

# THE FOUNDATION'S Legacy NEWS

JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF LOS ANGELES

## Supporting a Thriving Israel Through Grantmaking

The 50th anniversary of Jerusalem's reunification this past summer inspires reflection and a renewed commitment to this ancient, mystical, and breathtaking city and to all of Israel. This commitment includes The Foundation's longstanding support of a strong, vibrant Israel through grants distributed to hundreds of Israeli nonprofits.

In this issue of *Legacy*, we feature The Foundation's **Israel Grants** program through the eyes of three of our Israel Grants Committee leaders—Chair **Selwyn Gerber**, Vice Chair **Alan Gindi**, and committee member and former Chair **Lorin Fife**. It's the thoughtfulness and careful deliberation of our valued committee members, board, and staff that make possible these strategic grants benefitting multiple sectors and communities in the State of Israel. And it's the generosity of our supporters that enables us to make grants so significant in both size and scope, notably the **Werner & Ellen Lange Memorial Endowment** and the **Erwin Rautenberg Foundation**.

FROM THE  
DESK OF MARVIN I. SCHOTLAND

PRESIDENT & CEO, JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

In 1979, as a young attorney, I made my first trip to Israel. I recall a sense of awe and emotion upon reaching Jerusalem—the wellspring of emotion in arriving at “the center of it all”—and fully understanding the city's vital importance to Judaism as well as Christianity and Islam.

During that first visit nearly 40 years ago, I could not possibly envision the central role that Israel would subsequently come to play in both my personal and professional life.

Fortunately, The Foundation's extensive grant-making to Israel through the years has had a profound social impact and contributed significantly to economic development. In our lead article, which coincides with the 50th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem, you will read about our Israel Grants totaling nearly \$7 million since 2010 and the deep connections that three of The Foundation's Israel Grants committee members—**Selwyn Gerber**, **Alan Gindi**, and **Lorin Fife**—have with Israel, each rooted in firsthand experiences. As expressed by both **Sam Grundwerg**, Israel's consul general to the southwestern United States, and **Eli Groner**, director-general of the office of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who recently spoke at The Foundation, our grantmaking in Israel has played a crucial role in strengthening the country.

In addition to our support of Israel, Los Angeles social innovation is prominently featured in this issue (p. 4) with our 2017 cohort of Cutting Edge Grant

*Continued on back page*



*A grant to Beit Tefilah Israel for its Tent Shabbat and Holidays program brings together thousands of Israelis for free, non-synagogue-based Shabbat and holiday services in the public sphere.*

### The Foundation's Israel Grants

Since 2010, The Foundation's Israel Grants program has awarded grants to more than 50 Israeli organizations, totaling nearly \$7 million. These grants focus on two areas: (a) economic self-sufficiency, with investment in programs that target job creation and financial literacy; and (b) Jewish identity, to engage Israeli Jews more deeply in their heritage.

In 2016 alone, The Foundation awarded nearly \$1.6 million to 11 programs. These programs affect the lives of diverse communities throughout Israel, including at-risk youth, young adults across the spectrum of religious backgrounds, and a variety of populations including the Russian Israeli and Ethiopian Israeli communities. With support from Israel Grants, religious and secular Jews are convening to study *Tanach*, young adults in smaller cities are gaining vocational skills and employment placement, and at-risk youth are receiving therapeutic care in supportive environments.

Every year, we carefully examine the organizations under consideration for Israel Grants. This entails soliciting recommendations and feedback from Israel funders and experts in the field, including **The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles** and such prominent foundations as the **AVI CHAI Foundation**, **Natan**, the **Posen Foundation**, **The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation**, and **The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation**.

*Continued on page 2*

# Supporting a Thriving Israel...

“Without question, we’ve had a positive impact by making targeted grants to thoroughly vetted organizations,” says Selwyn Gerber, a Foundation trustee and chair of the Israel Grants Committee who is also an economist, CPA, and respected investment advisor. “I’m accustomed to building diversified portfolios in my work. Likewise, we seek to create diversified portfolios of grantees—geographically, by category of need, and by the population served.”

