

MACK NESS FUND

2010-2026



Jewish Community
OF GREATER
Foundation METROWEST NJ

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MackNessFundjcf.org.il



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ABOUT US

Since the Funds inception 18 years ago, the dedicated advisory council members of the Mack Ness Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater MetroWest NJ have awarded more than \$10 million in grants for economic and demographic development in the Negev.

OUR MISSION

A Strategic Focus on the Negev

The Mack Ness Fund was established in 2005 by a significant bequest from the estate of Mack Ness, a recluse vegetable farmer from Somerset County, NJ. To fulfill Mr. Ness' desire to help the people of Israel, the mission of the Mack Ness Fund is to nurture economic development in the Negev region of Israel, with a special focus on increasing the region's population and promoting economic growth.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



I am deeply honored and privileged to participate in the realization of developing the Negev with the endowed funds of Mr Mack Ness. The economic growth that is being accomplished daily is transforming the land physically, the State of Israel geopolitically, and elevating and improving the lives of its growing number of inhabitants. Our board and staff are all extremely grateful to be part of this endeavor, dedicated toward the goal of maximizing the impact of the legacy of Mr. Mack Ness.

Howard Tepper
Chair, Mack Ness Fund



MEET THE STAFF



As the US Director of the Mack Ness Fund entrusted with realizing Mack Ness' vision, my primary goals are to identify leaders, innovative collaborative initiatives, and promote transparency, accountability and impact. At the heart of this endeavor lies a profound dedication to the people of the Negev, their dreams, and potential to transform this beautiful region of Israel into a thriving hub of quality communities, opportunity and prosperity.

Pam Greenwood
U.S Director, Mack Ness Fund



For me, Keren Ness is the fulfillment of the ability to influence and promote the environment in which I was born and in which I raise my children. Thanks to Mack Ness, we are given the opportunity to help important and creative organizations in the Negev to establish groundbreaking ventures and thus develop this important and special region of the country.

