



**Daniel Herz**

*President*

**Andrew Kent**

*Vice President,  
Financial Resource  
Development*

**Andrea Weinberger**

*Vice President,  
Planning & Allocations*

**Jeffrey Tucker**

*Vice President, Treasurer*

**Donna Weintraub**

*Vice President, At Large*

**Marcy Cohen**

*Secretary*

**Daniel M. Shlufman**

*Immediate Past President*

**Jason M. Shames**

*Chief Executive Officer  
Executive Vice President*

*Board of Trustees*

Robert Abrams\*

Lauri Bader

Dina Bassen

Bruce Brafman

Paul Brensilber

Lauren Cherkas

Stephanie Cohn

Ruth Cole

Robin Epstein

Shira Feuerstein

Merle Fish

Casey Halper

Joelle Halperin

Andrew Jacobs

Marni Kriegel, MD

Joan Krieger

Lee Lasher\*

Nathan J. Lindenbaum

Miriam Lipsky

Daniel Miller

Susan Penn

Jayne Petak\*

Lois Roman

Ron Rosensweig\*

Rena Donin Schlusell

Evan Schwarz

Paula Shaiman

Seth Shulman

Larry Silverman

Steve Silverstein

Fran Weingast

Tracy Zur

*\*Past President*

Dear Middle School Teachers and Principals:

Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey is pleased to confirm the participation of your student in our exciting educational program, IsraelNow Northern New Jersey, taking place February 15 – 24, 2026. This program is a week-long, hands on Jewish educational experience designed specifically for eighth graders.

Students who attend this program make a serious commitment of their time and focus. The intense trip itinerary includes visits to sites of biblical, medieval, and modern Israeli history. Students will also learn about Israel's absorption of immigrants from many different parts of the world, as well as its technological and agricultural innovations. They will be exposed to a new language and to Israel's diverse culture and will meet with Israeli peers who will share details of their life in the Middle East.

IsraelNow has been running this program out of Chicago for over twenty years. We sent students as part of IsraelNow Northern New Jersey in February 2023. Parents of 2023 participants have reported how pleased they are that the trip has had such a profound and transformative impact on their children. We are confident that this year's experience will be just as impactful for students from our northern New Jersey community.

We hope that you will view your student's participation in IsraelNow Northern New Jersey as a legitimate school absence. Please note that due to the intense daily schedule, students will have extremely limited time for assignments during the trip. You may want to encourage projects such as reports, presentations, scrapbooks, or picture albums to be shared with fellow students. In addition to their firsthand experiences, we will supply supplemental educational material to support such projects.

If you have any questions, please contact Linda Slobodow at [LindaS@jfnnj.org](mailto:LindaS@jfnnj.org). You can also find additional information on the trip website at [IsraelNowTrip.org](http://IsraelNowTrip.org).

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jason M. Shames  
Chief Executive Officer  
[JasonS@jfnnj.org](mailto:JasonS@jfnnj.org)