Women’s Philanthropy of Greater MetroWest NJ

2020
YEAR IN REVIEW
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LETTER FROM
JODY HURWITZ CAPLAN

Dear Friends,

None of us could have anticipated the events of this spring. Federation physically closed the doors of our Whippany campus on March 13, 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic as we entered uncharted territory.

But Federations never close. The words “we care, we build, we save” clarified our purpose and guided our behavior. Because of our Federation’s strength, knowledge, and outreach, we were uniquely positioned to assess the community needs and quickly respond to administer funds and services to help the most vulnerable.

Women’s Philanthropy stepped up to meet the challenges head on. I am so grateful to each of you. Your generous donations to the UJA Campaign and many acts of kindness have made a real difference.

Building a caring community has always been our strength. Since the crisis began, Women’s Philanthropy has deployed dozens of lay leaders and professionals to make “check in” calls far and wide. Our volunteers have been “hands on” in a variety of ways, from packing and delivering food boxes to participating in “thank you” car parades for our front-line essential workers.

Across our Campaign, we have welcomed donors at every level. It is because of you that we were able to close our Campaign up and on time. The women of Greater MetroWest raised over 7 million dollars.

It is a new landscape for sure, and I am proud that we have been finding our way and keeping people connected. Though we were physically distanced from one another, we found tools, like Zoom, to bring us together. We even brought our Lions on a virtual trip to Miami.
It is clear to me that everything we have been doing is only possible because we have been here doing this work every day. It’s the relationships we have that set us up to be responsive and effective in these crazy times. Each of you in your own way helped Women’s Philanthropy prepare for this moment. Our Federation is here now, responding to the dire needs that have arisen as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and will be here tomorrow as our community recovers.

In the pages that follow, you can enjoy some good memories from this unusual year. It’s hard to even remember that there was a time when record numbers of women came together in person to learn and grow, to connect with one another, and to connect our giving with Federation’s impact locally and around the world. But we did, and we will again.

May you and your families enjoy good health, and may we all come together in person soon.

With gratitude and appreciation,

Jody Hurwitz Caplan
Immediate Past President, Women’s Philanthropy
Women with Purpose

November 20, 2019

*Women with Purpose, our signature annual campaign event, features women in the Jewish community who are purposefully leading lives that represent Jewish values and making a difference in the world.*

This year’s Women with Purpose event, co-chaired by Shari Broder and Marcia Grosswald, featured Sivan Ya’ari, founder and CEO of Innovation: Africa, an organization that brings Israeli solar, agricultural, and water technologies to rural African villages. With a story that captivated all 300 women in attendance and a reach that has impacted more than 1.5 million lives over the past 20 years, Innovation: Africa, teaches us—in the words of Sivan, herself—that “sometimes the source of the problem is also the source of the solution.”

During her empowering call to action, Jody Hurwitz Caplan encouraged each of us to continue to support the UJA Annual Campaign as a woman with purpose. Together—and with thoughtful consideration of how best to allocate our resources—Greater MetroWest donors provide the essential resources to meet the growing needs in our community.

“After all,” Sivan reminded us, “what else are we here for, if not for doing good?”
Women of Wisdom

Women of Wisdom events, graciously hosted in private homes, are for women in our Greater MetroWest community and presented by Jewish teachers and other inspirational speakers.

Session I
Mindful Self-Compassion: The Gift of Kindness
January 21, 2020

We learned from psychotherapist Beth Sandweiss how to practice self-compassion, enhance our capacity for joy, and develop greater awareness, wisdom, and resilience. In addition to teaching college students and mentoring patients and health care professionals at Memorial Sloan Kettering, Beth consults on mindfulness programs for Jewish Family Service of MetroWest. During this first session in the Women of Wisdom series, Beth engaged nearly 50 women with her methods to pause, reframe, and proceed more gently by practicing meditation and mindfulness through a Jewish lens.

Session II
The Moral Compass of Jewish Motherhood: Boundaries and Guidance
February 28, 2020

Family therapist Donna Ellenbogen and Mussar teacher Cantor Meredith Greenberg of Temple Ner Tamid offered insight into how to address boundaries, independence, and the life stages of parenting from both a clinical and Jewish perspective.
Arthur Borinsky Young Leadership Development Program A.M.

The Arthur Borinsky Young Leadership Development Program educates participants about Federation’s local and overseas agencies, the valued role of leadership in the community, and how money is raised and allocated to meet the needs of Jews locally and around the world.

