

Asia and the  
Jewish World

# A Global Leadership Conversation

Singapore 15 - 17 November 2015



In partnership with



# Foreword



Welcome to Singapore in 2015, the year of its 50th anniversary since independence.

In his famous medieval poem, Yehuda Halevi wrote: “My heart is in the East, and I am at the edge of the West.” Halevi lived in 12th century Spain, and looking East meant looking across the Mediterranean to Eretz Yisrael. Updating the poem for today, and taking some poetic licence, we could say: “Israel is at the edge of the West, but its future is in the East.”

Or as The Economist (18/7) put it earlier this year, “Israel is pivoting to Asia.” True, that’s not exactly breaking news. The shift has been underway for a few years. And it was at least part of the impetus for holding the first Jewish Funders Network/ Australian Jewish Funders conference in Hong Kong last year. But the shift is gathering speed even as we meet. China, India, and Japan, to cite only Asia’s Big Three, are pulling Israel in their direction, and Israel is seizing the opportunities. Nor is it just about trade and the Start-Up Nation.

But in this historic and strategic realignment, Israel is way ahead of the Jewish world which, on Asia, hasn’t caught up with the 21st century. So we hope this second conference, which aims to look at this gap through the lens of global Jewish philanthropy, is a small contribution to some “consciousness raising”.

Which is why the Pratt Foundation is delighted, once again, to support the JFN and AJF, who have convened this year’s conference in partnership with the Jewish Welfare Board Singapore and the Jewish Business Forum.

We are grateful to all who’ve helped to bring us together, and delighted to be working with Singapore’s Jewish community.

But a special thanks to the AJF’s tireless CEO, Tracie Olcha, whose vision, creativity, and leadership have made things happen, and to JFN President, Andres Spokoiny who, from the very beginning, has embraced the imperative for Jewish leadership “to look East” and whose experience and wisdom was critical for the development of this program.

**Sam Lipski**

CEO, The Pratt Foundation

# Program

Sunday 15 November

## Altimate @ 1-Altitude

1 Raffles Place, Singapore

7.00pm **Cocktails and dinner**

7.50pm **Welcome by Sam Lipski, CEO Pratt Foundation**

8.00pm **Guest speaker** – Jon Medved, CEO and Founder OURCROWD  
Movement in the investment world - Why Israel and Asia are  
at the centre

*Chinese firms are consistently investing greater amounts per annum into a broad range of U.S. technology sectors including automotive, information technology, machinery, aviation, and medical devices. Contemporaneously, Israeli companies have been tapping into Asian markets for sources of investment for growth. Jon Medved is at the epicentre of a disruptive wave in Venture funding tech companies with his company OURCROWD. Jon will open the conference with his views of how Israel and Asia will be able to cross-connect in this era of innovation, and the mechanisms with which OURCROWD also imbues its operation with Philanthropic values."*

9.00pm **Coffee, dessert and networking**

9.30pm **Close**

Monday 16 November

# Grand Hyatt Singapore

10 Scotts Road, Salon 1, Level 2

8.00am **Registration and light breakfast**

8.30am **Welcome by** Sam Lipski, CEO Pratt Foundation

**Framing and introduction of Jewish Funders Network and Australian Jewish Funders presented by** Andres Spokoyny, President and CEO Jewish Funders Network and Tracie Olcha, CEO Australian Jewish Funders

9.00am **Session 1**

## ISRAEL ECONOMIC CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES – THE ASIAN ANGLE

This session will explore Israel's economic realities, its achievements, challenges and the multitude of opportunities. We will discuss the trends, policies and the need for innovation across all sectors to encourage, stimulate and drive a thriving partnership between Israel and Asia.

**Presented by** Professor Eugene Kandel, Hebrew University and former Head of the National Economic Council and Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister of Israel

10.00am **Session 2**

## THE START UP NATION

Israel's vibrant start-up and high tech sector can be the vector of a robust economic and political relationship between Israel and Asia. This session will feature a conversation with Professor Eugene Kandel, Jon Medved and a successful Israeli entrepreneur. Together, they will discuss and unpack the Israeli 'start-up ecosystem' and where Asia sits within it.

**Presented by** Professor Eugene Kandel - Hebrew University and former Head of the National Economic Council and Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister of Israel, Jon Medved - CEO and Founder OURCROWD and Ztiki Fuchs, CEO Bio-Nexus

**Moderated by** Nathan Cher, Director AJF and NCN Investments

11.15am	<b>Morning Break</b>
11.30am	<b>Session 3</b>  <b>THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF SINGAPORE</b> An insight into history and integration of the Jewish community in Singapore. Where to from here?  <i><b>Presented by</b></i> Jacob Robbins and Michelle Sassoon
12.00pm	<b>Session 4</b>  <b>CHANGING GEOPOLITICS: ASIA AND ISRAEL</b>  Ambassador Bilahari Kausikan will provide a geopolitical overview of Asia and discuss relations with Israel and Middle East at large. What are the challenges and opportunities in the 21st century? How are these relations shaped by larger geopolitical forces?  <i><b>Presented by</b></i> Bilahari Kausikan, Ambassador-at-large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore
12.50pm	<i><b>Address by</b></i> Ambassador Yael Rubinstein, Ambassador of Israel to Singapore
1.00pm	<b>Lunch</b>  <b>SINGAPORE AND ISRAEL, A 50 YEAR RELATIONSHIP</b>  <i><b>Address by</b></i> Bill Foo, Former Vice Chairman, ANZ Bank Singapore and South East Asia
2.00pm	<b>Session 5</b>  <b>LIGHTNING ROUND CONVERSATIONS</b> In this session, participants will benefit from the unique insights and experiences from across the Jewish world on challenges faced relating to Israel, Asia and the greater Jewish World. Peers will have the opportunity to provide strategic insights and tactical recommendations to offer support and connect communities.  <i><b>Facilitated by</b></i> Tracie Olcha, CEO Australian Jewish Funders