Odelia Karutchi
Israel Director, Mack Ness Fund

MEET THE COUNCIL MEMBERS



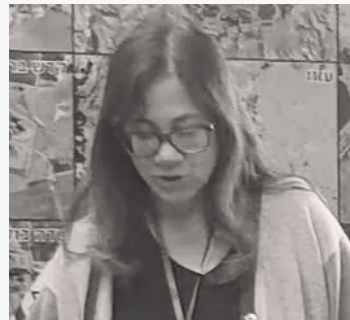
Norman Weinberg



Jim Shrager



Sanford Hollander



Judi Harrison

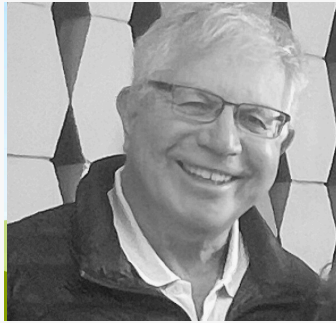


Gerry Flanzbaum

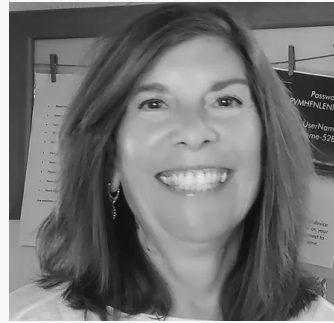


Bob Kuchner

MEET THE COUNCIL MEMBERS



Louis Beckerman



Jean Mandell



Genesia Kamen



Ken Heyman



Robbie Weissenberg



Marsha Hoch

MEET THE COUNCIL MEMBERS

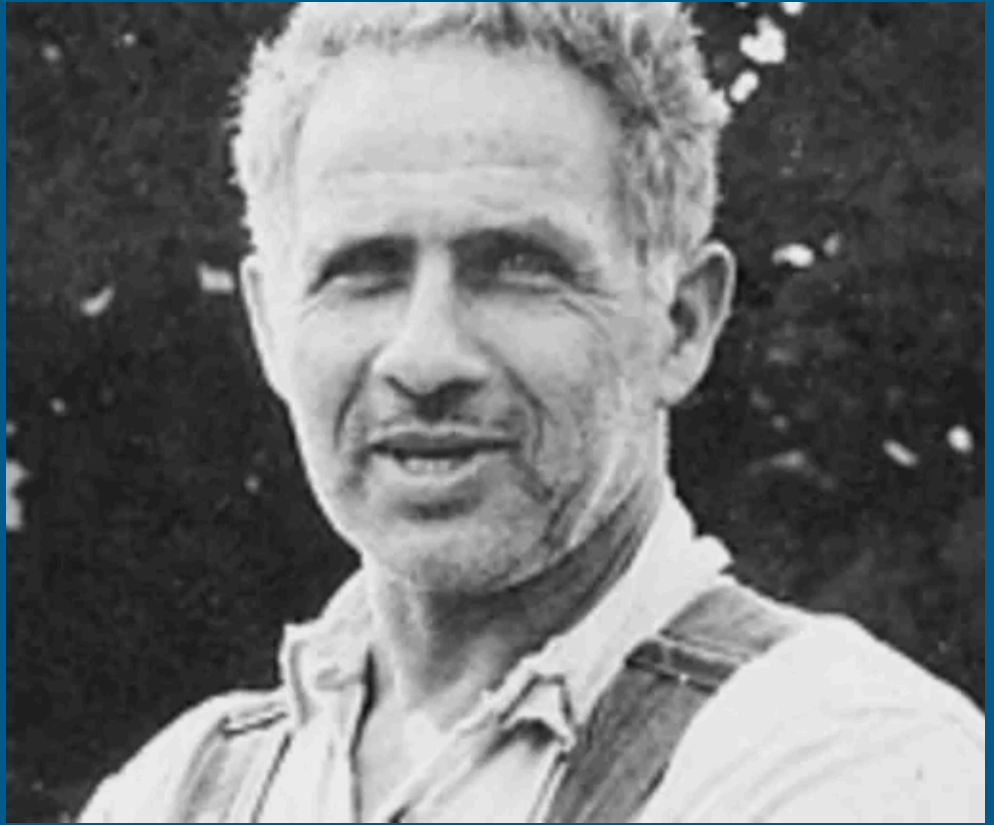


Yael Birin



Steve Needle

OUR PROJECTS



Mack Ness Fund Grantmaking

Annually the Mack Ness Fund seeks proposals from Negev-based non-profit institutions with a clear vision for strengthening economic development and a targeted approach that will grow and enhance the quality of life of the region's population. Start-up, new organizations are encouraged apply. In addition, pilot programs and programs expanding in scale will be highly considered.

Applicants will describe ways the organization will leverage innovation, collaborations, and strategic partnerships to tackle issues that are a part of a complex ecosystem related to growth and sustainability of the broad Negev region and/or local municipalities.

Applicants will indicate the proposed project's impact on the Negev region and/or local municipalities, specific economic development strategies to be employed, activities to occur, target population(s) that will benefit, and committed partners to be associated with the initiative.

Involvement of municipal leaders, regional councils or governmental bodies, and other key leaders in the community are encouraged.

2026

AgroNegev / AgriApplied

Arava Community Center/

Budur / Tamar Center / Professional Development for Hebrew Teachers in the Negev
Community O / Hinenu The Pioneering Center

Eilat Regional Community Center/ Summer Card 2026

Eve - Medarom Festival/ Medarom - Culture as an Engine for Regional Recovery and
Growth in the Western Negev

MAOZ-Seal/Regional Business Leadership Program for the Negev

Mindcet (Center for Educational Technology) / Negev EduLAB (Learning, AI & Beyond)

Ramat HaNegev Regional Council/ Ramat HaNegev "Farm to Table" Culinary and Agri-
Tourism Festival

Rifman Institute/ Bedouin Site Managers Course and Integration into Management

Sderot Development Foundation/ Regional Tourism Network Plan

Dead Sea/ Pioneering Sustainable Solutions in Hyper-arid Environments (second year)

Eretz Ir/ Negev Cities' - Community Resilience Program (second year)

Hura municipality/AlSalam - Transforming Hura's Main Road into an Economic and Social
Lifeline (second year)

mitzpe Gvulot



2025

Alumot / The Carpentry Workshop – a Home For Local Art

EREZ LEZMICHA : Kibbutz Erez/Community Strategic Planning

Place-IL / Place-IL – Contributing to the Negev prosperity by creating tech career opportunities.