“There are many worthy organizations in Israel—far more than we can possibly fund,” says **Marvin I. Schotland**, president and CEO of The Foundation. “Because all of our committee members, like Selwyn, are so passionate about Israel and have meaningful connections there, and because we have such talented staff members vetting the applicants, the impact of our grants has been just remarkable.”

Israel’s consul general in Los Angeles, **Sam Grundweg**, concurs. “The Jewish Community Foundation’s generous support of economic development and Jewish identity in Jerusalem and throughout the country makes an enormous difference in the lives of thousands of Israelis,” says Grundweg. “The Foundation’s grants help strengthen the vital bonds between Southern California and Israel.”

## Selwyn Gerber—The Personal Touch



Glynis and Selwyn Gerber

Each year, Selwyn makes a point to visit many of the organizations involved in our grants program, both applicants and prior grantees. “When you hear directly from these organizations, it’s not the same view of Israel as one gets from the comfort of the King David Hotel,” Mr. Gerber explains. “You’re not a tourist. You’re a witness

to the most needy and heartbreaking of situations in Israel and to inspirational leaders and programs that strengthen Israel.”

When the full Israel Grants Committee meets to deliberate, the conversation becomes all the richer for the diverse perspectives shared. “Ultimately, when the final decisions are made by our committee and then The Foundation’s full Board of Trustees, it’s a momentous experience for all of us,” he says.

Mr. Gerber’s passion for investment in Israel is rooted in his first visit in 1965 as a South African teenager. “I remember so clearly riding on rickety buses over the windy roads from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem before the Six Day War,” he says. “With that visit, I began a long love affair.”

## Reflecting on an Israel Grantee

“It’s very moving to enter a kitchen at one of the hotels and see adults with Down syndrome—graduates of the **Israel Elwyn** vocational training program that The Foundation supported—running the kitchen operations.”

— **Selwyn Gerber**, Chair, Israel Grants Committee



Founded in 1984, Israel Elwyn provides individuals with disabilities the means to achieve independence, inclusion in the community, and dignity by offering early intervention, employment, supported living, consultation services, and professional training programs. Israel Elwyn is a 2013 Israel Grant recipient.

## Alan Gindi—Decades of Deep Connection

“I was in second grade sitting in a small classroom listening to the radio,” recalls Foundation donor, Israel Grants Committee vice chair, and real estate investor Alan Gindi about his memories of the 1967 Six Day War. “Someone shouted, ‘We took over Jerusalem!’, and then everyone started cheering effusively...it didn’t stop.”

“In 50 years, that magic has never stopped,” Mr. Gindi continues, explaining that he and his wife, **Barbara**, maintain a home in Jerusalem and travel there several times a year. “We’ve seen firsthand the progress Israel has made since 1967, and we’ve also seen the incredible impact The Foundation has had on that change.”

These personal connections to Israel have certainly benefitted Alan’s work on the Israel Grants Committee. “I enjoy bringing the perspective of a frequent traveler to Israel to The Foundation’s



Barbara and Alan Gindi

vital work there,” says Alan. “The more direct experience our Israel Grants Committee members have with the land, people, and needs of the country, the better grantmaking decisions we can make.”

*“The Jewish Community Foundation’s generous support of **economic development and Jewish identity** in Jerusalem and throughout the country makes an **enormous difference** in the lives of thousands of Israelis.”* — Sam Grundweg, Israel’s consul general in Los Angeles

# ...Through Grantmaking

## Lorin Fife – A Son Is Born in Israel

“My wife, **Linda**, and I lived in Israel back in our 20s,” says Lorin Fife, Foundation donor and chair of the Israel Grants Committee from 1999 to 2006. “When we returned to Los Angeles, we had two souvenirs—our son **Yoni** and the dog we rescued at a Bedouin community in the Negev. We’ve had a longstanding connection to Israel.”

