

Impact Report

Australian Jewish Funders



2022



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Who we are

Australian Jewish Funders is the network inspiring effective philanthropy and strengthening community through innovation, collaboration and leadership.

Vision

AJF's vision is to inspire and enable vibrant, meaningful, and sustainable Jewish life in Australia and beyond, by encouraging philanthropic excellence and community investment.

Mission

AJF's mission is to lead and collaborate with Jewish funders, at the individual and collective levels, to improve the quality of their giving, encourage Jewish innovation and maximise impact.

Chairs & CEO

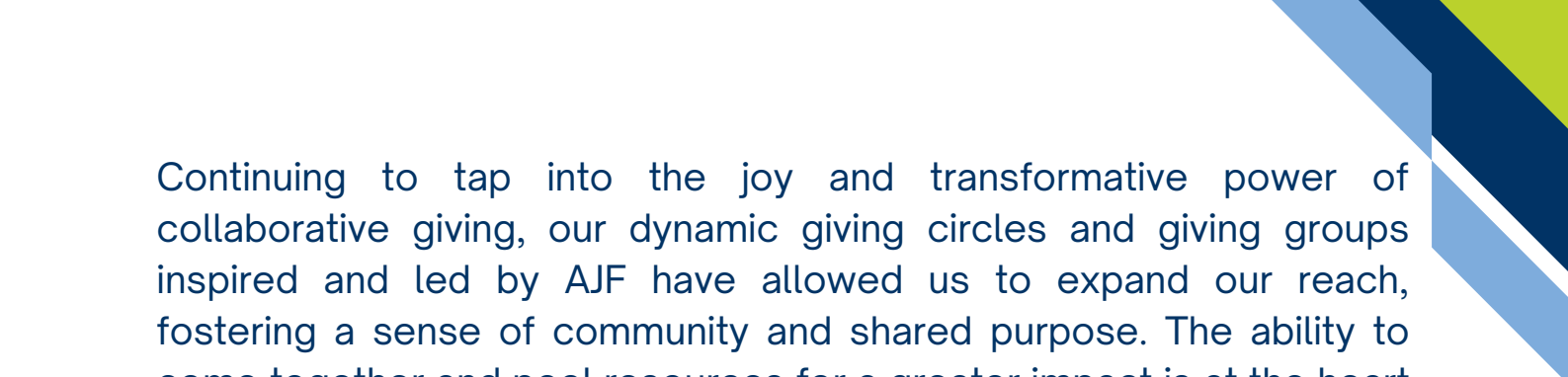
Message



"Every individual matters. Every individual has a role to play. Every individual makes a difference."

These words by Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks OBM serve as a guiding principle for AJF. As we present our 2022 Impact Report, we consider this fundamental principle. Amidst evolving global complexities, the importance of each individual's contribution has been underscored. Guided by Jewish values of humility, respect, and responsibility, we continually witness the far-reaching impact that we as individuals, and collectively, can make.

In reviewing the past year, we embarked on a journey of profound learning and understanding, notably through the AJF member survey. This significant endeavor offered invaluable insights into the needs, aspirations, and perspectives of our members. The collected data is more than a statistical summary; it's a vibrant mosaic of voices that will influence our future programming and initiatives. Grasping this data is pivotal, empowering us to be more adaptive, strategic, and impactful in our philanthropic endeavors.




Continuing to tap into the joy and transformative power of collaborative giving, our dynamic giving circles and giving groups inspired and led by AJF have allowed us to expand our reach, fostering a sense of community and shared purpose. The ability to come together and pool resources for a greater impact is at the heart of what we do.

Our partnership with Catchafire entered its second year, with a strengthened focus on building the capacity of the for-purpose sector, reaffirming our commitment to fostering innovative collaborations, leading to profound change in how our organisations work.

A highlight of 2022 was bringing a third cohort of 34 leaders into the LaunchPad Leadership network and the gift of hosting a retreat to finally come together. This 3-day retreat, our first in-person gathering since May 2019, was a landmark event for us. It gave 70 leaders from across all 3 cohorts the opportunity to engage in collective thinking about the future of the Jewish community in Australia. The exchange of ideas, shared vision, and the sense of unity reinforced the importance of every individual and their role in our collective mission. The impact of this retreat will resonate in our future initiatives and the continued growth of our leadership community.

Our Board of Directors, particularly guided by the steadfast leadership of Simone Szalmuk-Singer and Justin Greenstein as Co-Chairs in the first half of 2022, warrants special appreciation. Together with the entire board, their combined dedication, wisdom, and investment of time, talent, treasure, ties, and testimonies have been instrumental in AJF's success. Each director has contributed significantly, and we extend our deepest gratitude for their tireless efforts.



Our participation in the Observership Program remains an annual highlight, and we convey our gratitude to our 2022 board observers Shahaf Segal, Regional Director, KPMG Advisory & Consulting (Melbourne) and Jared Engleman, Junior Medical Officer, NSW Health (Sydney) for their insightful contributions.

We extend our deepest appreciation to the exceptional professional team at AJF, a team defined by loyalty, enthusiasm, and a steadfast commitment to our mission. Their resilience, creativity, and diligence have been crucial in maintaining the continuity of Jewish connection, community engagement, and philanthropy.

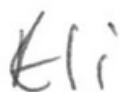
We are incredibly fortunate to have the unwavering pro bono support from Peter Hersh, Director at Logicca, Partners Joey Borensztajn AM and Jeremy Leibler and their teams at Arnold Bloch Leibler, including Jessica Wills. We also thank the team at Moore Australia for providing the 2021 pro bono audit, led by Andrew Johnson, Partner.

Our strategic partnerships play a crucial role in our vision - Jewish Funders Network (JFN) USA and Israel, Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies, JCA (NSW), Shalom (NSW), Emanuel School (NSW), UIA VIC, UIA NSW, Philanthropy Australia (PA), Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network (AEGN), and Australians Investing in Women (AIW). These relationships amplify our impact and we are grateful for their ongoing support and friendship.

Our accomplishments in 2022 lay the groundwork for our enduring legacy. Each strategic gift, each effort to bolster our community, signifies the power of individual input. This report is not merely a summary of our year but a tribute to everyone within our network.

We express heartfelt appreciation to our members, giving circle participants, family giving workshop attendees, and communal organisation partners. Your unwavering commitment, insightful contributions, and shared vision have shaped AJF's trajectory. Your inputs continue to enrich our community.

As we navigate forward, our commitment remains unyielding to our collective vision, where every individual counts. Together, we form a network distinguished by generosity, collaboration, innovation, and leadership. Transitioning into 2023, we uphold the belief that our community's strength resides in our unity, in our shared resolve to make a difference. We express our gratitude for your continued support and dedication to AJF.



Eli Nossbaum
Chair



Jeremy Dunkel
Vice-Chair



Tracie Olcha
CEO

Strategic Philanthropy

AJF strives to be a sustainable, reputable centre for philanthropic excellence by enhancing membership experience through:

- 1** Working closely with our members to support their philanthropic aspirations
- 2** Scaling local and global philanthropic experiences and partnerships
- 3** Inspiring and facilitating intergenerational giving opportunities
- 4** Intentional networking
- 5** Promoting and stimulating the giving of 5Ts - Time, Talent, Treasure, Ties and Testimonies

AJF ACTIVITIES

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AJF Activities

273
Attendees

16
Local and International
Speakers

12
Sessions

April



Ukraine Briefing

Our US partners **Impact Cubed** and **Leichtag Foundation** provided AJF members with an off-the-record briefing with on-the-ground coordinators providing information on the current situation at the time and immediate needs for evacuation and supplies.