2.45pm

## **Session 6**

### **IMPLICATIONS FOR JEWISH PHILANTHROPISTS AND LEADERS. WHAT CAN WE DO?**

As community leaders and philanthropists, we need to think about how we can contribute to and accelerate Israel's relationship with Asia. After discussing the economic and political angles and learning about shared challenges, what are the philanthropic and leadership implications of these new realities?

- Rebecca Zeffert, Founder and Executive Director, Israel-Asia Center
- Yael Amit, API Southeast Asia Representative, AJC
- Erica Lyons, Founder and Editor-in-Chief, Asian Jewish Life

***Facilitated by*** Andres Spokoyny, President and CEO Jewish Funders Network

3.45pm

## **Wrap Up**

Identifying concrete pathways to action. A template for connection and further engagement for local problem solving utilising the lessons of the Jewish Funders Network and Australian Jewish Funders.

Andres Spokoyny, President and CEO Jewish Funders Network

4.00pm

## **Close and Afternoon Tea**

Tuesday 17 November

# Grand Hyatt Singapore

1 Raffles Place, Singapore Salon 6, Level 2

8.30am **Light breakfast**

9.00am **Session 1**

## INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Building a portfolio of Start-ups or hi-growth Companies – opportunities. How to do well and do good at the same time.

*Presentated by* Denes Ban - Vice President OURCROWD, Professor Eugene Kandel - Hebrew University and former Head of the National Economic Council and Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister of Israel and Debbie Hochberg, CEO Paul E. Singer Foundation

10:30am **Morning Break**

10:45am **Session 2**

## COMMUNITY CHALLENGES, PHILANTHROPIC OPPORTUNITIES AND IDEAS

Despite the geographic and cultural differences, most Jewish communities around the world share similar challenges. We will explore how communities can collaborate tackling two such challenges:

- (a) Engagement in Jewish Life - As a people, our future depends on our ability to inspire generation after generation to engage in Jewish life, and to devote their time and talent to strengthening the Jewish community. In this session we will explore the global challenges and inspiring tales of innovative methods of Jewish engagement, and look at how together, we can strengthen ties to Jewish identity and Jewish life. Discussion topics will include young adult engagement and affordability and sustainability of Jewish Day Schools.

- (b) BDS - the global movement to condemn Israel and produce boycotts, sanctions and divestments is growing dangerously across the world. How is this issue affecting Israel and diaspora Jews? What can we do to counteract it? Having leaders from different communities gives us an opportunity to discuss and share ideas on possible common action and how the relationship with Asia may be used to counter this threat.

***Conversation facilitated by*** Robert Dorfman - Chair Herald Holdings Ltd,  
Andres Spokoiny, President and CEO Jewish Funders Network and Tracie  
Olcha - CEO Australian Jewish Funders

12.45pm

### **Wrap up**

**Andres Spokoiny, President and CEO Jewish Funders Network**

1.00pm

### **Close**



# Keynote Speakers



## Prof. Eugene Kandel

### Israel

Prof. Eugene Kandel holds a BA and an MA in Economics from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and an MBA and a Ph.D. in Economics from the Graduate School of Business at the University of Chicago. He is a Professor of Economics and Finance at the Hebrew University, and has taught at the University of Rochester and the University of Chicago.

Prof. Kandel is a member of the Center for the Study of Rationality at the Hebrew University, a Research Fellow of the Center for Economic Policy and Research in London, and a Fellow of the European Corporate Governance Institute. He is the founder of the Center for Financial Markets and Institutions, and of the MA program in Finance and Financial Economics, both at the Hebrew University. Prof. Kandel served as Editor and Associate Editor of several Finance journals.

Prof. Kandel's primary area of expertise is Financial Markets and Financial Intermediaries. His research is published in the world leading Finance, Economics and Accounting journals. Prof. Kandel was actively involved (as a researcher and as a consultant) in the 1994-1997 Nasdaq controversy, and the subsequent redesign of the Nasdaq.

Prof. Kandel served as a consultant to government agencies, companies, financial institutions, and non-for-profit organizations. He was the lead advisor on the design of the Mutual and Provident Funds ranking system in Holland and in Israel, and served as a judge on the Israeli Antitrust Court, and as a Chairman of the Investment Committee of pension and provident funds in Israel. Since July 2009 Prof. Kandel has been serving as Head of the National Economic Council in the Prime Minister's Office and Economic Adviser to the Prime Minister.



