IMPACT 2019
COMMUNITY FORWARD
DEAR FRIENDS,

This year, the Israeli-American Council has continued on a path of increasing impact, expanding our coast-to-coast community with Israel at heart and Israeli spirit.

With your support and partnership, we are leading a nationwide movement to meet the challenges and seize the opportunities of this unique moment in Jewish history. The IAC is becoming the gateway of love and connection to Israel.

Our IMPACT report outlines how, through innovative programs and leadership building, we are pioneering cutting-edge solutions to bring Israel and Israeli spirit to the heart of our communities.

We have built a one-of-its-kind nationwide community that touches every generation and member of the family, establishing a strong and meaningful connection to Israel and Jewish identity.

This year we also expanded our active support for Israel and our fight against antisemitism. We are leveraging innovative online engagement and community-based activism in creative ways to combat BDS and antisemitism.

We owe our success to the passion, heart, and generosity of you—our supporters. You are all part of our IAC family, and you inspire us to bring our vision to reality.

In particular, we would like to extend our deepest gratitude to Dr. Miriam and Sheldon G. Adelson for their bold vision, outstanding leadership, and unparalleled generosity in support of the IAC’s mission and growth.

With your support, we are confident that the year ahead will bring continued success, as we harness the vast potential of our unique community to strengthen the Jewish people and the State of Israel.

With gratitude,

Naty Saidoff
INCOMING IAC CHAIRMAN
OF THE BOARD

Shoham Nicolet
IAC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Adam Milstein
IAC CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

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IAC CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

TO OUR SUPPORTERS AND COMMUNITY WITH GRATITUDE FOR YOUR GENEROSITY AND ENGAGEMENT

EXTRAORDINARY GROWTH WITH ISRAEL AT HEART AND SPIRIT
OUR MISSION

The mission of the Israeli-American Council (IAC) is to build an engaged and united Israeli-American community that strengthens the Israeli and Jewish identity of our next generation, the American Jewish community, and the bond between the peoples of the United States and the State of Israel.
IAC THROUGH THE YEARS

2008
ILC was founded in Los Angeles.

2010
1,800 attend Live for Sderot event.
Tzav8 is born, mobilizing thousands in support of Israel.

2012
19,000 came together for the First Celebrate Israel Festival in Los Angeles honoring Israel’s 64th Independence Day — reaps in.

2014
5 active offices. 520 attend for IAC National Conference in San Francisco.

2016
10 active offices. 2,100+ attend the IAC National Conference. 118 graduate IAC Gvanim leadership program.
IAC Keshet for high school students operates in 32 locations.
IAC Mishelanu on 80+ campuses.

2018
15 active offices. 14,000+ attend Celebrate Israel Festivals nationwide.
16,000+ attend IAC Shishi Israeli nationwide.

2007
ILC Young Professionals network is launched.
ILC establishes its first college campus leadership program.

2009
25,000 people attend IAC activities.
The First ILC Gala Dinner is held.

2011
Hebrew Children’s Books program is launched.
11,000+ attend the ILC Dare to Act off-event, a gathering for a community through volunteering.

2013
ILC becomes IAC Israeli-American Council. With the vision and support of Dr. Miriam and Sheldon Adelson, the IAC expands nationally.

2015
6 active offices. 45,000+ attend Celebrate Israel Festivals nationwide.

2017
16 active offices across the U.S. Activities in 27 States.
IAC Shishi for middle and high school students operate in 32 locations.
IAC Mishelanu active on 80+ campuses.

2019
Record-breaking IAC Eidahenu Israel visits 20,000+ attend IAC Keshet activities.
6 IAC Community Centers nationwide.
15,000+ attend IAC Shishi Israeli nationwide.

BUILDING A COAST-TO-COAST COMMUNITY WITH ISRAEL IN ITS HEART AND ISRAELINESS IN ITS SPIRIT
“For me, the IAC signifies a sense of belonging, friends who are family and a community that is our home. We are inspired to take part in building an active Israeli-American community. A community that creates, supports and leads the way to ensure our children are connected to their Jewish identity.”

