

ROOTS

HERE TO STAY



**JNF Canada's
path to Justice**

**A year of
rebuilding
community**

**Empowering
the women
of Israel**

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A Letter From Our

National President & Chief Executive Officer



Nathan Disenhouse
National President



Lance Davis
Chief Executive Officer

The High Holidays just passed and according to the Jewish tradition, it is a time when one looks backwards on what transpired during the year and at the same time, looks ahead to the type of year we wish to cultivate. We learn from our mistakes and work to ensure a brighter tomorrow. It is done on the personal level, but also on the communal level and the national level.

It has been a devastating year for the Jewish people. So much ink has been spilled trying to make sense of October 7th and the subsequent war with Hamas. Today, Israel is under attack from seven countries. 101 hostages are still in Gaza after spending more than a year in captivity, in conditions beyond belief. Families are living with the torment of not knowing if their loved one is still alive. Soldiers are risking their lives to protect the people and land of Israel. It is heartbreaking and there are no words to express our anguish.

Hatikvah, the national anthem of the State of Israel and the Jewish People worldwide, means The Hope. It is the perfect term to describe the Jewish people: we don't say, we are optimistic, but hopeful. Optimism is a term we use when the data suggest that everything should go smoothly, and success is within reach. Hope is used when the odds are against you, but nevertheless, there is a spark that tells you not to give up. We are hopeful that this year, Israel achieve its goals of rescuing the hostages, securing the southern border, bringing the residents of the north back to their homes and destroying the capacity and will of our enemies to attack us. Anyone who has studied Jewish and Israeli history knows that the eternal people always find a way. Ben Gurion was asked during the War of Independence how Israel will survive the onslaught from the Arab armies surrounding the newborn country. He replied - Alef Bet. Those in the room assumed he meant, Artzot Ha'Brit - whose acronym is Alef Bet. No, he corrected them, it is Ain Breirah - "there is no choice". The only option is to prevail, and Israel prevailed against all odds in 1948. And in 2024, there is no other option but to overcome the challenges facing us.

JNF Canada is facing its own challenges and we will not back down. We attempted to engage the CRA in dialogue with no response. We attempted to engage our government to take responsibility for the decisions they delegated to bureaucrats and they declined. Now, we are before the courts standing up for ourselves. There are Canadian organizations that blatantly align themselves with terror organizations and the CRA turns a blind eye. JNF's charitable, life-changing work is evident in every corner of Israel. Thanks to you, our supporters, and those who came before you, we've helped to create a greener, more inclusive, healthier, safer Israel for all of its inhabitants. Ask any of our friends on the ground in Israel and they will tell you that they cannot imagine rebuilding without JNF Canada. That is no gimmick! We are hopeful that the Canadian justice system will provide a just remedy for this unjust situation.

We hope that you enjoy reading this edition of Roots, focusing on the incredible work we were able to achieve during 5874 thanks to you. We cherish your support, and we cannot advance our important work in Israel without you. If you have not yet participated in the Stand with JNF Campaign, please do so now. Plant a tree and send a message to the government that with or without a charitable receipt, you stand with JNF Canada. It is time to sit down together and find a solution.

In 5785, we will find a new way forward as a charity, to continue our work helping our extended family in the aftermath of the darkest chapter in Israel's history. We are counting on your continued support. JNF Canada has been in existence in one form or another for over 100 years and we intend to be a vibrant charity for another 100 years.

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Wishing you and your loved ones a healthy and happy new year. Shana Tovah!

JNF CANADA IS HERE TO STAY

ISRAEL IS HERE TO STAY

THE JEWISH PEOPLE ARE HERE TO STAY

On August 10, 2024, over Shabbat, we were appalled to learn that our charitable status was revoked. This is likely not news to most of our readers, who have received many emails and communications about this over the past several months. However, we would be remiss to recap our 2023-2024 year without making mention of this unjustified revocation and our ongoing efforts to seek justice.

After a decade of communication and willingness to cooperate with the CRA to their concerns, we appealed their decision to go forward with the revocation on the basis that we had not been subject to a fair process, and the CRA had erred in its findings and conclusions. In a surprising and nearly unprecedented move (based on the review of 200 similar cases), they proceeded with the revocation despite the legal proceedings underway.

We know this is distressing, especially given the political and emotional turmoil of the Jewish community in the last year. We remain resolute and confident that we have a strong case, and we look forward to our day in court to argue it. We thank you, our supporters, from the bottom of our hearts for standing with us.

Want to catch up? Visit our website at jnf.ca/cra to read all our statements and updates related to the revocation and ongoing legal efforts.



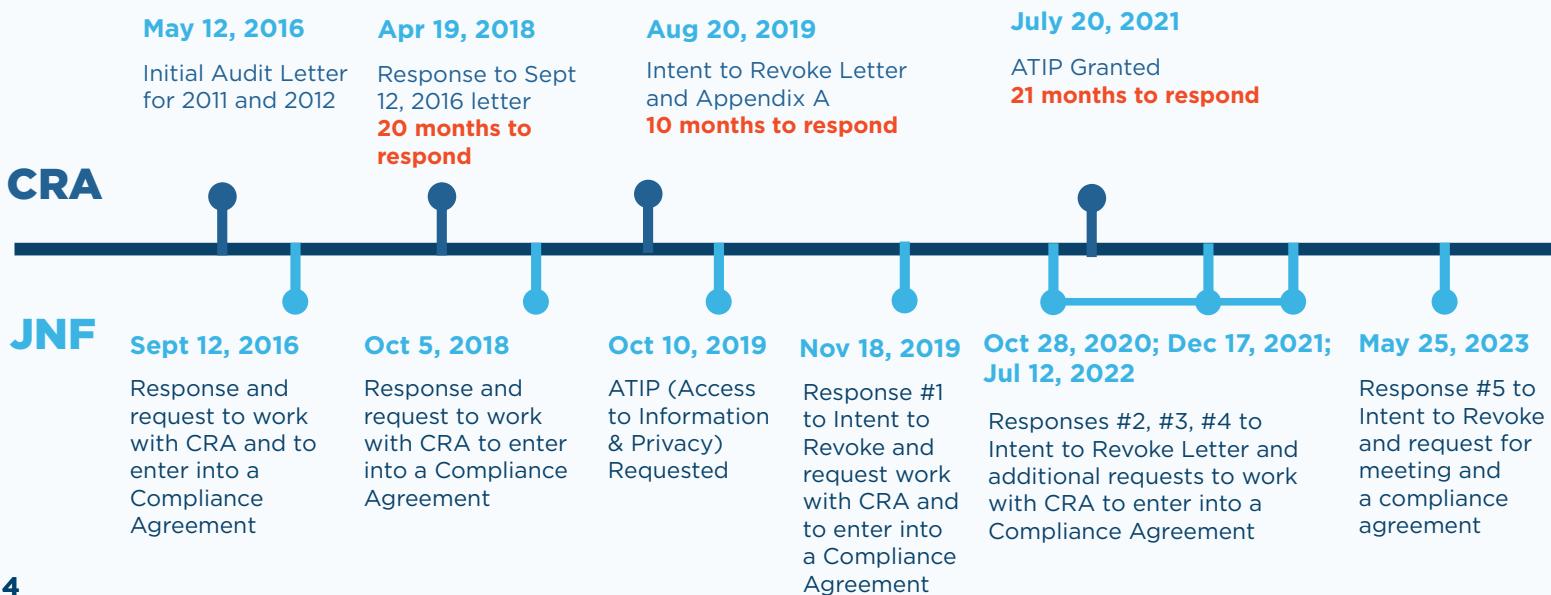
Background on the CRA audit

The CRA initially audited us in 2014 for work we did in 2011-2012. Since 2014, we have been responsive to all their communications, addressed their concerns where we could, changed our practices, as well as objected to some of their concerns which they later dropped.