May



Jason Franklin

Founder & Principal, Ktisis Capital

Generational transitions can be challenging for families without a roadmap or plan. Jason explored intergenerational giving and offered support for our members.

July



Demystify the Funding Ecosystem for Israel Programs Leaders from Zionist Federation of Australia, Y2i, and Israel for Youth Foundation

Funding for Israel programs can be complicated with different requirements and means-testing, this was an opportunity to gain a clearer view of the landscape.

October



Lior Shoham

Public Speaking Coach

Led a two-hour masterclass in Melbourne and Sydney for experienced leaders looking to enhance their storytelling, influencing, and communication skills.

Event Spotlight

Lunch with Yotam Polizer, IsraAID From Crisis to Recovery

AJF partnered with **Ron Finkel AM** and **Lawrence Jackson** from Catalyst Philanthropy to welcome **Yotam Polizer**, Global CEO of IsraAID, for his first visit to Australia. Events were hosted thanks to **Dug Pomeroy OAM** from Pomeroy Pacific (Melbourne) and **Barbara & Bruce Solomon** from the Solitel group (Sydney).

IsraAID, Israel's leading non-governmental humanitarian aid agency serves as an exemplary ambassador for Israel around the world. Since its founding in 2001, IsraAID has provided emergency relief services and implemented sustainable development programs in more than 50 countries.

Yotam leads a team of over 250 people. They are currently active in 15 countries, including a large-scale operation in Ukraine. Yotam shared his experiences from helping evacuate Afghanistan women as the Taliban took over to saving a young boy's life 3 days after the Nepalese earthquake.





AJF ASPIRE AND INSPIRE SERIES

March



Stephanie Rhodes
CEO, Slingshot Fund discussed their work training, connecting, and mobilising young Jewish philanthropists. She highlighted trends and how young Jewish adults prepare to take leadership roles.

July



Speedy Shatari
General Manager, Stand Up and
Doron Abramovici
Vice President, JCCV shared personal stories, current work, and aspirations for the Jewish LGBTIQ+ community.

April



Sasha Raskin-Yin
Executive Director and
Jodie Kaufman Davis
Chair, Amplifier discussed Amplifier's work, the impact of giving circles, and donors' responses to new ways of giving.

October



Gali Cooks
CEO, Leading Edge shared her organisation's origin story and learnings from their early days, examples of donor collaborations and how they can be used to tackle society's most challenging problems.

June



Rachael Chong
Founder, Catchafire spoke about the journey from start-up to the game changing platform it is now. AJF was Catchafire's first global partner in Australia, building capacity for the Jewish for-purpose sector.

November



Eytan Lenko
CEO, Boundless shared how Cannon-Brookes and his wife Annie pledged \$1.5 billion to financial and philanthropic investments aimed at mitigating climate change.

Philanthropic Partnerships

In an increasingly interconnected and interdependent world we are proud of our local, national and global partners. These collaborative efforts, which bring together diverse stakeholders and funders from various regions, serve as the backbone of our networks strength and ability to innovate.

By fostering a culture of shared responsibility and collective problem-solving, our partnerships facilitate the exchange of ideas, resources, and expertise, leading to innovative solutions and improved outcomes across a wide range of critical issues.



March



AJF and Harold Grinspoon Foundation at JFN Conference - Tracie Olcha, Winnie Sandler Grinspoon, Alex Zablotzky, Tamar Remz & Lisa Pillemer



ROI COMMUNITY
קהילת
A SCHUSTERMAN INITIATIVE



July

Australians at the ROI Summit - Lisa Pillemer, Tracie Olcha, Wayne Green, Kerry Gonski, Brandon Srot & Elinor Hasenfratz

PHILANTHROPY AUSTRALIA

November



Kathy Shand, Debbie Dadon AM, Belinda Bardas, Tracie Olcha, Lisa Pillemer & Michael Graf at the Philanthropy Australia Conference



NEXUS



November

Amanda Miller OAM, Tracie Olcha, Rachel Gerroll (Founder, NEXUS), Kate Mohr, Lauren Placks & Kerry Gonski at the NEXUS Summit

Philanthropic Services

AJF offers philanthropic consultancy to individual donors, families, foundations, networks, and collaborations of donors to enhance philanthropic impact and provide greater meaning. We tailor our approach to reflect giving needs at individual and family levels.

Do you have a giving strategy?

We can help align giving intentions across generations to bring all voices to the table, exploring family values and legacy, develop a giving charter and articulate your mission towards impact.

Leverage AJF's deep knowledge of the Jewish for-purpose sector

Broadening an understanding of the challenges and opportunities, as well as making connections for potential partnerships.

Develop and implement a grant-making strategy

From conception through identification of causes, due diligence, impact measurement and long-term grants management.

Grantee relationships

Develop thoughtful partnerships for greater insight and understanding of grantee's activities and impact.

Incorporate 5Ts in grant-making plans

Including site visits, volunteering opportunities and lay leadership roles.

Measure the impact of giving

Tips and tools to assess the impact of your giving and ways to ensure you are realising your philanthropic aspirations.

We do this work through a philanthropic lens of participatory and trust-based grant-making, collaborative approaches, and centring those most affected by the issues at hand for high-impact funding.

Family Giving Workshops

Philanthropy presents a unique opportunity to engage families in the truest sense of the definition of philanthropy, *a love of humanity*. Introducing the next generation to the significance and opportunity of philanthropy and the process of giving, through discussion-based reflections and interactive activities is such an incredible experience for all involved.

At AJF, we facilitate conversations that foster family storytelling, passing on narratives where family members know they belong to something bigger than themselves. These conversations kindle a deep respect for a family's legacy and allow the next generation to learn about their past so they can better shape their future.

"Every member of our family, from eldest to youngest, was engaged and inspired to consider meaningful ways to participate in present and future giving."

Sharon & Allan Vidor

"Built on the legacy of giving by the Fried and Fraid families over many decades, the Spotlight Foundation is committed to ensuring a strong and vibrant culture in Australia. The Foundation aims to improve the lives of vulnerable women, youth and children in Australia, support a cohesive and inclusive society and ensure a sustainable future for those in the wider community."

AJF has played a critical role in engaging the Spotlight family members to work collaboratively, particularly the second and third generations, to identify causes of which they share a passion in order to optimise the impact of their giving. The family giving workshops have provided a stimulating environment to reflect on the family's philanthropic legacy to the community, share stories, and energise the younger generation to continue their legacy."

Dahlia Sable, CEO and Trustee, Spotlight Foundation

Please contact Lisa Pillemer - Director of Philanthropy & Engagement, giving@ajf.org.au, to explore our philanthropic services or how your family can participate in family giving workshops.

Giving Circles

AJF Giving Circles are a simple and powerful way to bring people together. They provide anyone, at any giving level, in any place, giving to any cause, with a way to share and leverage the group's skills and creativity, as well as giving of their whole selves beyond the treasure, through giving of time, talent, ties and testimonies.

Giving Chain



7 couples
3 organisations supported through the giving of 5T's
\$35,000 Donated

In 2022, AJF supported the establishment of the **Giving Chain Circle**. Collectively the group raised \$35,000 to support food insecurity and young carers in regional NSW. These young couples are stepping into various lay leadership roles in the Jewish community and beyond.

