

LIRA WINSTON
Fellowships



LIRA'S LEGACY



In February 2020, the late, great, Chief Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks z"l surprised the audience at the Jewish Schools Awards in London. No-one was aware he was coming, but he was there to honour the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award. The honoree sat unaware, simply having no idea who the Chief Rabbi could possibly be talking about.

"It is my privilege this evening, to present a Lifetime Achievement Award to someone who richly, but richly, deserves it. The person who least expects it, and least seeks it. The person who we honour tonight is the most modest, the kindest, and the wisest person I know. Somebody who has been at the very heart of the spectacular growth of Jewish day schools over the last 25 years. A friend and mentor to us all. Someone whose very being is in education, and in character and midot. And someone whom I suspect everyone here, admires, and loves, and cherishes as a friend. Tonight we honour, Lira Winston"

Lira Winston z"l, who tragically passed away on 9th December 2021, had a deep love for Jewish education and a passionate belief that the key to its success was outstanding leaders. Throughout her career, whether at the Sinclair Montrose Trust, UJIA, Jewish Continuity or Partnerships for Jewish Schools (PaJeS), Lira became synonymous with developing and nurturing great Jewish education leadership.

A CHALLENGING ENVIRONMENT

What Lira understood better than most was that in the context of a school, great classroom skills are not the same as great leadership skills. The leader must be able to take the broad view, have the experience and understanding to articulate the school's vision, and the skills to ensure it is implemented effectively. It is the school leader and the senior leadership team who have the responsibility to make sure that all stakeholders are working to the common goals that ultimately lead to an excellent education for our children.



Today, the rapid growth of Jewish schools, combined with the significant external challenges in the education sector, has placed even greater pressure on the shoulders of school leaders. The result is that sadly more teachers are leaving than entering the profession. This means we need renewed incentives to attract the best people into our Jewish schools, and increased investments in our teachers' professional development.

THE LIRA WINSTON FELLOWSHIPS

The dedication Lira showed throughout her career to Jewish education and especially to school leaders, was the hallmark of her life. **The Lira Winston Fellowships will continue this work, by inspiring, encouraging, and supporting a sustainable pipeline of talented future leaders across the spectrum of Jewish schools in the UK.**

How will this be achieved?

- **Experienced and aspirational Fellows:**

On a biennial basis, PaJeS, supported by the Trustees of The Lira Winston Fellowships, will select up to 12 Fellows. These Fellows will be educators who are already outstanding practitioners in Jewish schools, and who have the potential and aspiration to become senior leaders and/or headteachers in the future.



- **A programme of advanced leadership training:**

Through a series of high-level seminars and visits to a variety of educational in the UK, Israel and the United States, The Lira Winston Fellowships will support potential leaders in gaining a comprehensive understanding of the key areas of **leading pedagogy, the role of a leader, and understanding the community**. Each area plays a critical role in shaping the effectiveness of a leader in a Jewish school setting.

- **A collaborative network and ongoing mentoring:**

Each Fellow would be supported in their ongoing development through individual targeted skills designed to help their progression. Once in leadership positions, they will be assigned a personal mentor to provide further guidance as they continue their leadership journey. In addition to developing as individuals, every cohort of Lira Winston Fellows will be encouraged to deliver cross school leadership initiatives, and create an environment of collaboration.



After the completion of the Fellowships, there will be follow-up sessions and other moments of connection so that the Fellows continue to feel they are part of the Fellowship family. This professional network will grow over time as future cohort groups go through the Fellowship, helping to create a new dynamic for leadership in our schools' community.

SUPPORT THE LEADERS OF OUR FUTURE

The Lira Winston Fellowships will be managed by the Partnerships for Jewish Schools (PaJeS) which is at the forefront of Jewish education in the UK. PaJeS collaborate directly with Government and other stakeholders, and provide services, support, and strategy to Jewish schools, primarily throughout the UK. The support they offer is diverse, including professional development, public affairs, strategic thinking, connecting and collaborating, curricula and special projects, and wellbeing. Lira was a driving force behind the establishment of PaJeS and held the role of Assistant Director from its inception in 2012.



