

P2G HADERA-EIRON

2024-2025 SUMMARY



July 2024

Hosting:

Allison Siegel Jacobs, the Partnership Co-Chair, visited the Hadera-Eiron region, learned about local initiatives, and encountered moving stories on October 7.

Allison met with women volunteers who continuously support the wives of reservists with small but significant acts of help, easing the everyday challenges in life, the difficulties experienced by the children, and the strong longings for the father who is away.



Hosting:

Edna Sharoni from the Greensboro Jewish Federation visited **Nitza Gerber** from Hadera, whom she met during the P2G educators' delegation in 2019, and has been in touch ever since.



P2G Summer Experience in the SE US and Prague:

20 Israeli teens have been selected to participate in the summer experience, traveling in three delegations to six communities - Richmond, VA, Greensboro, NC, Jacksonville, FL, Charleston, SC, Nashville, TN, and Prague, CZ.

Throughout their journey, our teens engaged in numerous enriching activities. They volunteered their time and energy, worked closely with young campers, engaged in heartfelt discussions with seniors, gained valuable insights and fostered connections across generations, while learning about the lives of the local communities through home hospitality.



August 2024



Hosting:

Two weeks after returning with the teens' delegation, Adi from Hadera hosted Emily from Prague, whom she met during her visit there.

September 2024



The Jewish Community Federation of Richmond solidarity mission visited the Hadera-Eiron region. While alarms were sounding in the morning, the group arrived and met with Be'tzavta and summer experience teens from Gvanim School for a fruitful discussion. The group also visited Social Delivery organization which locates and collects consumer goods, furniture, clothing, food, then transferring them to social entities and organizations that need them.

The day ended with an emotional conversation with the Haogen women and the reservist wives in Hadera.





October 7 and Iron Swords War

One year after the tragic events of October 7, ceremonies were held across Israel and in the P2G-partnered communities to honor and remember the lives lost. These events were not only moments of reflection and mourning but also powerful expressions of solidarity and resilience.

In Israel, the ceremonies brought together families, friends, and community members from the Hadera-Eiron region to commemorate the fallen. The gatherings were filled with personal stories, prayers, and moments of silence, paying tribute to those who were murdered on October 7 or killed in combat, with the hope of the return of the hostages. The events served as a space for healing and unity, reinforcing the strength of the community in times of great pain.

In the P2G partner communities across the Southeastern U.S. and the Czech Republic, ceremonies were held, echoing the same sentiments of loss and solidarity. These events featured virtual connections to the ceremonies in Israel, bridging the geographical divide and reminding all participants of the shared commitment to stand together in the face of tragedy.



Hinneri Art Project

The Hinneri (I Am Here) art project, a collaborative initiative that included 43 artist participants from the Hadera-Eiron region in Israel and the Partnership communities in the Southeast U.S. and the Czech Republic, to **honor the lives of young individuals from Hadera-Eiron who were tragically killed on October 7th or in its aftermath**. After months of connection with bereaved families and collaborative artistic creation, the resulting works were displayed in three moving exhibitions held in Menashe Regional Council, Pardes-Hanna Karkur, and Hadera, and also presented in our Partnership communities.

The exhibition was also featured at the JFNA General Assembly in November 2024 in Washington, DC, and during the 30th Anniversary celebration of the Partnership2Gether Network.

Now, as the project concludes, the artworks—spanning painting, sculpture, ceramics, photography, and more—are being gifted to the families of the fallen. Each piece carries a story of remembrance, solidarity, and the healing power of art.





Hinenni in our partnership Communities



Florida's Gulf Coast



Prague



Nashville



Northeast Florida



October 2024

The partnership's teen representatives, Tomer and Romi, visited the **Golani soldiers who were injured by a drone strike** and were hospitalized at the Hillel Yaffe Medical Center.

Together with the P2G office team, they brought cakes, food, and gifts for the soldiers and their families.