This year’s cohort was comprised of 13 women from various communities across Greater MetroWest. The majority of participants were new to Federation and Women’s Philanthropy. We had the opportunity to visit two of our local partner agencies—Jewish Family Service of Central NJ and Jewish Vocational Services—to see firsthand the programs, resources, and services they offer. At another session, we heard about several Federation departments, including JTEEN, Holocaust Council, Community Relations Committee, and Greater MetroWest ABLE. The Borinsky Program is a wonderful entry point into Women’s Philanthropy and provides an opportunity for participants to explore their own Jewish journeys.

This year’s program was chaired by Dorie Eisenstein and Victoria Shpilsky.
Lions of Judah Mission to Mexico

October 30 – November 3, 2019

Our Greater MetroWest Lions of Judah became the first delegation from the United States to visit the Lions of Mexico.

“The Jewish community of Mexico City reminded me in many ways of our own,” commented Women’s Philanthropy President Jody Hurwitz Caplan. “They are well-organized and committed to supporting one another. They have created a safety net to care for the most vulnerable members of their community. They are passionate about securing a vibrant Jewish future. They support Israel through their words and actions.”

Our forays into Jewish Mexico City included a visit to Centro Deportivo Israeliita, one of the largest Jewish community centers in the world, and a trip to the Museo Memoria y Tolerancia (Memory and Tolerance Museum) which underscores the fact that teaching about tolerance and acceptance is important everywhere.

This mission was chaired by Shari-Beth Susskind and Cathy Tabak.
Lions of Judah Mission to Morocco

December 4-12, 2019

During our mission to Morocco, we met with Moroccan Jewish and Muslim women who shared a window into their daily lives.

We visited several synagogues, Neve Shalom School, and the Jewish old age home; had lunch with Jewish and Muslim students from the Maimonides School; marveled at the huge Mosque of King Hassan II; and enjoyed tea at the residence of the American Consul General.

We toured leather tanneries, cooked a traditional Moroccan meal, and even participated in a belly-dancing lesson. There were so many highlights!

This mission was chaired by Terri Goldberg, Gail Toll, and Deborah Zuckerman.
Judith Leiber Virtual Museum Tour

May 12, 2020

150 of the most philanthropic women in Greater MetroWest toured the Judith Leiber: Master Craftsman Exhibit in Miami from the comfort of their own homes. During this captivating virtual event, we were introduced to the intricate process behind the creation of one of Judith Leiber’s gorgeous bags, explored other pieces of her work, including belts, minaudières, and other accessories, and learned about the life and accomplishments of this first woman to graduate to Master Craftsman.

Lion of Judah Endowment 25

A national Women’s Philanthropy initiative launched through the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA), LOJE25 celebrates 25 years of the Lion of Judah Endowment (LOJE). As one of the national leaders in LOJE participation, our Greater MetroWest Federation continues to increase our LOJE members. A LOJE gift continues a Lion’s gift in perpetuity and establishes a legacy that continues to support our community in all the years to come. Please visit jcfgmw.org/lion-of-judah-endowment-loje for more information.
Annual Meeting of Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ

June 3, 2020

Although we couldn’t be together physically for this much-anticipated annual event, participants were treated to a wonderful video about our inspiring community, featuring Women’s Philanthropy President Jody Hurwitz Caplan. We sang, prayed, and enjoyed an exclusive musical prelude presented by the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra courtesy of the UJA Benefit Concert Supporting Foundation. We also recognized the tremendous efforts of outgoing leaders Scott Krieger, Jody Hurwitz Caplan, and Stephanie Sherman; paid tribute to the incredible Jacqueline K. Levine, honoring her decades of dedication to fighting for equality for all; and celebrated this year’s Cohn Award recipients Abbi Halpern and Ben Lehrhoff, promising young community leaders. Women’s Philanthropy also recognized and welcomed our new leadership for the 2021 and 2022 campaigns under our new president, Michele Landau.
Women’s Philanthropy 2020 Board

**President**
Jody Hurwitz Caplan

**Vice Presidents**
Heidi Cohen
Caroline Goldstein
Deborah Vineberg Jacob
Michele Landau
Ruth B. Margolin
Shira B. Rothschild

**Director**
Diane K. Bakst

**Assistant Director**
Robin Leitner

**Development Officers**
Karen Auerbach Bocaletti
Susan Ferber

**Campaign Associate**
Sofya Iosiovich

**Administrative Assistants**
Claudia Lukac
Bobbie McClain Meluso

**National Young Leadership Cabinet**
Taryn Berelowitz

**National Women’s Philanthropy Board**
Stacey Davis
Anna Fisch
Rebecca A. Gold
Joan Schiffer Levinson
Maxine B. Murnick
Maxine Schwartz
Jane Wilf

