Earlier this year, the Israeli Government proudly announced that it would finally grant permission for 1000 members of the Ethiopian Jewish community to make Aliyah. Although I applaud the announcement, I am disappointed that no announcement was made about the fate of the remaining community members (which will total 7200) – many of whom have been waiting to move to Israel since 2003.

On a visit to Addis Ababa in July, my wife and I visited a 98 year old woman who lived alone in her small one room home without electricity or running water. She still yearns to fulfill her dream to reunite with her 75 year old son and the rest of her family who currently live in Israel. Her plight is not unique. Seventy percent of the remaining Ethiopian Jews have first degree relatives in Israel. Family separation is a cruel tragedy.

NACOEJ is working hard to stimulate the changes that will permit the completion of the Ethiopian Aliyah. But, the goal can only be achieved with your help. North American Jews must make their respectful voices heard through their local UJA-Federations and Israeli consulates. Dire living conditions and the shortage of daily food as well as medical care are painfully taking their toll on Jews in Ethiopia. If we do not provide financial support, they will continue to suffer.

Once Ethiopian immigrants arrive in Israel, significant funds will be required to absorb, educate and train them. NACOEJ educational programs can help them fashion new lives in their new land. But, without your help, these new Israelis may never reach their potential. Your gift can help them succeed.

Join me in making a difference.

This Annual Report highlights great challenges and successes in our work in Israel.

At the direction of the Israeli Ministry of Education, we closed our Limudiah programs in Rehovot. The Ministry wants NGO’s to leave municipalities that don’t help fund good programs.

We opened two new Limudiot at the urging of school principals and municipalities, one in Bat Yam, with many new Ethiopian immigrants, and the other in impoverished Lod, where we already had three Limudiot. There we were urgently needed in a neighborhood where 80% of the children live in homes where no Hebrew is spoken.

In Bat Yam, we expected and experienced fine results. In our fourth program in Lod, at the Levi Eshkol School, our results at year’s end were beyond expectations. Even among the children at remedial level, all but two achieved at least minimum class level, and others did much better.

We also piloted a Parents’ Program requested by Ethiopian-Israeli parents and teachers in Ramle, where NACOEJ’s first Limudiah began [see page 5]. The Parents’ Program was so successful, the parents urged us to continue it. But we need more funds to do so.

At the same time, we responded to very serious hardships endured by Jews in Gondar and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, who are waiting, some for twenty years, to make aliyah. With our partner organization Struggle to Save Ethiopian Jewry, we’ve been funding meals for hundreds of severely malnourished children under age five, malnourished pregnant women, and modest lunches for older children in the Jewish summer day camps.

And this spring we faced the retirement of our amazing 26-year-long Director of NACOEJ-Israel and Director of Limudiot, Shoshana Ben-Dor. After interviewing many excellent candidates, we chose an outstanding Ethiopian Israeli, David Mihret.
Thank You Shoshana!

In 1992, when we needed a new Director to represent NACOEJ in Israel, and to run our small after-school program for struggling Ethiopian school children, Shoshana Ben-Dor fit the bill perfectly.

She was an educator, working on a PhD in Ethiopian-Jewish traditions, knew Amharic and even ritual Ge’ez, had personal relationships with Ethiopian Israelis, and was on our staff part-time.

Over the next 26 years, Shoshana and her hand-picked, personally-trained teachers created the well-respected Limudiah Program, enabling thousands of Ethiopian children to succeed in grade school, be successful in high school, qualify for higher education, and make good lives in Israel.

On her own time, Shoshana worked with anthropologists to record Ethiopian-Jewish synagogue services, religious chants, and teachings. She established the NACOEJ Teaching Tent at the Sigd festival, and has translated the Sigd liturgy, creating the first Ge’ez/Hebrew Sigd siddur. These major achievements go far toward fulfilling NACOEJ’s fourth mandate, cultural preservation.

Shoshana has spoken at Knesset committees, served on panels and committees dealing with Ethiopian issues, and is considered by many Ethiopians as one of their own. After 26 years of outstanding accomplishment, we extend to Shoshana our warmest words of praise and a heart-felt “Thank you, Shoshana!”

Welcome David!

Shoshana’s successor, David Mihret, has had an outstanding record as Director of the Steering Committee for Ethiopian Jews in Israeli Schools, where he managed teams of 120 school counselors, academic advisors, and educational mediators in 160 schools. He has long experience with the Ministry of Education and other ministries, local authorities, and non-profits.

David was 16 when his family left Ethiopia in 1981, trying to reach Israel via the UN refugee camps in Sudan. That year, Sudanese soldiers raided their camp, and David lost three brothers and four uncles. In 1984, he and his remaining family were rescued by Mossad agents, just before Operation Moses.