Amuta 51/ 710 west

Tech 7/ Challenges and Acceleration Entrepreneurship Programs

Tzeirim Be'yeruham/ AeroLabs – International UAV Innovation Center in Yeruham

Tor HaMidbar NGO (Eretz Ir)/ Negev Cities' Community Resilience Program-capacity building

Matan- Investing in the Community /Deep Space- Creation Space

Arava Development Company/ Arava Roots and Routes- Developing Educational Tourism in Central Arava

Elad Theatre / SCALING UP & WORKING TOWARD SUSTAINABILITY

Dead Sea & Arava Science Center (DSASC)/ AridX – The Desert Resilience and Learning Center

Hura Local Municipality/ AlSalam: Transforming Hura's scenic Main Road into an Economic and Social Lifeline

Atida Association/Promoting Quality Employment for ultra- Orthodox Women (Daroma)

BeNetivei Udi/Nitzanim to Tech

The Carpentry Workshop



2024

AJEEC-NISPED/ Rahat Resilience Program

Amutat 51/Occupational Rehabilitation Plan for the Gaza Envelope Community, "710 West"

Eden / Eden for You - Community Resilience Strengthening Center for Women in the Gaza Envelope Community

Hen Hanegev/ Strengthening the Sense of Resilience of the Young Generation to Live a full Life Later On

Israel Trauma Coalition/ Ofakim Resilience Center

NETGEV Dimona/ Eastern Negev Innovation Champions

Ramat HaNegev Regional Council/ DESERT START- The Young Neighborhood Project in Ramat HaNegev

Rimon Farms / The Negev Orbit

Sha'ar Hanegev regional council/ Reconnecting People

The New Yeruham Fund / Yeruham Tourism Cultural Festivals

Yanabia/ Preparing Bedouin municipalities for future emergencies.

Yozmot Atid/ Entrepreneurship & Micro-Business Development for Bedouin Women in Rahat

Yeruham tourism association



2023

Hamuta LekidumToshvei Hevel Eshkol/AGROWTH Accelerated growth center for AgTech related start-up.

Gvanim/Development of a Transportation Model for the First and Last Mile.

Elad Theatre/ Children Theater.

GoArava/Sports & Wellness Tourism Industry.

Tech 7/Magnet Accelerator.

Kikar Hatarbut/Media Industry in the Western Negev - 'The Leap'.

Arad Music Conservatory/ PianoFest Arad.

Switch/Resource Development and Utilization course in the Bedouin society.

The Fringe Theatre, Beer Sheva /Training programs for the Technical professions of the Performing Arts.

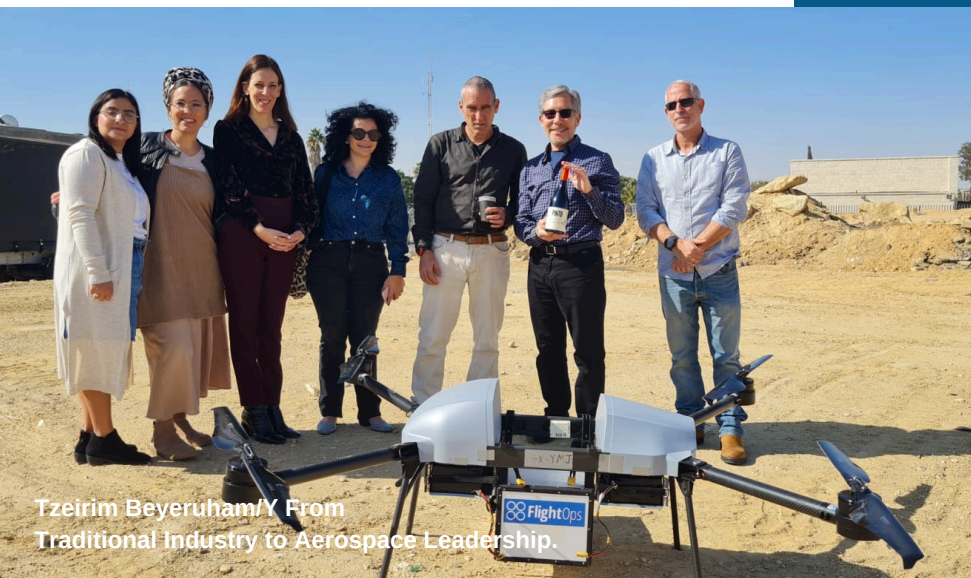
Meever/Musical Ecosystem Mitzpe Ramon.