We requested a meeting and dialogue to enter into a compliance agreement at least 6 times in writing. None of these requests were answered.

Over the last decade, we've shown our willingness to cooperate and resolve their concerns, but they refused to meet with us. We were never given the opportunity to enter into a compliance agreement, as is the standard practice when the CRA is addressing concerns with charities.

JNF Canada - CRA Timeline



Unjust Process & Reasonable Apprehension of Bias

The CRA's guidelines state that revoking a charity's status should be a last resort. Typically, they start with (1) educational efforts, move on to (2) compliance agreements, and (3) apply sanctions, and (4) revoke a charitable status, only if necessary. However, in our case, no educational steps were taken, and our multiple requests for compliance agreements were ignored. We are bewildered why the first 3 steps were skipped and the CRA went straight to step 4.

It wasn't until 2021, when we received heavily redacted audit documents, that we learned how deeply our detractors were involved in this process. For instance, a key detractor submitted over 100 pages of complaints to the CRA and even had an in-person meeting with the CRA's Director of the Charities Directorate. When JNF Canada requested a meeting (at least 6 times), we were refused.

JNF Canada's Request to the Government

Over the past decade, JNF Canada has tried to engage the CRA in discussions to find a mutually acceptable solution, but they've refused to meet with us.

As a result, we've launched two legal processes:

- An appeal challenging the CRA's decision to revoke our status, arguing they made several legal and factual errors.
- A judicial review requesting the government pause our revocation, and reinstate our charitable status, until the courts rule on the federal appeal.

We are asking the government to:

- Put the revocation on hold, and reinstate our charitable status, until the court process is complete.
- Step in to facilitate a meeting between JNF Canada and the CRA to discuss a possible compliance agreement.

Final Thoughts: Why Your Support Matters

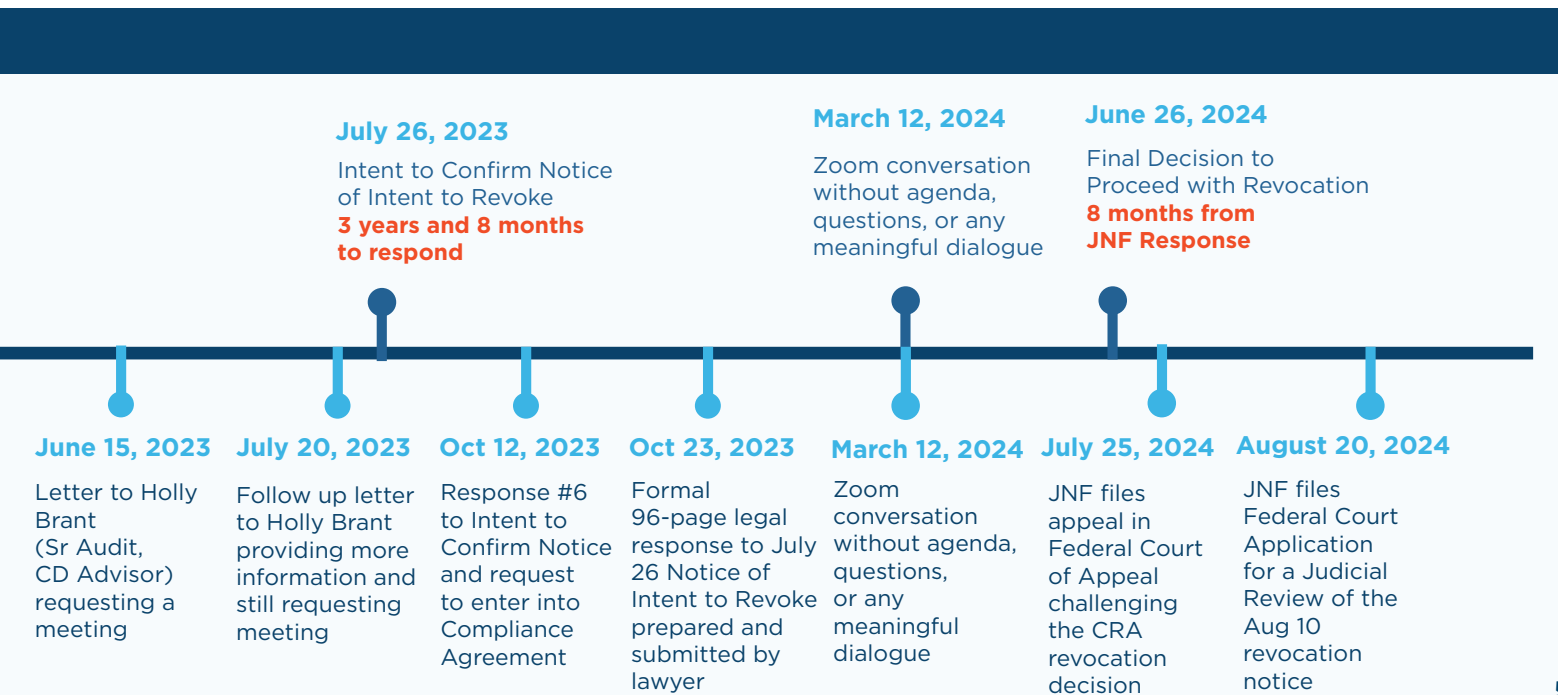
We're in a crucial moment for JNF Canada. This is about more than just our charitable status—it's about ensuring we continue our mission of supporting communities in Israel and Canada. We are just the first on a long list of charities that our detractors are trying to shut down. Your help can make all the difference in spreading the truth, engaging with elected officials, and keeping our cause alive. By joining the #StandWithJNFCanada campaign, you can plant trees, send a message, and make a lasting impact on the future of JNF Canada and the people we support.

#StandWithJNFCanada
Plant a Tree • Send a Message

[jnf.ca/StandWithJNFCanada](https://www.jnf.ca/StandWithJNFCanada)

Following the unjustified revocation of our charitable status, JNF Canada launched a grassroots campaign to show the Canadian government that our community stands united in support of our crucial work in Israel to help those in need.

Stand with JNF Canada. With a contribution of \$18 or more, you can plant trees in Israel's north AND a card will be sent directly to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and the Minister of Revenue, Marie-Claude Bibeau, requesting they find a mutually acceptable path forward with JNF Canada. Together, we can reforest the north of Israel, which has been destroyed by the devastating attacks by Hezbollah and demonstrate that Canadians stand with JNF Canada!



SUSAN AND ALAN FENWICK SEFER TORAH FOR KIBBUTZ KISSUFIM

BE INSCRIBED IN A SEFER TORAH IN ISRAEL

- IN MEMORY OF THOSE LOST ON OCTOBER 7 -



Participate in the writing of a Torah and help us shine a light on the communities brought into the darkness of October 7



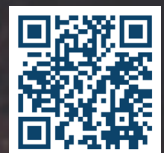
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How JNF Jumped into Action after October 7

On the morning of Saturday, October 7, as the news started to reach Canada about the inconceivable attacks that were taking place in Southern Israel, the JNF Canada team contacted each other: “Have you seen the news?” We, like many, knew this would be a harrowing day but we truly could not expect what would unfold in the following hours, days and months.