Kindness Giving Circle



12 Circle members
2 organisations supported through the giving of 5T's
\$10,000 Donated

The **Kindness Giving Circle**, led by **Kira Brandt** and **Jessica Sepel** collectively raised \$10,000 to support women and families who have been victims of domestic violence. These incredible women are also stepping into various lay leadership roles in the Jewish community and beyond.



"It has been a great experience for us to connect with likeminded couples in the community and pool our collective resources of time, skills and money and direct it towards a worthy purpose. Being part of the circle has really opened our eyes to amazing causes that prior to joining were beyond our field of vision. We know our scale of impact will grow and we look forward to continuing our giving journey with the group."

Nikki & Danny Mann

Members of the Giving Chain

NextThink

The Australian Jewish Funders is privileged to be partnering with NextThink, a group of emerging and next-gen funders to provide a space that inspires thoughtful and intentional philanthropy. The brain child of community activist and leader **Darren Smorgon**, NextThink's mission is to improve the quality of giving, encourage Jewish innovation and maximise impact.

AJF, together with steering committee members **Jonathan Gavshon**, **Amanda Goodman** and **Rodney Rosmarin** facilitate thoughtfully curated experiences, supporting and guiding the 22 couples to imagine and realise their philanthropic aspirations, at the individual and collective levels.

Participants had the incredible opportunity to hear from powerful and influential philanthropic leaders **Daniel Petre AO** and **David Gonski AC**, who both challenged thinking and encouraged each of them to step up as leaders of change.

In only two short months, a community has been built, a donor collaborative of 4 families formed who pooled resources to fund 3 high profile leaders from the wider community; **Ian Thorpe AM**, **Nick McKenzie** and **Dr Kate Hadwen** participate in the 2023 March Of The Living Australia Program to witness first hand the atrocities of the Holocaust and the energy of Israel celebrating 75 years.

NextThink's combined efforts have created a ripple effect of generosity and impact, helping uplift our community's well being and strengthen its fabric. We look forward to all that is possible in 2023 and beyond with this galvanised group of activists and investors.



AJF Spotlight on Philanthropy

Showcasing the expansive and inspirational philanthropic activities of our network, the *AJF Spotlight on Philanthropy* shares lessons learned, successes, challenges and aspirations.



Scan the QR code to watch.



Brad Smorgon
AJF Board Director and Founder,
TRAILD



Andrew Blode AM
AJF Founding Director (2007-2013)
and Member



Lauren Placks
AJF Board Director, AJFN Committee
Chair, The Moriah Foundation Board
Member and JCA Jumpstart Juniors
Co-Chair



Amanda Miller OAM
AJF Member, Co-Chair, Philanthropy
Australia and Co-Founder, Impact
Generation Partners



Andrew and Taryn Boyarsky
AJF Members and Founders, JCA The
Choice Foundation



Alan Schwartz AM
AJF Member and Director, Trawalla
Group

Philanthropy

JCA & UIA NSW, delivered by AJF

The 2022 JCA & UIA Philanthropy Fellowship saw a dedicated group of emerging philanthropists come together across 8 sessions to develop their philanthropic aspirations and commitment to leadership in the NSW Jewish community.

Participants explored trends, skills and tools to develop impactful and effective giving, culminating in a giving circle investing in JCA and UIA's mission and projects. Highlights of the program included sessions with **Andrew Boyarsky**, President, UIA NSW, **Joey Borensztajn AM**, Partner, Arnold Bloch Leibler, **Caroline Bolot**, President of UIA Women's Division and **Amanda Goodman**, Co-Founder and Director of Ecotone Partners and Co-Chair of JCA Status Committee.

Speed Schmoozing with a Philanthropist introduced Fellows to an inspiring group of AJF members. So much gratitude to **Lauren Kalish**, **Mark Spiro**, **Stanley Roth AM**, **Michael Pollak** and **Michelle Fischl** for sharing their personal stories, philanthropic endeavours and aspirations. Fellows gained an incredible insight into the many sectors Jewish community philanthropists are involved in.

Enormous thanks to **Alain Hasson**, CEO, JCA and **Yair Miller OAM**, CEO, UIA NSW and UIA Australia for their vision and commitment for recognising the great opportunity of investing in future generations of our community.



Fellowships

UIA VIC, delivered by AJF

After three successful years of collaboration with UIA NSW, AJF was thrilled to launch and facilitate the inaugural UIA VIC Philanthropy Fellowship. The initiative aimed to cultivate a vibrant, robust, and inclusive community by empowering young Jewish leaders to become partners in shaping its future.

The program consisted of 5 engaging sessions that explored various aspects of philanthropy and leadership. We are so grateful to our AJF Members who joined us throughout the fellowship to support our Fellow's journey - **Brad Smorgon, Dahlia Sable, Nathan Cher, Amanda Miller OAM, Quentin Miller, Belinda Bardas, and Phil Lewis**, who generously shared their insights and expertise.

The program concluded with a culminating event—a beautiful lunch gathering, where the participants could reflect on their philanthropic journey. We extend our sincere appreciation to **Jeff Feldman**, CEO, UIA VIC, for his leadership and dedication to expanding philanthropic leadership in the VIC Jewish community by harnessing the ambition, aspiration, and passion of emerging philanthropists.

The UIA VIC Philanthropy Fellowship was an exceptional platform for emerging philanthropists to connect, learn, and grow. It has left a lasting impact on the participants, equipping them with the tools, networks, and inspiration to become influential leaders in the realm of philanthropy.



Emanuel School Foundation Partnership

Recognising that the act of giving is a powerful means to foster an understanding of Jewish identity, we are proud to partner with Emanuel School and its Foundation. This collaboration is aimed at instilling and nurturing a culture of philanthropy across the entire school community, establishing a lasting giving structure that aligns with its mission: "Mind, Spirit, and Being"

The success of this initiative is largely due to the comprehensive involvement of AJF with the School's Board, Alumni Director, P&F, Foundation team, teachers, and staff, ensuring all stakeholders work harmoniously towards a common objective. By doing so, AJF has effectively facilitated the alignment of the School's community around a shared commitment to philanthropy. This partnership embodies how collaboration can drive cultural understanding, foster growth, and contribute to community development, ultimately paving the way for a more prosperous and resilient future.



EMANUEL SCHOOL
FOUNDATION

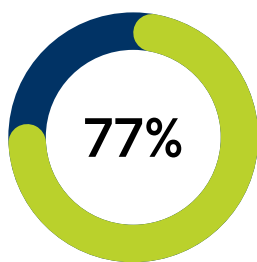


AJF Member Survey Key Insights

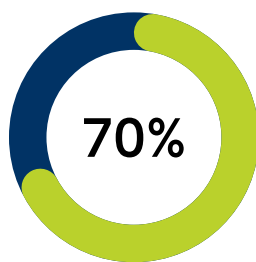
In seeking to learn more about our member's unique experiences, knowledge and individual needs, we conducted the AJF member survey in 2022. Our members invaluable knowledge has informed and shaped our strategic direction, decision-making processes, and overall effectiveness.