November 2024

Hosting:

Joan Levin from the Jewish Federation & Foundation of Northeast Florida in the Hadera-Eiron region. A weekend filled with friends from the past!



December 2025

Hosting:

Rabbi Rachel Salston from the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond visited the Partnership region, accompanied by Dorit Zini, a member of the Israeli Steering Committee.



Hosting:

Despite the challenging weather, **Eitan Snyder** from the Jewish Federation of Greater Nashville didn't let it stop him from visiting the Partnership office in Katzir, local initiatives, and meeting with friends.





Newsletter



Hosting:

Anna from Brno Jewish community in Czech Republic who is leading the Maccabi Tzair youth group in Brno, was hosted by Maccabi Tzair Hadera for the Maccabi Tzair 80th Annual Chanukah Torch Relay.

January 2025

Hosting:

Nancy Nelson from the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond met face-to-face with her students from the **One2One** English program, whom she had tutored over the years.



P2G Dig Deep Delegation to Israel

The Dig Deep Delegation brought 14 participants from the Southeast U.S. partner communities to Israel. The mission combined learning, solidarity, and connection, with a focus on the Hadera-Eiron Partnership region. During their visit, the group explored Jerusalem, bore witness to the impact of October 7th in Israel's south, and spent significant time in the Partnership area – including roundtable discussions with Be'tzavta teens, volunteering at Bein Hatlamin Farm, visiting the Golani Brigade Training Base, visiting the Hinneri art exhibit, and meeting reservists' wives in Hadera.



February 2025

Hosting:

Sam Hammer from the Federation of Florida's Gulf Coast visited the Hadera-Eiron region, met with his **One2one** students, engaged in deep conversations with the **Be'tzavta** teens, and spent Shabbat with friends.



March 2025

Hosting:

Erin Coleman from the Jewish Federation of Greater Nashville and her kids came for a short visit to Pardes-Hanna Karkur. Erin hosted Shimrit Orgal and Yifat Kates at her home, and from there, a meaningful connection was formed.



Hosting:

The Jewish Community Federation of Richmond and the Jewish Federation & Foundation of Northeast Florida delegation spent a full day in the Partnership Region, meeting the Betzavta students, volunteering with Social Delivery, visiting Talpiot Children's Village, and hearing from reservists' wives. The day ended at the opening of the Hineni exhibition in Hadera, highlighting the power of partnership and mutual support.



April 2025

The Partnership was proud to participate in the **"BaMakom"** Conference, which was held for the first time in April 2025 in Pardes - Hanna Karkur and marked a significant milestone in the national conversation around community building, social resilience, and local innovation.



As part of our participation, our team was also featured on the **"Ma HaDibur B'Pardes Hanna-Karkur"** podcast (see attached link) to share about our work and partnerships
** The podcast is in Hebrew.



May 2025



Hosting:

Roxana Sykuler Levin from Florida's Gulf Coast explored the history of kibbutzim at the Old Courtyard Museum in Ein Shemer, visited the innovative Ecological Greenhouse, learned about the work at Neve Michael Children's Village, and ended with a powerful conversation with Noga Hila Motana about her experience as a reservist's wife.



Hosting:

Emily and **Sam Zimmerman** from the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, reconnecting once again after so many years of friendship with Doron Rubin, P2G past co-chair, and his family.



Hosting:

RTA school delegation from Richmond, VA, had a fascinating tour of Technoda, an interactive science museum in Hadera, and a heartwarming activity with teens at Edanim Special Education School. It was a day full of learning, creativity, and connection.



June 2025

Hosting:

During the Summer of 2023, Amit from Talmei Elazar hosted Daniel from Charleston as part of the Teen Delegation to Israel.

Now, in June 2025, Daniel is back in Israel — and the two are reuniting in Tel Aviv.