By Saturday afternoon, we had set up and launched the Israel Resilience Fund. Working with our partners on the ground in Israel, we knew this aid would go towards whatever the embattled communities needed: ambulances, medical equipment, food, temporary shelter, and psychological assistance.

We raised over \$1 million in the first 5 days

Raised over \$6.7 million from over 7000 donors, to date



The First Month

Within a few days, more concrete needs emerged, and over the next few weeks, we directed additional funds to support:

- Clothing, toiletries and family products for 4,000 displaced residents/families across 52 hotels in safe zones
- More than 130 music, sport and art activities for displaced families, to keep children busy and distracted from the realities of their situation
- Existing therapy and counselling projects to continue providing their services remotely, primarily focusing on youth at risk who are now displaced





With the overwhelming support from JNF Canada donors, we also identified and funded specific projects from our partners:

- Donors from the Pacific region led a fundraiser for the Carmel Farm to install a **pre-fabricated bomb** shelter on the horse therapy farm, making it immediately usable for the special needs kids receiving therapy at the farm.
- Individual donors funded the **Food Distribution Center** to ensure the city of Lod could maintain uninterrupted food distribution for the residents who rely on it
- Individual donors funded the renovation of a **bomb shelter in Be'er Sheva** to be usable as soon as residents return

All donations were sent directly to Israel (no administrative holdbacks) and were matched by donors or partners up to 25%.

A thank you to our communities

In the darkest hours, our donors, the Canadian Diaspora, YOU, showed up and showed our families, friends and strangers in Israel that we are here for them. You gave everything you could, and after that, you asked for more ways to help. You volunteered, you canvassed, you shared our campaigns. From the bottom of our hearts, and on behalf of our Israeli partners who saw the support flowing in when they needed it most, thank you.

June 2024 Update

In June 2024, we also launched an Emergency Appeal to support Northern Israel as they battle raging fires across 6,000+ acres, caused by Hezbollah rockets fired from Lebanon. We have raised over \$175K to support the emergency response teams and rehabilitation efforts.



JNF Projects in Action

In the weeks following October 7, we stayed in close contact with our project partners to get updates on how their communities were coping during this unprecedented time. Our existing projects were playing a pivotal role in supporting communities, highlighting that in good times and bad, JNF-funded projects are essential for these communities.

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Sheltered Educational Room (B'Nei Netzarim)

This project we funded in 2022 provided protection for B'Nei Netzarim residents, some of whom stayed in the facility for 18 hours until being rescued. The original intent for the project was to provide the community's children a safe place to play and learn during the times when rockets are falling in the region and it is unsafe to travel to the local school. We never imagined that it would be utilized while terrorists rampaged through the Gaza Envelope.



Fidel Youth Club (Be'er Sheva)

A Builder (project donor) was concerned for the kids of the Fidel Youth Club, a project they funded last year. We were all relieved to learn the youth had been evacuated to the north, and their club director was in touch with them every day, providing them continued therapy and support throughout this extremely traumatic and disruptive time. The staff of youth clubs like Fidel are dedicated to their students and are ensured continued support and presence even remotely. Similarly, the Builders who fund JNF projects are deeply invested in the well-being of the kids in their projects.



The Resilience Centre (Sderot)

Sderot Resilience Centre continued to reach Sderot residents who had been evacuated. There are professionals assigned to each patient and they are still supporting and counseling them remotely. We are hearing stories from nurses who are caring for people who are not eating and not sleeping. Mayor Alon Davidi remains one of the few civilians left in Sderot, supporting the emergency squads in addressing the carnage his city faced.



Glassman PTSD and Health Centre at Hertzog Hospital (Jerusalem)

A report from Dr. Yehezkel Caine, Director of the Herzog Medical Hospital: “The hospital currently has 4 teams dispatched, providing PTSD services for evacuees. It is clear to us from previous experience that what we see at the moment doesn’t represent the totality of the problem. That will come in another couple of months (or, more precisely, a couple of months after the stress of the war dies down). We are planning to run additional courses to prepare more people to deal with the next phase... So, that is the picture at the end of the fourth week of the war. Unfortunately, it’s clear this is going to be a very long haul so we have to plan for the long term.



Western Canada House Shelter (Rishon L'Tzion)

The shelter opened its doors the week after October 7 (earlier than expected due to the urgent needs). The shelter is a safe house for women and children escaping domestic violence and abuse at home. Although normally it can take months to obtain final occupancy permits, we heard in mid-October from the shelter’s director that the process was expedited to ensure these women and children were protected during this increasingly vulnerable time. JNF Canada funded this project in collaboration with No2Violence, thanks to the generous support of the JNF Manitoba/Saskatchewan and Pacific regions.



Lavi Field & Forest Club

The Lavi Field and Forest Centre, normally used as a sleepover educational center for students, has become home to many of the evacuated residents. Here, families each have their own secure cabin and are being cared for with warm meals, counseling services, kids’ education and activities, and quiet nature. We heard from one of the coordinators that families who lost a family member are not able to be apart from each other, doing all activities side by side and unable to leave each other, even to go to the bathroom.



JNF Canada Solidarity Missions: Bearing Witness and Offering Hope

Since October 7, JNF Canada has conducted six volunteer and solidarity missions to Israel, providing donors a unique chance to give back after the tragic events of that day. These missions have united people from across Canada with Israel during this challenging time.

In Israel, participants observed the quietness of normally busy places and the resilience of the people. Visiting affected locations like Kibbutz Kissufim, Kibbutz Re'im, and the Nova Festival site, witnessing devastation and survival stories.

At Adi Negev-Nahalat Eran, a village for people with disabilities, participants volunteered in therapeutic farming and animal therapy.

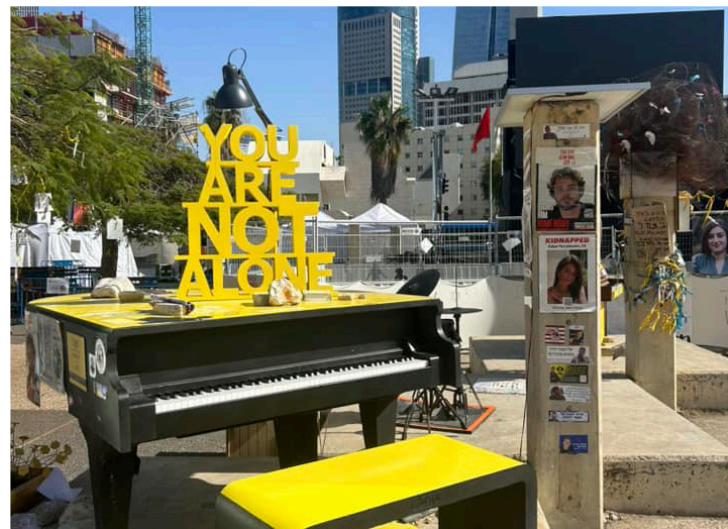
In Sderot, the groups saw the aftermath of Hamas attacks and the impact of JNF Canada's partnerships. They saw the remains of the police station overtaken by Hamas and destroyed by an Israeli tank.