Some key insights are shared below:

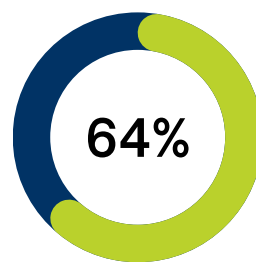
Recognising giving is more than monetary generosity, AJF members give their 5Ts by



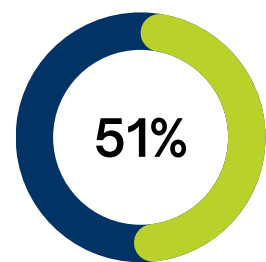
Serving as a Board Director and/or Committee member in the for-purpose sector



Volunteering

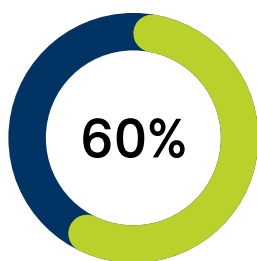


Making strategic introductions to further develop a cause

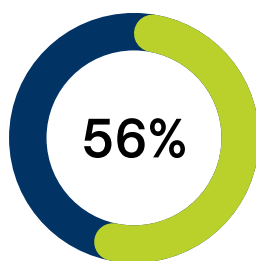


Mentoring

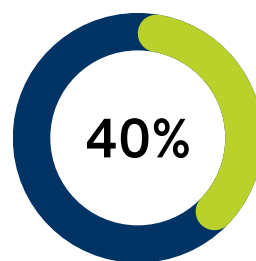
AJF services valued most by our members



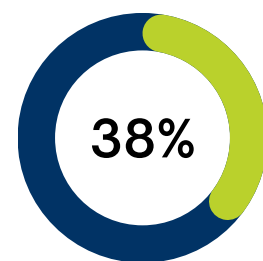
Resources via newsletters



Networking, peer conversations and field learning



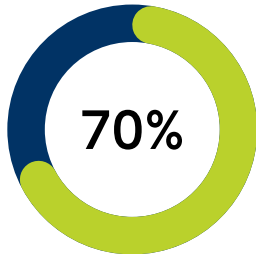
AJF Conference



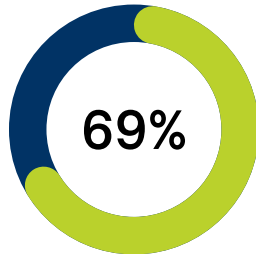
Access to Catchafire

Survey Insights Continued

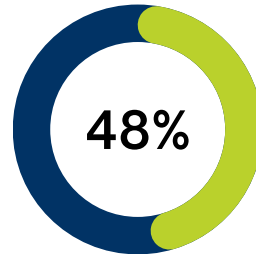
Motivations to being a part of the AJF Network



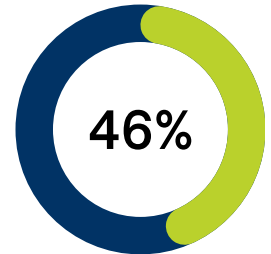
Be in a network of like-minded philanthropists



To empower the Jewish community through strategic philanthropy

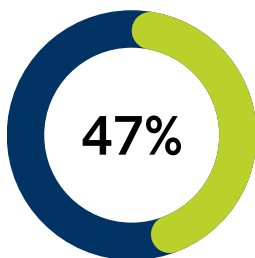


Have a greater impact with one's giving

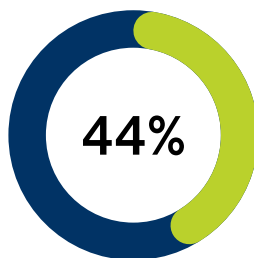


Engagement with AJF and LaunchPad programming

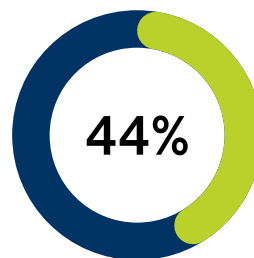
Giving trends AJF Members are curious about, inspired by or want to delve more deeply into



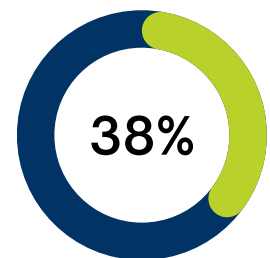
Collaborative giving



Family philanthropy, giving across generations



Impact Measurement



Advocacy, championing causes they care about

What's unique about AJF?

“Opportunity for Jewish funders to come together across Australia.”

Jessica Mendoza-Roth

“The reach, local and global. There is no other organisation that hits the cross-section of the Jewish community and giving.”

Josh Blode

AJF Board Strategy Day

2022 was the year the board began the strategic planning for 2023 -2025. Board observer **Shahaf Segal**, Regional Director, KPMG Advisory & Consulting and 2021 board observer **Assaf Ambar**, Non-Executive Director, Epworth lead the day with a high dose of inspiration from **Andres Spoikney**, President & CEO, Jewish Funders Network USA and Israel, outlining current trends in philanthropy. Andres challenged AJF leadership team to think boldly, leaning into our great successes - family giving, giving across generations and grassroots intentional and impactful LaunchPad programming.

With thanks to **Belinda Bardas**, Loti and Victor Smorgon Family Foundation and the Victor Smorgon Group for generously hosting us on the day.

So much gratitude to **Jeremy Dunkel**, Vice- Chair, **Peter Hersh**, **Lauren Placks**, Board members, **Jared Engleman**, Board Observer and **Lisa Pillemer**, Director of Philanthropy and Engagement, for committing to come to Melbourne so we could be together for this day.



Strengthening Community

AJF is dedicated to building a strong future for the local and global Jewish community by inspiring strategic philanthropy and leadership development through:

- 1** Addressing critical challenges facing Jewish leadership and culture
- 2** Opportunities to develop and advance lay and professional leaders
- 3** Investing and building a talent pipeline of lay and professional leaders
- 4** Increasing collaboration in the Jewish for-purpose sector
- 5** Developing strategy for showcasing and supporting Jewish innovation

DAVE GRANTS

28

LAUNCHPAD LEADERSHIP

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**LAUNCHPAD LEADERSHIP
ALUMNI RETREAT**

32

LAUNCHPAD HUB

38

EVENT SPOTLIGHT

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CATCHAFIRE

40

Dave Grants

1. Hatzofim Australia & Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies

Yalla! Connect created a space, for the Israeli and Jewish communities in Queensland to gather, connect, and share knowledge, beliefs and opinions to develop and cultivate a greater sense of community and togetherness, as well as celebrate Israeli culture and raise awareness of current issues in Israel.

"Thanks to the Collaboration Dave Grant, Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies and Hatzofim joined forces to present a program, including a Gaga dance class, online session with Bassem Eid, special workshop on speaking Hebrew at home and an Israeli inspired arts, craft and cooking class. Feedback on Yalla! Connect has been very encouraging."

Libby Burke

Chair - Public Affairs, Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies



2. All Things Equal & Jewish Care VIC

The Grant was provided to support the development of a strategic partnership between All Things Equal and Jewish Care to activate an under utilised cafe space within the Camit & Nathan Cher Family Cafe in the Hannah & Daryl Cohen Family Building at the Holckner Senior Living & Community Precinct in Windsor.

The cafe (on-going) engages people living with a disability and/or those who participate in an employment program to gain genuine pathway opportunities for employment, training and skills development in a supportive and caring environment.

LaunchPad Leadership

After two successful cohorts of LaunchPad Leadership in 2020 and 2021, it was a privilege for AJF to facilitate a third cohort investing in a further 34 leaders. This inspiring virtual program promotes and builds a culture of leadership development to ensure a vibrant and thriving Jewish community.

LaunchPad Leadership's mission is to empower lay, philanthropic and professional leaders of Jewish for-purpose organisations with the necessary skills and resources to lead with impact during uncertain times. The blending of Jewish values with technical skills and leadership theory is paramount to nurturing and developing empowered and enabled leaders.

Participants come from across Australia and showcase the diversity of the Australian Jewish for-purpose sector, through gender, age, experience, religious beliefs, as well as an opportunity for lay, philanthropic and professional leaders to learn and grow together.

