to the land of Israel. Students are exposed to experiential education throughout the country, volunteerism, text study, and prayer experiences. It has never been more important to equip our young people with the knowledge to speak out against the flood of misinformation and anti-Israel sentiment on college campuses and social media. Our best defense is fostering a rich, positive, thriving Jewish identity, which is part of our mandate and expertise.

FJC also continues to host a select group of post-graduate students in the Conservative Yeshiva. Students learn from age-old texts and traditions, most uniquely Talmud, that model how disagreement and learning from multiple perspectives are the key to greater understanding of self, community, and the wider world. As it says in the Talmud, both “these and those are the word of the living God” (Babylonian Talmud, Tractate *Eruvin*, 13b). Our world could greatly benefit from the Talmudic discipline of honoring multiple viewpoints. Indeed, diversity is another of our core values. CY students come from North America, and around the world, highlighted annually by three Schindler Scholars who honor the memory of one of our founders, as well as program clusters like *Drachim*, a gap year program from the UK in which we are a core program provider.

As we continue to pray for the return of the hostages, the end of war, and suffering and the safety of Israel and all the Jewish people, we are proud to serve the Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center at a time when our commitment to Jewish pluralism and connection is needed more than ever. We thank our many supporters, and invite you to continue to be part of the story the pages of this annual report tell.

Am Yisrael Chai.

DIANE KATZ
CHAIRPERSON

DR. STEPHEN DANIEL ARNOFF
CEO

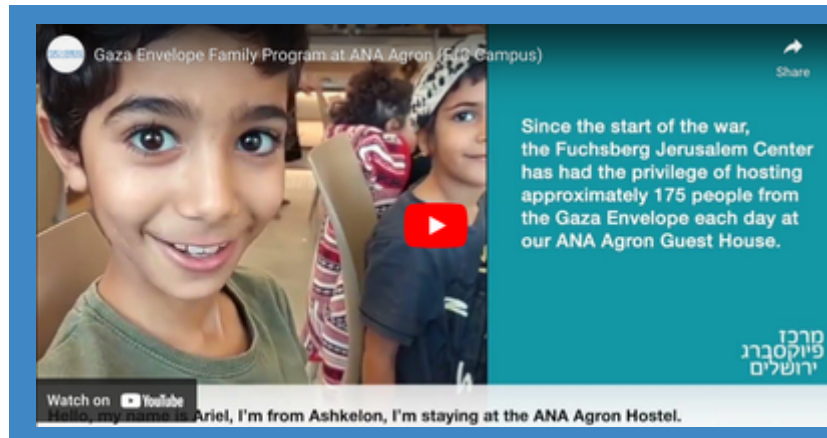
ISRAEL SOLIDARITY & THE WAR

TESTIMONIAL: Odelia Hazan

Hello Dear Friend,

My name is Odelia Hazan. I live with my husband and 4 children in Ashkelon, in a neighborhood called Agamim, a southern neighborhood, a few kilometers from Gaza. We love living here very much but when over a thousand missiles are fired at us it is an abnormal and illogical reality. The children are in a war zone and their delicate souls cannot always bear the prolonged fear. I am grateful to you for allowing us to stay at the ANA Agron Hostel! Thanks to you my children were here peacefully and protected. May God protect you and bless you! We appreciate your help very much and thank you for your generosity and caring.

~Odelia



WATCH: Gaza Envelope Family Program
ANA Agron (FJC Campus).



Repurposing our travel experience, we organized a mission of consolation and solidarity that provided an opportunity for community leaders and clergy from abroad to come to Israel, better understand the reality on the ground, realize the nature of the human tragedy, and prepare together for a better future.



WATCH: North American Leaders –
Israel Solidarity Mission – October 2023

ISRAEL SOLIDARITY & THE WAR

300

Bags of laundry cleaned
for the residents of
Kibbutz Sa'ad

\$120,000

Raised for FJC's
Emergency Fund in
less than 10 days

100

Participants in
weekly in-person
prayer circles

600

People from around
the world registered
for daily online prayer
from the heart of
Jerusalem

220

Hours of free
games, activities
& workshops for
displaced
families

11,000

Free nights (full room &
board) for displaced
Israelis in the ANA
Agron Guest House

