

# Global Jewish Philanthropy & the Asian Future

Hong Kong  
23rd - 24th November, 2014





Writing this foreword in New Delhi tends to concentrate the mind about Asia, Israel, and the Jewish people. It also underlines why Jewish philanthropists, foundations, and community leaders need to start changing their mindset.

Consider two contrasting scenes in India's national capital.

A Friday morning: The Pratt Foundation has brought together Shimon Peres and the Peres Peace Centre, Tel Aviv University, and the Ananda Centre, a leading Indian NGO, to launch the India-Australia-Israel dialogue on food and water security. After meeting India's new Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Peres enthalls an audience of 200 Indian decision-makers with his views on Israeli innovation, science, and risk-taking.

A Friday evening: I am at the Judah Hyam shul, the only synagogue in this city of 18 million, and we barely have a minyan for Kabbalat Shabbat, even with visitors. There are only eight Jewish families left in New Delhi.

The paradox and the disconnect are striking. On the one hand, Israel is in Asia to pursue its long-term economic and strategic interests. But the Jewish communities scattered across the Indo-Pacific region are small in numbers and largely isolated from the Jewish global mainstream. For their part, however, the main Jewish centres -- in North and South America and in Europe-- are not paying much attention to the tectonic geo-strategic shifts which already mark the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

To put it simply: Jewish philanthropy, whether emanating from the Diaspora or from Israel, depends on Jewish economic success. Increasingly that success will be bound up with the Asian Century.

Enter the Jewish Funders Network, the Australian Jewish Funders, and this inaugural conference. Let's hope we can make a modest contribution to better understanding 'the Asian future'. In welcoming our international guests, together with resident donors in Hong Kong and from the region, a special Bruchim Habaim to JFN's co-chair Avi Naor and AJF's chair Debbie Dadon who have made the journey to be with us. A special thanks to JFN President Andres Spokoiny, who understood from the first cup of coffee we shared with Alex Waislitz in Melbourne a year ago that the issues mattered, and to the AJF's indefatigable CEO, Tracie Olcha, for helping to turn a pleasant schmooze into a working reality.

Sam Lipski

CEO, The Pratt Foundation



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# Sunday 23rd Nov 2014

## Huashan Room, Island Shangri-La

### 2.00pm Welcome & Introduction

Welcome & Framing with Sam Lipski, CEO, Pratt Foundation

Presentation of JFN & AJF with Andres Spokoyny, President and CEO, Jewish Funders Network and Tracie Olcha, CEO, Australian Jewish Funders

The Values That Drive Us with Tracie Olcha

### 3.30pm Session 1: A Global Vision of the Jewish People in the Early 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Presentation by Andres Spokoyny and discussion

*There are unique challenges and opportunities arising from the new reality of the 21st Century. What are the main changes affecting Jewish Life around the world, and what is the new role of Jewish Philanthropy in the 21st Century?*

### 4.30pm Afternoon Tea

### 5.00pm Session 2: The Evolving Philanthropic Landscape in Asia

Short walk to Asia Society for a conversation about philanthropy in Asia, with Alice Mong, Executive Director, Asia Society.

*Philanthropy in Asia has been steadily developing, taking elements borrowed from Western culture and adapting them to the specific realities of the region. Thus a unique philanthropic culture is being created. Where do we fit in this changing context?*

### 6.30pm Break

### 7.00pm Transport to Central Pier 9

Meet in the lobby of Island Shangri-La

7:30pm Board Aqua Luna Cocktail Dinner Party

Networking and mingling hosted by the Hong Kong Jewish Community and JCC

Guest Speaker: Justin Rockefeller, Special Relations at Addepar, Co-founder of The ImPact and Venture Parter at Richmond Global. Justin will share his personal story as a fifth generation member of the Rockefeller family

10.30pm Return transport to Island Shangri-La from Central Pier 9



Monday 24th Nov 2014

Taishan Room, Island Shangri-La

7.30am Breakfast

8.30am Site Visit to JCC, Carmel School & Ohel Leah Synagogue  
To learn about the Jewish community of Hong Kong

10.30am Morning Tea at Shangri-La

11.00am Session 3: Between Profit and Social Good

With Justin Rockefeller, Special Relations at Addepar, Co-founder of The ImPact and Venture Parter at Richmond Global, and Abbie Jung, Co-founder, Synergy Social Ventures

*Exploring the evolving interaction between the business world and the social sector, and how new technologies blur the boundaries between commercial and social investment.*

12.30pm Session 4: The Evolving Role of Asia in the Global Jewish Conversation.