LaunchPad Leadership is guided by the following **six program pillars**:



Personal Leadership Growth



Jewish Wisdom



Skill Development



Collaboration and Grants



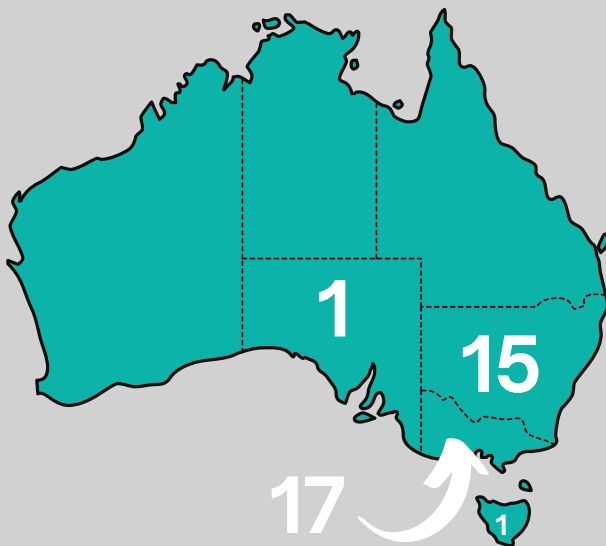
A Leadership Cohort



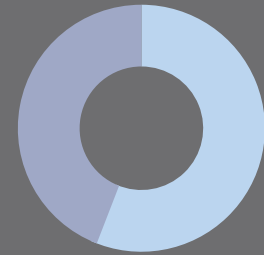
Executive Leadership Coaching

LaunchPad Leadership 2022 in Numbers

34 Participants



15 Lay Leaders



19 Professional Leaders

8

Lead Team Members

91% Attendance for sessions

24

Office Hours Mentors offering a total

38

Office Hours Meetings

4 Masterclasses

6

Program Pillars

12

Online sessions

9

Expert Facilitators

The Data

Participants submitted evaluations before and after LaunchPad Leadership. Data below is a combination of two categories - **extremely large extent and large extent**.

To what extent do you feel that . . .

You are equipped with the skills and tools to lead your organisation through change?



You have access to cross-communal and inter-organisational partnerships and opportunities?



The Jewish community fosters a culture of leadership development?



You are aware of your personal leadership developmental areas?



You have a network of like-minded leaders in the Australian Jewish community?



LaunchPad Leadership

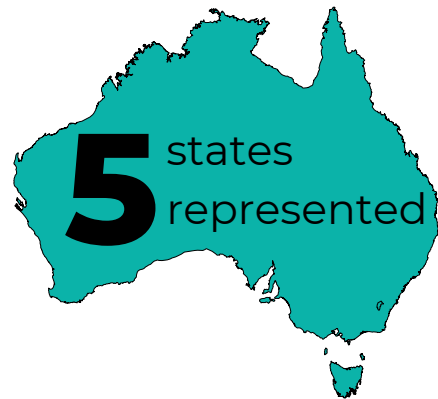
Connecting for Impact

Bringing together participants from 3 incredible cohorts of the virtual LaunchPad Leadership program.

About the Attendees:

70

leaders from
across Australia



21 Lay and Philanthropic Leaders

49 Senior Professional Leaders

From sectors, including;



Education



Youth



Judaism



Israel



Welfare



Climate

Alumni Retreat

Team work makes the dream work!

This rare opportunity to bring leaders together from across diverse Jewish Australia would not have been possible without the commitment and dedication from our incredible supporters.

Sincere Gratitude to:

Our sponsors



Our brilliant team of volunteer leaders



Amanda Miller OAM



Gary Samowitz



Jessica Stimson



Justine Saidman



Kerry Gonski



Phil Lewis



Rachel Flitman



Dr Vicki Gordon OAM

Highlights

Cohort Connection Time

The first hour of the retreat was a time for each cohort to come together for the first time since they completed the virtual program.



Participants from Cohort 2021 finally meeting in-person

"We definitely have a unique bond even though we had only met over zoom - quite remarkable that the zoom program was able to create that possibility."

Vivienne Bensky, WA

Inspiring Impact: An Evening of Stories

For our first evening together, three participants shared their bravery and achievements.



Our 3 brave speakers, Miriam Pacanowski, Alex Kats and Leah Boulton together with host Kerry Gonski

"Thank you for the opportunity to speak. It was one of the most exciting/scary/worthwhile things I have done in my life. The support I received was so validating. I can't wait to do it again!!"

Leah Boulton, VIC

A Night of Giving - Joining the Jewish Giving Circle Movement

Participants were introduced to the power and passion of Giving Circles. Three participating organisations were selected from a hat to pitch. Using AJF's famous value cards and resources from Amplifier Giving, participants were challenged and inspired by this experience.



Participants Ryan Kassel, Alissa Wolf, Ilana Maizels and Michael Graf actively engaged during the Night of Giving.

"The best part of the giving circle activity was that I experienced how meaningful and worthwhile it is to be on the giving side of the equation. I was so impressed by the atmosphere of positivity that it created. The conversations that I had after that event were especially meaningful."

Michael Manhaim, NSW

Peer Skills: Sessions facilitated by participants for participants

- Power and Passion of Public Speaking - Rabbi Ralph Genende OAM
- Organic Leadership for Organic Communities - Gabe Freund
- CPR, When Every Second Counts - Jesse Lenn



Participants learning how to perform CPR in the case of an emergency



Rabbi Ralph Genende OAM sharing his experiences and tips for public speaking

Amazing Masterclasses

Measuring Outcomes and Demonstrating Impact



AJF Member Extraordinaire

Jessica Mendoza-Roth, Founder & Director, Social Impact Hub

Co-design for Community Building Impact



LaunchPad Alumni & team member since 2014

Rachel Flitman, Manager - Experience Design, Nous Group

Self-Care in Leadership



AJF Member Extraordinaire

Dr Vicki Gordon OAM, Clinical and Forensic Psychologist

Where to from here?

The energy on the retreat was contagious, and the consensus from participants and team members was that these conversations needed to continue.

As we closed the experience, the following 5 topics were selected to focus on as a cohort of leaders:

- Mental Health
- Gender Equality
- Zionism and Israel
- Future Strategic Planning
- Next Gen Engagement



Watch the Retreat Highlights





"I was privileged to attend the LaunchPad Leadership Alumni Retreat in Bowral, NSW. LaunchPad is a project of the Australian Jewish Funders where they bring together Jewish leaders from around Australia to empower them and encourage collaboration.

Arriving on Sunday morning, I really didn't know what to expect. I was part of the 2022 cohort who had participated in weekly workshops and leadership training, but it was all online. I hadn't met many of them in person or spoken to them individually.

My fears were exacerbated knowing that I was a Rabbi attending a retreat with attendees from different segments of the community. I was worried how I would be welcomed and how I would relate to those I'd meet. Would we see eye to eye and find common ground?

I decided that I would focus on improving my leadership skills and take advantage of the world-class presenters who would talk about topics such as self-care, communication, design thinking and building communities. If I connected to some of the other attendees, that would be a bonus.

Boy was I wrong. I felt welcomed by everyone in a non-judgemental way. The workshops were great and I really benefited, however, it was from these incredible leaders I met that I benefited from the most. Their passion and commitment to improving Jewish life is contagious. Over conversations in small group exercises, during the limited downtime or over meals, each person was willing to share their experience and offer advice to personal and communal challenges.