## Jonathan Medved

### Israel

Jonathan Medved is a serial entrepreneur and according to the Washington Post (Dec 5, 2007) “one of Israel’s leading high tech venture capitalists”. In the September, 2008 NY Times Supplement “Israel at 60” Medved was named one of the “top 10 most influential Americans who have impacted Israel”. In May 22, 2015 Edition of the Jerusalem Post, Medved was named one of the “50 most influential Jews”.

Medved currently is the founder and CEO of OurCrowd, the leading global equity crowdfunding platform for accredited investors and angels. Our Crowd is according to Forbes (August 13 2013) “one of the largest crowdfunding organizations on the planet” having raised over \$130M for 70 portfolio companies since its launch in February 2013. Bloomberg Business week said in the May 7, 2015 edition that “OurCrowd is hands down the most successful equity-crowdfunding platform in the world right now.” TheStreet.com described OurCrowd as “Crowdfunding for Real Investors.”

Medved has been both an entrepreneur and investor: He has been part of the founding teams at several successful Israeli startups, and as a venture and angel investor over the past two decades he invested in almost 200 startup companies, helping to bring 15 of them to values in excess of \$100Million.

Between 2006-2012, Medved was the co-founder and CEO of Vringo, a leader in the innovation, development and monetization of mobile technologies and intellectual property. Medved led Vringo to a successful completion of its IPO (Initial Public Offering) on the NYSE:AMEX in June, 2010 and it trades under the symbol VRNG.

# Guest Speakers



## Bill Foo Singapore

Dr Bill Foo is currently a professional director, corporate advisor and chairman of several public listed, private and non-profit entities.

This includes chairing Unigestion Asia, an investment company where as a group it manages about US\$20 billion in hedge funds, private and public equity and a Senior Advisor at Lazard.

Prior to retirement, Bill has been in financial services for over 30 years as CEO ANZ Singapore for 12 years and Vice Chairman for 4 years as Vice Chairman of South/South East Asia, Regional Head of Investment Banking for Schrodgers and lived in Indonesia for about 6 years.

He is chairman of several community and charity organisations including Salvation Army and Heartware Youth(one of the largest youth organisations in Singapore)

He has a B.Admin from Concordia, MBA McGill and an honorary Doctor of Commerce from James Cook University.



## Bilahari Kausikan Singapore

Mr Bilahari Kausikan retired in June 2013 and is currently Ambassador-at-Large and Policy Advisor in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From 2001 to May 2013, Mr Kausikan was first the second Permanent Secretary and then Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mr Kausikan has also served as the Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York and as Ambassador to the Russian Federation.



# Yael Rubinstein

## Singapore

Ambassador Yael Rubinstein is the Ambassador of Israel to Singapore and Non-Resident Ambassador of Israel to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

Previously, Ambassador Rubinstein has served as Ambassador of Israel to the Kingdom of Thailand, and non-resident Ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambodia, as well as Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary (non-resident) of Slovakia, Slovenia and Croatia; Central Europe Department, MFA Jerusalem. Ambassador Rubinstein has served as Senior Political Advisor at J5 IDF, as well as Fellow at the NSC (National Security College).

She has held various positions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including Director, Economic Affairs Department, and International Organizations Department, MFA. She also served as Counselor, Delegation to UN in New York. Ambassador Rubinstein has been awarded the Silver Reward from the King and Queen of Thailand.

# Meet the Participants



## Adam Krongold Australia

Adam's background is in Agribusiness but his passions lie on both sides of the farm gate. Having spent time at the retail sales coalface in both face-to-face and call centres, running internal communications for BUPA Australia and working in the entertainment industry, it's apparent to Adam that one path just won't do! He currently divides himself between the family business (old school), the tech angel space (new school) and various not-for-profits.

Adam's first, current and future love is technology. He is currently involved in cutting-edge innovation and design around wearable tech, nanotech and battery tech. His love of technology is only matched by his desire to help build bridges between different creative types from all over the world. Adam currently sits on the boards of The Jewish Museum of Australia and Shenkar College of Engineering, Design and Art, Tel Aviv, Israel.



## Akiva Kremnizer

### Singapore

Akiva is an enthusiastic thirty four year old who is happily married with three beautiful daughters. Since October 2001 he has been self employed in the Property Finance, Trade Finance, Equity allocation and Commodity sectors. Akiva has successfully started and run many such businesses through different corporate entities located in Australia, United Kingdom, Hong Kong, Singapore, Indonesia, Madagascar and Israel.

In addition he has invested equity in various “niche” commodity transactions in Singapore, Indonesia and Madagascar. Akiva has lived in Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore and South Africa in the past 15 years and has extensive exposure through business and corporate travel throughout most of Asia, Europe and Africa.



# Amir Yaar

## Israel

Amir Yaar is founder and CEO of China Israel Synergy Holdings. Amir was known as one of the leading financial entrepreneur in Israel with skills to develop business opportunities and “create value” based on innovative concepts. Hong Kong is the center of operations of CISH.

Amir is a member of the YPO WPO worldwide organization and he is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Israel-Asia Chamber of Commerce. CISH is an Investments Management Group that was formed with the mission of bringing and assimilating Israel's innovative technology into China and Asia and providing a mutual business platform for companies and investors who wish to invest in Israel and for Israeli companies who wish to implement their innovative “Game Changing” technologies in China and Asia . CISH targets the technologies that strength and improve people's quality of life.

