



NYL Cabinet Announces Launch of Initiative to Support JFNA Holocaust Survivor Fund April 8, 2016



National Young Leadership Cabinet members meet with Holocaust survivor Margot Friedlander in Berlin

Jewish Federations' National Young Leadership (NYL) Cabinet today announced a new initiative to support Holocaust survivors in the United States. The announcement comes during NYL Cabinet's Study Mission to Berlin and Israel, as the 73 participants arrived in Tel Aviv for Shabbat.

NYL Cabinet is a cohort of men and women who participate in a six-year training program to hone their abilities as the next generation of philanthropic and institutional lay leaders throughout the Jewish community. They are dedicated to working and learning together to master the skills needed to ensure an enduring Jewish future at home and around the world.

While in Berlin, the preeminent educational theme of the mission was the Holocaust. The group visited the Sachsenhausen concentration camp, the Track 17 memorial and the Wannsee House, where Nazi leadership met to develop the Final Solution, which would result in the murder of six million Jews. The experience culminated in a dialogue with Holocaust survivor Margot Friedlander, author of the award-winning *Try to Make Your Life*, a memoir of her 15 months in hiding in Berlin followed by her capture, deportation to and release from a death camp.

Inspired by their experiences in Berlin and motivated by learning about the continuing needs of Holocaust survivors in their own communities, NYL Cabinet leaders made a commitment to help. Co-chairs Beth Liss of Kansas City and Dr. Josh Green of Sarasota are encouraging all 250 Cabinet members to each give or raise at least \$360 for this effort.

The NYL Cabinet initiative will support Federations' [Fund for Holocaust Survivors](#). As part of its humanitarian mission, Federations are dedicated to serving the nearly 130,000 Holocaust survivors in the U.S., of whom one in four lives in poverty. As a group, they are at risk for poor physical and mental health, depression and social isolation. For most, the ability to age in place in their own homes and communities is critical, as institutionalization can trigger traumatic memories of the Holocaust.

JFNA recently received a U.S. government grant to strengthen services to Holocaust survivors, and is also amid a three-year effort to raise \$45 million for its Fund to provide much-needed services for this elderly, at-risk population; more

than \$30 million has been raised to date. The Fund was created to provide for the basic needs of survivors, including health and dental care, emergency supplemental rent assistance and food.

To learn more about the Fund for Holocaust Survivors, please watch this promotional [video](#). You can also follow the NYL Cabinet mission on social media using the hashtag #thisiscabinet.

Applications for the next class of Cabinet members are now open, and the nominating process continues through May 10. For more information, contact [Samara Tesler](#).