

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▼

RSS 

Dear Federation and Community leaders,

There was a fascinating article in yesterday's EJewishPhilanthropy by Yehuda Kurtzer, the President of The Shalom Hartman Institute of North America on how we organize and what our community institutions look like in the current situation. I welcomed the dialogue, and took advantage of the discussion to emphasize something really important ...

This past week I've seen my own federation, and many others, step up again to pull the community needs together, to raise funds, to organize advocacy and lobbying, to provide platforms and opportunities for service and volunteerism, and much more. ... I keep feeling that if our federation didn't exist right now, we'd have to create something that would, at the end, look pretty similar to what we have now.

*... For the tens of thousands of Holocaust survivors who get a meal tonight because of Federations' support, for all those who are hungry and needy – this "limited infrastructure" is the best show in town. **This isn't an emergency campaign for us – this is what we do. Every day.** And the emergency campaign that Yehuda and I both want is happening, right now, in our communities – run by our Federations.*

*Why? Because **Federations never close.***

You can shrug and look for the next cool inspiring thing. But every morning there are hundreds of thousands of people whose lives are made immeasurably better because of the work that our Federation volunteers and professionals do."

You can read the article and my response [here](#).

Last night, Avi Remetz and Scott Kalmikoff led **a workshop for the teens who signed up to call seniors** in our community. They learned Jewish texts about respecting people who are older than us and what we can gain from this experience in addition to what we can give the seniors by making these calls. The teens were given prompts and questions they can use to help facilitate conversation and connection.

Global Connections Israel checked in with local partners, organizations and NGOs and is continuing to dialogue with Federation representatives and JFNA on Federation's response to the needs in Israel. We're training next year's cohort of Rishonim by zoom, and we're working with the Ofakim/Merchavim/Arad steering committees and P2G teams to **create virtual greetings from Israel to GMW**.

CRC and CARES participated in a Zoom call with the Chair of the NJ Assembly Senior Services Committee, Valerie Vainieri Huttle, to make her aware of the urgent needs now faced by our partner agencies serving older adults.

Our **Women's Philanthropy** held its Board Meeting as a Zoom meeting last night, with more than 50 women logging in to participate. Members were very moved by the "State of the Community" report delivered by WP President Jody Hurwitz Caplan. She gave an update on the vast needs of our agencies and outlined ways that each of us could help during the COVID-19-19 Crisis. Jody told them, "Women's Philanthropy is built for this," and outlined how we have been mobilizing to check in on donors and make sure everyone is ok. "We must act for those who cannot." Everyone loved seeing each other in their own homes — from New Jersey to Florida to the Berkshires— and knowing we are here for each other.

GMW ABLE is coordinating with Friendship Circle, collecting **Medical Supplies** to donate to Barnabas, and to share more broadly with our community partners as well.

Becca Wanatick participated in a **DHS call about Mental Health and Addiction Services** in the state and accommodations that are being made to providers to continue providing services in an online platform and receive their funding. They discussed the need for PPE within agencies and how the governor is working to streamline distribution through emergency response. We're working on a Medicare and Medicaid bundled package that will keep funding flowing to our agencies. Telehealth is being supported, with some limitations loosened to allow for access.

Becca also coordinated a national Jewish Federations call for **Federation Disability Professionals** about the needs we are facing in light of COVID-19 and ongoing outreach in their communities. We're all concerned about adequate staff in our residential programs, paying staff in a long-term outage, and how our agencies will be funded through Medicaid under the new

guidelines being established.

You should also know

- Global Connections Israel is hosting a **Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat** this coming Friday at 10:30am EST with participants and graduates from Peoplehood, Cycling Together, Yoga Connections Gesher, Educating 2gether, past Rishonim and host families.
- Our **Sibling & Parent Support Groups for Families of Children with Special Needs** will be continuing in a virtual manner over the next couple of weeks. Please let Becca Wanatick know if you know of families who would benefit and we can share log in information with them. JFS-MW will also now be offering a general Parent Support Group online this Thursday evening.
- New on our resource page: [The State of New Jersey COVID-19 Jobs and Hiring Portal](#)

March 26, 7 p.m. Jewish Family Service of MetroWest NJ hosts a live **Q&A for Parents via Zoom on Coping Skills and Managing Our Own Anxiety as Parents**.

Warmly,

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