One of its main missions and visions is to contribute and allocate part of its profits to strengthen to society and help the community to enjoy from new important technologies that make a better and safer society- DOING WELL and make our partners successful is important to CISH same as DOING WELL by improving the world on both the Technological and Human level. Now CISH is expending her activities and the selective investment opportunity was offered to world “Key people” who can invest and “put their mark” , assist in creating the significant change, bring with them added value, knowledge and the ability to promote together a mutual success



# Ariel Kohelet

## Singapore

Ariel Kohelet is the Managing Director of Malca-Amit Singapore a subsidiary of Malca-Amit Global logistic group.

Malca-Amit is a market leader in logistics of valuable goods providing solutions and services to a number of Investment and Private banks as well as some of the world's top Diamond and Jewellery companies.

Originally from Israel In 2004 after working as security consultant in various projects Ariel joined Malca-Amit and in 2010 was appointed to setup Malca-Amit's Office in Singapore.





## Aura Levin Lipski B.A., Dip.Ed, M.A. Australia

Aura is an internationally recognised authority on Israeli dance and music culture, about which she lectures and broadcasts widely.

As the Melbourne-based creator and publisher of JewishWorldLife.com, Aura has developed a unique online network of interlinked websites. The network, with nearly 4 million hits per month, is independently ranked in the top 1% of all websites visited worldwide. It includes [www.israelidances.com](http://www.israelidances.com) – the definitive global resource for teachers and dancers in 35 countries.

A “sister-site”, [www.hebrewsongs.com](http://www.hebrewsongs.com), features over 5,000 Hebrew songs transliterated and translated into English and other languages, by some 400 volunteers of many faiths and nationalities. Chinese speaking Israeli dance groups in Hong Kong and Singapore have recently transliterated hundreds of Hebrew Song titles into Chinese.

Aura’s passion for song and dance grew out of her career as a professional singer in both English and Hebrew. She has performed on stages throughout Australia, Asia, Europe and Russia, and her recordings have been broadcast in Israel, Australia and South America.



## David Isaac

### Singapore

Mr. Isaacs' Baghdadi Jewish family has lived in Singapore since 1850. Most recently he started a strategy consultancy as well as a psychology clinic in Singapore.

Aside from his business work, Mr. Isaac and his family administer various charitable institutions that make contributions to educational and charitable institutions worldwide.



# David Naphtali

## Hong Kong

Originally from Melbourne, Australia, David has been living in Hong Kong for 13 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 three children, aged 8, 4 and 3 who they hope will continue the tradition established by their Grandparents and Great Grandparents of being active and involved members of their communities.



## Dean Collins

### Singapore

Dean Collins is the Managing Partner of the Singapore office of Dechert LLP, an international law firm. Dean was named to the most recent “The Legal Power 30,” Private Equity International’s list of the thirty most influential private equity lawyers in the world, identified by industry participants as the “best of the best” in the field. He is the only lawyer based in Southeast Asia named to the list.

Dean’s practice focuses on the establishment of alternative investment funds, with a particular emphasis on private equity and other closed ended funds. He advise clients on the structuring and establishment of private equity investment funds, secondary transactions, carried interest and co-investment plans, team spin-outs, co-investments and other private equity related transactions.

He also acts on the establishment of other types of alternative investment funds, such as real estate, venture capital, infrastructure and hedge funds, and provides advice to major institutional investors on their investments into funds and co-investments both in Asia and elsewhere.



# Debbie Dadon

## Australia

Debbie Dadon is a member of the second generation involved in the Besen Family Foundation which was founded 37 years ago. Raised in a philanthropic environment and holding the position of Chief Executive Officer and Trustee of the Besen Family Foundation for 19 years before moving into her current role as Chair of the Besen Family Foundation, 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 leadership role in the Besen Family Foundation has been 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 optimising 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.



## Debbie Hochberg

### USA



Debbie serves as Director of Strategic Partnerships at The Paul E. Singer Foundation. Previously, she was Director of Investor Relations for Multex, Inc., where she established, cultivated and managed all investor relationships, culminating in the company's sale to Thomson Reuters. Prior to that, Debbie served as an Equity Research Analyst, following the Medical Device and Managed Care Sectors, and in Equity Capital Markets, focusing on equity new issuances, both at Merrill Lynch & Co. Debbie currently serves on the Board of Directors of One Table.

Debbie's passion for pro-Israel advocacy was catalyzed on 9/11 when she was standing in front of the World Trade Center. She served on the Board of Directors of The David Project from inception through 2008 and is an active lay leader for Facing History & Ourselves. Debbie has an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School and an A.B. in Biology from Harvard College, where she played on the four-time National Championship Varsity Squash team. Debbie lives in Scarsdale, NY with her husband, three children and dog, and enjoys tennis, skiing, travel and reading.



# Denes Ban

## Israel

Denes Ban serves as the Vice President of OurCrowd, the world's leading equity crowdfunding platform and a community of more than 10.000 investors from across the globe. OurCrowd invested over \$150M for its 80 portfolio companies since launching in February 2013. As a successful entrepreneur and angel investor, Ban has invested in, advised and founded a number of startups in the past decade, including funding and selling an HR company and co-founding PocketGuide, one of the winners of TechCrunch Europe and the world's leading travel guide mobile app for 150 cities, with millions of users.

