

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[RSS !\[\]\(c3d993ca47bfe2a953c700506ce31fa0_img.jpg\)](#)

Dear Federation and Community leaders,

This is the fifth week of this lockdown.

We're carefully watching the impact this new situation has had on our professionals in Federation, in our partner agencies and synagogues, and on the community as a whole. We're also watching our global commitments and responsibilities at this time. We've been in touch with our global and Israeli partners, we've allocated funds to our partner communities, and – even in this tough time – **we're determined to celebrate Israel.**

Federation has done amazing things these past few weeks to help so many here at home. We'll talk more – and we'll update more – about our work and how we're starting to think about 'the day after' and what that'll mean for us as a community. But here's what the Israel connection means, *tachlis*, as we say (practically, or in concrete terms).

We've allocated \$50,000 to our global partners JDC and JAFI for emergency food supplies for elderly Jews, especially Shoah (Holocaust) survivors in Israel and the former Soviet Union. **We sent an additional \$20,000 to our partners in Ofakim and Rishon LeZion** for Passover food packages for their most dire needs.

Yom Ha'Atzmaut and Yom Hazikaron are coming up later this month. As part of our month-long Celebration of Israel, yesterday we held the first in a terrific series of six virtual Israeli tour guide lectures where, for one hour, we transport you to Israel with some of Israel's finest tour guides. "Who are the finest tour guides," you ask? Why the tour guides that were with us on our commUNITY mission! More than 70 participants joined us on this first adventure. [You can register here for the next ones.](#) We're also holding a [Kabbalat Shabbat next Friday, April 24 at 10 a.m.](#), to gather with our Greater MetroWest community, locally and in Israel hosted by our Global Connections team – more details to come soon. And keep an eye out for links to our Celebrating Israel webpage, which will include

wonderful videos from our friends in Israel and a curated list of resources and virtual programs you can attend.

[REGISTER FOR KABBALAT SHABBAT](#)

[REGISTER FOR ISRAELI TOURS](#)

Our communication with our partners remains strong. We're so pleased that **our friend Nissan Ben-Hamo, the mayor of Arad, has recovered from his bout with coronavirus.** He sent us this terrific short video message.



We also received a nice message from the **Music Conservatory in Arad,** THANKS to our awesome Women's Philanthropy Lions Leapers, who helped raise the funds for this lovely renovation.



We've watched with pride as **Israel, like usual, leads the world in innovation and technological advances.** Check out this video on how Israelis are treating Coronavirus patients virtually. Prepare to be amazed.



With our warmest wishes for *moadim lesimcha*, a safe, happy and healthy Passover.

Dov

Dov Ben-Shimon
Executive VP/CEO
Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ
901 Route 10 | Whippany, NJ 07981
(973) 929-2939 | fax (973) 884-7361
dov@jfedgmw.org | www.jfedgmw.org
@dovbenshimon

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ · 901 State Route 10 · Whippany, NJ 07981-1105 · USA