The Fifes return to Israel often. “We were there constantly during the Second Intifada...three or four times every year,” Lorin says, explaining that Yoni was serving in the Israel Defense Forces at the time. During the Intifada, Mr. Fife worked closely with various agencies allocating funds raised by The Federation’s **Israel Crisis Relief** campaigns—which received support from The Foundation—so he learned critical lessons about the vital role Israeli nonprofits play in society.



Linda, Ari, Yoni, and Lorin Fife at the Good Fence in Metulla, Northern Israel, 1988, with the border of Lebanon in the background.

## Reflecting on an Israel Grantee

“The **OR Movement** is changing the landscape of Israel and the quality of Israeli lives by embarking, in a very well planned and well capitalized manner, on the important task of populating the North and South of Israel. I am proud to be a part of The Foundation’s support of this organization.”

— **Alan Gindi**, Vice Chair, Israel Grants Committee



Founded in 2002, OR Movement works to develop and populate the Negev and Galilee regions by creating new programs, increasing employment and housing opportunities, and working with policy makers on social and economic development in these regions.

## Reflecting on an Israel Grantee

“We have always pursued programs that attempt to embrace Jews from every denomination and background. Foundation grantee **Kolot** is a spectacular example of an organization that is working to bridge the historic divisions between religious and secular Israelis.”

—**Lorin Fife**, Former Chair & Current Member, Israel Grants Committee



Founded in 1997, Kolot exposes Israeli leaders from all religious backgrounds to the importance of tikkun olam through the study of Jewish texts, increasing Jewish literacy, and allowing for teachings from the Torah to be relevant to modern day life. Kolot is a 2013 Israel Grant recipient.

“I’ve experienced Israel during both wonderful and difficult times, and no matter the situation, The Foundation’s grants have a tremendous impact in the country,” explains Lorin. “I’ve witnessed firsthand how our funds improve Israeli lives. Although Foundation donors might not be able to visit Israel and see this for themselves, they should remember the essential role they play in supporting these Israel Grants because they have a charitable fund at The Foundation.”

On the 50th anniversary of Jerusalem’s reunification, we take enormous pride in all The Foundation’s grantmaking that is helping strengthen the fabric of Israeli society. Through the talent and devotion of all our Israel Grants Committee members—including Selwyn Gerber, Alan Gindi, and Lorin Fife—and with the significant support Foundation donors provide to Israel every year through their charitable funds, our mission of repairing the world continues. Anyone wishing to support The Foundation’s grantmaking in Israel should rest assured knowing that their resources will be well invested in the country thanks to the collective passion, expertise, and professionalism of our leadership. ✧



For a complete list and to learn more about our more than 50 Israel Grants, please visit [www.jewishfoundationla.org/grantees](http://www.jewishfoundationla.org/grantees).

# OVER \$3 MILLION...



## Cutting Edge GRANTS

### \$2 Million in Cutting Edge Grants Awarded to Eight Recipients: \$250,000 each

We are pleased to announce that \$2 million in **Cutting Edge Grants** have just been awarded to eight new and innovative programs serving the Los Angeles Jewish community. Since the inception of the Cutting Edge Grants in 2006, The Foundation has awarded more than \$17 million to over 90 programs designed to reimagine and reshape our LA Jewish community.

#### Families of Lone Soldiers

##### Los Angeles Center

To create a center to provide emotional, social, mental health, educational, and financial support to hundreds of Los Angeles families who have children serving as lone soldiers in the Israeli army.

[www.folsidf.org](http://www.folsidf.org)



#### One Table

##### Los Angeles Launch

To create a Shabbat dinner movement that will engage thousands of young adults through an online platform that fosters a community of young adults more connected to one another and to their Jewish heritage.

[www.onetable.org](http://www.onetable.org)



#### Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles

##### Family Camp Pilot

To connect Jewish camps with Jewish early childhood centers to create meaningful camping experiences for families.

[www.firstwww.jewishla.org](http://www.firstwww.jewishla.org)



#### Standwithus

##### J.D. Fellowship

To launch a fellowship that includes educational workshops, a mission to Israel, culminating projects and semi-annual dinners for Jewish law

students who will learn how to use legal tools to defend Israel and become part of StandWithUs's national network of hundreds of pro bono attorneys called upon to fight against anti-Semitism.