Hosting:

Ryan Stone, from the Jewish Federation of **Greater Charlotte**, visited the Hadera-Eiron region with his father-in-law. They were accompanied by **Elisha Hosman** and **Alon Kloss**, both former Partnership Co-Chairs and long-time members of the Israeli Steering Committee, and heard firsthand about the realities in our region, especially since October 7.



Hosting:

A **Birthright Onward** group of amazing volunteers aged 20–50, half of whom are from our very own Partnership2Gether communities, came for a full day of volunteering in the Hadera-eiron region.

Their day began at **Tlamin Farm**, operated by the inspiring nonprofit **Misholim**. Together with the farm's residents—individuals with special needs and gap year teens on shnat sherut (Shinshinim)—our volunteers dug irrigation trenches, groomed horses and dogs, and even milked sheep.

Next stop: **Social Delivery**, a powerhouse nonprofit that sorts and distributes surplus goods to vulnerable communities across Israel.



Rachel Stern from Nashville, who took part in the Hinneni art project, came to visit Israel with the Birthright-Onward group from Nashville, which volunteered in the region for a day.

During her visit, she had a very emotional encounter with Revital, the aunt of Ori Locker z"l, a soldier from Pardes Hanna who fell on October 7. Rachel had painted Ori as part of the Hinneni project and gave the family the original painting.



Speakers' Bureau

This year, as part of our ongoing efforts to strengthen people-to-people connections across the Partnership, we hosted a special speaker series that brought four Israeli speakers to visit our partner communities. Each of them shared their personal story -rooted in Israeli reality - with honesty, vulnerability, and strength. These were stories of coping, challenge, resilience, transformation, and hope.

The presence of Israeli voices in our communities adds a unique and powerful dimension to the Partnership. Through personal storytelling, participants on both sides form meaningful, often lasting connections that go beyond headlines or official narratives. These visits open hearts and minds, deepen understanding, and create the kind of human connection that is at the core of everything we do.



Rinat Assa Greenberg & Ziv Avtalion



Noga Hila Motana & Amit Yagur

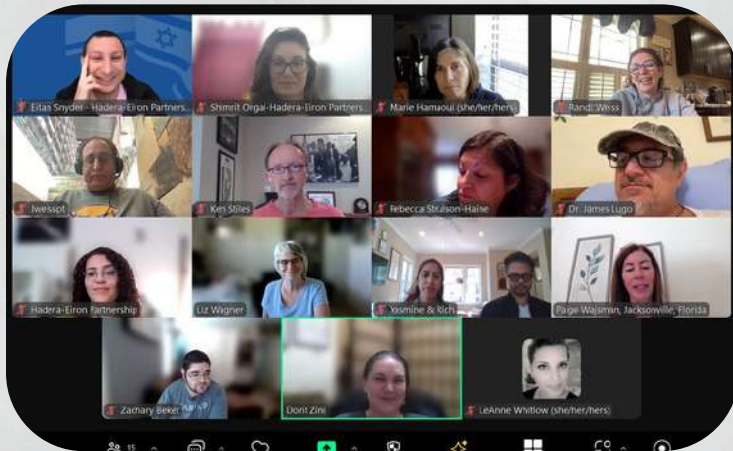


L2G - Local2Global



This year was a year of new beginnings for the participants of Cohort 8 of the L2G program. This cohort included 16 participants from the US and 12 from Israel. While still focusing on the one-on-one connection, the program culminated in a new annual project - creating and recording a **Partnership Podcast!**

The pairs and teams worked on their Hevruta sessions together and posted to the shared Padlet board, which provided a platform for participants to express their personal stories, struggles, and emotional journeys. Additionally, the concept of solidarity was explored in depth, highlighting its importance and implications in these turbulent times.



Suzie Session #2

What is a community?

- what is the definition of a community, in your opinion?

In my opinion, community is the intentional choice to be mutually responsible- and curious- to the people we support and care for. Location and Geography is not the deciding factor.

- Which communities do you belong to?

Jewish, Holocaust survivor, Israeli, Parenting, Leadership, Business, Professional

- What is the most meaningful community to you? What need does it answer?