With Neil Hyman and Erica Lyons

*How are the relations between Asia and the Jewish world evolving?  
What is the role of Asia (Jewish and secular) in Israel and the Middle  
East? How can Asia's Jewry reclaim a place of greater influence in  
global Jewish affairs?*

1.30pm      Networking Lunch

2.30pm      Session 5: Philanthropy in Israel: A Change of Paradigm

With Avi Naor, Co-Chair, Jewish Funders Network

Conversation facilitated by Andres Spokoiny, President and CEO, Jewish Funders Network

*The emergence of Israeli philanthropy is opening new opportunities for a meaningful partnership between Israel and the Diaspora.*

3.30pm      Session 6: Open Conversation, Building a Network

Conversation facilitated by Tracie Olcha, CEO, Australian Jewish Funders and Andres Spokoiny, President and CEO, Jewish Funders Network

*How to move the conversation forward; identifying concrete pathways to action. The JFN global conference as a platform for connection and further engagement.*

4.30pm      Close and wrap up

# Guest Speakers. . .

## Justin Rockefeller

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Since February 2012, Justin Rockefeller has run Special Relations at Addepar, a Silicon Valley-based technology company reinventing the tools to aggregate and analyze financial data. Addepar is a wealth management platform that provides investment professionals with the tools required to manage complex global portfolios.

In March 2013, Justin cofounded The ImPact, whose mission is to increase the probability and pace of solving social problems by improving the flow of capital to businesses creating measurable social impact. ImPact is a nonprofit/NGO membership organization comprised of investors who pledge to make impact investments, track their social impact and financial progress, and share those data with others who have made 'The Pact'.

He is also a Venture Partner at Richmond Global, LLC (RGlobal.com), a global venture capital firm focusing on technology-enabled services and mobile technologies with applications in the U.S. and across major emerging markets. He serves on the board as well as the Investment and Audit Committees of Rockefeller Brothers Fund, and on the boards of Japan Society and The International Council of The Museum of Modern Art.

Previously, Justin was Cofounder and Chairman of GenerationEngage, a nonprofit/NGO connecting politicians and community college students. Notable participants included, among others: Barack Obama; Bill Clinton; Colin Powell; Newt Gingrich; Al Gore; Hillary Clinton; Nancy Pelosi; Chuck Hagel; Stephen Breyer; Robert Reich; Peggy Noonan; Ted Sorensen; Coretta Scott King; John C. Whitehead; and Spike Lee. Key technology partners included Apple and Google. In 2009, GenerationEngage merged with a similar NGO, Mobilize.org.

Justin formerly served on the boards of Voxiva, Inc.; Rockefeller Family Fund (Investment Committee); Population Council (Audit Committee); the Alliance for the Arts (Executive Committee); GenerationEngage (Chair); Mobilize.org (Treasurer); and the NY State Commission on National and Community Service. He also served on the National Leadership Council for GLSEN - the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network.

For three years, Justin worked at New York's Museum of Modern Art. In 2002, he received a B.A. from Princeton University, where he studied politics and art and was active in debate and race relations on campus.

# Guest Speakers. . .

## Abbie Jung

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Abbie Jung is a co-founder of Synergy Social Ventures, a Hong Kong-based nonprofit organization that believes philanthropy and social entrepreneurship are necessary tools for sustainable development. Synergy provides capacity building and funding for early stage social entrepreneurs through its Help Desk and Advisory programs and experiential philanthropic investment education for new philanthropists through its Future Funders Giving Circle.

Abbie spearheads Nexus Global Youth Summit (Nexus) in Asia, developing social change opportunities with collaborative communities of next generation philanthropists and social entrepreneurs in Asia. She has created collaborative Nexus communities of social changemakers in China, Hong Kong, Singapore and Thailand. She launched the East and Southeast Asia chapter of Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs (ANDE) to create a holistic and supportive ecosystem around entrepreneurship as a means of sustainable development. She is also a +SocialGood Connector because she believes in harnessing the power of leveraging technology and new media to resolve pressing socioeconomic and environmental problems.