[www.standwithus.com](http://www.standwithus.com)



#### Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles

##### Y & S Nazarian Foundation Iranian Young Adult Outreach and Engagement Initiative

To engage young Iranian Jews with the larger young adult Jewish community through a coordinated effort of social, professional, and volunteer programs.

[www.jewishla.org](http://www.jewishla.org)



#### Upstart

##### Upstart LA

To help Jewish organizations and leaders succeed in creating innovative, sustainable, and impactful organizations that serve the needs of the Jewish community.

[www.upstartlab.org](http://www.upstartlab.org)



#### Wise Readers to Leaders

##### Tikkun Olam Corps Program

To engage hundreds of Jewish teens in year-round meaningful service learning opportunities with thousands of underprivileged youth.

[www.wisela.org](http://www.wisela.org) ✧



#### Karsh Family Social Service Center

##### Volunteer Engagement Project

To formalize the Karsh Center's existing volunteer engagement program in which volunteers help serve low-income clients in the surrounding community who come to the center located at Wilshire Boulevard Temple for food and legal and medical services.

[www.karshcenter.org](http://www.karshcenter.org)



# ...IN NEW GRANTS AWARDED!



**Next Stage**  
GRANTS

## New Next Stage Grants Total More Than \$1 Million

The Foundation is very excited to launch our inaugural Next Stage Grants, a pilot **capacity-building** program that invests in the strength of Jewish nonprofits in Los Angeles. Working with former Cutting Edge Grant recipients, Next Stage Grants will provide needed support to help them plan and grow through the next stage of their evolution. This pilot was launched with generous support from the **Newton D. and Rochelle F. Becker Foundation**—a family foundation long affiliated with The Foundation—as well as longtime Foundation donors **Marilyn** and **Eugene Stein**, and it represents a deepening of our relationship with our grantees and the Jewish community as a whole.

### What is capacity building?

Capacity building is a long-term investment in the strength of an organization. Through capacity building, nonprofits are better able to fulfill their mission by creating strategic plans, improving infrastructure and program delivery, developing leadership skills, increasing fund-raising ability, and evaluating their work.

### How will The Foundation facilitate grantee capacity building?

Next Stage Grant recipients will receive up to \$250,000 in funding plus customized coaching to identify needs and opportunities and to develop strategies and a plan to help build greater capacity.

#### Creative Community For Peace

##### Creative Community For Peace (\$250,000)

Launched with a Cutting Edge Grant in 2013, Creative Community for Peace has quickly grown from a local response to the cultural boycott of Israel into an international network supporting hundreds of artists who perform there. With a Next Stage Grant, Creative Community for Peace will be able to plan for its continued growth and extend its reach within the entertainment industry.

[www.creativecommunityforpeace.com](http://www.creativecommunityforpeace.com)

##### ETTA (\$250,000)

With a Cutting Edge Grant in 2010, ETTA explored innovative housing solutions for Jewish special needs adults. Today more than 50 special needs adults participate in ETTA's group homes and supportive living services, and 120 clients annually receive ETTA's wraparound services. With a Next Stage Grant, ETTA will have the support to successfully navigate its transition to a large service provider and serve the growing special needs adult community.

[www.etta.org](http://www.etta.org)



##### Friendship Circle of Los Angeles (\$250,000)

Since receiving one of our first Cutting Edge Grants in 2007 to help provide special needs children with friendship and community, Friendship Circle has grown to annually serve 120 children and their families, engaging nearly 500 teen volunteers. A Next Stage Grant will allow Friendship Circle to reassess and develop its volunteer infrastructure, improve its outreach to current and new families, and help it develop a fund strategy for the next stage of its growth.

