



Federation for Jewish Philanthropy
OF UPPER FAIRFIELD COUNTY

Dear Community Member:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Federation for Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield County, I am thrilled to inform you that our search for a new Executive Director is complete. Our dedicated and diverse search committee, led by Julia Marx and Amy Rich, and with the professional guidance of Rea Kurzweil of the Mandel Center for Leadership Excellence at Jewish Federations of North America, conducted a thorough and thoughtful process over the past 6 months. This process included input from dozens of community members and clergy, and has led us to an extremely qualified, talented and highly recommended executive. Please join me in welcoming David Weisberg to our community as the new FJP Executive Director.

David brings twenty-five years of non-profit experience, initially in a variety of town management roles in Pennsylvania, with the last eighteen years in Jewish communal service at the local, regional, and national level. This includes serving as the lead executive of the Jewish Federation and Jewish Community Center of Greater Harrisburg, Friends of the Arava Institute, the Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center, and Hazon. Among David's proudest achievements is pioneering the first Jewish LGBTQ Teen programming in the country, in partnership with the non-profit Keshet organization. David's unique skills and expertise in leading organizations through mergers, turnarounds, and transitions, while developing innovative solutions to build community, reach the under-served, and engage the disengaged, are perfectly tailored to address the opportunities in our community.

Search committee co-chair Amy Rich states, "David is a natural story-teller whose warmth was immediately felt by all who met him. His depth of Jewish knowledge coupled with his immense creativity will help FJP reach all corners of the Jewish community as well as find common ground where we can all come together." Her co-chair, Julia Marx adds, "His broad experience includes helping other organizations and communities successfully join together into a greater whole. David has a strong track record of running organizations that successfully achieve their mission while remaining fiscally sound."

David will officially join us on August 10. He is eagerly looking forward to getting to know our community, and we will provide ample opportunities in the coming weeks and months for you to get to know him as well.

We owe a debt of gratitude to our tireless search committee, including Julia Marx, Amy Rich, Jon August, Wendy Cohen, Karen Ferleger, Mark Kirsch, David Muller, Linda Russ, Jeff Siegel, Ed Smolka and Gayle Weinstein. It was a pleasure to work with such an insightful and committed group of volunteers.

Finally, I would be remiss in not publicly thanking Shoshana Dweck, our interim Executive Director. Shoshana has been an invaluable part of our FJP team, helping move the organization seamlessly through this transitional phase. Her expertise, wisdom and calm demeanor have been exactly what we hoped for and needed. We wish her all the best going forward.

Thank you for your continued support as we embark together on the next part of our collective Jewish journey.

Bonnie Slyn
Board Chair
Federation for Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield County

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