Jewish- identity.



Needs for a community: This varies depending on the size of the community. IDF, synagogue, charitable group (to help community), public baths, public transportation, social media

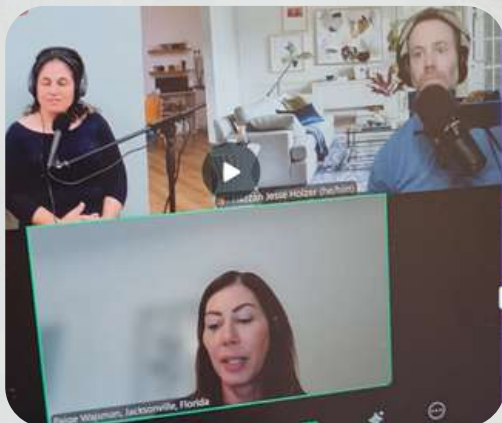
We've been able to reach out to each other on several occasions ... Zoom meetings, What's App exchanges and even phone calls. We've learned a lot about each other ... our families and how we raised our children, our professional interests as well as our hobbies and extracurricular/volunteer activities. Ken even introduced Michal to his wife, Patti. We found that while we have some things in common (for example: we both love Jewish traditions, we are both writing new chapters in our "book of life" with recent life event changes and challenges), we also have differences (for

we met and got to know each other and talked about many interesting topics:

- Israeli and Jewish writers,
- How Judaism is expressed in each of us.
- What place does Judaism occupy in our identity,
- Hashomer Hatzair,
- The Declaration of Independence,
- Jew vs. American and Jew vs. Israeli,
- Our family backgrounds
- Kibbutz and overnight stay in a children's home
- Gefilte fish, barbecue and pita bread
- Types of Judaism that exist in the US and are less popular in Israel.



The Process of Recording the P2G Podcast



What's Going on in Education

Be'tzavta Leadership Program

This program involves 9th–11th graders from seven high schools in the Hadera-Eiron region, reaching more than 100 students each year. Led by dedicated teacher-facilitators through weekly meetings and regional seminars, participants explore the global Jewish community while fostering a strong sense of Jewish identity and belonging. Beyond learning, the program empowers students to connect deeply with their personal, communal, and global identities. Through hands-on volunteer work and meaningful discussions, they develop a strong sense of social responsibility, a desire to make a difference, and the confidence to raise their voices and become active contributors to their communities and beyond.



These groups frequently welcome delegations from our communities



The P2G **Be'tzavta** teens are engaging in social involvement activities throughout the year as part of the program through their schools.



Kadima-Empowering Leadership

The alumni of the teen delegations are participating in the "Kadima" program, which allows them to deepen their leadership skills and strengthen their connection to the Partnership and The Jewish Agency. Every year, the alumni accompany the Be'zzavta program alongside the leading teachers.



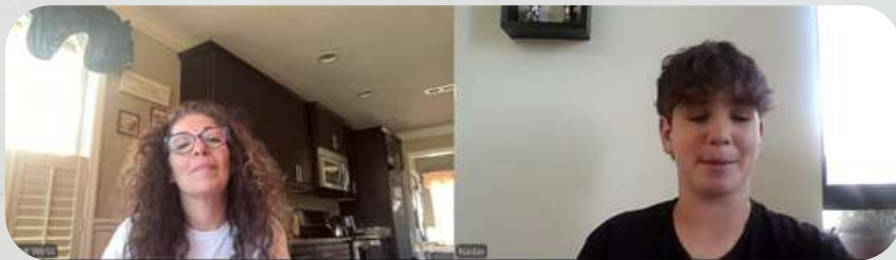
One2One English

A project that started due to Covid, became a success, with this year's cohort, including 30 Israeli students ages 12-18 and 15 teachers from our Partnership communities.