She started her career in venture capital and consulting but has since gained extensive experience in venture philanthropy, public health and international development. Abbie has worked extensively with agencies such as Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières and the World Health Organization. She has a Bachelor's degree in neurobiology from University of California Berkeley and a graduate degree in international public health from Columbia University.

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# Guest Speakers. . .

## S. Alice Mong



S. Alice Mong became the Executive Director of Asia Society Hong Kong Center (ASHK) in August of 2012. Prior to ASHK, she worked in New York for almost a decade in the non-profit sector in senior management position. She served as consultant to ASHK in preparation for the February 2012 opening at its new home in Admiralty at the former British explosives magazine.

While in New York, Ms. Mong was the Director of the Museum of Chinese in America (MOCA) from 2009 till 2011, overseeing the entire expansion project of the 30-year old organization. Ms. Mong stepped down as the Director of MOCA in July 2011 after successfully transforming the museum from a New York Chinatown institution to become the leading national museum, dedicated to preserving and presenting the history, heritage, culture and diverse experience of people of Chinese descent in the United States. Ms. Mong also served as the Executive Director for the Committee of 100 in the United States, a Chinese-American non-profit membership organization founded by architect, I.M. Pei and cellist, Yo-Yo Ma.

Ms. Mong began her career at the Ohio Department of Development based in Ohio and later became Managing Director of Ohio Office of East and Southeast Asia based in Hong Kong. Ms. Mong also worked for Hang Lung Property Group from 1995 to 2002.

A graduate of The Ohio State University, Ms. Mong received an Executive MBA from the Kellogg - Hong Kong University of Science and Technology EMBA Program.

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# Meet the Participants

## Ian Allen

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Ian Allen is the Chairman of Dynamic Management P/L, which is a Melbourne based company presenting live entertainment across Australia. In addition to his interests in entertainment, Ian has also had an extensive career in the public and private sectors as well as serving on numerous boards of philanthropic and community organisations including The Pratt Foundation, the Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute, Collingwood Football Club Foundation, the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal, the Australian Jewish Funders, Entertainment Assist, the Victorian Rock Foundation and the Australian Contemporary Music Development Company. He is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management. In 1998 Ian was awarded an Order of Australia.

Ian is on the Board of Directors for the Australian Jewish Funders.

## Jeremy Amias

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Jeremy began his career with Salomon Brothers in London in 1984, where he joined the fixed income sales team. In 1992 he was to become the youngest ever International Salomon Brothers Managing Director following a period managing international fixed income investor sales in New York. During the late 1990s, when the Smith Barney, Citibank, Nikko and Schroders fixed income sales teams merged under Citigroup, Jeremy continued to retain the role of head of fixed income investor sales for Citigroup Global Markets.

In 2002, Jeremy transferred to Hong Kong to head both European and Asian fixed income investor sales for Citigroup. He was later named Head of FICC (fixed income, currencies and commodities) for Sales, Trading, Origination and Research, for the Asia Pacific region within Citigroup, where he managed a business of 950 employees in 20 offices and 17 countries. In Asia he brought together a widely diverse group of individuals, countries, and businesses and took Citigroup to a market leading position in FICC in the region.

In 2007 Jeremy was appointed Chief Operating Officer of Finance at Noble Group, Asia's largest diversified commodities trading company. Here he oversaw all aspects of Finance, Treasury, Risk and Capital Raising for this growing company. In 2009 he co-founded Amias Berman & Co, a Fixed Income agency broker with offices in London and Hong Kong. It pioneered the first anonymous client-to-client fixed income trading system and is enjoying continued success. After a stake was sold to Marex Spectron – the world's largest privately held Commodity Broker – in 2011, Jeremy became Chief Executive Officer for Marex Spectron in Asia Pacific.

Jeremy joined Standard Chartered Bank in March 2013 as Global Head of Investor Client Coverage and was appointed as Head of Investors and Public Sector in September 2013. He is based in Hong Kong. Jeremy studied at Cambridge University, Churchill College, where he obtained a master degree in Classics.