Ban has dedicated more than ten years to fostering growth, training and shaping corporate strategy for companies around the globe, improving profitability of over 100 companies and training hundreds of CXOs around the world. On Saturday nights, he can be found playing blues and jazz with his band.



# Erica Lyons



## Hong Kong

Erica 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), The Times of Israel, Sh'ma, The South China Morning Post (Hong Kong) and Playtimes (Hong Kong). Her work has been featured by Mosaic and eJewish Philanthropy. Erica was the winner of the 2011 Be'chol Lashon (In Every Tongue) New Media Award, a participant in the ROI Summit and a fellow with the Tikvah Advanced Summer Institute.

In addition to writing, she has been a speaker for forums that include: TEDx Victoria Harbour (Hong Kong), the SEFER International Conference for Judaic Studies (Moscow), Limmud China (Shanghai and Beijing) and the JDC's Day of Global Responsibility (Shanghai). She is on the Management Council of Hong Kong's Ohel Leah Synagogue, the board of the Jewish Historical Society of Hong Kong and is Hong Kong's representative to the World Jewish Congress. Additionally she is on the organising committee for Hong Kong Stories, a group that performs monthly at Hong Kong's Fringe Club.

Her poetry is featured in Not a Muse: The Inner Lives of Women, a World Poetry Anthology. She is also the mother of three children, ages 14, 13 and 9 all of whom attend Hong Kong's Jewish Day School, Carmel School.





## Ian Allen OAM, BEc, MAdmin, FAICD, FAIM Australia

Ian holds a Bachelor of Economics and Master of Administration from Monash University. He spent over 30 years in personnel development, executive secretariat, marketing, customer policy and service including the development of wide ranging customer policy initiatives that impacted on more than a million electricity customers throughout Victoria with significant policies introduced Australia wide.

In the early eighties Ian lead an international marketing strategy to attract energy intensive industries to Victoria. He was seconded to the Victorian government to deliver this strategy, which brought major investment to Victoria creating many hundreds of jobs.

More than 20 years ago Ian commenced with Pratt Holdings and has been involved with a range of activities including the performing arts, philanthropy, corporate citizenship, investment projects, major corporate entertainment, family entertainment and events, recycling, cost reduction, property management, aviation, publishing and Government relations.

He is a trustee of the Pratt Foundation, the Pratt Family Foundation, Visy Cares, Richard Pratt Fellowships in Prostate Cancer, the Pratt Group Scholarship Fund and the Pratt Global Foundation. Currently he is a director of Entertainment Assist, Carlton Football Community Foundation, The Collingwood Football Club Community Foundation, The Waislitz Foundation, the Global Poverty Project, Australian Jewish Funders, Youth Access Services and the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal.

Ian is also a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and the Australian Institute of Management.

With more than fifty years involvement in the entertainment industry as a performer, musical director, producer, promoter and importer of international artists, he has shared the stage with many acclaimed international and Australian artists. Often using a nom-de-plume, Ian has published articles about various aspects of rock-n-roll both in Australia and internationally.

He was awarded an Order of Australia in 1998.



## Jacob Robbins

### Singapore

Jacob Robbins is the founder and CEO of Emeterra, a Singapore-based company that develops agribusiness projects in emerging markets. Emeterra's focuses on producing value-added food ingredients using innovative technology, for regional and multinational customers. Jacob is also Senior Advisor to Olympus Capital Asia, an independent private equity firm that has been successfully investing across Asia for over 18 years. Prior to Emeterra, he spent 20 years in various executive positions with The Coca-Cola Company in various multi-geographic and global executive positions.

His last role was Managing Director, Global Sweeteners of The Coca-Cola Company where he led the world's largest supply chain among the global industrial users of sugar and starch sweeteners, also representing the biggest area of the global Coca-Cola system's supply chain. He started his career in India's Tata Group, as part of TAS, the Group's flagship leadership programme. During this period he worked in Tata Steel – first in the office of the Chairman and subsequently successfully led Tata Steel's main international trading platform for agricultural commodities, establishing it with a global presence.

Jacob holds a Bachelor of Science in Economics with Honours, followed by qualifications in Management with Honours, complemented with programmes at Wharton and the Harvard Business School. Jacob is an active member of the Singapore Jewish community, having being on the committee of the Jewish Welfare Board and currently an officer of the Jewish Business Forum, Singapore. He is a frequent visitor to Israel and involved with business ventures with several Israeli firms.



# John Nakamura

## Macau

John R. Nakamura CEO and co CIO of Liwa group a multi strategy private investment house, with offices in Macau, London, and Israel.



## Jonathan Glickfeld

### Singapore

Jonathan Glickfeld is a Director of Visy Singapore and the Pratt Family's Asian Representative. Visy Singapore is the Asian head office of Visy and Pratt Industries. Visy Singapore accesses technology, engineers and trades over 1 billion dollars of commodities and services around the globe. He is also a director of the Australian Myanmar Chamber of Commerce and Patron of the cancer charity Kick Sarcoma



## Leeran Gold

### Singapore

Born and raised in Sydney, Leeran Gold was the first Australian candidate to be invited as the International Visiting Researcher to the Home Team Academy Behavioural Sciences Centre in Singapore. She completed her Bachelor of Arts – Psychology degree at Macquarie University and her Post Graduate Diploma of Psychology and Master of Psychology (Forensic) Degree at Bond University at the age of 23. Leeran has held teaching positions with Bond University and now works as a registered Psychologist specialising in Forensic Services in Singapore.

