

Dear Jewish Community,

I'm writing to you today to introduce myself as Jewish Federation of NENY's newest campaign chair. I am originally from Caracas (Venezuela) and arrived in the community in 2007 to attend RPI. After college, I stayed in the area and have lived happily here ever since with my wife (from Niskayuna) and my two sons. It is with great pleasure and honor that I take on the role of spearheading the Federation Annual Campaign.



I joined Jewish Federation pretty soon after graduation as a way to get involved in the broader Jewish community, unbounded by religious affiliation and institutional membership. I saw (and still see) Federation as an umbrella organization that brings all of us together and I want to help it grow and continue to develop, to give my kids the opportunity to establish their own Jewish Identity.

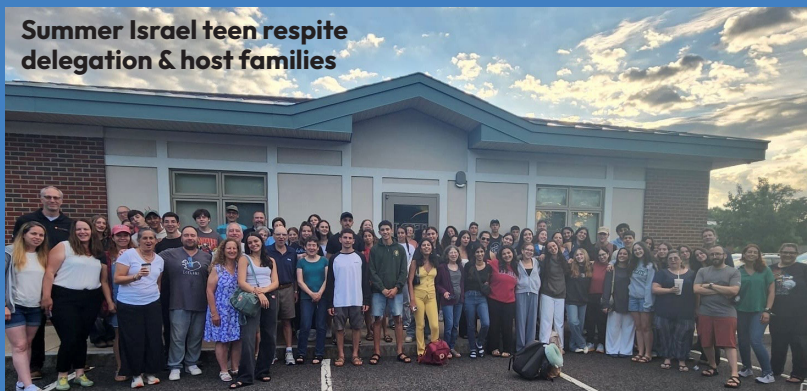
Since getting involved, I've been the chair of NextDor (now YAD), a member of the board, and I have participated in numerous initiatives with the hope of growing our community and reaching as many people as possible.

I have seen everything that Federation does, and the goal of this newsletter is to bring some of that closer to you. Federation cannot thrive without the commitment and support of every single one of you, whether it's financial and/or your valuable time.

As you read through the enclosed highlights, I invite you to envision how you could support our mission and help ensure a strong and vibrant Jewish community for us all. If you already made your gift this year, THANK YOU!

I hope you find these personal stories inspiring. They are only a small representation of the impact Federation has throughout the year.

~ Erik Lustgarten



What Does Jewish Federation Mean to Me?

When I've needed help on my Jewish journey, our Jewish Federation has given me a community, connected me with thought-provoking Jewish learning experiences, and facilitated opportunities that have deepened my connection with Judaism and Jewish people.

When I was a new member on the board of trustees at Congregation Ohav Shalom and Hebrew Academy of the Capital District, Federation's **ENRICH, Leading with Inspiration**, and **Yesod** courses made me more comfortable in my leadership roles.

Recently, I traveled to Israel on a Unity Mission through a Federation partnership and joined 200 other Jewish moms from around the world as we bore witness and participated in the healing and strengthening of our Jewish homeland. Every month, my kids are enthusiastic to receive their **PJ Library** books in the mail. I'm thankful for the countless ways that Federation has been a support for me over the years.

~**Antoinette Deitcher**



Antoinette speaking at the 2024 Federation Annual Meeting

Partnership2Gether

Partnership2Gether (P2G) is one of the most successful ways to connect Jewish communities throughout the world with communities in Israel. In our case, since 2006, Jewish Federation of NENY and Mexico support the Eshkol region in Israel.

The primary goal of our partnership is to build meaningful interpersonal relationships among members of our communities and foster connections, but its greatest undertaking is helping to gain an appreciation for the differences and similarities that we share.

We have programs reaching all aspects of the relationship communities. The impact of having delegations of both youths and adults travel back and forth from NENY to Eshkol and vice versa and living in each other's communities—albeit briefly, has been invaluable. The most rewarding aspect is seeing that we have so much more that unites us than divides us.

The bonds between our communities have been growing stronger and deeper. It has been with pride and joy that I have been part of building this shared relationship, and I invite you to learn more:

[jewishfedny.org/israel-overseas/partnership2gether](https://www.jewishfedny.org/israel-overseas/partnership2gether).

~**Randy Shapiro**



Tali Roitman, partnership director in Eshkol; Dana Kozlowsky-Ida, Eshkol teacher; Judith Weinstein (OBM, murdered on October 7), Eshkol teacher; and Randy Shapiro, P2G Chair



Summer 2024 Israeli teen respite

My Why

Living our lives JEWISHLY is very important to me. My son and I moved to the Capital Region three years ago. There are any number of Jewish organizations vying for both our time and our treasure. For me, there is no organization that fulfills my wants and needs more so than the Jewish Federation.

Federation is an important vehicle for communal funds to go the furthest they can in the most impactful way, here at home, and in monies directed to Israel. But Federation is more than that for me. Community building and combating Jew-hatred are my personal “WHY.”

I am so proud of how our Federation staff and leadership has shown unwavering support for Israel and stood steadfast against the outpouring of antisemitism and anti-Zionism in our own community since 10/7.

As part of the community-building end of Federation’s mission, I wanted to bring a **Jewish Day of Service** on Christmas to my new hometown, inspired by one I had participated in when I lived in Miami. The Jewish Day of Service brought together volunteers from across our region both in geography and demographics.

It is clear to me that only through Federation would you find a Sabbath observant family and an atheist family in a homeless shelter’s kitchen on Christmas Day making lunch. Only the Federation model could bring 500+ people together for a **Community Shabbat**—with the full support of the community’s clergy across the Jewish spectrum.

For me, Jewish Day of Service, through Jewish Federation, allows my family to act JEWISHLY (or DO Jewishly) meaningfully. I encourage everyone to reflect on the impact and significance of having a thriving Jewish Federation here for each of us.

~ **Laura Goldberg**



Rich Drucker and Lauren and Bob Finkle participate in Jewish Day of Service at The Ronald McDonald House



Federation’s Amy Drucker and Laura Goldberg at the City Mission, Schenectady



This year, Jewish Federation of NENY:

Raised **\$2.1 million** for emergency relief in Israel

Provided direct financial support to **35** local Jewish organizations

Offered **18** community-wide programs and hosted more than **1,500** attendees

Hosted **40** Israeli teens for summer respite

Briefed **65** security team members and local law enforcement before the high holidays

Gifted more than **6,000** PJ Library books to families

Strengthen your Jewish community—
donate to our 2024 Annual Campaign today!

jewishfedny.org/donate
(518) 783-7800



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Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York

Strengthening, connecting, and improving Jewish life

Life & Legacy
ASSURE JEWISH TOMORROWS

Promoting after-lifetime giving to build endowments that will sustain valued organizations and vibrant Jewish communities for the next generation and beyond.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

jewishfedny.org



**Jewish Day of Service:
Wednesday, December 25**

**Chanukah on Jay:
Sunday, December 29**

**Community Shabbat:
Friday, May 9, 2025**

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Hear from our CEO, upcoming community events, and more!

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