## Philippe Bera

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Philippe Bera was born and raised in Hong Kong. His family, who originated from the Iberia Peninsula, have been based in Asia for four generations; his father was born in Shanghai during World War II. His family have been major supporters of the Jewish and Israeli cause for many decades, and in 2009, Philippe joined the Board of UIA/Keren Hayesod Hong Kong to ensure continuity in the UIA leadership of Hong Kong. In 2013, Philippe's family became Founding Sponsors of the Hong Kong Holocaust and Tolerance Centre where he is now an Executive Board Member.

Philippe started his career at Rothschild in Zurich and London, and was repatriated to Hong Kong shortly after to build and grow their Private Wealth business in the region. After nine years with Rothschild, he took the decision to exit the corporate world in late 2012 and take on responsibilities with his family business. As a result, he became a non-executive board member at Rothschild Hong Kong offering strategic advice to the Bank for their activities in the region. His family operating business, Omtis Fine Wines, invests and distributes luxury wines throughout Asia. He manages the business alongside his father who is Chairman of the Omtis Group of Companies, a diversified conglomerate invested globally and established in Shanghai in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

Philippe holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a focus on Finance, from the University of Bath, in England. In his free time he plays tennis, golf, scuba dives and travels with his wife, Cherie, who he just married.

## Nathan Cher

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Nathan is co-founder and director of a string of companies (listed and unlisted) in the areas of technology, startups and property.

Nathan pursues industry niches where improvement in customer-service through leveraged-technology and systems translates directly into increased shareholder value. In 2005 Nathan co-founded and chaired Real Estate Corp (RUN Property) which became Australia's largest independent residential Real Estate manager. The company was successfully sold in 2014. Nathan spent 14 years as a technical director and shareholder of Com Tech Communications which was later purchased by Dimension Data, and was recognised as the leading provider of network integration, training and distribution services in Australia employing over 1400 staff.

Nathan studied Computer Science and Electrical Engineering at the University of Sydney. He is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Nathan is also on the Board of Directors for the Australian Jewish Funders.

## Andy Cohen

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Andrew Cohen is Chief Executive Officer of JPMorgan Private Bank on Asia. Based in Hong Kong, Mr Cohen is responsible for overseeing the ultra-high-net-worth platform of one of the fastest growing regions for wealth management services. Mr Cohen holds a Bachelor of Economics degree from Monash University in Melbourne, Australia.

## Debbie Dadon

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Debbie Dadon is a member of the second generation involved in the Besen Family Foundation which was founded 35 years ago. Raised in a philanthropic environment and holding the position of Executive Officer and Trustee of the Besen Family Foundation for the past 17 years, Debbie has developed an acute and insightful awareness of the issues and needs of local communities. A particular interest of Debbie's has been that of intergenerational philanthropy and a significant part of Debbie's role as Executive Officer of the Besen Family Foundation is the sensitive task of guiding and nurturing the involvement of the third generation of the Besen family in philanthropy. Her commitment and contribution to the community is evidenced through her involvement in many organisations.

The Australian Jewish Funders (AJF) is an organisation specifically aimed at optimizing effective and strategic philanthropy within the Jewish community. A Founding Member of the AJF, Debbie has held the position of Chair since it was established in 2007.

### Current Positions:

Trustee and Executive Officer, Besen Family Foundation

Chair, Australian Jewish Funders

Director, Highpoint Property Group

Governor, Victorian Arts Centre Foundation

## Russell Davidson

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Russell is from London, England. He has lived in Asia for over 26 years, 4 years in Japan and then 22 years in Hong Kong, working in several banking and finance roles. He is currently Chief Operating Officer of a local Asset Management Company. He has also been involved in the local Jewish Community and is currently Chairman of the Ohel Leah Synagogue and Honorary Treasurer of the Carmel School Association. Russell was educated at the London School of Economics and is a qualified Chartered Accountant.