Moona/ Advanced Manufacturing ('4.0') Regional Training Center.

Sha'ar Hanegev regional council/Ag-Tech Ecosystem as a Catalyst for Economic and Demographic Regional Development.

Tzeirim Beyerham/Y From Traditional Industry to Aerospace Leadership.

Arava Development company/The Arava Valley of Tastes - Cultivating the Culinary Culture in the Arava as an Economic Engine.



Tzeirim Beyerham/Y From Traditional Industry to Aerospace Leadership.



Elad Theatre for children

2022

- Mee'ver**, Mitzpe Ramon Creativity, Culture and Music Ecosystem.
- Tzeirim byeruham**/ Applied Scientific, Pharma R&D Center in Yeruham.
- Yeruham Foundation**/From Traditional Industry to Aerospace.
- Sderot Development company**/ West Negev Animation Studio.
- South up Sh'har Hanegev**/Ag Tech Ecosystem as a catalyst for economic and demographic regional development.
- Arava development company**/Arava Valley of Tastes.
- Monna** /Space for A change.
- Yeruham Tourism Association**/Yeruham Tourism Center.
- GoArava**/Sports & Wellness Tourism Industry.
- Or Movment**/Agro-Tech Training and Innovation Ctr, Ofakim.
- Apple seeds**/MitzpeTech: Developing a Technology Employment Ecosystem in Mitzpe Ramon.
- Eretz Ir** /Negev coalition for small business.
- Sapir Academic College**/Film & Media industry in the Western Negev.

Mee'ver, Mitzpe Ramon Creativity, Culture and Music Ecosystem.



2021

Elad Theater/Desert campus for the performing Arts.
Yerucham Tourism Association/Tourism Center.
Project Wadi Atir. Bedouin empowerment
Go Arava/Sports & Wellness Tourism Industry.
Or Movement/Agro-Tech Training and Innovation Ctr, Ofakim.
Appleseeds/MitzpeTech, Mitzpe Ramon.
Ramat Negev Muni/ Frontier Agro-Tech Innovation Center.
Atid Bamidbar/Bedouin Tourism Western Negev.
Eretz Ir /Negev coalition for small business.
Ben Gurion University/Yazamut 360.
Siraj / M'HaLimudim L'Adovdah: An Enrichment.
Tzeirim byeruham/Medical Cannabis.
Hamuta LekidumToshvei Hevel Eshkol/Artist Hub.
Sapir Academic College/Film & Media industry in the Western Negev.

GoArava/Sports & Wellness Tourism Industry



2020

Eretz eir Wix Web Design Training Course With Guaranteed Placement, in partnership with Tribe Studio.

Matnas Mitzpe Ramon /Valley Lab

Arava Development Company /Arava R2B "From Lab to Market"

Kedma/Nir Oz Young Community.

Kulna /Learning and Cultural Center Yerucham.

AJEEC-NISPED/Tamar Center Atudot Ha'Negev.

Siraj/ Advancing Hi-Tech in the Bedouin Community M'HaLimudim L'Adovdah: An Enrichment

Program for Bedouin College & University Students.