99

People hosted
by FJC across
four Israel
Solidarity
Missions

29

Weeks (& counting)
of weekly online
prayer from the heart
of Jerusalem

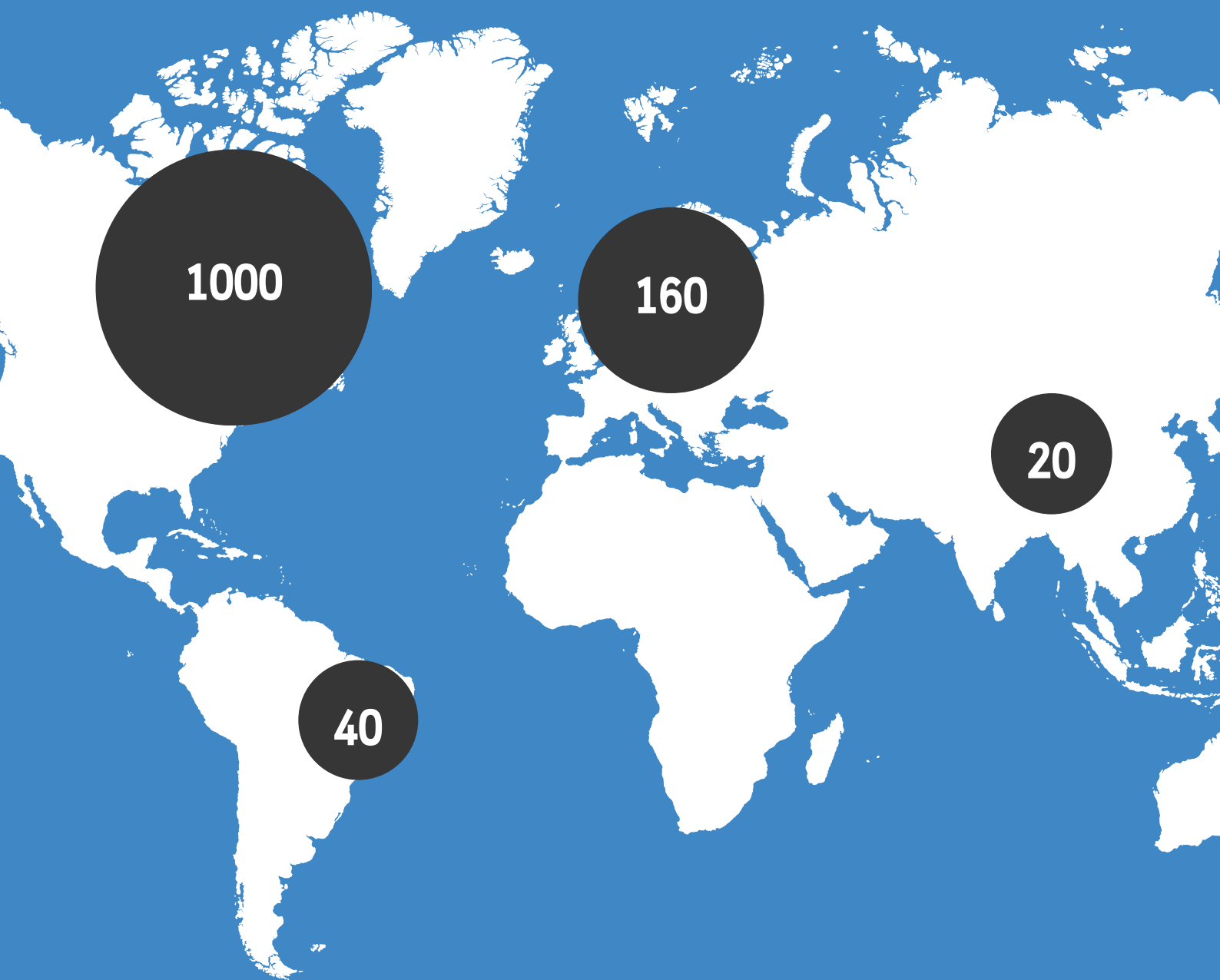
30

Clergy & FJC board
members on a
solidarity mission –
The first civilian
group at Kibbutz
Be'eri

22

Weeks of groceries
for Yeshiva students
to cook for students,
staff, guests &
volunteers

PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS FROM ABROAD



1.2K PARTICIPANTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

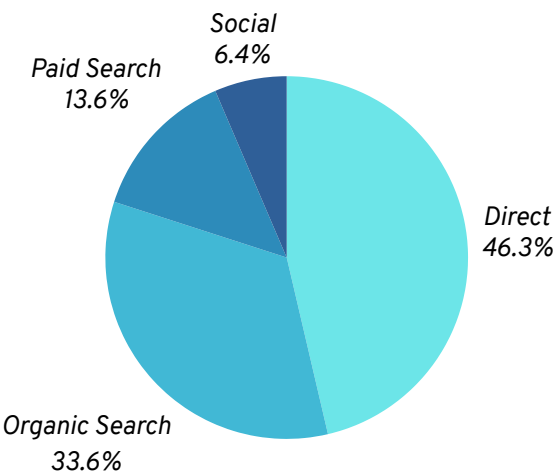
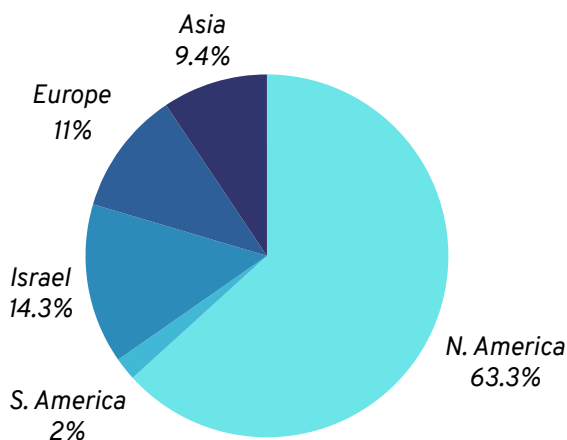
Our program diversity enables us to engage participants from all walks of life and from all corners of the world. Students come from a variety of backgrounds and include matriculating college students and recent graduates, doctors, lawyers, journalists, teachers, and more – all seeking to build community through a shared desire to study Torah in Jerusalem.

DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT

We have enlarged our digital footprint across all channels, adding new content to our website and social media channels on an ongoing basis.



26K UNIQUE VISITORS

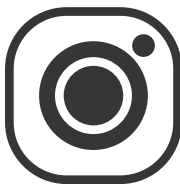


78.1K
REACH

233.4K
IMPRESSIONS

11K
PROFILE VISITS

166
NEW FOLLOWERS



15.3K
REACH

3.2K
PROFILE VISITS

267
NEW FOLLOWERS



43%
OPEN RATE

1.7M
EMAILS SENT

11.2K
TOTAL AUDIENCE

STUDY

LONG-TERM

We were thrilled to expand the existing Conservative Yeshiva Lishma framework to more comprehensively address the needs of our students and the broader Jewish world, through the newly-launched Omek: Pathways to the Rabbinate track. It has been an honor exploring new ways to work with seminary partners in the Conservative/Masorti Movement, to offer professional training and thoughtful learning that will shape Jewish leaders of whom we can be proud. The Omek track of Lishma is a natural outgrowth of FJC's ongoing commitment to providing a place for serious study in an inclusive setting that affirms each person's unique identity, interests, and potential.

“I never dreamed that one day I would spend most of my time studying Torah in Jerusalem. It has brought me to new levels of understanding I could never have attained without the wonderful teachers and community at the CY. I will be forever grateful, B”H.”

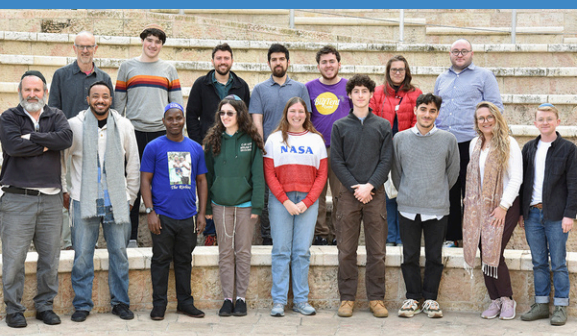
Kati Betzer, Lishma Student, 2022-24



All faculty and students at our Yeshiva remained in Israel and continued to learn and teach after the war began. Becoming a cohesive community, our students cooked for each other and did volunteer work to help the displaced families staying at our guest house.