## Sean Debow

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Founder, Portfolio Manager, Matchpoint Investment Management. Sean Debow is the Portfolio Manager for Matchpoint Investment Management which was founded in 2009. Sean started his career in investment management in 1994 when he joined Merrill Lynch Asset Management (now BlackRock) in Hong Kong. In 1999, Sean joined UBS in where he was the Asia Pacific Tech Strategist. In 2005, Sean joined Olympus Capital in Hong Kong as Research Director. In 2007 Sean joined Ivory Capital in Hong Kong as the Asia Managing Director. Sean is a Chartered Accountant, Chartered Professional Accountant and a Chartered Financial Analyst. Sean graduated from the University of Western Ontario.

## Tara Diestel

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## Marcel Dimenstein

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Born in Zurich, Switzerland, Marcel graduated in Accounting. He joined Glencore-Xstrata - the Global Mining- and Commodity firm - in 1984 (previously known as Marc Rich + Co AG), and became a senior partner during the MBO in 1993. After several management postings in Switzerland, Australia, New York, London and Singapore - Glencore appointed Mr. Dimenstein in 1994 as head of its Asian operations, based in Hong Kong. In 2005, after 21 years with the firm, he decided to pursue other interests and to sell his stake. Since retiring from Glencore, Mr. Dimenstein is running the family investment office with diversified interests in Real Estate, Mining, Private Equity and Financial Investments

## Neil Hyman

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Neil is a partner and Corporate and M&A lawyer with the London-based international law firm Slaughter and May. He has been with the firm 29 years, originally based in the UK, but now has been resident in Hong Kong for more than 15 years. He recently acted for Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation on its HK\$38 billion acquisition of Wing Hing Bank. Neil is listed in the 2014 edition of The International Who's Who of Corporate Governance Lawyers and as a leading individual in the Corporate/M&A: The Elite (International Firms) - China of Chambers Asia 2014.

Neil is the current Chairman of Carmel School in Hong Kong, which is Asia's only Jewish through-train school with over 350 Jewish children from ages 1-18 and more than 25 nationalities. Neil has been on the Board of the School since 2005 and was in charge of the 8-year project to locate, secure from the Hong Kong Government and then renovate the site at which the High School section is now based.

Neil was the co-founder of Maccabi junior programme in Hong Kong which has grown in the last 7 years from a few boys playing soccer to a weekly programme of soccer and basketball for both boys and girls which seeks to bring together and promote the Jewish community of Hong Kong.

Neil is also the co-founder of Localiiz.com, which is a online marketing and community platform and which within 3 years has become the leading English language platform of its kind in Hong Kong.

## Jeremy King

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Jeremy is a partner in the Banking & Finance team at Corrs Chambers Westgarth, and a guest lecturer at Melbourne University's Graduate School of Business and Economics. Jeremy is a thought leader on social finance products, such as social benefit bonds and environmental upgrade arrangements, and the legal and commercial issues impeding their growth. He has a particular interest in the development of an impact investment and social finance market in Australia. Jeremy has worked with investment banks, major trading banks and other financial institutions on a range of renewable energy, health care, aged care and education projects and can bridge the language gap to not-for-profits, service providers, government departments, investors and intermediaries. He also has a personal passion for philanthropy and charitable giving: a value he and his wife try to instil in their three young children.

## Hubert Leven

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Hubert Leven, was born in Paris in 1938 and raised between the U S and France. He was CEO of Leven S.A. a brokerage firm established by his grand-father in Paris. He also served on the Executive Committee of the Source Perrier mineral water group and as CEO of a number of its subsidiaries.

He led the Rashi Foundation as President since its establishment in 1984. With a long record of community service, Hubert Leven presently also serves as Vice-President of Kol Israel Haverim ( KIAH) Israel, and as Vice-President of Alliance Israelite Universelle, Paris. He lives in Geneva, is married to Corinne Mentzelopoulos and has 4 children.

## François Leven

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François Leven was born in France in 1971. He has a Bachelor of Science from Babson College (MA USA). He worked in various banks in France as a stock broker and equity trader for 15 years, and is currently a private banker at Banque Pâris Bertrand Sturdza in Geneva Switzerland.

Parallel to his professional career, he has been, for the past 8 years, member of the board of Alliance Israelite Universelle (Kol Israel Averim) and is on the Executive Committee of the Rashi Foundation. He is the fifth generation of philanthropists involved in Jewish foundations.