The annual cost of £150,000 assumes six advanced leadership training seminars, one residential retreat, and mentoring and specialised support for a cohort of up to 12 Fellows.

All donations will be used exclusively for The Lira Winston Fellowships and overseen by a body of Trustees, chaired by Lira's son Ben Winston, and including other members of the Winston family together with communal figures with direct experience of operating in the Jewish education sector.

To support our work visit www.lirawinstonfellowships.org. Additional payment methods are outlined on the next page. Thank you.

LIRA WINSTON *Fellowships*



"I've been very lucky in everything I have done in the Jewish Community for two reasons. I have worked with absolutely fantastic people who I have learnt something from all the time. And secondly, I have done work which I feel has been meaningful. And I just wanted to say to everyone in here, who works in schools in different ways, or you support schools as funders, or you are central organisations that works with schools.

You are all doing something, which is really, really, important.

So thank you so much for that."

**Lira Winston speaking as she received her
Lifetime Achievement Award, February 2020.**



To make a donation to the Lira Winston Fellowships either **scan here**, visit lirawinstonfellowships.org or send a cheque or charity voucher (made payable to Lira Winston Fellowships) to PaJeS - 44b Albert Road, Hendon, NW4 2SG





We would like to thank Central Square Minyan for including Leket Israel in your Kol Nidre Appeal 2023 and are honoured to provide an overview of our new project, Leket Express. The project will introduce a 15-ton truck complete with shelving, ramps, and awnings to act as a self-contained produce distributor traveling to regions to reach marginalised communities. The project aims to provide free of charge nutritious produce to underserved populations who lack adequate support. Leket kindly requests your consideration of funding the implementation of this important initiative.

Project background: Marginalised populations

For cultural, geographical, and financial reasons, communities in the social or geographic periphery of Israel (Elderly, immigrants from Ethiopia and Former Soviet Union (FSU), Arab, Bedouin, single-parent families) are not being fully serviced. To address this and reach these populations, Leket aims to introduce a 15-ton truck to act as a self-contained mobile produce distributor.

Why is this important?

Over one-third of produce grown in Israel is wasted and not consumed while 20% of the population lives below the poverty line. Furthermore, research conducted by the Israeli Ministry of Health highlights the poor are twice as likely to suffer from obesity and diabetes due to inactivity and a diet based on cheap, processed food high in sugar and saturated fats. Utilizing rescued surplus produce from Leket's agricultural gleaning initiative, the organisation aims to provide marginalised communities living in the periphery, with a broad range of fruits and vegetables helping them balance their diet and improve their long-term health and functioning.

How does it work?

Each morning, the truck will be stocked with fresh surplus produce stored at Leket's Logistics Center. Each truck will require a driver. The truck will distribute produce twice a day (every weekday) along designated routes around the country. The routes will be mapped by considering areas where there is a need, regions previously unable to receive support due to lack of infrastructure or geographical location, as well as requests received from local municipalities and residents. The truck will have designated stops where it will be transformed into a grocery store, complete with shelving, a ramp, and an awning. The recipients will be able to browse the shop and pick their preferred produce types, offering a dignified service. We estimate that every household will receive 25-30 kgs (55-66 lbs.) of fresh produce weekly. Each family will also receive a personal shopping cart to help them carry groceries home.

Advantages of mobile distribution

- Leket provides rescued produce directly to NPO partners and not recipients. In Israel, there are over 3,000 food pantries throughout the country, yet many organisations are not registered with the regulator, thus hindering Leket's ability to support them.
- Increased collaboration with local municipalities operating in periphery communities on need, routes, designated distribution stops, and project development will lead to a combined effort to serve marginalised indigenous populations or areas that have historically lacked support.
- Mobile distribution can serve on-call, plan routes, and even act as an emergency relief vehicle at times of disaster or conflict.

Rising above the struggle

Iris, a 49-year-old mother of nine, has been receiving food from Leket Israel's nonprofit partner, Bet Nehriya in Nahariya (northern Israel) for nearly a decade. Days after her youngest child was born, Iris made the courageous decision to leave her abusive husband, refusing any financial support from him. Left alone, with so many children to feed, Iris turned to Roni, the Director of Bet Nehriya, for assistance.