Leeran has always been passionate about community work, and has been volunteering within the Jewish Community since her teenage years. This includes the Jewish National Fund, Jewish Board of Deputies, Australasian Union of Jewish Students, Hillel Sydney, Moriah College Alumni Group, Communal Security Group, The Montefiore Aged Care Home, Bond University Jewish Student Group, and most recently helped bring The Shabbat Project to Singapore. She has recently signed on to volunteer with the Wilkie Road Home in 2016.

Leeran also spent time volunteering in rural Nepal, teaching at a school for underprivileged children in the Kathmandu Valley. Leeran has always been passionate about music, and performed at the prestigious Carnegie Hall, New York when she was 14. She also enjoys martial arts and adventure travel, having trekked to Mt Everest Base Camp in 2010.



## Liat Lazimi-Levi

### Singapore

Liat Lazimi-Levi holds the position of Deputy Chief at the Embassy of Israel in Singapore where she heads the cultural and political department. Armed with a Masters in Criminology from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Liat did her BA in Middle Eastern Studies and Arabic Literature from the same university.

Before commencing her term as DCM with the Embassy of Israel in Singapore, Liat held the position of Deputy Director at Department for Export Controls in the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



# Mark Spiro

## Singapore

Mark Spiro is an Executive and Senior Banker of the Australian team at J.P. Morgan Private Bank. Based in Singapore, he is responsible for delivering the firm's investment, wealth and capital advisory capabilities of the ultra-high-net-worth Australian clients in the region.

Mr. Spiro has over 14 years of experience in financial services. He started his career with the Treasury department of HSBC Israel. After a brief stint in the military he joined U Bank, formerly Investec Israel, as a Relationship Manager to build out their foreign client desk. Prior to joining J.P. Morgan, he was a Senior Private Banker at Citi Private Bank, covering the UHNW segment in Australia and New Zealand.

Mr. Spiro holds a Bachelor of Commerce with double major in Finance & International Business from the University of New South Wales. He is married with two children. Mr. Spiro was a committee member for United Israel Appeal, New South Wales Young Leadership for 5 years.



# Max Parasol

## Australia

Max Parasol practised as a lawyer in Victoria, Western Australia, and Shanghai. He is managing director of Middle Road Consulting, a firm that assists Chinese and Australian businesses connect. In 2014, he was appointed a Senior Fellow at Monash University creating two subjects on the Chinese legal system for LLM students. In 2015, he began building a model for connecting the Australian and Chinese entrepreneurial ecosystems. The idea is based on his ongoing doctoral research of the laws and regulations in China's Silicon Valley, Zhongguancun, and Chinese innovation policies more broadly.

Max obtained an Arts degree (Jewish history/Chinese majors) and a Law degree with honours at Monash University. He authored a first class law honours thesis about comparative Chinese Law. He also completed a masters of Chinese law at Nanjing University in Chinese. Max has spent over 5 years studying and practicing law in China. He first went to China when he was 19 in 2003. He speaks, reads and writes Chinese.





## Michelle Sassoon

### Singapore



Michelle Sassoon is the President and Chief Operating Officer of Rubina Watch Company Private Limited and Director of SunVic Group. A highly successful entrepreneur and businesswoman with several decades of experience in retail & distribution, food & beverage, entertainment and education, she also plays an active role in local and international charities and institutions of public character. Having played an instrumental role in her family's business ventures to date, Michelle believes in passion, creativity, clear communication and sense of direction as the determinants of success.

Michelle is a Member of the Marketing Advisory Panel to The National Gallery Singapore and was a Judge of the Cartier Women's Initiative Award for five years. Since 2007, she has been a Member of the Singapore Chapter of the Young Presidents' Organization. Additionally as a Board of Director in one of the Singapore's top enrichment centre. Over time, Michelle's personal involvement in education has developed into a passion now.



## Nathan Cher

### Australia

Nathan is a General Partner of the Equity Crowd Funding Company OURCROWD and Director of the Australian Jewish Funders. He is also co-founder and director (and/or investor) in a string of companies (listed and unlisted) in the areas of disruptive systems, web/tech and property, both in Australia and overseas.

Nathan pursues industry niches where efficiency-improvement through leveraged-technology & 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 since its inception.

The Company was 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.



## Nechama Bendet

### Australia

Nechama Bendet is the Director of Development at the Yeshivah Centre, a large organisation delivering a holistic range of educational, cultural, social and welfare services to the Melbourne Jewish community including primary and secondary schools with over 1,300 students. Nechama is responsible for strategic planning, capital development, grants and donor relations. Nechama is also the co-chair of the Australian Council of Jewish Schools representing 21 schools and 11,000 students across Australia. Liaises extensively with State and Federal Education Departments and Government on a range of issues effecting Jewish schools including school funding.

A passionate supporter of Jewish education, Nechama has been working with the presidents and principals of Jewish schools and major funders to explore solutions to the affordability of Jewish education. Nechama is married with 5 children.



# Oded Milstein

## Singapore

Oded Milstein has been at the leading edge of the technology industry, working with key players in the hardware field and in recent years' software based and cloud SaaS Solutions. He is a multi-cultural international business executive with engineering background and MBA, possessing experience in International emerging and mature markets across the Asia-Pacific EMEA and CALA.