## Sam Lipski

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Sam Lipski AM, BA and LL.D (Hon), is the CEO of The Pratt Foundation, the philanthropic trust for the Pratt family and Visy, which funds charities in Australia, New Zealand, the United States and Israel. With a background in journalism, editing and publishing in Australia and internationally, he has also served on many community and cultural boards. A former President of the State Library of Victoria (2000-2006), a Member of Council at Swinburne University of Technology (1995-2005) and a Trustee of the Refugee Foundation of Australia, his other roles have included Chair of the Advisory Board of Monash University's Centre for Jewish Civilisation, Chair of the Advisory Board of Melbourne University's Centre for Advanced Journalism, and board member of the Schizophrenia Research Institute.

Sam is on the Board of Directors for the Jewish Funders Network (USA), and the Australian Jewish Funders.

## Erica Lyons

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Erica Lyons is the founder/editor-in-chief of Asian Jewish Life - a journal of spirit, society and culture. She is a regular columnist for The Jewish Press in New York as well as a freelance writer for a number of international publications that include: The Jewish Chronicle (UK), eJewish Philanthropy, The Times of Israel and Sh'ma: A Journal of Jewish Ideas. She was the winner of the 2011 Be'chol Lashon (In Every Tongue) New Media Award for excellence in the representation of diversity in the Jewish community.

This past summer she was a fellow with the Tikvah Fund's Advanced Summer Institute, a think tank focused on advanced Jewish thought. She was a Steinberg-Glass fellow with the Anti-Defamation League and was a participant in the Schusterman Foundation's ROI Summit for Young Jewish Innovators. She served as a Far East consultant for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

She has spoken about the Jews in the Far East in a number of forums that include: TEDx Victoria Harbour (Hong Kong), the SEFER International Conference for Judaic Studies (Moscow), Limmud China (Shanghai & Beijing), the JDC's Day of Global Responsibility (Shanghai), and on RTHK Radio 3 Hong Kong's Asian Threads.

She is the Hong Kong representative for World Jewish Congress, a board member of Hong Kong's Jewish Historical Society and on the management council of Ohel Leah Synagogue.

## Eve Mahlab

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Eve is the Co-Founder and Chairwoman of the Australian Women Donors Network. She is a former President of Philanthropy Australia, and her family is part of the Jewish Funders Network. Her past experiences include being a Solicitor (Family Law), a business owner (Mahlab Group), a public company director (Westpac) and a Non Profit board member (Walter and Eliza Hall). In 1988, she was awarded the Order of Australia (AO) for services to government, business and the community, especially women. In 1997 she accepted an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from Monash University.

Avi Naor was a member in the founding team of Amdocs in the early eighties, and served as the president and the CEO of Amdocs from 1995 until 2002. Naor retired in 2002 in order to devote his full time to social and community activities.

In 1997, Naor founded the Or Yarok Association for Safer Driving in Israel, following the tragic death of his son Ran in a road accident. Since then, Israel became one of the ten safest countries regarding road safety in the world. Or Yarok also supports research in this field through the Ran Naor Foundation.

In 2002, Eti and Avi Naor established the Oran Foundation supporting children and youth at risk. The family, closely supports, the Ramat Hadassah and Kiryat Yearim youth villages, where Avi serves as the Chairman of the board. In 2010, Naor and a group of private foundations and philanthropists established the Shahaf Foundation which allows young social activists to lead change in the socio-geographic periphery. Currently, the Shahaf Foundation supports more than 180 Shahaf communities in Israel.

In 2008, Naor joined Dov Lautman z"l and others and founded Hakol Hinuch. Naor is a founding member of the initiative 'committed to give' promoting Israeli Philanthropy; A group of Israeli social investors who chose to work together in order to significantly increase the level of private philanthropy in Israel, and to improve philanthropy's effectiveness. Naor was recently awarded the 2014 Israel prize for lifetime achievement and exceptional contribution to the nation.