**National Women’s Philanthropy Lifetime Board**
Lori Klinghoffer
Jacqueline K. Levine

**Lifetime Leadership Council Chair**
Rebecca A. Gold

**Lifetime Leadership Council**
Harriette Baime z”l
Phyllis Bernstein
Robyn L. Bier
Elaine Cahn
Stacey Davis
Barbara Drench
Elise Feldman
Anna Fisch
Yona Freiden
Norma Fuerst
Marcia Gillette
Rebecca A. Gold
Ellen Goldner
Paula Gottesman
Sandia L. Greenberg
Mimi M. Heyman
Merle Hirschmann
Lori Klinghoffer
Jill Kopelman
Lois Lautenberg z”l
Saundra Lautenberg
Marcy Lazar
Adele Lebersfeld
Brenda LeVine
Jacqueline K. Levine
Joan Schiffer Levinson
Julie Lipsett-Singer
Susan Lubow
Jayne Mackta
Carol P. Marcus
Judith May
Maxine B. Murnick
Erica Needle
Pearl Schlossman Pall
Wendie Ploscowe
Freida Posnock
Elaine Ravich
Genie Reichman
Sharon Rockman
Leslie Dannin Rosenthal
Lois Ruderman
Paula Saginaw
Geri Samuel
Cynthia Hollander
Schechner
Maxine Schwartz
Betty Seidel
Sylvia Seltzer
Frances M. Stern
Cathy Tabak
Marcia Tabatchnick
Lynda Wachsteter
Janice Weinberg

jfedgmw.org/womens-philanthropy
Women’s Philanthropy 2020 Leadership

PRESIDENT
Jody Hurwitz Caplan

DIRECTOR
Diane K. Bakst

VICE PRESIDENTS

Heidi Cohen
Caroline Goldstein
Deborah Vineberg Jacob
Michele Landau
Ruth B. Margolin
Shira B. Rothschild
Women's Philanthropy 2020 Officers and Trustees

**Trustees**

- Shirley Aidekman-Kaye z"l
- Susan Aidekman
- Audrey Bartner
- Phyllis Becker
- Taryn Berelowitz
- Shari Berman
- Shari Bernstein
- Andrea G. Bier
- Elizabeth Bier
- Jo Ann Boyko
- Debby Braffman
- Shari Broder
- Deborah Brody
- Susie Bruch
- Lisa Buber
- Robin Buchalter
- Jody Hurwitz Caplan
- Soraya Chafetz
- Heidi Cohen
- Laura Cohen
- Sylvia Cohn
- Alia Covel
- Ellen Levine Cramer
- Elyse Deutsch
- Anita L. Dickman
- Dorie Eisenstein
- Betty Feinberg
- Pamela Fishman
- Bernice Fleischmann
- Thelma Florin
- Stacie Friedman
- Terri Friedman
- Marcia Gillette
- Terri Goldberg
- Mindy Goldberger
- Caroline Goldstein
- Marcia Grosswald
- Lisa Gutkin
- Marit Halper
- Abbi Halpern
- Sharon Halpern
- Lynne B Harrison
- Tracey Hoberman
- Deborah Vineberg Jacob
- Carrie Jaffe
- Merle H. Kalishman
- Stephanie Karp
- Alexandra Kerner
- Jeri Kimowitz
- Mindy Kirschner
- Lauren LaConti
- Michele Landau
- Linda Laulicht
- Robyn Laveman
- Melanie Levitan
- Beena Levy
- Amy Lipsey
- Lisa Lisser
- Gina L. Mandelbaum
- Jean Mandell
- Ruth B. Margolin
- Lee S. Murnick
- Maxine Myers z"l
- Sandra Newman
- Lisa Olender
- Amy Paternite
- Sheryl Pearlstein
- Joanne Perrotta
- Stacey Pinke
- Robin Plattman
- Robin Polson
- Laura Dorf Queller
- Michelle Reback
- Michelle Retik
- Marian E. Rocker
- Amy Rollins
- Cynthia Root
- Mindunn Rose
- Wendy Rosenberg
- Linda W. Rosenthal
- Gerri Rothfleisch
- Shira B. Rothschild
- Debbie Rovner
- June Schechner
- Rachel Scherzer
- Bunny Schwartz
- Joanie Schwarz
- Victoria Shpilsky
- Jessica Silverstein
- Chana D. Solomon
- Sylvia Steiner
- Shari-Beth Susskind
- Ilyssa Tepperman
- Gail Toll
- Suzanne Tucker
- Eileen Weiss
- Linda G. Weissbrod
- Jane Wilf
- Deborah Zuckerman
Women’s Philanthropy 2020 Committees

PROGRAMS

Vice President, Education
Ruth B. Margolin

Vice President, Leadership Development
Shira B. Rothschild

Vice President, Engagement
Caroline Goldstein

Vice President, General Women’s Campaign
Heidi Cohen

Borinsky AM Chairs
Dorie Eisenstein
Victoria Shpilsky

Women Of Wisdom

Educational Series Committee
Debbie Feldman
Jane Gomez
Ellen Halper Marks
Stephanie Karp
Carol Koransky
Diane Lavenda
Ruth B. Margolin
Robin Polson
Laura Dorf Queller
Rachel Scherzer
Lisa Smelkinson