Some missions included a visit to Hostages Square for Kabbalat Shabbat, where participants felt welcomed and joined locals in dancing. In Shlomit, Dana, a mother of six, shared her story of loss and hope.

In Jerusalem, they toured the Jerusalem Hills Therapeutic Center for girls at risk and the Glassman PTSD Hospital. A participant summed up, "These missions show the people of Israel they are not alone."

JNF Canada's missions are a testament to volunteer and donor support, bearing witness to the horrors faced by Israelis and offering hope. JNF Canada invites others to join upcoming missions.

JNF Canada has many upcoming missions throughout the year. To learn more about participating scan the QR code here:



Reflections from Mission Participants



“ These missions send the most important message to the residents: “You are not alone,” and they can’t believe we keep coming, but that’s what we do. This Yom Hazikaron was one of the hardest ones Israel has ever experienced; Yom Ha’atzmaut, the least festive. I know we will never be the same, yet I know we will come out of this stronger, more resilience, and determined. And I know this because we choose life. ”

- Nathan Disenhouse, Board President, JNF Canada

“

I went to Israel to show my support in its time of need, as well as to hear the views of Israelis and their feelings toward the war. Through our many experiences, I felt I accomplished my mission. ”

- Karen Shalansky, Vancouver



“ It was a privilege to be a Jew in Israel in this moment, however briefly. I saw trauma and deep pain, but also incredible resilience. In her vast diversity and many contradictions there remains hope for a peaceful tomorrow. ”

- Melanie Richters, Winnipeg

”

“

I took the opportunity to spend time in Israel, JNF provided the perfect avenue to do this. Their trip had a strong volunteer component which aligned with my interests. My fondest memory was harvesting oranges. We worked all morning after which we all gathered to have a picnic overlooking the boxes of picked oranges we had worked hard to gather. ”

- Linda Slotin , Ottawa



”



JNF Canada Resilience Task Force

Re-calibrating our strategy to meet Israel's greatest needs

The October 7 attacks and the subsequent war wreaked havoc on the communities in Israel's Southern and Northern regions. Various estimates put the cost of reconstruction in the tens of billions of dollars. Israel is facing challenges in a variety of areas including: health (mental health and physical rehabilitation), education, social services, housing, employment, security, and more.

Over the next 2-3 years, JNF Canada expects to raise \$20M-\$30M towards the rebuilding efforts. The Resilience Task Force was formed to develop a plan to maximize the impact of our donations over the next 2-3 years. The focus is on maximizing the number of people/families that we will touch, with high impact, transformative results. Our contributions will fill much-needed gaps in Israeli communities. When we look back on our decisions years from now, we will be able to proudly state that JNF Canada help build what the country needed most, in the dark aftermath of Oct 7 and the years that followed.

Meeting with MK Benny Gantz & rescued hostage Noa Argomani at Rachashei Lev Home for Patients' Families



Meeting with MK Benny Gantz & rescued hostage Noa Argomani at Rachashei Lev Home for Patients' Families

“ For this singular period in Israel's history, we need to move away from donor-driven projects, to a laser-sharp focus for the organization to maximize our impact, based on research and data, with a priority given to what Israelis, need most. ”

- Committee Mandate Letter

Mission group in front of resilience mural in Sderot



Visiting the devastated Kibbutz Nir Oz, where flags still hang from celebrations on October 6, 2023

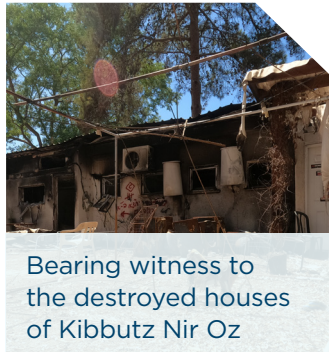


General Amir Avivi (Ret.) shares his expertise on Israel's security situation on all fronts

Hearing the incredible story of Luis Har, rescued hostage



Dinner with Michah Goodman, Author and Thought Leader



Bearing witness to the destroyed houses of Kibbutz Nir Oz



Meeting with Avi Hasson, CEO Start Up Nation Central

The Task Force first heard from experts via Zoom sessions, on the impacts of Oct 7 on the Israeli psyche, mental health, security, and socio-economic issues. The Task Force travelled to Israel in July 2024, where they met with officials, experts, hostages, kibbutz inhabitants, displaced residents, and medical professionals to understand the diverse needs of the country in and after war.

It was a challenging visit, as the needs are so great. The task force was profoundly moved by the strength of Israel's healthcare professionals, the hostages and their families, the brave reservists, the displaced families, and everyday civilians, all of whom are keeping the social and welfare fabric of Israel alive in her hardest chapter.

The Resilience Strategy is currently in development and expected to be implemented in early 2025.

Zoom Sessions



Session 1: General Introduction
Gil Troy
 Professor, McGill University & Author on American and Israeli politics



Session 2: Mental Health
Dr. Danny Brom
 Founding Director of Metiv: The Israel Psychotrauma Center



Session 3: Security
Colonel (Ret) Miri Eisen
 Director, International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (IICT) at Reichman University



Session 4: Update on socio-economic issues
Haviv Gur
 Israeli journalist & political correspondent

Meeting with Lea Spitz, mother of a seriously injured soldier



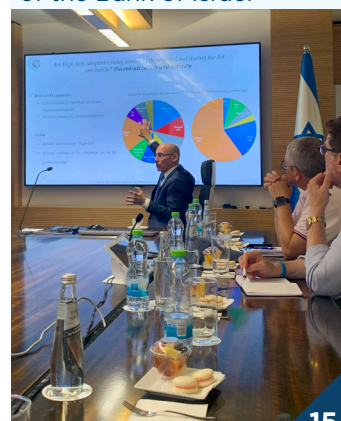
Ari Spitz



Dr. Ronnie Gamzu - CEO, Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center



Understanding the economic impacts of Oct 7, with Amir Yaron, Governor of the Bank of Israel



Helping Israelis Heal

JNF Canada has been building Israeli resilience for decades. Many of our projects played an important role in supporting Israel's citizens in the immediate aftermath of October 7.



100%
Completed
Project

Phase 1 of the Sderot Resilience Centre

Sderot is a developing community less than a mile from the Gaza border, with a population expected to reach 50,000 soon. As the city grows, the demand for mental health services increases. Residents face ongoing security threats, leading to widespread anxiety, depression, PTSD, insomnia, and other emotional challenges.

To help residents cope, the Resilience Center, established in 2008, offers free emotional therapy and community programs, acting as an "emergency room" for trauma victims. Parents also require guidance as their children grow. To address these needs, Sderot is building a new Resilience Complex, which will include a Parenthood Home for family therapy and a PTSD Research and Convention Center to enhance community resilience and research trauma.

JNF National & Builders Circle project.



