

Task Forces, Boards & Committees

The introduction of TFB&C (Task Forces, Boards & Committees) has greatly enhanced Jewish National Fund's ability to work with local and specific communities, regional areas and targeted and capstone projects in Israel. They help set priorities and have put in place a system where we can follow the requests and funding projects through targeted fundraising. What was originally the Parsons Water Fund Board and Central Arava Task Force, has now turned into 19 unique groups, from embryonic to developing to mature.

JNF is involved in a wide variety of areas and requires the involvement and partnership of myriad internal and external stakeholders, including fundraising professionals, lay leaders, local communities, government and NGO's and other strategic partners. The formation of TFB&C introduces all the players together and allows the formation of strategic partnerships, multilateral connections and relationships in a wide variety of cross settings that include meetings and planning at town halls, government offices, donor homes, events and other locations.

Our TFB&Cs are designed specifically for major donors (starting minimum annual \$5,000 gift for the majority of the TFB&C up to \$100,000 for Housing Development Fund) as they create and ferment inspiration and provide the opportunity and challenge for each group to work together with goals, objectives and deadlines.

It is also a development-building and learning opportunity for the JNF professional coordinating the TFB&C as they must manage and reinforce the direction of his/her group, create and manage timelines, reinforce deadlines and be responsible for group communication, managing each group member's role, expectation, group dynamics and fundraising.

JNF's TFB&Cs currently consists of 19 groups, numbering between 10 and 30 participants in each group, who are tasked with substantial researching, analyzing, evaluating and producing practical recommendations to be then evaluated and taken up by the Israel Relations Committee (IRC), Budget and Finance Committee (BFC) and ultimately recommended for action to the Board of Directors.

Further to that and more importantly, it places a substantial responsibility on TFB&C participants to fundraise for their group and gives them a real-world insight into practical financial, legal and all other considerations in planning and executing a project.

Membership buy-in in a TFB&C offers more opportunities for more lay leaders in the organization, allows more contact, professional conversations and connections, greater resources for research and coordination to oversee the overall workflow, contribution, deadlines, progress and fundraising

Current Task Forces and Committees are the following:

[Alexander Muss High School in Israel \(AMHSI\) Board](#)

Minimum annual gift required - \$5,000

Joseph Wolfson, Chair

Yael Septee Kane, JNF Professional

Stephen Bach, JNF Professional

Arad Task Force

This task force works in partnership with the municipality and other stakeholders in order to strategize the community's priorities and needs to determine where JNF can be most effective.

Minimum annual gift required - \$5,000

Terry Katz, Co-Chair

Jim Riola, Co-Chair

Ariel Kotler, JNF Professional

Eric Goldstein (Cincinnati), JNF Professional

Arava & Eilat Task Force

With the goal of doubling the region's population by 2020, JNF supports several key projects.

Minimum annual gift required - \$5,000

Beckie Fischer, Chair

Talia Tzour, JNF Professional

Baseball and Softball Task Force

This task force raises funds to plan, build and maintain baseball fields and purchase baseball sporting equipment for the development of the sport in Israel.

Minimum annual gift required - \$5,000

Mark Rattner, Chair

Lou Rosenberg, JNF Professional

Mitchel Rosenzweig, JNF Professional

Peter Kurz, Israel Partner

Be'er Sheva Task Force

This task force works with the municipality of Be'er Sheva and stakeholders to continue the overall progress of JNF's Blueprint Negev to bring people to live in the city and Negev region and growing the "capital of the Negev".

Minimum annual gift required - \$5,000

Chair, Larry Cohen

Sharon Freedman, JNF Professional

Fire and Rescue Task Force

This task force works to protect Israel's citizens and forests from the dangers of fire with the purchase of fire trucks, creation of firefighter training programs and other fire protection necessities.

Minimum annual gift required - \$5,000

Mark Egerman, Co-Chair

Penny Rosen, Co-Chair

Sharon Lewis, JNF Professional

Gaza Envelope Task Force

This task force works to protect and make easier, the lives of Israeli citizens living on the Gaza border in towns such as Sderot, the region's kibbutzim and moshavim, the Halutza communities and students at Sapir College.

Minimum annual gift required - \$5,000

Betsy Fischer, Chair

Boaz Meir, JNF Professional

Jocelyn Inglis, JNF Professional

Green Innovations Task Force

21st Century JNF fuels a bold vision that blooms the desert, restores damaged ecosystems and provides for sustainable development. This task force works to advance Israel as an "Environmental light Unto the Nations" who shares its experiences and expertise in an arid land.