The program is designed to increase abilities and confidence in speaking, reading, and writing English through one-on-one learning with American teachers. Over the years, strong bonds were formed between the teachers and students, who decided to continue the connection even after the program ended.



Rona and her student Gali



Randi and her student Nadav

And sometimes we like to laugh during our breaks...



Nancy and her student Neta,
baking cookies together



Class2Class

Class2Class is a unique educational initiative that connects elementary and middle school students from the Hadera-Eiron region in Israel with their peers in Partnership communities across the U.S. and the Czech Republic.

This year, eight classroom pairs – and even one kindergarten – were matched, creating vibrant connections and authentic dialogue between young students.

The program fosters understanding, empathy, and a sense of global Jewish peoplehood from an early age.



Sending prayers for a year of peace and Happy Yom Hatzmaut from our Class2Class groups.



Teacher Development

15 dedicated school and kindergarten teachers from the Hadera-Eiron region took part in this inspiring program that offers participants a unique opportunity for personal growth and a deeper sense of Jewish-Israeli identity and belonging. This program fosters awareness and encourages meaningful engagement with questions of personal, social, Jewish, and Israeli identity within educational settings. The teachers were introduced to a variety of existing educational resources that enrich Jewish and Israeli culture, and they gained direct exposure to the Hadera-Eiron Partnership and its Jewish communities.





Yom Hazikaron

Oren Peri, the Shaliach in the Federation of Northeast Florida, shared with Martin J. Gottlieb Day School the story of Tamar Samet Z"l from Pardes-Hanna, who tragically lost her life on October 7 at the Nova Festival. The students painted a surfboard with meaningful images and symbols that reflect Tamar's vibrant spirit - musical notes, a guitar, lyrics from her song, and ocean waves.



Oren also taught the kids about Neta Bar-Am z"l, a fallen soldier from Hadera who was also passionate about Legos.

Sam and Janet Hammer from Florida's Gulf Coast were invited by Nili Trabelsi, P2G long-time teacher volunteer, to light a torch in honor of the Partnership as a bridge of connection with Jewish communities in the Diaspora. The ceremony was held at the Menashe Sports Hall in front of an audience of approximately 700 people.



Yom Ha'atzma'ut

The first Torch Lighting Ceremony in **Richmond** marked Israel's 77th Independence Day celebration. Seven torchbearers lit torches honoring their contributions to the Jewish community.



Prague



Charlotte



Nashville



Since October 7th, substantial efforts have been dedicated to supporting the local community in the Hadera-Eiron region

With heartfelt gratitude to our partner communities from the SE US Consortium & Czech Republic for their unwavering support and solidarity



Support to the **families of reservists in Hadera** through a range of relief activities that provide a much-needed respite from the pressures of daily life, offer emotional support, and nurture a strong sense of community and solidarity.

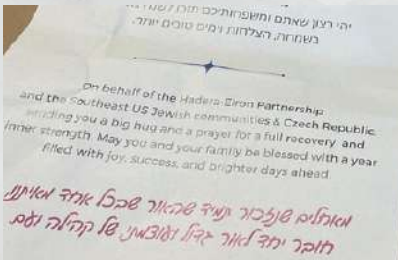


Reservist Soldiers with PTSD undergoing therapy at local agricultural Farms

Bereaved families from the Hadera-Eiron region, in the Safe Shore program, which offers healing through surfing.



40 care packages delivered to lone soldiers in Pardes-hanna karkur



All efforts have been carried out in close collaboration with the local municipalities and community organizations, ensuring a coordinated and impactful response



Joint Steering Committee in Jacksonville, April 2025

The dedicated members of our Joint Steering Committee play a vital role in shaping the path of our Partnership. Throughout the year, they meet to discuss programs, explore new opportunities for connection, and strengthen the bonds between our communities - all while navigating an ever-changing reality. Their ongoing commitment ensures that our shared vision continues to grow and adapt in meaningful and impactful ways.





Want to learn more about our Partnership?
Reach out to your local Federation Professional!

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