There were so many highlights over the 3 days, one of many that stands out was meeting the Ukrainian Ambassador to Australia, His Excellency Mr Vasyl Myroshnychenko. Vasyl talked about becoming the ambassador during the war and leading the effort to bring military and humanitarian aid from Australia.

*To sum up my experience, **I arrived with fears and challenges and I left with hope, inspiration and strategies.** I feel honoured to be part of such a diverse group of Jewish leaders that have the courage to change the status quo and ask the difficult questions.*

We might all come from different backgrounds and have a different point of view or focus in the community, but we all share a common goal. I have a deeper respect and understanding for these leaders and I know that I can count on them for support, just as they can count on me.

Thank you to the incredible leadership team for this opportunity!"

Rabbi Mendy Ajzenszmid
South Caulfield Hebrew Congregation

LaunchPad Hub

After two years of disrupted co-working, 2022 brought a wave of renewed energy to the Launchpad Hub. We were thrilled to see our collaborative space buzzing again, pulsating with innovative ideas and driven co-workers.

Rosh Hashanah Party



"The Jewish Climate Network moved into the Hub at the start of 2022 and we love it. We've got 4 desks and an energised team working out of the space. We love the natural light, the wonderful purpose-driven people, the excellently equipped kitchen. Couldn't ask for more!"

Joel Lazar

CEO, Jewish Climate Network



**EOY
Drinks
on the Rooftop**

Event Spotlight

Building in a downturn

Joining forces with J Combinator, a Jewish community space for the Australian tech and startup ecosystem, we were joined by over 50 attendees, hosted by **Justin Greenstein**, AJF Member & CEO, 1835i.

The expert panel, consisting of **Aaron Zelman**, Co-founder and joint CEO, Willied.com.au, **Rachael Neumann**, Founding Partner, Flying Fox Ventures, **Gabby Leibovich**, Founder, Catch, Scoopon, Menulog & Luxury Escapes and moderating by **Max Kausman**, Investor, Tidal Ventures took a deep dive into the market conditions and their implications for tech startups in Australia, including threats, opportunities, and implications for jobs.



Feedback from attendees

"What a wonderful event filled with great speakers and such a diverse audience. Really enjoyed it!"

"Great speakers sharing very interesting content with humour. Loved it!"

Catchfire Partnership

Where Talent Meets Purpose

In May 2022 **AJF** launched year 2 of the partnership with **Catchfire**, gifting access to this revolutionary capacity building platform to 120 Jewish for-purpose organisations across Australia.

The social sector solves critical problems in our communities and they can't do it alone. Catchfire provides organisations access to unlimited projects and calls to support their work, re-imagining what is possible utilising a network of skilled professional volunteers from around the world.

Catchfire is a network of volunteers, for-purpose organisations and funders working together to solve urgent problems and lift up communities.

Brand new logos for Jewish Children's Aid Society

Created by Catchfire volunteer, Benny Lemel, USA



"A picture tells a thousand words. We now have a pictorial logo that quickly conveys our mission statement.

Not only have we connected with an amazing and helpful volunteer, we now have come to understand the potential of Catchfire as a quick and easy resource for problem-solving."

Melody Curtis

Board Member, Jewish Children's Aid Society

Thanks to:

So much appreciation to the incredible donor collective that came together with AJF to enable this exciting and significant initiative.

This strategic project demonstrates the **power of collaborative giving**; what can be achieved when we, pool resources, engage in thoughtful conversations and strive for a common goal.



PROGRAM PARTNER



Dinner with Rachael Chong, Founder

We were lucky enough to be visited in Melbourne by the incredible Founder of Catchafire in June 2022. **Rachael Chong** and her husband **Ben Rattray**, Founder and CEO, Change.org joined supporting foundations for a beautiful dinner, hosted by **Eli and Tammy Nossbaum**.

It was a beautiful gift, to be able to hear Rachael's story taking Catchafire from start-up to the global network it now is, and to hear from Ben about his journey with change.org.



Impact Metrics



May 2021 - December 2022

Since the launch of this partnership, critical pro-bono support has elevated the Jewish communal landscape across Australia.



98

Organisations successfully accessed volunteer support



670

Unique matches between organisations and volunteers



13,349

Volunteer hours given to support organisations



\$3,996,577

Invested in our Jewish for-purpose organisations



“Philanthropy is only one part of the equation, without AJF and the team’s skills in engagement, none of this would have been possible. It reminds me of the TEAM acronym. Together, Everybody Achieves More. That’s what it’s all about, building connections and strengthening community.”

Belinda Bardas

Board Director, AJF & Head of Philanthropy,
Loti and Victor Smorgon Family Foundation

*"As a small organisation, **Community Health Support (CHS)** relies heavily on the support of volunteers to help us achieve our mission to empower our community with confidence in a first aid emergency.*

Catchafire has connected us with skilled volunteers from around the world. We have been using this platform for one year now, and we have been blown away by the support from volunteers who are passionate about our cause.

*In particular, we had an excellent experience working with **Julian, a US-based public speaking coach**. We worked with Julian for several weeks in preparation for JCA's Shark Tank event. We had 5 minutes to convince the audience and judges that CHS was worthwhile supporting. Julian compartmentalised the project so that we could tangibly work towards an end-product. We all learned great new skills along the way and enjoyed doing it!*

*The most memorable moment was jumping on a call with Julian after the event and watching his reaction as we told him we had **won first-prize plus the audience vote award.**"*

Jesse Lenn

Co-Founder and Executive Director
Community Health Support (CHS)



Jesse pitching at JCA Shark Tank - Nov 2022

**MEMBERS AND
SUPPORTERS**

45

LEADERSHIP

46

BOARD DIRECTORS

47

BOARD OBSERVERS

53

PROFESSIONAL TEAM

54

Members and Supporters

AJF Members come from across Australia, representing every stage of the philanthropic cycle, sharing a commitment of investing in social and environmental causes they are passionate about.

AJF is uniquely positioned to facilitate robust and stimulating conversations about giving to a wide array of voices and experiences. We encourage new ideas, collaborations, and innovations among and between our stakeholders of philanthropists, communal leaders, change-makers and volunteers.

Each membership enables and empowers AJF to dream big and act boldly. We sincerely thank all our members for their ongoing commitment and dedication to help realise our mission.

Our **Enabling, Leading, Strategic** and **Sustaining** supporters demonstrate a strong belief in the vision of Australian Jewish Funders, not only to realising our mission but deepen and broaden our impact

Enabling

Besen Family Foundation
Charles & Lynn Schusterman Family
Philanthropies (USA)
Erdi Foundation
Loti & Victor Smorgon Family
Philanthropy
Herrman Rich Foundation
Spotlight Foundation

Leading

Debbie Dadon AM
Graf Family
Hakhel / Hazon (Israel)
HG Foundation
Orah Fund
S&C Roth Family Foundation
Phil & Sue Lewis and Family
Pratt Foundation

Strategic

Belinda Bardas
Szalmuk-Singer Family
Jack & Robert Smorgon Families
Foundation
Marnie & Gary Perlstein

Sustaining

Cher Family Foundation
David Bardas Family
David & Adira Werdiger and
Family
Gandel Foundation
Jeremy & Roxanne Dunkel and
Family
Justine Saidmain

Supporters and Sponsors

Anka Management
Barana Group
JCA
Shalom

Leadership

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eli Nossbaum, Chair from May 2022, (January 2017)

Jeremy Dunkel, Vice-Chair from May 2022 (March 2011)