Having lived over 20 years in Singapore HK, USA and Australia, he has been engaged in technology companies , in different roles from sales, general management as well as capital raising for Israeli and Singapore based companies.

He has been part of several very successful companies, amongst a few, Israeli Hi Tech pioneer Scitex Corporation, broadband leader Alvarion and Fortune 500 - Motorola. Working in Asia since 1996, he has specialized in fast growing small to medium companies with no to small experience in Asia providing business development, sales and marketing services, as well as raising local capital to these organizations.

Israeli born, son of 2 orphan holocaust survivors, who immigrated to Israel pre 1948 Israel independence declaration, he and his wife are engaged in Jewish life abroad. They are active community members, he has sat on the Board of Directors of Carmel School in Hong Kong, and his wife headed the Jewish Women's Association of Hong Kong. He is passionate about Israel and the diaspora. They have 3 boys – one recently honorary discharged from the IDF as a commander in a combat unit, while his middle son is due to enroll shortly.



# Rebecca Zeffert



## Israel

Rebecca Zeffert is the founder and executive director of the Israel-Asia Center, an Israeli non-profit organization dedicated to building a shared future between Israel and Asia. The Israel-Asia Center runs programs focused on building future leaders in Israel-Asia relations, and coordinates events exploring the biggest challenges facing Asia in the next decade and how we can work together to co-innovate solutions. Seventy-five percent of the alumni of the Israel-Asia Center's leadership programs are now directly engaged in shaping Israel-Asia relations across 10 countries in Asia in business, tech, non-profit, academia, government and diplomacy, and have attracted tens of millions of dollars in investment from Asian investors to Israeli companies. Prior to founding the Israel-Asia Center, Rebecca worked for more than a decade in media, public relations and public affairs for multinational companies, media organizations, NGOs and educational institutions in China, Japan, Israel and the UK – including APCO Worldwide and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Based in Jerusalem for the past 12 years, Rebecca has also lived in China and Japan. She studied at Kansai Gaidai University (Japan), Tianjin Normal University (China) and Shanghai Theater Academy (China) and holds a B.A. in Modern Chinese Studies from the University of Leeds. Rebecca serves on the advisory committee of India Cyber Connect, on the international board of advisors of the Capital Jewish Forum, and was a founding board member of AJC ACCESS in Israel. She has also served on the Steering Committee for the PresenTense Institute for Social Entrepreneurs.



# Robert Dorfman



## Hong Kong

Robert Dorfman is Chairman of Herald Holdings Ltd, a diversified manufacturing and distribution business based in Hong Kong and listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. Robert is also a Trustee of the Ohel Leah Synagogue Charity and Chairman of the United Israel Appeal Hong Kong Campaign and recently received the Yakir Prize for his leadership.

He is a member of the Council of Lingnan University and served for 10 years (1999-2009) as Chairman of the Vision 2047 Foundation, a group of permanent Hong Kong residents who promote Hong Kong as Asia's leading centre for international business. Robert has also been very active with the Young Presidents' Organization ("YPO") and has served on its International Board of Directors. He is a recipient of the Hickok Award, YPO's highest award presented for distinguished service.



## Ron Snir

### Singapore

First Secretary, Economic and Trade Affairs  
Embassy of Israel in Singapore

Ms. Ron Snir was appointed as the Commercial Attaché to Singapore and Indonesia by the Foreign Trade Administration at the Ministry of Economy in January 2013, and began her posting in September 2013.

Prior to her posting, Ms. Snir worked in the private sector as a futures trader (STIR) and in trading floor management, after working for a pharmaceutical company as a validation engineer.

Ms. Snir has a B.Sc. in Chemical Engineering and a B.Sc. in Chemistry (with Nano-technology distinction) from Ben-Gurion University in Israel, and is now studying towards her Masters in Philosophy of Science at Tel Aviv University in Israel.

She is married and is the mother of 2 beautiful girls, and in her rare spare time enjoys reading, yoga and tennis.



## Sam Lipski AM, BA and LLD (Hon) Australia

Sam Lipski AM, BA and LLD (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.



# Simon Mochkin

## Singapore

Well Vintage Enterprises Ltd



## Yael Amit

### Singapore



Yael Amit is the Southeast Asia Representative of AJC's Asia-Pacific Institute, an organization dedicated to strengthening relations between Asia and the Jewish people ([www.ajc.org](http://www.ajc.org)). Yael has lived in Israel, Vancouver, New York and has spent the last five years in Singapore where she earned a Master in Public Administration from the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy.

Yael is an active member of Singapore's small, but vibrant Jewish community - she currently serves on the board of Singapore's Jewish Business Forum where she organizes meaningful networking events for Singapore's community. Prior to coming to Singapore, Yael worked at AJC's New York Headquarters where she was responsible for organizing and overseeing AJC's major policy conferences, as well as Board relations.

Yael has an MA from Queen's University (Kingston, Ontario), a BA from University of British Columbia and has served in the Israel Defense Force (2000-2002).