David arrived in Israel at 19, never having been to school, though his father taught him to read and write Amharic. After mastering Hebrew and much of his missed education, he got into a pre-college prep course, and went on to a degree in Industrial Engineering, followed by a BA from Bar-Ilan University and an MA from Hebrew University. Along the way, we are happy to say, he was sponsored in our NACOEJ/Barney & Rachel Landau Gottstein Adopt-A-Student College Program.

David has served in the IDF, speaks two Ethiopian languages, and is now strengthening his English as our new NACOEJ-Israel Director.
The Limudiah, which takes place during the school day or after school, provides 10 hours a week of assistance in reading, math, and study skills to Ethiopian-Israeli children in grades 1-6. The program:

- Begins in first grade so children achieve early academic success.
- Works in the same schools the children attend, so our teachers can work closely with the homeroom teachers.
- Maintains small grade-level groups, ideally of no more than eight students per teacher.
- Hires skilled teachers who are sensitive to cultural and familial issues, as well as the poverty that challenges many Ethiopian-Israeli children.
- Starts each after-school session with a nourishing hot lunch, crucial for children from impoverished homes.
- Builds in constant evaluation and tailors approaches and materials to meet the individual needs of students.

### 2017-2018 Limudiah Programs:

- **441 students**
- **10 schools**
- **5 communities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community</th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Grades</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bat Yam</td>
<td>24 students</td>
<td>24 (grades 2-5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiryat Ekron</td>
<td>50 students</td>
<td>50 (grades 1-4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lod</td>
<td>181 students</td>
<td>53 (grades 1-4), 45 (grades 1-3), 20 (grades 4-5), 63 (grades 1-4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramle</td>
<td>30 students</td>
<td>30 (grades 1-4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rishon Lezion</td>
<td>156 students</td>
<td>53 (grades 1-6), 43 (grades 1-6), 60 (grades 1-5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Limudiah Pilot Parents’ Program: Great Success!

The newest NACOEJ program, a Limudiah Pilot Parents’ Program, was created this year to help Ethiopian-Israeli parents in their interaction with their children and the school. It was coordinated by staff at the Bar-Ilan School in Ramle, and run by an experienced educator, Ethiopian-Israeli Dr. Wuvit Worke Mengistu.

There were ten sessions, including a joint parents/children activity. Parents were of varied ages and educational levels. Two of the mothers were illiterate, one spoke mostly Amharic, and two fathers participated. All the children were Israeli-born.

The parents wanted to learn how to develop better communication with their children, how to set limits and avoid power struggles, how to support their children’s studies, and about the importance of reading at home.

The parents were given “homework” and became very involved. They reported changes in their family dynamics, including their increased ability to converse with their children and spend quality time together.

One mother even said she’d been considering divorce, but the tools she acquired in the program readjusted the family dynamic and level of communication. She told us her marriage was saved by what she learned.

The Limudiah Pilot Parents’ Program was a great success. The participating parents want it to continue. They feel they have a lot more to learn.
High School Sponsorships = Educational Excursions, Special Materials, Enrichment Programs, and Much More...

Since 1997, the NACOEJ/Edward G. Victor High School Sponsorship Program has changed the lives of thousands of Ethiopian-Israeli teenagers.

High school tuition is covered by the government, but Israeli schools charge added fees that many Ethiopian families cannot afford.

Sponsorships enable students to participate in educational excursions, enrichment programs and extra study hours, and to take advantage of all the educational opportunities the school offers.

High school students say a sponsorship lets them be “...just like the other kids,” which is vital for teenagers.

Talented and brilliant students can attend special high schools. Virtually all can get an education enabling college entry and a successful future.

In the 2017-2018 School Year...

- 204 sponsors participated in the High School program.
- 896 students were sponsored.
- 52 schools in 12 Israeli cities participated.
- 160 of our students graduated.
- Hundreds of deserving students are waiting for sponsors.

The Keys to Success: College and A Sponsorship

Starting in 1987, the NACOEJ/Barney & Rachel Landau Gottstein Adopt-A-Student College Sponsorship Program has given thousands of Ethiopian-Israeli college students financial support so they can complete their degrees.

The Israeli government usually covers tuition, but students must pay for essential expenses like rent, food, transport, books and more.

Most Ethiopian families cannot help their children financially. Unassisted students often have had to drop out of school and accept low-paying, unskilled jobs.

An AAS sponsorship helps a student stay in school, earn a degree, enter a profession, and break the cycle of poverty. Sponsorships are a perfect investment in the Ethiopian-Israeli community and in Israel itself.