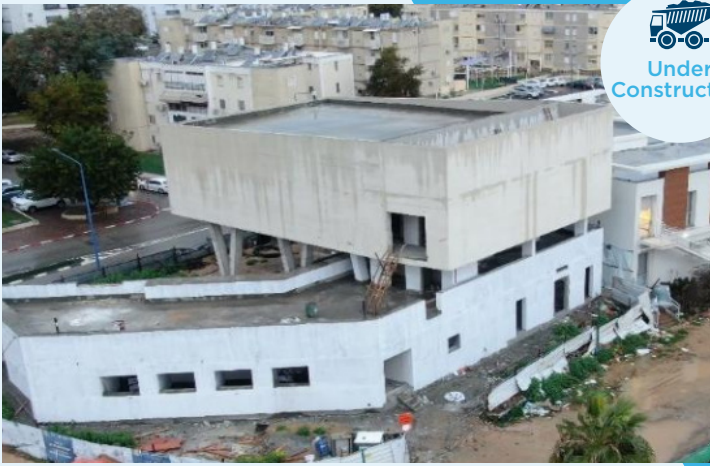
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Completed
Project

Bomb Shelter for Carmel Horse Therapy Farm

The Carmel Horse Therapy Farm serves hundreds of youths with emotional problems, anxiety, social integration difficulties, post-trauma, etc. The horse farm also employs adults with special needs, serving Haifa's special needs community.

JNF Pacific launched an urgent appeal after learning that their Negev project, the Carmel Farm, did not have a bomb shelter. As a result, all therapy had to stop following October 7 and the special-needs youth at the farm could not continue their therapies and progress. Within a week, the Pacific community came together and fundraised enough for a prefabricated shelter so that the farm could reopen and the youth were able to continue their life-improving therapy during this crisis time without interruption.

JNF Pacific supported this project.



The Parenthood Home at the Resilience Centre in Sderot

In Sderot, over 700 rockets fall annually. 80% of children suffer from PTSD. The Resilience Centre, a flagship project for JNF Canada and Sderot's municipality, strengthens the community by offering therapy, emotional support, a 24/7 hotline, courses for parents, emergency services, and more.

Thanks to JNF Builders and JNF regional fundraising, the new Resilience Centre was renovated with a bomb shelter, and expanded facilities, doubling the number of patients it can serve. Phase 2 of the Centre, The Parenthood Home for Family Therapy, is now under construction. It will offer therapy and guidance to help families cope with the traumas of October 7 and the months that followed. It will also house a PTSD Research Centre, conducting trauma research and providing workshops on community resilience.

JNF Toronto supported this project through the 2023 Israel Angels event. JNF Ottawa supported this project through the 2024 Negev Dinner honouring Lisa Macleod, MPP



Family Therapy Centre at the in Ofakim

On October 7, the small city of Ofakim was heavily attacked by terrorists. Residents and police, armed with knives, a few handguns, and eventually the terrorists' rifles, managed to stop them, but 48 people, including 18 defenders, were lost. Many residents were called to fight, and others evacuated to temporary shelters. Those remaining described Ofakim as a ghost town, with half the residents gone and the rest afraid to leave their homes.

The Family Therapy Centre housed in the Community Centre will support the recovery of the devastated town. It will feature a large hall and smaller rooms for family services including counseling, financial planning, and various other treatments. This Centre will be a crucial resource for the community as they heal from their traumatic experiences.

JNF Hamilton supported this project through the 2024 Negev Dinner honouring Donna and Gary Waxman.



Kibbutz Kissufim Youth Club

At the youth centre, Kissufim's youth will have a space to come together and process the tragic events that unfolded in their community. Two of the nineteen youth, Noya Dan (12) and Sagie Zak (15), were murdered by Hamas. The club's primary focus will be to provide essential mental and social support to the group as they navigate the profound impact of the loss of their friends. The centre will provide trained counselling, and an after-school space for homework and activities. The renovation will comprise of several spaces, a fortified shelter and two private therapy rooms, and is expected to be completed and ready for residents when they return.

JNF Tu Bi'Shevat Campaign Project.

Join the Builders Circle to help bring this project to life.



Empowering the Women of Israel

JNF Canada's mission includes strengthening social services for women in Israeli communities. By providing essential resources, education, and support, these projects aim to help women reach their full potential. These centres will inspire women from all backgrounds, fostering a brighter future for them and their communities.

Thank you to our generous Builders:
The Dianne and Irving Kipnes Foundation

Woman's Empowerment and Entrepreneurship Centre in Yerucham

100% Funded

The "She Work" Centre for Entrepreneurship and Empowerment in Yerucham will offer an intensive 15-month program for budding entrepreneurs, workspace, ongoing business mentorship and workshops, and large expo networking events. Key program objectives are to strengthen economic and social resilience, allow women in destructive relationships to cultivate economic independence, and build an urban women's professional network for mutual empowerment. After the building renovation is complete, the Centre's program will service 45 female entrepreneurs a year.



Record Breaking Donation towards JNF Edmonton's Builders Circle

The Jewish National Fund of Edmonton is thrilled to announce the generous contribution made by The Dianne & Irving Kipnes Foundation, which will fully fund the establishment of two JNF Canada Women's Empowerment Centres in Israel. These centres, strategically located in Lod and Yerucham, hold the promise of fortifying women's economic and social resilience, fostering professional networks for employment and empowerment, and assisting women seeking independence from destructive relationships. The impact of the Dianne & Irving Kipnes Foundation's dedication to improving the lives of countless individuals is truly commendable, and we express our heartfelt gratitude for their invaluable support.

Dianne & Irving Kipnes, distinguished figures in the Canadian philanthropic landscape, have left their indelible mark on an impressive array of projects, not only putting Edmonton on the map but also contributing to national initiatives. As esteemed Members of the Order of Canada, the Kipnes' unwavering commitment to the arts, health-care, education, and community development has garnered widespread recognition. It is with immense honour and joy that we become part of the Kipnes Foundation's legacy, one that will positively transform lives and cultivate the leaders of tomorrow.

Women's Training and Empowerment Centre in Lod

100% Funded

In the city of Lod, most families are Ethiopian, have language and cultural gaps, and struggle to integrate into the employment market and society. JNF is partnering to support the Education and Society in Lod Association, who have provided professional training and employment support to empower these families for more than a decade. The Association recently purchased a building from one of the city's residents, a Holocaust survivor who deeply supported their mission and activities. With JNF, they plan to build a Women's Training & Empowerment Center to provide computer classes, Hebrew lessons, fiscal planning support, family aid, education for children and youth, and traditional Ethiopian cultural activities. The center will serve 100 families in its first year, and 500 by its third year.



Thank you to our generous Builders:
Jeffrey and Karen Citron & Family
Gisela Fajner and Andre Sipos z"l
The Dianne and Irving Kipnes Foundation

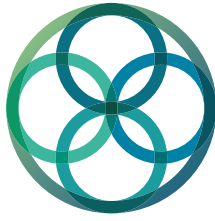
The Ethiopian Women's Empowerment Centre

The Shaalim organization has received a piece of land to construct the Ethiopian Women's Empowerment Centre to serve the Ethiopian women of the community in Beit Shemesh. Since October 7, the Centre has also expanded to provide war-time services to help the community navigate new and changing instructions from the government and army, and how to apply for help, insurances, and other urgent services. The new Centre will consist of vocational training, computer & communication support, a parent and family centre, and a centre for the heritage and culture of Ethiopian Jews.



JNF Manitoba/Saskatchewan supported this project through the 2024 Negev Dinner honouring Moe Levy.

Climate Solutions Prize



JNF Quebec Champions Climate Solutions Prize and Celebrates Success at COP28

JNF Quebec proudly supports the Climate Solutions Prize, fostering groundbreaking climate research in Israel and Quebec. This year, the prestigious \$1 million prize will be awarded in Israel to the most innovative researchers addressing the climate crisis. Additionally, \$250,000 was awarded locally in Quebec through the Climate Solutions Festival, fostering partnerships between our two countries.



