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**News Release**

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**Contact:** Adam Hertzman

**E-mail:** [ahertzman@jfedpgh.org](mailto:ahertzman@jfedpgh.org)

**Direct Dial:** 412.992.5225

**To:** The Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle



**Eric Fingerhut**  
*President & CEO  
Hillel International  
Washington, D.C.*



**Rabbi  
Nina Beth Cardin**  
*Community Rabbi,  
Educator, Author,  
Environmental Activist  
Baltimore, Md.*



**Rabbi  
Jeremy Weisblatt**  
*Temple Ohav Shalom  
Allison Park, Pa.*

**FED TALKS: IDEAS TO POWER AN INSPIRED COMMUNITY**

***Jewish Federation's 2018 Annual Meeting Will Feature Three Innovative Guest Speakers***

The Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh's 2018 annual meeting, FED Talks: Ideas to Power an Inspired Community, will include insights from three guest speakers who will offer creative ideas for use within the Jewish world and beyond. The Federation invites everyone in the community to the event, to be held Thursday, Aug. 30, at the Kelly Strayhorn Theater, 5941 Penn Ave., Pittsburgh 15206 — a venue new for the event. The format, also new this year, will include celebration of community leaders and reports about how the Jewish Federation impacts Jewish Pittsburgh. The presentation portion of the evening will be 7–8 p.m. A dessert reception (dietary laws observed) will follow, 8–9 p.m.

FED Talks guest speakers will be:

- **Eric Fingerhut**, president and CEO, Hillel International, Washington, D.C., who will present “Energizing a Turnaround: Moving From Obsolete to Relevant.”
- **Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin**, community rabbi, educator, author and environmental activist, Baltimore, Md., who will offer “Connecting to the Power of Jewish Hospitality.”
- **Rabbi Jeremy Weisblatt**, Temple Ohav Shalom, Allison Park, Pa., who will share “Jumping the Gap: Reaching Out and Reimagining.”

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Meryl K. Ainsman, chair of the Jewish Federation's Board of Directors, believes that the focus on creative ideas is especially appropriate for the 2018 annual meeting. "As I review the Jewish Federation's activities over the last year, what strikes me are the gains the community has made as the result of data-driven forward thinking. Planning and innovation have resulted in ongoing support of our human services agencies, and we have increased outreach to young adults, enhanced security and nurtured Jewish education. What's more," she continues, "I'm excited about showing how the Jewish Federation has changed itself to be able to sustain innovative initiatives into the future."

At the Aug. 30 event, the community leaders who will be celebrated are:

- **Cynthia D. Shapira**, recipient of the 2018 Emanuel Spector Memorial Award, the highest honor presented by the Jewish Federation. The award recognizes exemplary service to the community.
- **Nancy D. Zions**, recipient of the 2018 Doris & Leonard H. Rudolph Jewish Communal Professional Award. The Rudolph Award recognizes the exceptional personal and professional commitment of a Jewish communal professional employed by the Jewish Federation or one of its partner agencies.

President and CEO of the Jewish Federation, Jeffrey H. Finkelstein, previews some of the highlights of the annual meeting: "This year's annual meeting will show how the Jewish Federation is expanding volunteering, training pro-Israel advocates, meeting the challenge of Jewish cemetery upkeep, strengthening bonds to Israel and creating relationships outside the community. These accomplishments are inspiring."

Guest speaker Eric Fingerhut, president and CEO of Hillel International, has had a multifaceted career in which ideas have been the common denominator. He served as chancellor of Ohio's system of public universities and colleges 2007–11 and corporate vice president of education and STEM Learning at Battelle, the world's largest independent R&D organization. Government service complements his career in education. Mr. Fingerhut was a representative in the U.S. Congress (1993–94) and an Ohio state senator (1997–2006). He holds a juris doctorate from Stanford University. Since becoming the leader of Hillel International in 2013, Mr. Fingerhut has made changes that have helped the organization transform into the world's leading Jewish campus organization.

Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin is a community rabbi, educator, author and environmental activist working in Baltimore, where she is known as the Green Rabbi — a testament to her work in faith-based sustainability. Founder of the Baltimore Orchard Project, an initiative to strengthen food accessibility, she is the past chair of Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake and is helping to draft a state constitutional amendment to protect people's rights to a healthful environment. Rabbi Cardin has served as a lecturer at the Jewish Theological Seminary, New York City, and currently teaches at St. Mary's Ecumenical Institute, Baltimore.

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Rabbi Jeremy Weisblatt of Temple Ohav Shalom, in Allison Park, Pa., has helped to build young-adult and professional engagement, relaunch interfaith programs and re-imagine Jewish experiences. Rabbi Weisblatt has served congregations in Fredericksburg, Va., and Chicago. In New York City, Rabbi Weisblatt attended The Jewish Theological Seminary of America and Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR), from which he was ordained. He is currently in an HUC-JIR doctoral program, where his study focuses on the relationships of Jews to non-Jews as depicted in Jewish tradition.

Admission to FED Talks: Ideas to Power an Inspired Community is \$10 per person when registering online at [jfedpgh.org/annual-meeting](http://jfedpgh.org/annual-meeting). Online registration will be available until noon, Monday, Aug. 27. At the door of the Aug. 30 event, admission cost will be \$20 per person. Additional information and help with online registration are available by calling 412.992.5251.

Sign language interpretation of the proceedings and large-print agendas will be available. The full inclusion of people of all abilities is a core value of the Pittsburgh Jewish community. To discuss disability-related accommodations, call 412.992.5251.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, one of 148 independent Federations associated with The Jewish Federations of North America, raises and allocates funds to build community locally, in Israel and around the world. With the vision of a thriving, vibrant and engaged Jewish community, the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh aims to carry out its work in the context of cooperation and inclusiveness. For more information, visit [jfedpgh.org](http://jfedpgh.org).

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