[www.fcla.org](http://www.fcla.org)



##### Silverlake Independent Jewish Community Center (SIJCC) (\$200,000)

With a 2012 Cutting Edge Grant, Silverlake Independent Jewish Community Center launched Culture Lab, a vibrant arts program that contributes to SIJCC's exciting creative programming for young Jews living on the east side. Our Next Stage Grant will help the Silverlake Independent Jewish Community Center become the state-of-the-art cultural center it envisions, developing a business model that will allow it to continue to evolve in the midst of dynamic growth in Downtown Los Angeles and the surrounding east side neighborhoods.

[www.sijcc.net](http://www.sijcc.net) ✨



## RECENT EVENTS

### Honoring our Donors at LACMA's New Chagall Exhibit



In early August, 300 members of The Foundation's family gathered at LACMA for a very special donor appreciation evening entitled, "**Because of You,**" featuring a private tour of the stunning new exhibit, "**Chagall: Fantasies for the Stage.**" The purpose was to recognize and share heartfelt thanks for The Foundation's family of donors who make all The Foundation's activities and grantmaking possible. **Because of our donors, The Foundation was able to distribute \$81 million in grants last year, and in the past 25 years, we distributed more than \$1 billion in grants!** The Foundation is honored to partner with our 1,300 Foundation donors, all of whom in their own unique, passionate way are truly making a difference in the world through their charitable fund at The Foundation.

*because  
of you*



The Chagall exhibit—cosponsored by The Foundation—features costumes and backdrops Chagall created in the 1940s and 50s for several ballet and opera houses and also some of his remarkable paintings. After a warm welcome by Foundation Chair **William Feiler** and President and CEO **Marvin Schotland**, guests were treated to an insider's perspective on Chagall and the exhibit. If you were not able to attend, you can still see the exhibit through January 7, 2018.



Photos by Kyle Espeleta

### Foundation Hosts Israeli VIPs

**Eli Groner** (third from right), director-general of the Office of Israel's Prime Minister **Benjamin Netanyahu**, provided a high-level briefing on important strategic issues at The Foundation. Groner, Israel's senior-most civilian employee, provided an in-depth, optimistic assessment of the country's robust domestic economy and security situation. Groner and **Sam Grundweg**, Israel's consul general to the Southwestern US, underscored the vital role that The Foundation's extensive grantmaking to Israel has played in social impact and economic development, expressing deep appreciation for The Foundation's tireless efforts to strengthen the country.

(L-R): The Foundation's Dan Rothblatt, Senior VP-Philanthropic Services; Trustee Selwyn Gerber, chair of Foundation Israel Grants Committee; Marvin Schotland, President & CEO; Eli Groner; Consul General Sam Grundweg; and Lew Groner, Director of Marketing & Communications.



Photo by Howard Pasamanick

# RECENT EVENTS AND UPDATES

## Celebrating A Decade Of Innovation

In May, The Foundation honored its Cutting Edge Grant recipients from the past 10+ years at an appreciation event entitled **"Your Time to Shine"** held at the beautiful home of Foundation Trustee **Marcia Mankoff** and her husband, **Doug**. More than 100 grantees and donors representing dozens of Jewish nonprofits attended.

Foundation Chair **William Feiler** extended a warm welcome to the guests, while Center for Designed Philanthropy Vice President **Elana Wien** highlighted the vital role Cutting Edge Grant recipients play in our community. Keynote speaker and Foundation Trustee **Adlai Wertman**—the David C. Bohnett Professor of Social Entrepreneurship at the USC Marshall School of Business—then presented on "The Challenges of Measuring Social Impact."

*Part of the large crowd of Cutting Edge Grant recipients at The Foundation's "Your Time to Shine" event who were honored for their leadership and service to our community.*

It was a thought-provoking evening and a wonderful opportunity for Foundation grantees to network with each other and Foundation donors and staff.



*Photo by Howard Pasamanick*

## A Fond Farewell to The Foundation's Elliot Kristal

After nearly 20 years of service to The Foundation and the community, **Elliot Kristal**, vice president of charitable gift planning, retired in July. Elliot played a vital role on The Foundation's development team, working closely with donors and their advisors to craft charitable giving solutions such as endowments. Elliot was also instrumental in transforming the **Professional Advisor Speaker Series** into one of the most highly regarded continuing education programs on charitable giving for attorneys, estate planners, and financial advisors in the country.