In the 2017-2018 School Year...

- 103 sponsors helped support 364 students in 5 universities and 30 academic colleges, including 10 nursing schools and 8 engineering schools.
- 118 sponsored students finished their coursework this year and graduated in their fields of study. About 126 students will finish their studies soon.
- 38 sponsored students were studying for advanced degrees.
- 2 sponsored students received Masters Degrees and 12 more will finish Masters Degrees soon.
Update from Ethiopia on the Past Year

The situation in Ethiopia today remains heart-rending with nearly 8000 Jews still waiting to make aliyah, some for 20 years or more, most with children, parents, or siblings waiting for them in Israel. NACOEJ is no longer running programs in Ethiopia, but has worked to identify – and fund – the most pressing needs.

The smallest children are suffering the most. When children under age five were evaluated by the head of a pediatric clinic in Gondar, hundreds were identified as malnourished, many severely.

For the littlest ones, age two and under, funding for nourishing meals is provided by SSEJ, (Struggle to Save Ethiopian Jewry) our sister organization. NACOEJ began fundraising to feed the three and four-year-olds. All the children now receive a banana or an orange, cooked carrots, potatoes, and eggs, a roll, milk, and fafa, a fortified porridge. The meals are served once a day, five days a week.

An American philanthropist is ensuring that children under age five also receive medical check-ups, medicines, and hospitalization when needed. Unfortunately, no funds are available for children age five and over.

We have also begun to feed malnourished pregnant Jewish women that includes ongoing evaluations by a nurse to monitor their health and that of their unborn babies.

This past summer a continuing day camp program for Jewish children ages seven through 18 was organized by volunteers from Israel and local Ethiopian Jews. Some 1280 Jewish children in Gondar and 260 in Addis Ababa enjoyed a nutritious lunch through funding from NACOEJ donors.

And, as before, we continued to provide food for Jewish families in Ethiopia for Rosh Hashanah and during the holiday seasons.
## COMBINED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION: DECEMBER 31, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Current Funds</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted Funds</th>
<th>Total Funds</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Current assets:</td>
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<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$233,610</td>
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<td>Investment in marketable securities</td>
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<td>Contributions receivable</td>
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<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
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<td><strong>Total current assets</strong></td>
<td>268,843</td>
<td>1,879,449</td>
<td>2,148,292</td>
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<td>Furniture and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation of $58,037</td>
<td>290</td>
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<td>Security deposits</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$1,879,449</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,164,135</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Current liabilities:</td>
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<td>Accounts payable and accrued expenses</td>
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<td>232,296</td>
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<td>Deferred public support</td>
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<td><strong>Total liabilities</strong></td>
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<td>785,369</td>
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<td>Net assets:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted</td>
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<td>1,879,449</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total net assets</strong></td>
<td>(500,683)</td>
<td>1,879,449</td>
<td>1,378,766</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities and net assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$284,686</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,879,449</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,164,135</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## COMBINED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES: YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Current Funds</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted Funds</th>
<th>Total Funds</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Support and revenue:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public support</td>
<td>$785,908</td>
<td>$1,314,336</td>
<td>$2,100,244</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sales (net of cost of goods sold of $951)</td>
<td>10,055</td>
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<td>10,055</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>7,745</td>
<td>17,104</td>
<td>7,745</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dividend income</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>17,241</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net realized and unrealized gain/(loss) on securities</td>
<td>(4,285)</td>
<td>221,433</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restrictions - satisfaction of program restrictions</td>
<td>1,296,696</td>
<td>(1,296,696)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total support and revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,096,256</strong></td>
<td><strong>260,462</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,356,718</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenses:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program services:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Relief in Ethiopia</td>
<td>69,904</td>
<td></td>
<td>69,904</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistance in Israel</td>
<td>1,584,565</td>
<td>1,584,565</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information and Education - USA</td>
<td>191,775</td>
<td>191,775</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total program services</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,846,244</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,846,244</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Supporting services:</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Management and general</td>
<td>169,780</td>
<td>169,780</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>258,039</td>
<td>258,039</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total supporting services</strong></td>
<td><strong>427,819</strong></td>
<td><strong>427,819</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,274,063</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>2,274,063</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Change in net assets</td>
<td>(177,807)</td>
<td>260,462</td>
<td>82,655</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets, beginning of year</td>
<td>(322,876)</td>
<td>1,618,987</td>
<td>1,296,111</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets, end of year</td>
<td>(500,683)</td>
<td>1,879,449</td>
<td>1,378,766</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
To our 2017 donors: even though we do not have space to name all of you in this report, please know that each and every one of you is in our hearts and we are so grateful.