Success at COP28 in Dubai

The United Nations Climate Change conference, COP28, concluded with a historic agreement to transition away from fossil fuels, triple renewable energy, and increase climate finance for the most vulnerable. These resolutions mark a significant step forward, but much work remains to address the growing climate crisis.

The Climate Solutions Prize (CSP)/JNF Canada team actively participated and hosted several panels at COP28. Highlights included discussions in the Green Zone on “Supporting Scale” with partners like the Tamasek Foundation and Continental AG. In the Blue Zone at the Israel Pavilion, the 2023 Israeli Climate Solutions Prize Finalists were announced. Collaborative efforts with the Canadian Clean Resource Innovation Network, Amazon Web Services, Cycle Momentum, and Novarium focused on “How Philanthropy Can Propel Climate Tech Innovation,” spotlighting the crucial role of CSP.



Climate Solutions Festival: A Massive Success!

With over 1,200 participants, 67 speakers, and \$1M in prizes awarded, the Climate Solutions Festival at the Grand Quay in Montreal's Old Port was action-packed. Highlights included the remote TMX Stock Exchange Opening, keynote speaker Gregg Maryniak, insights from sustainability leaders, and the Climate Solutions Prize Award Ceremony

Congratulations to Our Prize Winners

Quebec Breakthrough Research Prize Winners:



\$150,000: Jeffrey Bergthorson
McGill - Decarbonizing Industry with
Long Duration Iron Energy Storage



\$100,000: Michael Di Mare
Polytechnique Montreal - A low-cost,
low-carbon, ultra-high-performance concrete

Watch the
highlights
here:



Climate Solutions Gala: A Night to Remember

The Climate Solutions Gala on June 19, 2024, was an incredible event attended by over 550 distinguished guests. The evening honored Paul Desmarais III and Olivier Desmarais and supported the critical work of the Climate Solutions Prize. We are thrilled to announce that we reached our fundraising goal, an achievement made possible by the generous contributions of our donors and sponsors. Your support is instrumental in driving our mission forward.

The evening featured enchanting moments with performances by ViVA Trio, Alexandre Da Costa, and Freckled Sky, adding a magical touch. Hosted by Andy Nulman, the event engaged all the senses and celebrated our shared passion for environmental innovation and sustainability.





Builders Circle

We've been so moved by the support of our community in these heavy months following October 7.

“ After October 7, our feelings towards Israel have just been re-enforced. ”

- Kyle & Rachel Harris, the youngest Builders in the Builders Circle

“ The Builders Circle has become an outstanding success for JNF across Canada, and we are proud to be involved in this excellent program that is helping build Israel. We have made countless trips to Israel, and support Israel because it is our ancestral home and home to every Jew. We selected the Beit Shulamit Cancer Hospital Centre in Afula, to contribute to the construction of a playground for children who are receiving medical care at the Centre, so they have a place to play outside and benefit from nature, during their treatment. ”

Allen & Janet, Jerry & Shelley Werger

Toddler's Playground at Beit Shulamit Cancer Centre



“ Israel is important to us, because as a Jew how could it not be? It is in our DNA. We decided to join Builders Circle at a point where we felt the desire to do something more. It is so clear from recent events, in Canada and internationally, that Israel is the only place where we are safe from anti-semitism and hate. Of course, we can also talk about the Israeli breakfasts and all the other incredible foods... Our project is an accessible bike path in Givat Hatzir, in northern Israel. We thought that was a fantastic initiative - a bike path for the physically challenged. ”

Sheldon Miller
Accessible Bike Path in Givat Hatzir



2 Generations Supporting Israel

“ After the war broke out in October, we wanted to make a sizeable donation to Israel and JNF offered us the opportunity to make a difference. Our project is an apartment suite in the Sheba Hospital for families of the patients there. Israel is the one place in the world all Jews are welcome. Given what is happening today, we need to continue to support it.

”

Jay & Janet Harris

Apartments for Patient Families at Sheba Hospital



“ We decided to become Builders because we wanted to give back to Israel in a unique way and help rebuild areas that were mostly affected by the war. There is nothing more important to us than Eretz Israel. The Jewish state allows us to live freely in Canada and we want to continue to support Israel. We chose the Snoezelen Room (Sensory Room) for kindergarten kids. This project stood out to us because we understand the great need for mental health assistance, especially at a young age. Rachel is a special education teacher and having an opportunity to be able to assist autistic children meant the world to us.

”

Kyle & Rachel Harris

Sensory Room for Special Needs Kids



Nothing brings the essence of JNF to life more than hearing our project donors talk about the projects they chose, the reasons behind it, and why Israel matters to them.

Scan here to hear short 1-min testimonials from our wonderful Builders.



For more information on project opportunities

 jnfbuildercircle.ca

 national@jnf.ca

 1.866.775.1563



JNF Future

JNF Future is the next generation

JNF Future aims to engage individuals between the ages of 25 to 40 through meaningful programming and events, missions to Israel and forums with young Jewish leaders. Through Future, we can foster new relationships, a stronger connection to Israel, and leadership within JNF Canada and Jewish communities across Canada.



JNF Future Ambassador Program

Fundraising is one of JNF Future's key pillars, which stems from the Jewish concept of tzedakah, giving to those in need, a value and tradition that many keep from a young age.

The JNF Future Ambassador Program provides young professionals (40 years of age or younger) the opportunity for tzedakah at a giving level that is manageable. This allows you to easily support Israel throughout the year.

Join a dedicated group of philanthropic young professionals, who together will impact the lives of countless Israelis for years to come. Become a JNF Future Ambassador for just \$15 a month, or \$180 for the year.

Additional Benefits of Becoming a JNF Future Ambassador: Early access to event registration, Special pricing for events, Invitations to exclusive Ambassador events, Recognition on the Ambassador Honour Roll (if desired), and more!



Scan here to become a
JNF Future Ambassador
in Toronto or now in
Regional Ontario!





We're Going Digital

For the next generation of building Israel, we're bringing the beloved Blue Box to the 21st century.

.....

Remember dropping coins into the beloved Blue Box (JNF's tzedakah box)? Our tradition of tzedakah spans a century. For decades, this little icon helped build the miracle of Israel.

But in a pay online world, our connection to the Blue Box - and everything it symbolizes - is diminishing. Yet the commitment of the next generation of Jewish Diaspora to Israel is stronger than ever. After decades of coin collection, we're carrying on the tradition of tzedakah for the modern family.

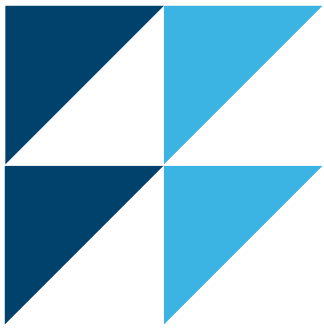
JNF Canada has decided to help make giving tzedakah and supporting Israel more accessible for the next generation. **Coming this Winter 2024**, we are pleased to share the launch of the JNF Digital Blue Box!

Use the Digital Blue Box app with your family to play games, learn about Israel and Jewish culture, and carry on the tradition of tzedakah that helped build Israel.



Learn more about the Digital Blue Box and get updated when it launches!