Minimum annual gift required - \$5,000

Dan Cohan, Co-Chair

Eddie Paul, Co-Chair

Beth Gluck, JNF Professional

Housing Development Fund Task Force

Throughout the Negev and Galilee, there are dozens of communities who wish to expand and offer new housing options. Israel suffers from a shortage of housing options. Because communities are responsible for managing their own developments and also the financing of the basic infrastructure, many projects never get off the ground due to a lack of capital. This task force, through its stakeholders (donors/lay leaders), participates in reviewing project opportunities and works to raise philanthropic capital to then provide interest free loans to communities that have viable development and marketing plans. Since 2013, the task force is active in twelve communities and is supporting the development of 500 housing sites and within the next two years, its goal is to reach 1,000 housing sites.

Minimum gift required - \$100,000 (payable up to four years)

Jeffrey Schwartz, Chair

Rick Krosnick, JNF Professional

Eric Michaelson, JNF Professional

Israel Independence Experience Task Force

This task force works on the preservation of heritage sites in Israel.

Minimum annual gift required - \$5,000

Ben Gutmann, Chair

Russell Robinson, JNF Professional

Mitchel Rosenzweig, JNF Professional

Kiryat Shmona and Upper Eastern Galilee

The goal of this task force is to look at development in the south and the north in a holistic way, and create new housing, job, education, healthcare and quality of life opportunities.

Minimum annual gift required - \$5,000

Gina Raphael, Chair

Reagan Weil, JNF Professional

Lee Lebovich, JNF Professional

MAKOM Task Force

This task force works with MAKOM and combines JNF's Go North and Blueprint Negev with MAKOM's mission-driven communities.

Minimum annual gift required - \$5,000

Sue Rothberg, Chair

James Kimmey, JNF Professional

Aharon Ariel Lavi, Israel Partner

Mitzpe Ramon Task Force

This task force works in partnership with the municipality and other stakeholders in order to strategize the communities' priorities and needs to determine where JNF can be most effective.

Minimum annual gift required - \$5,000

Robb Fox, Chair

Michael Feinman, JNF Professional

Shlomi Vayzer, JNF Professional

Arts and Entertainment Task Force

This task force's objective is to raise funds and develop recognition and awareness of JNF programs and projects focusing on arts and cultural activities in Israel's north and south.

Minimum annual gift required - \$5,000

Civia Caroline, Chair

Sharon Freedman, JNF Professional

National Water Task Force

Serves as an umbrella and coordinating body for JNF's expanding portfolio of water projects and partners in Israel, to enhance their strength, fiscal viability and effectiveness. Raised to date over \$120 million.

Minimum annual gift required - \$10,000

Marc Kelman, Chair

Bob Lembke, Vice-Chair

Talia Tzour, JNF Professional

Nefesh B'Nefesh Task Force

This task force, in addition to identifying and soliciting donors, focuses on helping new Olim (immigrants) through all aspects of the aliyah process, and encourages these Olim to move to Israel's peripheral regions, the Negev and the Galilee.

Minimum annual gift required - \$10,000

Vivian Grossman, Co-Chair

Ronald Werner, Co-Chair

Glen Schwartz, JNF Professional

Kate Samuels, JNF Professional

Doreet Freedman, Israel Partner

Project Wadi Attir Task Force

This task force seeks to develop and demonstrate a model for sustainable, community-based agricultural enterprise, adapted to a desert environment.

Minimum annual gift required - \$5,000

Honey Kessler Amado, Chair

Laura Sherry, JNF Professional

Task Force on Disabilities

This task force brings partner organizations together to share resources and meet the needs of those with disabilities in Israel's North and South where there are typically fewer services available.

Minimum annual gift required - \$10,000

Gary Kushner, Chair

Yossi Kahana, JNF Professional

Sharon David, JNF Professional

Donna Breitbart, JNF Professional

Western & Eastern Galilee

The goal of this task force is to attract and retain 300,000 new residents to the Galilee, strengthen the economic and social life of the region, relieve the congestion in the center of Israel and, together with Blueprint Negev, transform Northern and Southern Israel into co-equal centers of Israeli society.

Minimum annual gift required - \$5,000

Ken Krupsky, Chair

Beth Cherner, JNF Professional

Yerucham Task Force

This task force works to help the municipality prioritize its needs, which includes rebranding itself as an attractive tourist site, retaining families and attracting new ones by assisting with innovative housing options, developing a first-rate school system and much more.

Minimum annual gift required - \$5,000

Geri Shatz, Co-Chair

Bruce Goldberg, Co-Chair

Itzik Becher, JNF Professional