Sharon S., IAC San Diego
At Keshet, the kids are exposed to Hebrew, dance, sing and play in creative ways that helps them develop a strong Jewish and Israeli identity.”

Hanit H., Las Vegas

The core of our mission is to strengthen the Jewish identity and connection to Israel of our young generation. IAC Keshet is doing precisely that for children ages 1-12, as well as their parents.

We empower our community to experience and celebrate our shared heritage through the Hebrew language, Israeli culture, Jewish traditions, and an experiential connection to Israel.

CONNECTING YOUNG FAMILIES TO ISRAELINESS & JEWISH IDENTITY

30,000+ PARTICIPANTS
IAC Eitanim is a cutting-edge experience that connects middle and high school students to Israel and their Jewish identity through innovation and entrepreneurship.

Utilizing Project-Based-Learning, teenagers are taking the “driver’s seat,” in the journey to connect, explore, and engage by solving real-life challenges facing the Jewish world.

With the mentorship of industry leaders and experts, the teenagers go through an immersive and innovative experience that empowers them to partake in their Jewish heritage and feel Israel as the “startup nation.”

“Being a part of Eitanim has taught me so much about not only entrepreneurship and innovation, but also how important and necessary it is to be active in the Israeli and Jewish communities.”

Tamir Ziv, IAC Eitanim LA

IAC Eitanim is named after Major Eitan Balachsan, Z”L, Commander of the IDF Paratroopers Commando, who was killed in a special operation in 1999.

REINVENTING ISRAEL TEEN ENGAGEMENT

42% of participants are mildly involved or not involved in youth organizations

70% of participants do not attend Jewish day school

PARTICIPANTS: 1132
GROUPS: 42

21% JEWISH AMERICAN
38% SECOND GENERATION ISRAELI-AMERICANS
41% FIRST GENERATION ISRAELI-AMERICANS

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앗נים

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IAC Mishelanu empowers students to become active as they explore and strengthen their Israeli and Jewish identities, building dynamic campus communities centered around “Israeliness.”

We work to engage, empower, and inspire a nationwide campus leadership network committed to and proud of its connection to Israel. A unique *fellowship* track empowers student leaders that bring Israel to the heart of the campus and are at the forefront of this program.

“IAC Mishelanu gives me the opportunity to bring Israel as I know into my campus. I also get tools to lead and create an inclusive community for Israeli American students like me.”

Hadar Arens, Binghamton University

72% Feel Mishelanu has increased their connection to Israel
76% Feel Mishelanu connects them to Jewish community and identity
83% Made new Jewish friends as a result to Mishelanu

64% do not participate in any other pro-Israel campus organization

104 CAMPUSES
2600 STUDENTS
114 MISHELANU FELLOWS

PLUG-N-PLAY TO ISRAEL ON CAMPUS
IAC Shishi Israeli connects my family to our Jewish tradition and gives us a sense of belonging.”

Adi Adelman, Las Vegas

IAC Shishi Israeli brings together Israeli-American and Jewish-American families in a communal experience that combines rich Jewish traditions and Israeli culture. This vibrant coast-to-coast community connects thousands of people to celebrate Shabbat, Jewish holidays, and national events at community centers, schools, synagogues, and private homes as one united community.

VIBRANT ISRAELI
JEWISH TRADITIONS

92 ANNUAL EVENTS
183 COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS
15,780 PARTICIPANTS
35% JEWISH AMERICANS
IAC EDGE is a national cutting-edge membership-based community of Israeli and Jewish American young professionals, ages 22-42, who are passionate about Israel and seek extraordinary networking opportunities and professional development & business accelerators. Our ultimate goal is an active Jewish American community of young professionals as the foundation for the next generation of community leaders with Israel in its heart, and Israeliness in its spirit.

“The best way for us to shape our future is with passionate young leadership committed and connected to Israel.”

Haim Saban, Businessman, Investor & Philanthropist Chairman and CEO, Saban Capital Group
Community Leadership
IAC GVANIM LEADERSHIP
Gvanim builds and develops the future grass-roots community leadership of the Israeli-American and Jewish American community. Participants undergo a meaningful, in-depth, and personal journey exploring their hybrid Israeli-American-Jewish identities. Together with community experts, they exchange and explore dilemmas, ideas, and challenges facing our communities in a quest to acquire leadership and innovative solutions, skills, and strategies.