JNF Education

Advancing JNF Education Across Canada: A Year of Resilience and Growth

The past year has been marked by significant challenges in the aftermath of the tragic events of October 7th. However, these difficulties have only reinforced the importance of our mission in education. JNF Canada has remained steadfast in its commitment to nurturing a strong Jewish identity and fostering loyalty to Israel. Throughout the year, our educational initiatives reached a broad audience, including students, families, teenagers, and educators across Canada.



Expanding JNF Values and Educational Initiatives

This year, JNF Canada deepened its focus on core values and Israel education. Developing activities for holidays like Hanukkah, Tu Bi'Shevat, and the "Yam-im," tailored for Jewish day schools, supplementary schools, youth movements, synagogues, JCCs, and communities across Canada.



Transformative Educators' Mission to Israel

In July 2023, thirty educators from across Canada embarked on a mission to Israel, exploring environmental, educational, and Zionist initiatives. They gained insights into pioneering methods, sustainable projects, and Israel's rich history and culture, inspiring them to integrate these themes into their teaching.



Community Engagement During High Holidays

From September to November 2023, JNF Canada participated in events for the High Holidays, in cooperation with the Hostage and Missing Families Forum. Activities included meetings with hostages' families and support events like Kites for Hope, fostering communal support and resilience.



Illuminating Hanukkah and Winter Camps

In December 2023, JNF Canada launched Hanukkah activities for Jewish day schools and campers, focusing on the lights and miracles of Israel. Workshops and outdoor activities helped students connect with Israel's cultural and natural heritage, deepening their appreciation for the holiday.



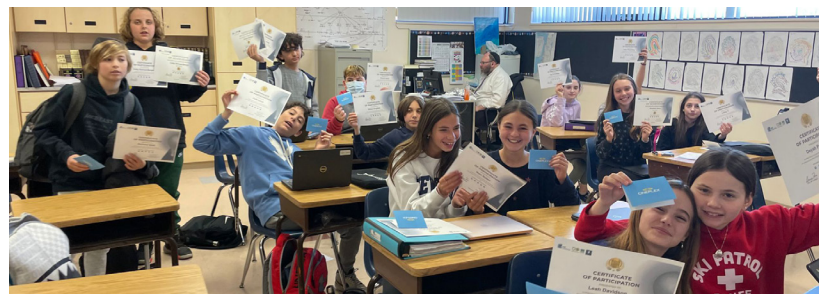
Empowering Educators with Professional Development

In December 2023, JNF Canada offered workshops for educators, emphasizing experiential learning and innovative teaching. The first PD Day focused on Tu Bi'Shevat and wildfires, while the second used the Hackathon framework to foster creative learning and teamwork.



Inspiring Creativity Through the Virtual Hackathon

In January 2024, JNF Canada organized a virtual hackathon for 150 students from nine schools. Students explored David Ben-Gurion's vision of an "exemplary society," engaging in creative projects that strengthened their connection with Israel and inspired community improvement initiatives.



Celebrating Tu Bi'Shevat with a Global Perspective

Between January and February 2024, JNF Canada's Tu Bi'Shevat programs reached over 3,000 participants across Canada. The "JNF Caravan" brought young Israelis to communities, promoting environmental stewardship and a deeper connection to Israel through various activities.



Addressing Contemporary Challenges Through Education

Amidst the ongoing conflict in Israel and the rise of anti-Semitism across Canada, education about Israel and JNF has become more essential than ever before. It serves as a powerful tool to combat misconceptions, create understanding, and promote empathy. By providing comprehensive knowledge about Israel's history, politics, and culture, JNF education empowers individuals to engage in informed dialogue and support Israel's right to exist in peace. In these challenging times, education emerges as a beacon of hope, offering a path to tolerance, empathy, and ultimately, peace.



JNF Families

L'dor V'dor

Through Families, we are offering:

- **Israel-related facts and trivia**
- **Connecting to things that kids in Israel eat, watch or enjoy**
- **Activities and crafts**
- **Kid-friendly learning about themes like charity (tzedakah) and tikkun olam (repairing the world)**

JNF Families launched in 2022 to serve a new generation of Jewish families in the community. Our tagline L'dor V'dor means from generation to generation. From one generation to the next - from grandparent to parent to child - there is so much to be passed on.

This past year our Hamilton, London, Toronto, and Windsor regions hosted JNF Families Tu Bi'Shevat Programs. Hundreds of families across the province joined JNF to celebrate this new year for the trees and Israel. This annual tradition has now become an annual highlight for families filled with delicious treats from Israel and dried fruits, holiday related activities such as tree-planting, and more. We can't wait to see everyone again for our Tu Bi'Shevat celebrations in 2025!



JNF Hamilton held a fun-filled Family Tu Bi'Shevat celebration in partnership with with PJ Library and Camp Kadimah.



JNF Toronto's Tu Bi'Shevat Celebration hosted two events this year, one in partnership with Prosserman JCC, and the second conducted fully in Hebrew in partnership with the Schwartz/Reisman Centre (JCC), World Zionist.



JNF London held a Family Tu Bi'Shevat celebration in collaboration with Congregation Beth Tefilah.



JNF Windsor hosted their Families Tu Bi'Shevat Celebration in partnership with Congregation Beth El and Chabad of Windsor.

Interested in our Families programming?
Sign up to get updates on events, offerings and this
monthly Activities Booklet right to your inbox.



Check out our activities booklet every month for fun things to do with the family!

October - Elul/Tishrei (אלול/תשרי)
November - Cheshvan (חשוון)

Hebrew Phrase:
 Od nedah yamim tovim miele
 עוד נדע ימים טובים מאלה
 (We shall have better days ahead of us!)

High Holidays
 The High Holidays have, been for centuries, been a time where Jewish families all over the world come together and give many people in the Jewish community a warm feeling of connection and solidarity.

Rosh Hashanah
 First and second day of the month of Tishrei
 Evening of October 2-4, 2024

Rosh Hashanah is the name of the Jewish New Year, it means "beginning of the year". The festival lasts for 2 days but the date changes from year to year, this is because the dates of the Jewish festivals come from the Hebrew calendar - the lunar calendar - which is different from the Gregorian calendar that's used in most western countries.

Rosh Hashanah celebrates G-d creating the world, it also symbolizes a time for people to make a fresh start and the days that follow it to reflect on the past year and ask for forgiveness for anything work they feel they have done. It is a time for festive gatherings with family and friends with traditional meals that feature sweet foods, as a symbolism for a sweet year ahead such as carrots, beets or spinach, honey cake and black-eyed peas. A special horn called a shofar is blown to signal the start of the new year.

People greet one another:
 Shana tova u'metukah - (good and sweet year)

Starting November 2024, you can access these great activities and other Israel games in our new Digital Blue Box app! Stay tuned for more info.







Blue's Favourite Activities

- Rosh Hashanah Hope Tree [Link to Activity](#)
- Apple Shaped Boxes [Link to Activity](#)
- Honey Ice Cream in a Bag [Link to Activity](#)
- Build a Mini Edible Sukkah [Link to Activity](#)
- Sukkah Letters [Link to Activity](#)

Blue's Recipes!