### $10,000+

- Anonymous (3)
- Mark Brecker
- Charles I. Brown Foundation
- Estate of Samuel Cohen
- Derfner Foundation
- Betty Dyer
- Jane & Jerome Epstein
- Halley Faust
- Joyce Fefferman
- Ben Giron
- Glencore Charitable Trust
- Albert B. Glickman Family Foundation
- Miriam & Sanford Goldhaber
- Deborah Goldstein
- Rachel & Barnard Gottstein
- David Holtz
- Burton G. and Anne C. Greenblatt Foundation
- Israel Ministry of Education - Lod
- Hollis Hills Bayside Jewish Center
- Susanna Levin
- Barbara & Arthur Levine
- Sonia & Lloyd Levitin
- Peachy Levy
- Neil Lovit
- Madav IX Foundation
- Estate of Robert Meltzer
- Municipality of Ramle
- Shelley & Joseph Paradis
- Elise Pottick
- Barbara Ribakove
- Evely Laser Shlensky
- Alan Sieroty Charitable Fund
- Sobell Foundation
- Estate of Arthur Stone
- Morris & Silvia Trachten Family Foundation
- Edward G. Victor

### $5,000-$9,999

- Anonymous (3)
- Judith & Cyrus Abbe
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- Helen-Mae & Seymour Askin Fund
- Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton
- Robert H. Cohen
- Marsha Croland
- Mel Garfinkel
- Samuel Gelfand
- Terry Grant
- Hannah Klein
- Nathan & Helen Kohler Foundation
- Luis & Lee Lainer Fund
- Claire Levine
- Gerhard Levy
- Estate of Marion Lipsitz
- Steven & Laura Mayer Family Foundation
- Fritz Naftalie Foundation
- Leonard, Lillian, Faye, Albert B. & Audrey G. Ratner Donor Advised Fund of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland
- Savitt Family Foundation
- Elaine Schwartz
- Johanna Steper
- Geraldine Weichman
- Benjamin Zeltser

### $2,500-$4,999

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- Gertrude Abramson
- Paul & May Arielly Fund for Rehovot
- Deena Barlev & Robert King
- Jonathan Bernstein
- Jeffrey Botman
- Steven Bram
- Diane Brant
- Rebecca & Jacob Cohen
- Estate of Donald Deitch
- Judith & Herbert Deutsch
- Elizabeth Dimond
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- Zlatka Ferreira & Richard Kahn
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- Lorna & David Golick
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- Charles Halasz
- Max Heppner
- Mirka Knaster
- Bennett LeF
- Leonard & Lois Laser Family Foundation
- Donald Leiss
- Faye & Meyer Lieman
- Lois K. Levy
- Esther Lumer
- Ita Markus
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- Jacob Melamed
- Helene Miller
- Carol Pittelman
- Diane Press & Stanley Wulf
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- Karyn Reader
- Carol Rest-Mincberg
- Aviva & David Rubin
- Robert A. Sugarman Charitable Fund
- Tidewater Jewish Foundation,
- Vicki Trachten Schwartz
- Traditional Congregation of Creve Coeur, St. Louis
- Diana & Avraham Yacobi
- Edith & Robert Zinn
Donors