SHORT-TERM



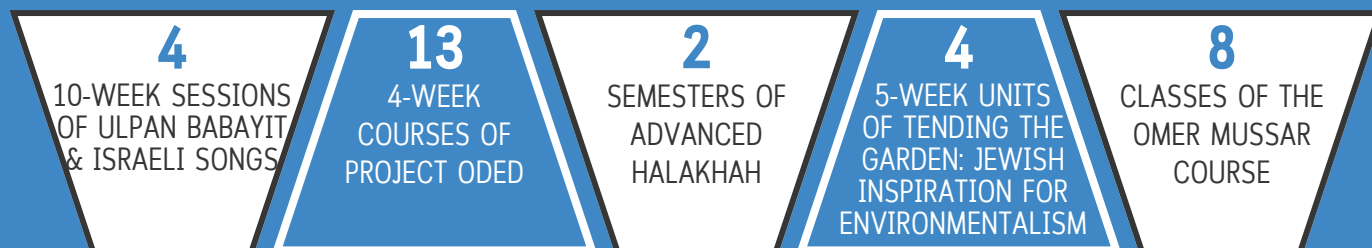
**TEVET
WINTER
PROGRAM**

**SUMMER
EXPERIENCE**



We completed another round of short-term programs and are grateful to the amazing students and young adults who decided to make their way to Jerusalem in order to stand with Israel. Throughout the programs we studied together, prayed together, and explored what it means to be a Jew during difficult times.

ONLINE



OUTREACH

FJC senior staff and faculty visited numerous institutions and communities, connecting with long-time friends and engaging with emerging leaders and seekers.

COLUMBIA
UNIVERSITY



Brandeis
UNIVERSITY

Yale University

Tufts
UNIVERSITY



OHR KODESH CONGREGATION

The Center of Our Jewish Lives
WJC



Congregation
Agudas Achim

B'NAI ISRAEL

The Center for Jewish Life
at Beth David



SUTTON
PLACE
SYNAGOGUE



SHIRAT HAYAM
SHAAREI TIKVAH



Limmud



RUTGERS

Dickinson



NEW YORK UNIVERSITY



TEXAS



UNIVERSITY OF
MICHIGAN



PRAY



“To come to the end of Shabbat and feel rejuvenated is such a pleasure...The sense of warmth and welcome was totally embracing. The opportunity to learn and share thoughts was enlightening. The time spent in prayer and song was meaningful. Kol HaKavod for creating this gathering.

Nancy Coren, Community Member

”

75

Average attendance at our weekly Song Circles, mostly Israelis

125+

Hours of Song Circles

11

Zamru fellows (3rd cohort)

4

Professionally recorded Zamru songs

11

Joint events with our CY students and local Synagogue community

40+

Regular turnout at weekly Shabbat services

EXPLORE



6

School Groups

231

High School
Students



Community | האקדמיה
Hebrew Academy | העברית
of Toronto | ע"ש טננבאום



Schechter
School of Long Island



“ You are here – the first school group since [October 7] – standing with us & we stand with you. There are many voices against us, but I say to you all, be proud, stand strong. Together we will prevail. ”

Isaac Herzog, President of the State of Israel, speaking to students from TanenbaumCHAT