Exploring Jewish Text
IAC GVANIM LIMMUD
A network of “Chavrutah style” community-based learning groups across the country. Together, through Jewish text, the groups explore deep questions facing the Israeli-American and Jewish-American communities and shape new traditions.

COMMUNITY LEADERS OF TOMORROW

“Gvanim was a fascinating opportunity to learn and be exposed to a rich Jewish world I did not know, to learn a new language of life and lead initiatives in my community.”
Yana Shechterman, Boston

TAKING PART IN GVANIM MADE PARTICIPANTS:

73% further explore their Israeli-American identity
63% further explore their Jewish identity

Encourage family and friends to participate in community events
Become leaders within the IAC
Become involved in pro-Israeli activities

203 GRADUATES 2018-2019
604 GVANIM LEADERSHIP NETWORK
15 GVANIM LIMMUD GROUPS 2018-2019
200 GVANIM LIMMUD NETWORK
IAC GVANIM RAMON
A community of women who share a yearlong journey, developing their leadership skills and empowering them to become active community builders. The program culminates with an Israel experience delegation, which creates a deeper connection to their Jewish identity and roots.

WOMEN COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP NETWORK

WOMEN IN TECH
Through a strategic partnership with ICON – Israel Collaboration Network, Women in Tech is a community of women who share a passion for Israeli Tech & Innovation. During the meetings, women from our community share their stories and insights. Events and meetups provide structured networking activity and encourage members to continue the discussion and mutual support.
NEVER AGAIN

ENGAGING TEENS WITH THE MEMORY OF THE HOLOCAUST

170 teens, mentors, and experts from around the United States, along with a delegation of Educating for Excellence, met for a five-day immersive experience of research, thought, planning, execution, and presentation of their ideas. The teens were given the challenge of preserving the memory of the Holocaust for generations to come. They developed cutting-edge products and ideas, bringing AI to preserve memories of the past, to ensure Never Again means Never Again. Alongside innovation and creativity, the most moving moments were the instant connection and warm hugs shared between the students and the Holocaust Survivors they met. The unimaginable horrors of the past, meeting the hope of a young generation committed to remembering them.

MARCH OF THE LIVING

On Holocaust Remembrance Day, the first IAC delegation, along with 10,000 people from around the world, marched from Auschwitz to Birkenau to commemorate Holocaust victims, to honor their memory and vow to stop anti-Semitism. The IAC marched to remember and to affirm our unshaken commitment to the future, our promise that Never Again means Never Again.

FIGHTING BDS & ANTI-SEMITISM

Pro-Israel activism and combatting hate are our strategic priorities. It means fighting against anti-Semitism and the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement; advocating for greater transparency and balance in high school Middle East curricula; creating new pro-Israel leadership on college campuses to Israel; educating government officials about Israel and the threats of anti-Semitism; and developing high-level partnerships with Jewish community leaders to effect change.
CALIFORNIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

In early August, we learned that the California Department of Education (DOE) was considering a controversial new Ethnic Studies curriculum, openly hostile to Israel and the Jewish community.

In an extraordinary effort, Act_IL Los Angeles mobilized thousands of community members to put enormous pressure on the DOE through phone and digital media activism campaigns, sent thousands of complaint letters, and more than 15,000 people joined IAC’s official complaint.

After an intensive week of campaigning, the DOE rejected this curriculum. The statement came two days before the deadline for public feedback.

COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION

In partnership with:

82% SUCCESS IN REMOVAL OF INCITEMENT FROM THE WEB

80% SUCCESS CALLS TO ACTION AND CAMPAIGNS

+2,000 MISSIONS ARE COMPLETED EVERY WEEK

A MISSION ACCOMPLISHED EVERY 5.4 MINUTES

13,200 TRAINEES

In partnership with:

TECHNOLOGICAL FORCE MULTIPLIER

ACT_IL empowers local communities to fight against anti-semitism and Israel’s delegitimization by utilizing cutting edge online technologies. By connecting our communities globally, we generate a powerful, transformative, and effective offline and online impact.
Coast-to-coast festivals that bring Israel to the heart of communities through celebrations of the Jewish state. These mega-community events foster the bond between Americans and Israel and show a powerful message of unity in support of Israel.