Beni Shimon Foundation for the Community /Shaping the Workforce of the Future.

Derech Eretz/ Derech HaNegev Program.

Taub center /Research: "Who lives in the Negev? Tracking two decades of population change".

Keren Shahaf/ Young Communities in the Negev.



Kedma/Nir Oz Young Community.

2020

SPECIAL COVID GRANTS

MindCET/Educational Ecosystem for Educator in the Negev Region.

Ramat Negev municipalities/Digital Businesses.

Keren Shemesh /Mentoring for small businesses.

Maavarim/Negev market.

Start Up Center Beer Sheva/zooming your carrier.

Yeاديم /I team B7 - Digital business.

Eretz ir /The Space for communities

Eilat Regional Council /Digital Business.

Eilat Community Center /Community Center in your Home

Yerucham tourism association/Hackathon to Promote Tourism during Covid.

Yerucham Science center/Smart Tablets for the Elderly.

Unistream/Youth business and entrepreneurship programs in the Bedouin communities.

Mitzpe Ramon Tourism Association - Special Events



Yerucham Science center/smart tablet for elderly.



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2019

Yerucham Muni/Medical Cannabis

Northern Negev Tourist Assn /Metro Negev.

Wize/ Hahamim Balaila Wize Negev.

Tech 7 /Negev Startup Accelerator Beer Sheva.

Beer Sheva Fdn./Cultural accelerator Beer Sheva.

Hamuta LekidumToshvei Hevel Eshkol Artist Hub.

Matnas Mitzpe Ramon /Valley Lab

Yanbia for a prosperous Bedouin society/ "Sama19"

Sapir Academic College Film & Media industry in the Western Negev.

South Up Sha'ar Hanegev/ Accelerator for start-ups in the Southern Negev.

Arava Development Company /Arava R2B "From Lab to Market".

Elad Theatre/ Start-up/Expansion of Theatre in the Negev

JAFI /CROWD.IL Negev

Keren Shahaf/Young Communities in the Negev.



2018

Keren Lev Arad/NETGEV- Occupational Hub Arad.
Lev Arad Foundation/Training Program for Practical Elect, Arad.
Arava Development Company /Arava R2B "From Lab to Market".
Elad Theatre/ Start-up/Expansion of Theatre in the Negev
AJEEC-NISPED/Bridges to Employment.
Yanbia Initiative Fdn for development of Bedouin Society in the Negev.
Eretz-Ir /"The Network" Beer Sheva.
Eshkol Regional Council/ Agro-Tech based Makerspace.
JNF Chalutza/Agricultural Research.
Shaar HaNegev YAC /Social Business Innovation Accelerator Shaar Hanegev
JAFI /CROWD.IL Negev
Negev Council - Collaboration Building
The Reut Institute/ Western Negev The Leapfrog Center.
Arad Tourism Assoc/Tourism Development.
Tor HaMidbar/Eliav Community Hub.
JAFI /Nitzana Vista - Strengthening Tourism Nitzana.
Collot BaNegev/YAC in Hura.
Keren Shahaf/ Young Communities in the Negev.



Eretz-Ir /"The Network" Beer Sheva.

2017

JAFI /CROWD.IL Negev.

Negev Council.

The Reut Institute/ Western Negev The Leapfrog Center.

AJEEC-NISPED Bridges to Employment.

Lev Arad Foundation /Bus. & Occup. Hub - NETGEV.

Arad Tourism Assoc/Tourism Development.

Tor HaMidbar Eliav Community Hub.

JAFI Nitzana Vista - Strengthening Tourism Nitzana.

Chaluza/Ami -Da Student Program.

OR Movement /Barkai Collective Impact for the Negev, Ofakim.

OR Movement /Students for Nachal Oz.

Tarbut Movement /Tarbut Community in Ofakim.

Collot BaNegev /YAC in Hura.

Dror Israel /Educators Kibbutz in Sderot .

Keren Shahaf/ Young Communities in the Negev.

2016

OR Movement Barkai Collective Impact for the Negev, Ofakim.