Women Of Wisdom Speakers
Beth Sandweiss, Donna Ellenbogen, and
Cantor Meredith Greenberg of Temple Ner Tamid

Women Of Wisdom Hostesses
Michelle Retik and Jill Markovits

EVENTS

Women With Purpose Chairs
Shari Broder
Marcia Grosswald

Women With Purpose Event Hosts
Taryn Berelowitz
Shari Berman
Lory Bernstein
Andrea G. Bier
Robyn L. Bier
Shari Broder
Deborah Brody
Susie Bruch
Jody Hurwitz Caplan
Heidi Cohen
Barbara Drench
Dorie Eisenstein
Rebecca Fisher
Terri Friedman
Rebecca A. Gold
Terri Goldberg
Ellen Goldner
Caroline Goldstein
Amanda Greenblatt
Marcia Grosswald
Deborah Vineberg Jacob
Lori Klinghoffer
Michele Landau
Robyn Laveman
Ruth B. Margolin
Sydra Miller
Maxine B. Murnick
Rhonda Nissan
Robin Polson
Susan Present
Michelle Retik
Amy Rollins
Wendy Rosenberg
Leslie Dannin Rosenthal
Linda W. Rosenthal
Shira B. Rothschild
Paula Saginaw
Rachel Scherzer
Maxine Schwartz
Melanie Tarica
Community Initiatives

Rachel Coalition
Steering Committee Representatives
Anna Fisch
Terri Friedman
Rebecca A. Gold

Book Club Chairs
Elyse Deutsch
Janice Weinberg

Governance Review Committee
Jody Hurwitz Caplan
Terri Friedman
Rebecca A. Gold
Sheryl Pearlstein
Laura Dorf Queller
Shira B. Rothschild

Nominating Committee Chair
Rebecca A. Gold

Nominating Committee
Shari Berman
Susie Bruch
Jody Hurwitz Caplan
Heidi Cohen
Barbara Drench
Dorie Eisenstein
Rebecca A. Gold
Caroline Goldstein
Abbi Halpern
Tracey Hoberman
Deborah Vineberg Jacob
Michele Landau
Robyn Laverman
Beena Levy
Ruth B. Margolin
Gerri Rothfleisch
Shira B. Rothschild
Bunny Schwartz
Maxine Schwartz
Victoria Shpilsky
Women’s Philanthropy 2020 UJA Annual Campaign

2020 UJA WOMEN’S CAMPAIGN
LIONS OF JUDAH

Major Gifts Vice President
Michele Landau

Lion Of Judah Endowment Chair
Lee Murnick

Lion Ambassadors
Phyllis Bernstein
Susie Bruch
Jody Hurwitz Caplan
Heidi Cohen
Barbara Drench
Marjorie Feinstein
Terri Friedman
Rebecca A. Gold
Abbi Halpern
Mimi M. Heyman
Merle Hirschmann
Marsha G. Hoch
Lori Klinghoffer

POMEGRANATES

Pomegranate Vice President
Deborah Vineberg Jacob

Pomegranate Committee (Pom Pals)
Deborah Brody
Alia Covel
Marcia B. Gonsalves
Tracey Hoberman
Deborah Vineberg Jacob
Rhonda Nissan
Ilyssa Tepperman

Campaign Volunteers
Andrea G. Bier
Robyn L. Bier
Jody Hurwitz Caplan
Heidi Cohen
Laura Cohen
Alia Covel
Stacey Davis
Brenda Deener
Barbara Drench
Marjorie Feinstein
Anna Fisch
Terri Friedman
Rebecca A. Gold
Mindy Goldberger
Toby Goldberger
Ellen Goldner
Paula Gottesman
Abbi Halpern
Merle Hirschmann
Deborah Vineberg Jacob
Merle Kalishman
Gail Kleinman
Lori Klinghoffer
Michele Landau
Lois Lautenberg z”l
Joan Schiffer Levinson
Judy Lieberman
Lisa Lisser
Carol P. Marcus
Ruth B. Margolin
Maxine B. Murnick
Erica Needle
Sheryl Pearlstein
Judy Peskin
Wendie Ploscowe
Robin Polson
Bryna Ringel
Marian E. Rocker
Leslie Dannin Rosenthal
Linda Rosenthal
Shira B. Rothschild
Paula Saginaw
Bunny Schwartz
Betty Seidel
Sylvia Steiner
Judy Weinstock
Susan Weinstock