"I am forever grateful to have been blessed many times over working for and with such incredibly talented, gracious, and generous people associated with The Foundation, including our employees, donors, and professional advisors," said Elliot in his parting comments. "When I started in 1998, we had \$280 million in assets and distributed \$25 million in grants. It's incredible to think that today we're a

\$1.1 billion foundation that awarded \$81 million last year. It's deeply gratifying to have played a role in The Foundation's amazing growth."

Elliot plans to spend more time pursuing international travel and his passion for arts and culture. He'll live primarily in Palm Springs while maintaining a strong connection to Los Angeles. The Foundation deeply appreciates his many significant contributions over the years, and we wish him much happiness and fulfillment in his retirement.



*Elliot Kristal, center, with Foundation President & CEO Marvyn Schotland (L) and Baruch Littman, VP, Development (R).*

## GIFT PLANNING TO HONOR LOVED ONES

A **Tribute Fund** is a charitable fund in honor of or in memory of someone special. They celebrate milestones like a wedding and bar or bat mitzvah and memorialize loved ones upon their passing, among other occasions. To create a Tribute Fund, simply open a new Donor Advised Fund or Endowment Fund, or you can use your existing funds. Your family and friends can make tax-deductible donations to your Tribute Fund via a personalized webpage. It's a great way to support your honoree's cherished causes and encourage others to share in that passion.

### Nico Linesch Legacy Fund

The **Nico Linesch Legacy Fund** is a Tribute Fund established by **Debra** and **Steve Linesch** in memory of their son, **Nico Linesch, z"l**, who passed away in January 2017. Nico, a transportation engineer and community builder, passionately strove to improve public health and urban planning through data analysis. In Nico's memory, the fund distributes scholarships to graduate students for internships at government agencies or nonprofits focusing on environmental sustainability, public health, and/or transportation.



### The Isaac Jonah Katz Bar Mitzvah Tzedakah Fund

Foundation donors **Alex** and **Rachel Katz** focus on teaching their children the importance of *tzedakah* and *chesed*. To honor their son Isaac Jonah's bar mitzvah, the Katz family decided to create a Tribute Fund, **The Isaac Jonah Katz Bar Mitzvah Tzedakah Fund**. All money raised will be matched by the Katz family and then distributed to nonprofits that Isaac will help his parents select.



To learn more, visit: [www.jewishfoundationla.org/tribute](http://www.jewishfoundationla.org/tribute) ✦

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recipients—\$2 million to seed eight dynamic programs that have the potential to invigorate and reimagine Jewish Los Angeles.

Cutting Edge Grants' success and The Foundation's sustained growth in assets and institutional development have enabled another major step forward: **Next Stage Grants** (pg. 5). This new initiative is a logical progression, providing more than \$1 million to support four past Cutting Edge Grant recipients as they continue to build scale and sustainability for programs benefitting Jewish Los Angeles. This is among the first of its kind for a Jewish community foundation anywhere in the nation.

Let me close with a heartfelt *kol hakavod* to our longtime Foundation colleague, **Elliot Kristal**, vice president of charitable gift planning, who recently retired after nearly two decades here (p. 7). Elliot is widely known throughout the community for directing our annual professional advisor speaker series and as a valued advisor to attorneys, accountants, and investment managers and their clients on planned giving. He departs with our profound gratitude and best wishes. ✨



## Coming Soon: 2017 Israel, General Community, and Capital Grant Awards!

Stay tuned for the announcement of our 2017 Israel, General Community, and Capital Grants in the next *Legacy* newsletter at year-end! We will be awarding nearly \$2.4 million among these three grant categories:



**Israel  
GRANTS**

Economic Development/Self-Sufficiency and Jewish Identity



**General Community  
GRANTS**

2017 Focus Area: Human Trafficking



**Capital  
GRANTS**

2017 Focus Area: LA Jewish elderly

## THE FOUNDATION'S Legacy NEWS

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