OR Movement Students for Nachal Oz.

Tarbut Movement Tarbut Community in Ofakim.

Collot BaNegev /YAC in Hura.

Collot BaNegev/VAC Mitzpe Ramon.

Dror Israel /Educators Kibbutz in Sderot.

Eilat-Eilat /Renewable Energy Center.

Keren Shahaf/Young Communities in the Negev.

2015-

ITworks/ Spark It.

Negev Funding coalition.

Collot Banegv /Young Adult center, Ofakim.

Alpha /Affordable Housing, Ofakim.

Noah Initiative/Ofakim.

Arad Foundation/care center.

Dualis /social business in the Negev, Beer Sheva.

Tor Hamidbar/Negev Hub "Betta".

Ami-Da/Chalutza absorption center.

Gvanim/Netivim young adult center.

Arava Mop.

Desert stars/leadership and social Entrepreneurship program.

Keren Shahaf/Young Communities in the Negev.

2013-2014

Presentense, "Hameitz Negev Venture Accelerator".

Keren Shahaf/ Young Communities in the Negev.

Arava MOP.

Netivim Center, Sderot.

Dror Israel Educators Kibbutz in Mitzpe Ramon.

Hashomer, Ma'ahal v migdal.

Kol Israel Haverim Netuim, Ofakim.