I don’t think there is a stronger, more powerful way to show our Jewish community’s support of Israel than to come together and celebrate Israel’s Independence Day. It’s an incredible sight.”

Naty Saidoff, Incoming IAC Chairman of the Board
Touching every age group in the community, IAC Community Centers are hubs for Jewish life, community building, leadership training, and dynamic programming with Israel at heart and Israeliness in spirit. It is a physical gateway to connect and experience Israel instantly.

IAC SHEPHER COMMUNITY CENTER, LOS ANGELES

A historical milestone for the national Israeli-American community, the center provides a vibrant space for Israeli-American and Jewish American community members to gather and connect to one another, their Jewish identity and to Israel.

COMMUNITY HUBS WITH ISRAEL AT HEART

“The IAC is creating the first Jewish community center with a uniquely Israeli character, with an emphasis on Israeli culture and history, dual language programming in Hebrew and English, a focus on Israel advocacy and a deep and meaningful love of Israel at the core of our community and in every activity.”

Miri Shephar, IAC Board Member

IAC MERKAZ NEW JERSEY

IAC MERKAZ BOSTON

IAC MERKAZ WASHINGTON, DC
IAC ANNUAL NATIONAL SUMMIT

Every year, thousands of diverse participants from across the nation and Israel, come together for an inspiring weekend, for one of the fastest-growing, largest, and most high-profile gatherings in the Jewish world. The annual summit features American and Israeli change-makers and thought leaders, that discuss the pressing issues of the future of the Jewish people and the Jewish state. The engaging conversations are designed to inspire, shape, and invoke spirited dialogue and meaningful discourse.

Most importantly, the IAC National Summit is a weekend of energetic celebration of unity without uniformity, and the great love and bond between the people of America and the people of Israel.
The Tzofim — Israeli Scouts — works to foster our next generation’s passion for and connection to Israel, strengthening their Jewish and Israeli identity.

This past year, the IAC provided nearly $500,000 in grants for the Tzofim to dramatically increase the number of local chapters, strengthen Hadracha training, and Hebrew-language summer camp.
PROUD SUPPORTERS OF

ICON
A HOME FOR ISRAELI STARTUPS, CONNECTING BOTH THE ISRAELI AND AMERICAN SILICON VALLEY COMMUNITIES

ScienceFadad
A GLOBAL COMMUNITY OF ISRAELI SCIENTISTS ABROAD

PRO-ISRAEL INTERNATIONAL CAMPUS MOVEMENT

“THERE IS NO MORE NOBLE GESTURE THAN TO BE THE MASON THAT MIXES THE CEMENT THAT CONNECTS ONE GENERATION OF JEWS TO THE OTHER.”

Dr. Miriam & Mr. Sheldon G. Adelson
“YOU ARE OUR AMBASSADORS HERE, THE BRIDGE BETWEEN ISRAELIS IN ISRAEL TO JEWS IN AMERICA, BETWEEN THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND THE UNITED STATES... WHAT IS OBVIOUS IN ISRAEL, IS NOT AS EVIDENT ABROAD, AND YOU ASSIST IN PRESERVING AN ISRAELI-JEWISH TRADITION, MAINTAINING THE HEBREW LANGUAGE AND INSTILLING IT ACROSS THE COMMUNITY.”

Reuven Rivlin
PRESIDENT OF ISRAEL.
IAC Shepher Community Center, Los Angeles
IAC Club members represent IAC’s most dedicated supporters and enjoy exclusive events, special travel and networking opportunities, complimentary admission to the IAC National Summit and special Summit experiences including private receptions, closed-door sessions, exclusive lunches, networking opportunities, access to the Rimon lounge, and more.

For more information: iacclubs@israeliamerican.org