- Apple Cake with Pomegranate [Link to Recipe](#)
- Chicken tagine with apricot and almonds [Link to Recipe](#)
- Trimmers Blintzes with Cardamom Yogurt Sauce [Link to Recipe](#)
- Israeli Couscous with Seven Vegetables: [Link to Recipe](#)

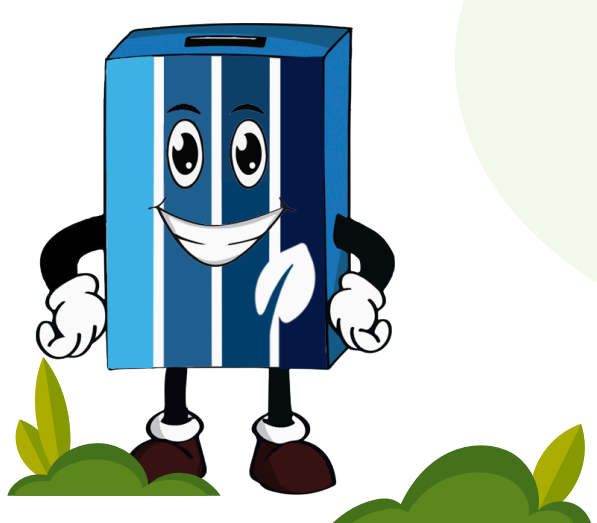
High Holiday Playlist

- All Songs For Kids Rosh Hashanah Song
- Apple - Fountainheads
- Beats - Bashana Haba'a - Rosh Hashanah
- Succah (Succot Song)
- See the Stars 2 - Rosh Hashanah
- Amchat Torah!

Blue's Favourite Books

- The Apple Tree's Discovery by Peninnah Schrem and Rachael Eckstein Davis
- Talia and the Rude Vegetables by Linda Elovitz Marshall
- What a Way to Start a New Year! A Rosh Hashanah story by Jacqueline Jules
- Chelmsford for the Holidays by Valerie Estelle Frankel
- The Hardest Word - a Yom Kippur Story by Jacqueline Jules

Get these activities right to your inbox and stay up to date with JNF Families at Jnf.ca/families

Interested in our Families programming? Sign up to get updates on events, offerings and this monthly Activities Booklet right to your inbox.





JNF Speakers

We're proud to bring together insightful speakers who resonate with our supporters. It's our pleasure to connect these exceptional minds with our friends across Canada.



Yaron Deckel

Former Radio and TV Host for the Israel Broadcast Authority and the Canadian Representative of the Jewish Agency for Israel

September 13, 2023

Hosted by: JNF Toronto



Dr. Jack Mintz

World Renowned Economist, Academic and Public Policy Analyst

September 21, 2023

Hosted by: JNF Ottawa



Michael Oren

Former Israeli Ambassador to the United States

November 12, 2023

Hosted by: JNF Toronto



Jason Greenblatt

Former White House Middle East Envoy

October 18, 2023

Hosted by: JNF Windsor



Neil Lazarus

Internationally acclaimed expert in the field of Middle East & Israel advocacy

October 25, 2023

Hosted by: JNF National (online)



Virag Gulyas

International Jewish Affairs Specialist & Activist

February 4, 2024

Hosted by: JNF Pacific



Elan Isaacson

Head of Security for the Eshkol Region

March LIST DATES 2024

Hosted by: JNF Hamilton, JNF Toronto, JNF Ottawa, JNF Quebec & JNF Vancouver



Shay-Li Atari

Israeli Filmmaker, Director, Actress, and Singer

May 26, 2024

Hosted by: JNF National (online)



Emily Austin

American TV Personality

November 26, 2023

Hosted by: JNF Pacific



Yuval David

Israeli-American Actor, Filmmaker, Journalist & Jewish Activist, Advisor and Advocate

February 4 & May 9, 2024

Hosted by: JNF Pacific & JNF Calgary



Dr. Henry Abramson

Author & Scholar in Jewish History

March 10-12, 2024

Hosted by: JNF Pacific



Lt. Col. (Ret.) Jonathan Conricus

Senior Fellow at the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies and former IDF International Spokesperson

June 4, 5, 6, 2024

Hosted by: JNF Toronto, JNF Ottawa, & JNF Edmonton



Hussein Aboubakr Mansour

Director of EMET's Program for Emerging Democratic Voices from the Middle East

November 26, 2023

Hosted by: JNF Pacific



Naomi Parness

Founder of The Narrative Agency

March 3, 2024

Hosted by: JNF Toronto



Miri Eisin

Incoming Director for the International Institute for Counter Terrorism

April 18, 2024

Hosted by: JNF National (online)



Selina Robinson

Member of BC Legislative Assembly, Independent

June 17, 2024

Hosted by: JNF Pacific



Caroline D'Amore

American Businesswoman, DJ, Actress & Fashion Model

November 26, 2023 & January 29, 2024

Hosted by: JNF Pacific & JNF Edmonton



Sabrina Maddeaux

Award-Winning Journalist & Political Columnist

March 3, 2024

Hosted by: JNF Toronto



Noa Tishby

Israeli Actress, Writer, Producer, and Activist

May 9, 2024

Hosted by: JNF Hamilton



Mayim Bialik

Actor

June 20, 2024

Hosted by: JNF Manitoba & Saskatchewan



Bassem Eid

Human Rights Advocate & Expert on Israel-Arab Affairs

February 4 & 6, 2024

Hosted by: JNF Pacific & JNF Calgary



Sandra Zisckind

Managing Partner & Co-Founder of Diamond & Diamond Personal Injury Lawyers

March 3, 2024

Hosted by: JNF Toronto



Anthony Housefather

Member of Parliament

May 17, 2024

Hosted by: JNF Pacific



The Right Honourable Stephen J. Harper

22nd Prime Minister of Canada

August 8, 2024

Hosted by: JNF Windsor



Negev Projects & Honourees 2024



JNF Pacific

Rebuild & Resilience
Negev Campaign

Project: The Diamond Family Hope & Heal
Clinic located in Kibbutz Kissufim and
servicing the Eshkol Region

Date: May-June 2024



JNF Hamilton

Honourees:
Donna and Gary Waxman

Project: Family Therapy Centre
in Ofakim

Date: May 09, 2024



JNF Calgary

Special Guest: Yuval David

Project: The Rebuilding of
Kibbutz Kissufim

Date: May 09, 2024



JNF Edmonton

Keynote Speaker: Lt. Col. (Ret.)
Jonathan Conricus

Project: The Rebuilding of Kibbutz
Kissufim

Date: June 6, 2024



JNF Montreal

Honourees: Paul Desmarais III
& Olivier Desmarais

Project: The Climate Solutions Prize

Date: June 19, 2024



JNF Manitoba & Saskatchewan

Honouree: Moses (Moe) Levy

Projects: The Ethiopian Women's
Empowerment Centre & The Israel
Asper Community Action Centre

Date: June 20, 2024



JNF Windsor

Honouree: Connie Gambriel

Special Guest: The Right Honourable
Stephen J. Harper, 22nd Prime
Minister of Canada

Project: Rebuilding of Kibbutz Kissufim

Date: August 8, 2024

Upcoming Negev Events

JNF Toronto

Honouree: Jeff Rubenstein

Featuring: PM Naftali Bennett &
Bret Stephens, NYT Columnist

Project: *The Gateway to Ancient Jerusalem*

Date: Fall 2025



JNF Ottawa

Honouree: Lisa MacLeod, MPP

Project: The Parenthood Centre for
Family Therapy in Sderot

Date: November 13, 2024





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