2011-2012

Arad Absorption Center / 2012

Ayalim Arad / 2012

Clalit / incentive Grants for Nurses, Beer Sheva/ 2012

Arava/ Zuqim Artist village / 2012

Yeruham foundation/ 2012

Jewish Agency for Israel/ 2011

Sami Shamoon College of Engineering, Beer Sheva/ 2011

JDC/ 2011

2007-2010

Technoda / 2007

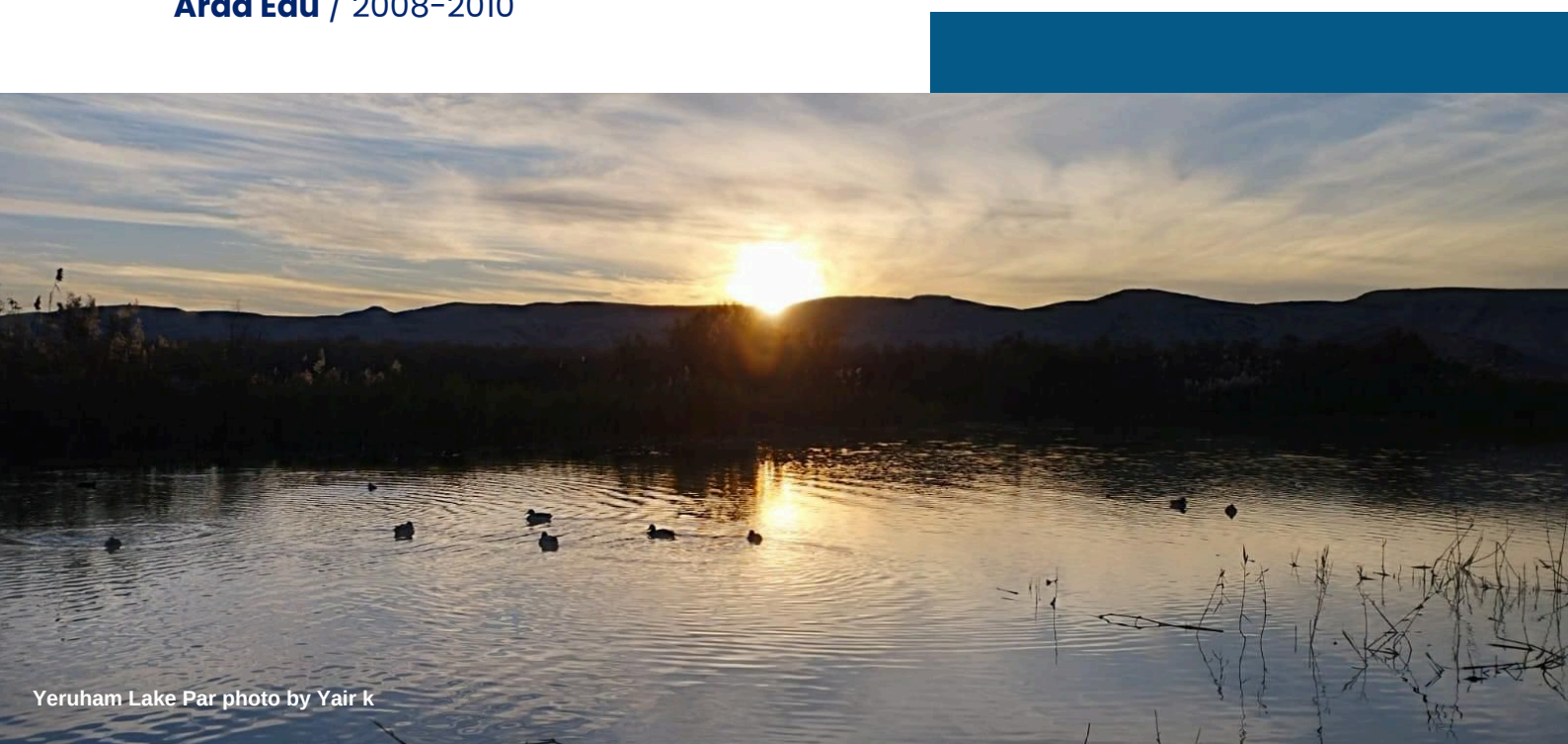
Ayalim / 2008-2010

Or Movement / 2008-2010

Ivn / 2008-2010

Yeruham foundation/ 2008-2010

Arad Edu / 2008-2010



Yeruham Lake Par photo by Yair k

THE STANLEY STONE SPECIAL GRANT



Stanley Stone Meoravut Hevratit (Social Involvement) Award honors Stanley Stone, the founding Director of the Mack Ness Fund. Stanley valued innovative ideas for community-building and ways to strengthen the Negev communities.

This annual award of \$5,000 supports one selected outstanding and visionary Negev resident, associated with a registered amuta in Israel who best meets the following criteria:

- A strong lead individual proposes the development, execution or expansion of a creative, innovative solution/project to a social, economic or demographic problem unique to the Negev.
- The solution/project involves collaborative efforts among organizations.
- The lead individual will attract and leverage funds from additional funders for his/her ideas and solutions.

The organization applying, on behalf of the individual, must be a registered amuta in Israel and must have Nihul Takin status with the Registrar of NGOs (Rasham HaAmutot).

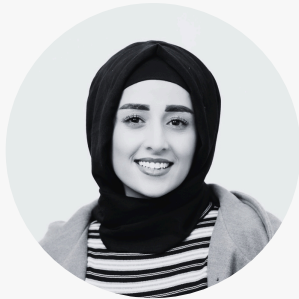


2021
"Sratim al shikinim"
Film FESTIVAL



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THE STANLEY STONE SPECIAL GRANT



Taimaa Ahmad

2026

From my home to your home VisitMizpeRamon: Digital Tourism Ecosystem



Avishi Efrat

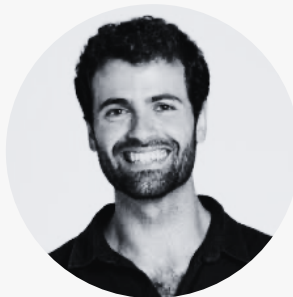
2026



Ben Morag

2024

producing a film about the Mack Ness Fund



Roe Azizi

2025

Hinenu - Pioneers of Hope



Yaniv Hagyi

2025

710 Memorial

THE STANLEY STONE SPECIAL GRANT



Moshe Nagar

2020

pre - Army mechina
for youth in Dimona



Yael Romny

2021

"Sratim al shikinim" -
Film FESTIVAL



Eilon Kotler

2022

producing a film about
the Mack Ness Fund



Nir Amitay

2023

Rimon Farm for youth in risk
establishing a bakery

MAKING MIRACLES IN THE NEGEV

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