$1,000-$2,499

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Elaine Altschul
Nedda & Ken Altschuld
Estelle & Jacob Apelberg
Debra J. Appel & Gene Schneyer
Eva & Frank Bachrach
Bain Family Foundation
Ann Bardacke & David Wolf
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Joan Copan Benjamin
Elaine & Irwin Berg
Martin Bialer
J. Charles Binder
Mark & Martine Binstock
Rebecca Blank & Lawrence Bank
Sunny & Philip Brodsky
Gail Carp
Chesed Foundation
Eileen & Henry Cohen
Marion Cohen
Claire & Baruch Cohon
Sharon & Stephen Cristofar
Nadav Daniel
Judith Davis
Barry Dixon
Steven Dottheim
Barbara Drench
Marcia Eagle
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Andrew Friedman
Emily Friedman
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Karen Gens
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Merle Ginsburg
Joan Glatman
Herschel Goldfield
Miriam Goldberg & Gary Metzger
Anne & Ernest Goldmann
Reger Goodson
Sandy Gottstein
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Morton Krieger
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Cynthia & Michael Lebowitz
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Martin Leopold
Myra Levine Harris
Wendy & Peter Lewis
Sharon Liebhaber & Alan Iser
Litwin Foundation
Betsy & Benjamin Lopata
Eleanor Maliner
Jason & Belle Mann
Ronald Marmer
Ruth Mason
Michael Mayer
Carole & Sid Meltzer/CAS Foundation
Aviva & Ariel Menche
Eva Meyersson & Paul Milgrom
Karen Miller
Myrna & Curtis Miller
Grace & Martin Miller
Renee & Leonard Minsky
Meg & Gary Moskovitz
Municipality of Kiryat Ekron
Dawnmari & e.b. Nation
Elizabeth & Vernon Neppe
Roberta Nusim
Janet & William Pauli
Esther & Gary Polland
Laurence Pomerance
Marian Rose
Harriet & Gil Rosen
Philip Rosenthal
Lesi Koppleman Ross
Carole Rubenstein
Bernard Rubin
David Sabih & Anna Swartley
Marshal Salant
Rae & Edward Samiljan
Lisa Schachner
Charles Scheidt
Myra B. Schein
Zina Schiff & Ronald L. Eisenberg
Marcia & Albert Schmier
Amy Schwartz
Stephanie Schwartz & Nuriel Karjeker
Shelley Segal
Reva & John Segall
Maxine Seller
David M. Shapiro
Kate Sharp
Rennie Sherman
Elizabeth & Boris Shields
Rhoda & Victor Shields
David Shields
Barbara & Michael Siegelman
Jonathan Slavin
Bruce P. Sloan
Alan Spatnick
Judith & Philip Stein
Abraham Sudilovsky
Sylvia & Jaime Sznejder
Tiferet Center
Aron Tromba
Weinreb-Berenda-Carter Foundation
Beverly & Morris Weinstein
Sharon & Edwin Wigoutoff
Caryn Huberman Yacowitz
Jill Yolen
Scott Young

We gratefully acknowledge the Isaac and Rose Feiner Fund, established by Samuel Fenner in 1999 for the benefit of the Ethiopian-Jewish community.
Our Mission
Board of Directors | Advisory Board | Staff

The North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry (NACOEJ) is a non-profit organization founded in 1982 with four mandates:

- To help Ethiopian Jews survive in Ethiopia.
- To assist them in reaching Israel.
- To aid in the absorption of Ethiopian Jews into Israeli society.
- To help preserve their unique and ancient culture.

**Founding President**
Jonathan Giesberg*

**President**
Rabbi Jerome Epstein

*Deceased

**Advisory Board**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rabbi Shlomo Riskin, Hon. Chair</th>
<th>Rabbi Jeffrey L. Glickman</th>
<th>Pesa Derin Paolucci</th>
<th>Irving Shillman</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cyrus Abbe</td>
<td>Rabbi Lynn Goldstein</td>
<td>Gary Polland</td>
<td>Monica Siegel</td>
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<td>Rabbi Lawrence Raphael</td>
<td>Rabbi David Silber</td>
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<td>Kathryn R. Bloom</td>
<td>Eli Halpern</td>
<td>Barak Raviv</td>
<td>Benjamin Susman</td>
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<td>Devorah Brooks</td>
<td>David Harris</td>
<td>Seymour Reich</td>
<td>Richard Tell</td>
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<td>Gail Carp</td>
<td>Lynn Hazan</td>
<td>Glenn Richter</td>
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<td>Irwin B. Robins</td>
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<td>Menachem Rosensaft</td>
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<td>Rabbi Harvey Fields</td>
<td>Jay Luger DVM</td>
<td>Roen Salem</td>
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<td>Ruth Messinger</td>
<td>Dr. Harris Schoenberg</td>
<td>Murray Wood</td>
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<td>Rabbi Craig Miller</td>
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<td>Lucille Kuttler Geller</td>
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<td>Allen Schwartz</td>
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<tr>
<th>Susan Giesberg, Chair</th>
<th>Solomon Ezra</th>
<th>Faye Lieman</th>
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<tr>
<td>Deborah Goldstein, Vice President</td>
<td>Jeremy Feit</td>
<td>Leslie Koppelman Ross</td>
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<td>Mitchell Kaplan, Treasurer</td>
<td>Joseph Feit</td>
<td>Lisa Schachner</td>
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<td>Sanford Goldhaber, Secretary</td>
<td>Barbara Ribakove</td>
<td>Evely Laser Shlensky</td>
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<td>Peter J. Halasz</td>
<td>Rachel Gottstein</td>
<td>Diana Yacobi</td>
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Caroline Barg, Director of Communications
Danielle Ben-Jehuda, Director of Development and Donor Relations
Karen Gens, Director of Educational Sponsorship Programs
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Frida Magen, Limudiah Coordinator for Linguistic Skills
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Annual Report 2018

Mothers Feeding Program Ethiopia 2018