Justin Greenstein, Co-Chair until May 2022 (Nov 2019 - May 2022)

Simone Szalmuk-Singer, Co-Chair until May 2022 (Nov 2016 - May 2022)

Peter Hersh, Treasurer from May 2022 (May 2022)

Lesley Ber, Treasurer until May 2022 (May 2021 - May 2022)

Belinda Bardas, (November 2015)

Nathan Cher, (October 2013)

Debbie Dadon AM, (April 2007)

Lauren Placks, (May 2021)

Brad Smorgon, (November 2017)

AJF LIFE PATRONS

Debbie Dadon AM, (November 2017)

Sam Lipski AO, (October 2018)

Danny Almagor OAM, (November 2019)

David Werdiger, (November 2019)

Ian Allen AM, (June 2021)

PROFESSIONAL TEAM

Tracie Olcha, Chief Executive Officer

Rebecca Adler, Director of Community and Innovation

Marni Levy, Projects and Communications Manager

Lisa Pillemer, Director of Philanthropy and Engagement

Tessa Zajac, Director of NextGen Philanthropy

Board of Directors



ELI NOSSBAUM, CHAIR

Eli Nossbaum is an Executive Director in the Credit Suisse Wealth Management Division in Melbourne where he works closely with high-net-worth individuals, family offices and not-for-profit organisations advising on local and international investments across multiple asset classes. Prior to Credit Suisse, Eli spent 4 years as a Relationship Manager with Deutsche Bank Private Wealth Management.

Eli holds a Master of Business Administration and a Master of Applied Finance from Monash University. Eli was previously a member of the Investment Committee of Jewish Care Victoria, which included responsibility for managing the organisation's endowment and residential bond portfolios. Eli is passionate about the Australian Jewish community, Jewish continuity and education. He is married to Tammy and the proud father of 5 children.



JEREMY DUNKEL, VICE-CHAIR

Jeremy is a Director of Taurus Capital, a family office consultancy specialising in philanthropy, and a Non-Executive Director of Pengana Capital Group, an ASX-listed funds management company. His accounting and finance experience includes working for Chemical Bank, Chase Manhattan, and Price Waterhouse. He is a Director of Education Heritage Foundation, the Treasurer of the Moriah College Foundation and is a member of the Steering Committee of Mosaic United.

Jeremy also chairs Y2i, an organisation that grants \$5000 vouchers to Year 10 students from NSW / ACT / QLD with at least one Jewish parent, to make participation in approved Israel-based educational programs affordable.

Board of Directors



BELINDA BARDAS

Belinda is Head of Philanthropy and Trustee at Victor Smorgon Charitable Fund (VSCF). The VCSF provides strategic investment to a range of, for purpose organizations, in the Australian Jewish Community, broader Australian society and Israel. Supporting a broad range of areas, including education, the arts, institutional development, and medical research.

She is Non-Executive Director at Victor Smorgon Group, a family office that ha a strong focus on retail, property, agri-business, equities and philanthropy. As a mentor in residence at at LaunchPad Retreats since 2015, Belinda has built deep and long-lasting relationships with committed Jewish communal leaders, change-makers, and activists.

Beyond this Belinda worked as a Fashion Retail Professional, at an iconic Australian brand, specializing in women’s fashion. Honing her business acumen, in business development, entrepreneurial vision, brand strategy, marketing and communication skills, the ability to recognize future trends, and the capacity to make decisions under pressure.



LESLEY BER

Lesley was born in South Africa. She attended a Jewish school and after school qualified as a Chartered Accountant, obtained a Diploma in International Tax, a Diploma in Governance of Not for profits as well as an MBA. Lesley has 15 years banking experience ranging from general banking internal auditing to specialist treasury bank auditing. She is an experienced structured financier and has implemented domestic and cross border lending structures.

Lesley has worked in South Africa, the UK and Australia in various other roles as well as having been a tax examiner for the South African Institute of Bankers. She has also lectured Accounting at a university level. Lesley immigrated to Australia in 2010 with her two young children. With her youngest child having started school, Lesley decided it was time to “give something back” and she began to devote her time and skills to the not for profit sector in her community. Specifically, the Jewish sector as Judaism has always been an important, guiding aspect in her life. Having been raised in South Africa and being exposed, firsthand, to the suffering of the disenfranchised, among them women and children, Lesley is passionate about human rights and women’s issues along with the advancement of girls and women in our society. She is the Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee of the National Council of Jewish Women of Australia (Victoria) Inc and a Board member of Emunah Australia.

Board of Directors



NATHAN CHER

Nathan is a director of the Australian Jewish Funders. Nathan is the Victorian Chairperson of the ORAH Fund Allocation Committee. He has served on boards of community organisations and working groups, and together with his wife Camit, supports a wide range of charities and causes. He is a Tech Entrepreneur & Investor who has been a founder and director of a number of companies (listed and unlisted) in the areas of Technology, FinTech and Property.

He is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. He has a number of prominent investments in such as MONETA CAPITAL, OURCROWD & TIPRANKS.



DEBBIE DADON AM

As Chief Executive Officer and Trustee of the Besen Family Foundation for 20 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. Debbie's philanthropic contribution has covered a broad spectrum of issues but her leadership has been particularly evident in the areas of intergenerational philanthropy and disability.

A significant part of Debbie's mentorship 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. Debbie's 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 inspiring effective philanthropy and strengthening community. A Founding Member of the AJF, Debbie held the position of Chair for 10 years.

Tikkun Olam Makers (TOM) is a global movement of communities connecting makers, designers, developers and engineers with people with disabilities to develop technological solutions for everyday challenges. Debbie first witnessed TOM in action in Tel Aviv in 2015 and then brought TOM to Melbourne for the first time in 2016.

Board of Directors



JUSTIN GREENSTEIN

Justin works in the Financial Services sector, with a focus on Venture capital and Fintech innovation. Justin is very passionate about Jewish life and Jewish tradition and is excited about the opportunity to contribute to the future generation of Jews in Australia through the AJF.

Justin lives in Melbourne and is married with two children. Justin loves travelling and being exposed to different cultures around the world. Justin joined AJF in 2019 as a Board Observer and is now a Director.



PETER HERSH

Peter commenced work as an accountant in 1977 and first became a principal in 1988. In 2006 he was one of the founding partners of Logicca. In addition to his business services clients he heads the audit, superannuation, estate planning and not-for-profit sections of the practice.

Peter is married to Leone; they have three children and 6 grandchildren.

He has had the honor of being the treasurer of the Zionist Federation of Australia and is currently the treasurer of Technion Australia a charity which supports the work of the Technion University in Israel, through financial donations and research collaborations.

As a Bondi boy all his life he is keen supporter of the Sydney Roosters football team and the Australian cricket team.

Board of Directors



LAUREN PLACKS

Lauren is an experienced and passionately dedicated charity and not-for profit community leader. For more than a decade, she has held leadership roles and maintained active involvement in various charities such as the JCA, Australian Jewish Fertility Network (AJFN) and the UIA. I have also been a Board Member on the Moriah College Foundation for the past 5 years and recently joined the board for Australian Jewish Funders (AJF).

After completing a Bachelor of Senior Education (Physical and Health Education) with Honours and running a successful personal training business, Lauren began raising her young family. Her time is now largely spent on her various roles and responsibilities within each organisation, with a focus on events, strategic planning and engagement and helping to encourage her fellow cohort to begin their own philanthropic journey, for example through her role as the chair of ‘Jumpstart Juniors’ for JCAs young family program. Lauren and her husband have also been a part of a giving circle for the past 4 years and have thoroughly enjoyed the experience of this unique way of giving.