FUNDRAISING

\$825K

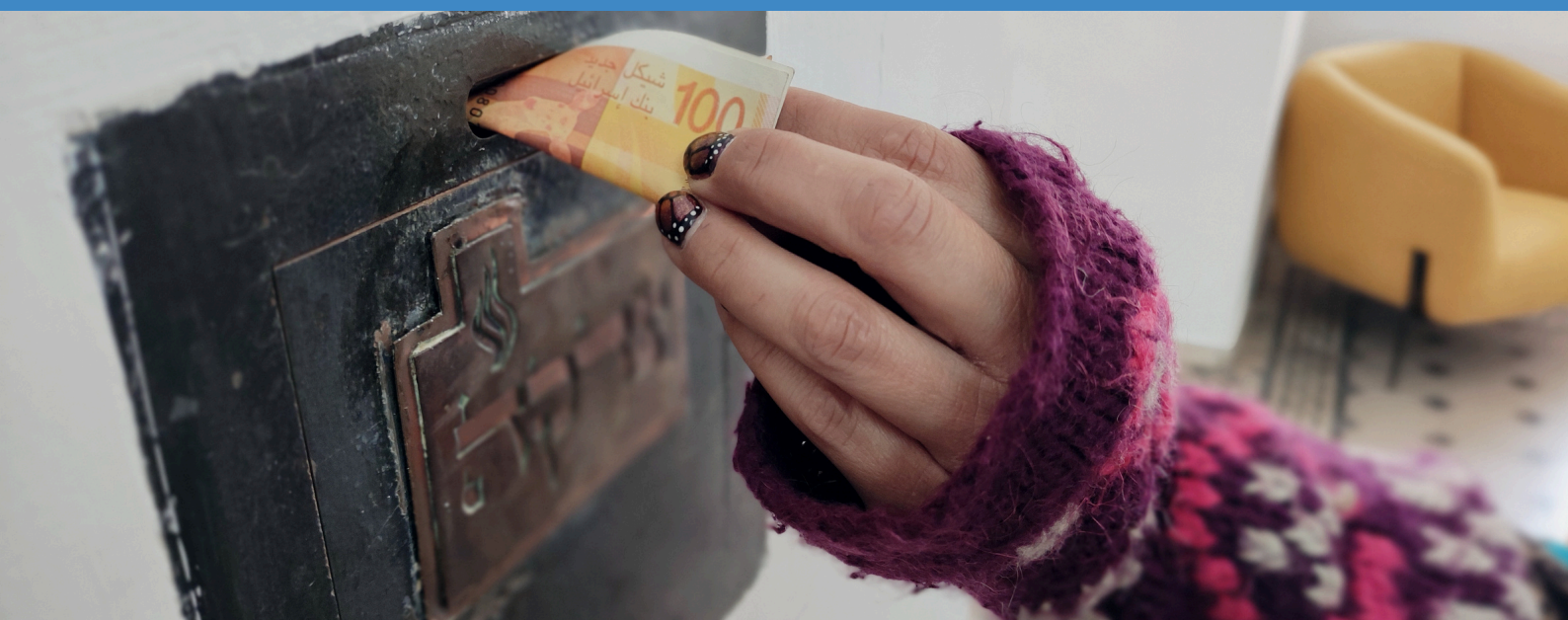
Raised

325

Donors

\$3.6M

Operating budget



GIVE NOW to secure an egalitarian and inclusive setting in the heart of Jerusalem where Jews of all backgrounds can Study, Pray & Explore together.

Your gift will help provide Study, Pray & Explore programs and services that transform the lives of seekers and leaders from Israel, North America, Europe, and across the Jewish world.

[Donate Today.](#)

Board Members

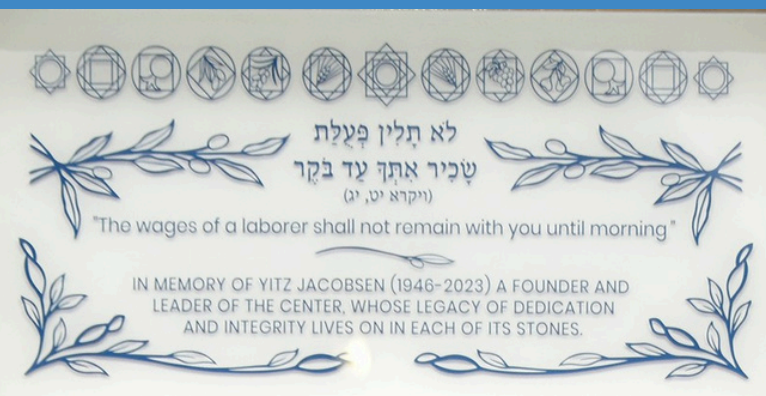
Rabbi Robert Alpert	Harvey Rosen
Rabbi Jerome Epstein	Gary Rosenthal
Rabbi Paul Freedman	Nigel S. Savage
Margo Gold	Richard Skolnik
Richard Helfand	Lorraine Skupsky
Norman Kahn	Howie Sniderman
Diane Katz Chair	Robert Sunshine
Franklin D. Kreutzer	Rabbi Loren Sykes
Rabbi Vernon Kurtz	Marty Werber Honorary Chair
Rabbi Jim Lebeau	Rabbi Steve Wernick
Dianne Newman	Diane Wohl
Rabbi Joyce Raynor	Judy Yudof
David Reifler	

Senior Staff

Dr. Stephen Daniel Arnoff
Chief Executive Officer
Joshua Halickman
Chief Financial Officer
Hila Lipnick
Chief Operations Officer & CY Program Director
Rabbi Joel Levy
Rosh Yeshiva
Hagai Bichler
Director of Marketing & Communications

In Memoriam (z"l)

We parted ways with, and celebrate the legacy of, three important members of our community: Alan Ades, Yitz Jacobsen, and Rabbi Arnold Goodman, z"l.



Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center
Agron Street 8
Jerusalem 9426508 Israel

+972-2-966-3831
www.fuchsbergcenter.org
israel@fuchsbergcenter.org