## David Naphtali

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Originally from Melbourne, Australia, David has been living in Hong Kong for 12 years. His Wife, Kelly and him are active in both the Jewish and non-Jewish communities in Hong Kong and are involved in a number of community and charitable organisations. The organisations include (or have included) Macabbi, Ohel Leah, Carmel School, IWIRK, UIA and Resource.

Professionally, David is a reformed lawyer working in the Trust and Finance industry, and Kelly is a Partner at a boutique litigation firm.

David and Kelly have 3 children, aged 7, 3 and 2 who they hope will continue the tradition established by their Grandparents and Great Grandparents of being active and involved members of their communities.

## Jenny Selevan

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Jenny is from Jacksonville, Florida and has been in Hong Kong for 8 years. She has been very involved in the Jewish community both here and back home in Florida. Jenny has been on the board of Jewish Family and Community Services and the Jewish National Fund in Jacksonville. Here in Hong Kong, Jenny represents the Jewish National Fund as well. Jenny am very involved in Carmel School, chairing the PTA for four years and holding a position on the school board for six years. Jenny likes to spend her time volunteering for Carmel School in various capacities.

## Rivka Shemesh

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Riki Shemesh is a native Israeli, who has been living in Hong Kong for more than 8 years. For 3 years she was the chairwoman of the Jewish Women's Association of Hong Kong. She was the Principal of the Hong Kong Jewish Sunday school, and sat at the board of local Jewish charities, such as HK JFF, Zaka & the Jewish Scouts.

As a professional Hebrew teacher she provides variety of learning programs. She is also the senior examiner of Hebrew IB Diploma. In addition she holds an LLB from Tel Aviv University and an MBA from the University of Iowa. Riki is a mother of two daughters. One has just finished serving at the IDF and the other will complete a gap year in Israel next year.

## Alex Waislitz

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Alex Waislitz is Executive Chairman and founder of the Thorney Investment Group, a Melbourne, Australia based diversified investor in public securities, private companies and property. Thorney specialises in emerging companies across a broad array of industries including Manufacturing, Technology, Mining Services and Resources. In the past 20 years Thorney has become known as one of Australia's most successful private investment companies.

Alex has extensive business and capital markets experience and has been a member of several public company boards. He is Chairman of the publicly listed investment company Thorney Opportunities Limited.

In 2014 he founded The Waislitz Foundation with the stated aim of donating \$50 million to selected charitable causes.

He served on the boards of Zoos Victoria Foundation Board and the Victorian State Government Zoological Parks and Gardens between 2010 and 2012. He joined the Board of Maccabi World Union in 2012 and is a member of the International Advisory Board for the MBA program at Ben Gurion University School of Management.

Alex is a graduate of Monash University Melbourne in Law and Commerce and a Graduate of the Harvard Business School OPM Program.

## Ephraim Zion

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Born and raised in Israel in 1945, Ephraim left to the United States following his army service, where he began a career in the diamond & gemstones business. In 1971, Ephraim moved to Hong Kong to explore new frontiers in Asia, and has remained there ever since. Ephraim is married with four children, three of who are continuing the family business. He is actively involved in Jewish/Israeli based organizations in Hong Kong, and is on the Board of Governors of the Gemological Institute of America.

## Ronen Zion

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Ronan was born in New York, USA, and moved to Hong Kong with his family at the young age of 4. After completing school in Hong Kong, Ronen moved to Israel to join the family business in the Israel office in 1985. After 5 years in Israel, Ronen returned to Hong Kong, and has continued the family business in Hong Kong ever since. At 47 years of age, Ronen has travelled extensively throughout worldwide, but specifically in Asia. He is married with 3 children, ages 16, 18, & 20. Ronan is very involved in charitable work with various organizations, in particularly with Jewish/Israeli based organization.

## Allyson Zucker

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Allyson Zucker is a third-year student at the University of Pennsylvania working towards a Bachelors of Arts in Classical Studies in the College, and a Bachelors of Science in Behavioral Economics in Wharton. She is in Hong Kong for Fall 2014 semester abroad. Allyson has been raised with an emphasis on Jewish education and philanthropy. She has given time and money to worthy causes in her community. She intends to follow in the footsteps of her grandparents and parents in contributing to the global Jewish community.