BRAD SMORGON

Brad is an experienced entrepreneur, strategist, portfolio manager, and innovator from Melbourne, Australia. He is passionate about supporting for-purpose organisations and social enterprises by building networks and applying corporate skills and knowledge. He holds degrees in Commerce and Law from the University of Melbourne and lives in Melbourne with his wife Rachel and three children, Oscar, Leo and Lily.

Board of Directors



SIMONE SZALMUK-SINGER

Simone joined the AJF Board in 2016. Simone discovered the AJF when she attended LaunchPad 2015 as a participant. Surrounded by diverse Jewish changemakers, Simone was immediately inspired by AJF's innovative lens on community and strategic approach to philanthropy.

Simone is motivated by a strong sense of service to Jewish community and holds a number of leadership positions. She is Co-Vice President of Jewish Care Victoria and is the Chief Executive Officer and a Director of the Erdi Foundation.

She is Co-Founder and Co-Editor of Jewish Women of Words, an online publication for Jewish women writers. Simone was formerly President of JNF Victoria and Australian National Vice President. For many years, Simone worked as a lawyer specialising in employment law.

As she is passionate about developing Jewish communal leadership, Simone is a mentor in several leadership programs and is a Senior Fellow in the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies Fellowship program. Simone has completed leadership training programs in areas such as adaptive design and women's leadership and has attended the Harvard Business School where she studied Governance for Nonprofit Excellence and Performance Measurement for Effective Nonprofit Organisations.

Simone draws constant inspiration to lead, innovate and collaborate from the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg who famously wrote, "Fight for things that you care about but do it in a way that will lead others to join you."

Board Observers



JARED ENGELMAN

Jared is a junior doctor currently working at the Prince of Wales Hospital after graduating with first class honours in his Bachelor of Medical Studies/Doctor of Medicine from the University of New South Wales.

Beyond medicine, Jared derives purpose from his involvement in community organisations aiming to promote equity and inclusion within society.

As Co-Chair of Camp Sababa, a Sony Foundation camp for children with special needs and disability he supports social integration and fosters disability advocacy within volunteers. Jared is also a Co-Founder and previous director of the not-for-profit organisation Youth HEAR (Holocaust Education and Remembrance) where he advocated for tolerance, acceptance and cross-communal collaboration whilst developing skills in social entrepreneurship. He has also been involved with various other communal organisations including Maccabi, Friendship Circle and UIA. Outside of this, Jared enjoys sports, loves to travel and is an avid reader of crime fiction.



SHAHAF SEGAL

Shahaf is a Director at KPMG where she leads strategic planning for Government & NFP clients, and KPMG Strategy's National Lead for the Education Sector. Bringing to bear analytical tools from her previous roles in Israel as a Board member in the education space, an Army Intelligence Officer, and a tech-focused investment banker, Shahaf works closely with executive teams and boards to help their organisation transform.

Being passionate about societal improvement, Shahaf leads KPMG Strategy's pro-bono work and is the co-founder of Tel Aviv University innovation centre. She enjoys the arts, travel, hiking and is an amateur pastry chef.

Professional Team



TRACIE OLCHA, CEO

Tracie works closely with the AJF network, philanthropic foundations and a multitude of organisations throughout Australia, the US, Israel and Asia to promote strategic, effective philanthropy and support their journey towards impactful giving across the generations. She is all about empowering community members to create meaningful and relevant Jewish experiences for themselves and their peers and is the visionary behind LaunchPad – A platform for Jewish community innovation, LaunchPad inspires

grassroots community engagement and leadership, enabling change-makers to connect, think, create and lead. 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. With a background in education, Tracie taught and held a number of leadership roles at Mount Scopus Memorial College and was education consultant for News Limited and the AFL. Tracie sits on the International Council at Moishe House and is a Scholar with Our Common Destiny, a ground-breaking new initiative to strengthen global Jewry by linking Jewish communities all over the world to a shared set of ethics and values across religious and cultural identities. Tracie co-founded Mamilla, a six-month program that aims to unlock and activate the power of Jewish entrepreneurs and connects them with the start-up eco-system in Israel.



REBECCA ADLER, Director of Community & Innovation

Rebecca is supportive, enthusiastic and extremely community focused. She loves to have fun, explore new opportunities and is empowered to encourage those around her to take a leap of faith and step forth with courage, the motto from Bialik College, where she attended school from kindergarten through to year 12. Rebecca first joined the Australian Jewish Funders team as the LaunchPad Retreat Coordinator.

Through this role, her understanding of the Jewish community has broadened, as has her network of highly motivated and inspiring individuals. Rebecca has also been involved in the disability sector for many years and brings a wealth of knowledge, understanding and a commitment for a more inclusive society to the LaunchPad network. In her spare time, Rebecca loves exploring new walks around Victoria, believing walking isn't only a lockdown trend. She also loves a soy latte, experiencing new restaurants and is always on the hunt for the best dumplings in town.

Professional Team



MARNI LEVY, Projects & Communications Manager

After completing her Undergraduate Degree in Human Resources Management in Melbourne, Marni moved to London where she worked for in the for-purpose sector at PaJeS (Partnerships for Jewish Schools) from June 2016 to November 2021. PaJeS support 120+ Jewish Schools in UK in strategic development, collaboration and teaching and learning.

In her time there, she worked in a variety of roles, including Personal Assistant to the Executive Director, Fundraising and Communications and more recently as Special Events and Fundraising.

After six years of living in London, Marni returned home to Melbourne with her husband and daughter. Marni joined the AJF team in the position of Projects and Communications and is excited to be working in the community that she grew up in and feels so connected to.



LISA PILLEMER, Director of Philanthropy & Engagement

As a Sydney native with a passion for community organising, Lisa's background is richly diverse in outreach and community engagement. Having experienced the familial effects of mental illness first-hand, Lisa was drawn to the field of psychology and education and went on to receive both her undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Sydney.

Her early career included roles at a youth crisis centre in Israel and at the William Rose School. In 2013, Lisa moved to New York City where she worked as a high school educator at the Abraham Joshua Heschel School. She is currently an MBA student specialising in Social Impact at the AGSM School of Business at the University of New South Wales. Lisa has participated in the 2013 inaugural Observership Program, LaunchPad 2019 and was a 2020 Philanthropy Fellowship Fellow. In her current position as the Director of Philanthropy & Engagement at the Australian Jewish Funders, Lisa works with individuals, for-purpose organisations, corporates and the educational sector to enhance meaningful and strategic giving experiences. She resides in Sydney with her spouse and their two vivacious daughters.

Professional Team



TESSA ZAJAC, Director of Next Gen Philanthropy

Tessa joins the AJF team with a background in international relations, community development and program management. Tessa is passionate about growing innovative programs centred around next generation engagement in philanthropy.

With Bachelor degrees in Arts (Global) and Science, majoring in International relations and Environmental Chemistry, and a Graduate Diploma in Psychology, Tessa brings a multidisciplinary approach to elevate social impact and unravel complex problems.

Tessa previously held international roles at the Wiener Library for the Study of the Holocaust & Genocide in London, and at Centropa Budapest—a Jewish historical institute dedicated to preserving 20th century history in eastern Europe. She is excited to apply her multidisciplinary training and cross-cultural experience to a role that encourages effective philanthropy and positive social change.

Innovation

Collaboration

Leadership





For more information or enquiries contact:

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Chief Executive Officer

Australian Jewish Funders
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