# Yaniv Uliel

## Singapore

Yaniv holds an MBA degree from INSEAD with distinction and a cum laude B.Sc. degree from the Technion. Yaniv has lived and worked in three different countries and he currently resides in Singapore. Yaniv is a value investing and industry analysis expert. He writes a blog about value investing at <http://www.yanivu.com>



# Yosi Tal

## Australia

Yosi Tal was born in Israel in 1959 and lived in Israel, Italy and Nigeria before the family migrated to Sydney, Australia in 1970. His schooling was at Moriah College, Sydney. A private Jewish Day School where he matriculated in 1977. He attended Sydney University for two years at the Faculty of Agriculture, where upon he transferred in 1980 to the Institute of Technology where he completed a Bachelor of Business. After travelling overseas for a couple of years he returned to Sydney and started a business in partnership with his father Eli, a company called Designer Rugs.

In the last 29 years they have built it up into Australia's leading rug manufacturer and importer with showrooms in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Auckland with a very impressive corporate and private client list. Yosi is also a partner in Astonlea Property Group. This company is active in the Australian Commercial Property Market Yosi is involved in a number of organisations including AIJAC, the NSW Board of Jewish Deputies and was a board member of AICE for 10 years from 2003-2013. Yosi is also active politically visiting Federal Parliament in Canberra on a regular basis and lobbying Federal Parliamentarians on a variety of issues.

Yosi has also been a Director of the Stephen Sanig Research Institute for nearly 10 years, a non for profit organization involved in scientific research. As well as Yosi is a contributor to a variety of general charities and causes in Australia and Israel. Yosi is married to Derryn who is an Artist and they have three children, Alon 24 who lives in Israel, Rami 21 and Shani 18. Yosi resides in Sydney, Australia.



# Ztiki Fuchs



## Israel

For the last 5 years Mr. Fuchs has been acting as the CEO of Bio-Nexus Ltd. Prior to that and for 6 years he was one of the founders and set on the board of Intramedix Inc. , a company specializing in manufacturing of surgical medical devices.

Between 2003-2006 Mr. Fuchs held a position as a director at ABN AMRO Bank in the Netherlands

Mr. Fuchs also acted as a Director of Business Development for GlobalOne, a European consolidation of shareholders such as Sprint Corporation, Deutsche Telekom AG & France Telecom.

Mr. Fuchs holds an M.A. in Business Administration and an LLB from Bar Ilan Univ

# Meet the Lead Team



## Tracie Olcha

### Australia

Tracie Olcha is CEO at the Australian Jewish Funders (AJF). Since joining the AJF 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 3 years 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 Tracie worked with a variety of Jewish organisations and was responsible for a myriad of projects including fundraising, marketing, major events and conferences.

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

### USA

Andres Spokoiny, President and CEO Jewish Funders Network 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, Andrés 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.



# Sigal Yaniv Feller

## Israel

Sigal Yaniv Feller was born in NY to Israeli parents, and moved to Israel at the age of 6. She graduated from the Sde Boker Environmental High School, which was a critical period in formulating her commitment to Israel's social and environmental fields. She then served in the army as an SPNI Nature and Environment Educator for civilian and military groups in the Mt Hermon Field School. Sigal received her BSc in Biology and Environmental Science, and MSc in Environmental Science, from Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Her professional experience includes positions as Director of Field Projects for Young Judea's Year Course and Director of YJ's Student Leadership Program "Sharsheret."

Between the years 2001-2011, Sigal served as the Executive Director of the Green Environment Fund (GEF), a unique philanthropic model of five foundations supporting the environment in Israel through a joint strategy. Over the course of these years, GEF was a significant player and leader in building the environmental movement in Israel.

In 2006, Sigal was chosen as one of the 10 most influential people on the environment in Israel by the "The Marker" Israeli magazine. In 2011, Sigal and her family moved to Hong Kong for three years as Israeli diplomats. During these years, Sigal was the Israeli representative of KH-UIA in Hong Kong and the Far East.

After her return, Sigal joined JFN-Jewish Funders Network, as director of advisory services in Israel, working with Jewish philanthropists from around the world with issues regarding their Israel giving.



# Conference 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.



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

## **The Pratt Foundation**

Established in Melbourne in 1978 by the late Richard Pratt and Jeanne Pratt AC, Pratt Philanthropies is one of the largest private sources of philanthropy in Australia. The Pratt Foundation's mission statement is "To enrich the lives of our communities". And it aims to pursue that goal, in the words of Jeremiah, in "a spirit of kindness, justice and equity".

***We wish to thank the Pratt Foundation for their support initiating and convening this conference.***

# Local Partners in Singapore



[jbforumorg.wix.com/jbforum](http://jbforumorg.wix.com/jbforum)

## **Jewish Business Forum**

The Jewish Business Forum (JBF) is a society dedicated to promoting the interests of our members in Singapore and the region by providing business information and networking opportunities. The Jewish Business Forum creates opportunities for this community through networking events, high-level meetings with international business leaders, and panel discussions with policy makers and influential voices from the region.



[singaporejews.com](http://singaporejews.com)

## **Jewish Welfare Board**

The Jewish Welfare Board (JWB), established in 1949, manages Singapore's Jewish community affairs. The Jewish Welfare Board is a non-profit organisation which serves the needs of the Jewish community in Singapore and takes care of all the administration for the various departments.

# Special Thanks

This gathering could not have been possible without the help and support of:

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# Notes