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# Meet the Lead Team

## Tracie Olcha

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Since joining the Australian Jewish Funders in early 2011, Tracie together with the Board of Directors has transformed the organisation into an integral and visionary player in the philanthropic sector. Tracie works closely with members to promote strategic, effective philanthropy and support their journey towards impactful giving.

Over the past 18 months Tracie has spearheaded AJF Innovation, aiming to raise awareness and support addressing the big issues facing the Australian Jewish community, with a major focus on Jewish life for young adults in their 20's and 30's and Jewish continuity. She has been instrumental in bringing successful, innovative international programs to Australia, working together with international foundations and organizations to catalyse change for local Jewish communities.

Before joining the AJF in 2011, Tracie worked with a variety of Jewish organisations and was responsible for a myriad of projects including fundraising, marketing, major events and conferences. She was editor of a magazine titled 'Women,' a series of publications celebrating the achievements of Victorian Jewish women and promoting the invaluable work of WIZO Victoria.

Tracie's background is in education, she taught at Mount Scopus Memorial College, Australia's largest Jewish day school for ten years. During that time Tracie also worked as education consultant for News Limited publication the Herald Sun, producing state and national curriculum, marketing the newspaper in schools and running workshops for teachers and principals.

Through Tracie's multifaceted experience and with her diverse network, she has developed a skillset which has led her to the position she is in today, working with others to create change and achieve success on a macro scale.

## Andres Spokoiny

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Andres Spokoiny is a long-time Jewish communal leader with a history of leading successful organizational transformations. The CEO of Federation CJA in Montreal from 2009–2011, he helped fundamentally change the Federation's operations and its relationship with the community.

In Montreal, as a young, 'out of the box' Federation executive, he spearheaded a new branding strategy and initiated and developed innovative community programs that are now being used as models across North America.

Before joining the Federation, Andres worked for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Community (JDC) in Paris. As Regional Director for Northeast Europe, he was responsible for a number of pan-European projects, leading programs in the areas of Welfare, Leadership Development, Jewish Renewal, Education, Community Development, and Outreach, and building coalitions with local and international organizations, public and private.

While at JDC, Andres also served as the Director of Leatid Europe, a leadership training institute for Jewish lay and professional leaders and directed the International Center for Community Development, a partnership of JDC and Oxford University to produce applied research and knowledge management for community development practitioners.

Before his Jewish communal work, Andres worked for IBM and was responsible for training, development, hiring, and recruitment for IBM's Latin America Southern Region during a period of major restructuring.

Originally from Argentina, Andres has a multidisciplinary academic background including business, education and rabbinical studies in different institutions around the world. He is fluent in Hebrew, English, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Yiddish, and is proficient in Russian and German.

## Susie Iser

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Susie Iser is Special Events Manager and Executive Assistant to Heloise Waislitz, Chair of The Pratt Foundation. Susie has over 20 years experience in Marketing, Public Relations, Retail and Events, having worked at some of the biggest brands in Australia. She has also worked on numerous major events in Australia, including the Sydney 2000 Olympics and has extensive experience in brand management, strategic planning and team leadership.

Over the past 3 years, Susie has arranged complex international itineraries and travelled extensively with the Chair of The Pratt Foundation. This travel has included meetings with philanthropists and charities. In addition Susie has had a significant involvement with high end corporate entertainment for Australia's largest sporting club, the Collingwood Football Club. Susie currently resides in Melbourne, Australia.

# Our Partners



[jfunders.org](http://jfunders.org)

Jewish Funders Network, for the past 25 years, headquartered in New York and also active in Israel, has worked to increase Jewish philanthropy's impact. The JFN annual conference has built a reputation as a not-to-be missed event. Today, with more than 1,400 members internationally who represent billions of dollars of combined giving, JFN is the global table for Jewish philanthropy.



[ajf.org.au](http://ajf.org.au)

The Australian Jewish Funders (AJF) is a network of mindful funders who believe that greater impact can be achieved collectively. Driven by Jewish values, the AJF aims to provide a space to enhance and nurture strategic philanthropy, explore philanthropic best practice and encourage innovation amongst like-minded funders, inspiring members to have a greater impact on the Jewish community, wider Australian society and the world.



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## Special thanks to . . .

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