



THOUGHTFUL GIVING **נתינה עם מחשבה**

As we each grapple with the impact of the pandemic, the Gimprich Family Foundation (GFF) remains doubly committed to our core mission: supporting innovative initiatives that strengthen Israeli society as a Jewish state and promote religious pluralism, democratic values and respect for the rights of all its residents.

Before the world “paused” in our efforts to limit the impact of COVID-19, GFF held a face-to-face training for 37 of our grantees and applicants to help them strengthen their communication skills. Our goal was to assist them in conveying their messaging so that their unique story could be better shared with potential partners and funders. Unknown to us at the time of the training, this skill-set has now assumed an even greater importance as we all work to remain connected virtually. The training focused on organizations aligned with GFF current interests, Israeli Judaism. The participants mirrored the diverse identities and practices of Israeli Jews who share common ties in their quest to root Israeli society in Jewish traditions, practice and values. This was a unique opportunity for participants to learn from Helen Gottstein, a communication expert, who moderated the day’s workshop. Have ideas for future trainings? Please share them with us at representative@gimprich.org.



ENCOURAGING DIVERSITY AND JEWISH PEOPLEHOOD



Focusing on Jewish pluralism for the past three years, the GFF aims to continue to strengthen the community of Israeli Judaism. Last year we supported initiatives that promoted the inclusion of Israeli Jews of Russian and Sephardic (Mizrahi) communities. Recently, we generated proposals from mission-driven communities and learned about how these communities are promoting Zionism and Jewish pluralism in Israel’s peripheral communities. The Gimprich Family Foundation believes that supporting a pluralistic approach to Jewish expression will enable Israel to connect its ancient peoplehood and heritage to today’s modern, democratic state.

SEPARATION AND COLLABORATION: JOINING TOGETHER WHILE APART

Currently, and for the foreseeable future, many organizations are operating under practices of physical distancing. At the same time, the importance of collaboration cannot be stressed enough. Though for many organizations staff size has shrunk, planned activities have been cancelled and many continue to work remotely, the distance between Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Haifa and North America has been “erased” or equalized by video conferencing. How can organizations best fulfill their missions at this time? We encourage you to reach out to potential partners to identify areas of overlap and possible sectors for collaboration. How can you complement one another? Now that physical location may no longer be a central driving force, what new opportunities might emerge? We welcome hearing your stories. Please share them with us!

RASHUT HARABIM: ONE STORY ABOUT COLLABORATING THEN AND NOW:

GFF funds Rashut Harabim, the Jerusalem Jewish Renaissance Forum, for its collaborative efforts in bringing 35 organizations together with the Jerusalem municipality to advance an “open”, moderate approach to Jewish life in Jerusalem. In so doing, Rashut Harabim provides technical and strategic support to foster relationship building among its organizations. This helps to identify common areas of activity and opportunities for building new collaborations. When the pandemic struck these organizations were able to operate more efficiently and effectively due to on-going collaboration. They also served as a resource for one another, under the guidance of Rashut Harabim to manage challenges that emerged from the pandemic including moving activities to on-line. At the same time, the Rashut Harabim premises were transformed to provide support to members of the local community.

THE GFF BOARD



GFF spring 2020 ZOOM board meeting.

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