"I knew it was the right decision to leave," Iris asserts, **"but I never realised how difficult it would be to be all alone."** Bet Nehriya provided Iris with sympathy and kindness, even going as far as arranging the brit milah (circumcision ceremony) for her new baby.

When Iris got married at the age of 24, she was already pregnant with her first child. Her first three children came in rapid succession, causing friction in the marriage. Efforts to create peace in the home led to more children, which ultimately led to an unsafe living environment.

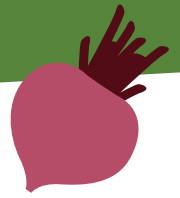
Iris acknowledges that her children gave her the strength to keep going during the challenging times. **"Some days I would want to lie in bed all day, but my children would pick out my clothes and tell me to get dressed. They helped me at a time when I couldn't help myself."**

As Iris no longer had her husband's income and does not receive child support, Iris went back to work to provide for her family. She secured a position in a local nursery where she still works today. Through the nursery, she was able to go back to school for additional training.

Even with her salary, Iris is still struggling on a very limited budget. **"Supporting such a large family on one income can be overwhelming,"** she says. "The cost of food is so high and having a small budget is difficult. That's why I'm so grateful to Leket Israel for the incredible food that I receive each week at Bet Nehriya. I don't have to worry about buying fruit or vegetables and I'm able to cook nutritious meals for my children." In addition to the weekly package of produce, Iris also receives cooked food from Leket Israel. **"On days when I come home exhausted, having a wonderful, high quality, hot meal that I can serve my children is honestly a lifesaver."**

Despite the obstacles she's faced, Iris does not want people to see her as downtrodden. She wakes up each morning with a smile, grateful for everything that she has. **"I don't want people to look at me and say, 'this poor woman, look at everything she's been through.' I want them to say, 'look at this strong woman, she's been through so much and she was able to pick herself up and turn her life around.'"**





Leket Israel: the global leader in food rescue

Leket Israel's mission is to lead the safe and effective collection and distribution of surplus nutritious food in Israel. Leket addresses the paradox of significant food waste in the face of poverty and growing hunger, delivering rescued food to 265 partner nonprofit organisations (NPOs) that collectively support 234,000 Israelis at high-risk per week.

Project Leket

In 2023, Project Leket will rescue approximately 64 million lbs. (29,000 metric tons) of 60 types of surplus fruit and vegetables that would otherwise be destroyed. Families living in poverty tend to spend little on foods with high nutritional value, such as fresh fruit and vegetables. Leket's drive to rescue a broad range of produce plays a crucial role in helping at-risk recipients improve their long-term health, while providing a sustainable solution to inevitable waste.



Meal Rescue

The Meal Rescue Project was established to mitigate unnecessary waste in the catering sector and provide healthy surplus meals to nutritionally insecure Israelis. In 2023, approximately 2 million high quality meals (meat and 2 side dishes) will be collected from hotels, corporate cafeterias, and IDF army bases for redistribution to vulnerable recipients served through 50 partner NPOs.



Soup Project

The Soup Project makes use of excess produce rescued through Project Leket to manufacture and deliver 7 types of preservative-free soup, primarily to the elderly and single-parent households. The project aims to increase their access to quick and easy nutritious food that's easy to store, heat, and consume. In 2023 the organisation aims to distribute 520,000 (500g/1 pint) units of soup.



*Cost includes manufacturing and distribution.



Socially conscious

Ensuring the fair distribution of food to vulnerable populations from all sectors of society, while raising broader social awareness about food insecurity.



Environmentally friendly

Repurposing a resource, reducing food waste and mitigating the release of methane (responsible for 25% of today's global warming) caused by rotting food in landfill.



Cost-efficient

Tapping into existing resources to adopt a practical and cost-effective approach to address nutritional insecurity in Israel.



Globally aware

Sharing data and best practices with similar organisations around the globe to address worldwide issues of food insecurity and the environmental costs of food waste.