

US LEADERSHIP BIOGRAPHIES

David Homan, US Executive Director

Since 2006, David Homan has led the America-Israel Cultural Foundation's efforts in the United States. David has implemented a long-term strategy for the success and longevity of AICF and its contribution to Israeli culture, both in Israel and around the world. His knowledge on the success of Israeli artists internationally provides many opportunities to speak on behalf of Israeli culture.

During his tenure at AICF, David has raised millions of dollars to support thousands of new Israeli artists across various fields. David also has created and overseen hundreds of AICF partnership events which introduce young Israeli artists to new audiences. David encourages US donors to share his passion for the importance of AICF in the lives of developing young Israeli artists. A professional composer and pianist, David also spends significant time studying the latest trends of philanthropy in the arts.

William Schwartz, US Chairman (and Israel Board member)

William Schwartz is the former president of the Northeast Group of Builders FirstSource. Now retired, he serves on the Board of Governors of Mannes College of Music and of Merkin Concert Hall, and as a member of the committee for the Elie Wiesel Holocaust Memorial Dinner.

Bill has been honored with the Israel Peace Medal from State of Israel Bonds and an honorary doctorate from the Rabbinical College of America. A passionate supporter of early-career artists, Bill has produced numerous concerts and recordings as the manager of International Performing Artists LLC. He lives in New York with his wife, Janet; they have two sons and five grandchildren.

Joseph Hollander, US President (and Israel Board member)

Joseph Hollander is a technology consultant, who most recently was the Executive Vice President for Infrastructure Services at WPP, where he was responsible for shared technology infrastructure. Joe previously worked as a technology consultant for the WPP media company, GroupM, as CTO for the Interpublic Group, as CIO of the FCB Group, and for 12 years at Merrill Lynch.

Joe is a graduate of Brown University with degrees in Psychology and Music and holds a Masters in Psychology from Rutgers. He is highly active in philanthropic work, having held local and national positions with the Jewish Federation of North America, the Jewish Federation of New Jersey, Brown-RISD Hillel and the America-Israel Cultural Foundation. He lives in Holmdel, NJ with his wife Barbara Levy and is father to Rachel and Alyssa, of New York City.

ISRAEL LEADERSHIP BIOGRAPHIES

Iris Reff-Ronen, Israel Executive Director

Iris Reff-Ronen is an entrepreneur and executive with vast experience in both corporate and non-profit organizations. Iris led the Israeli Choreographers Association, an umbrella organization for contemporary dance artists in Israel. Previously, she served for 15 years as CEO of Unistream, a unique NGO fostering social and business leadership in over 1,600 young adults from Israel's peripheral towns through education, entrepreneurship and innovation.

In the business arena, Iris was acting CFO of the Shilav Group, CFO of a high-tech company and worked in the WZO while living in the US. She is an enthusiastic promoter of the arts in Israel and of youth excellence in Israel's peripheries. Her passion is to generate positive change in the Israeli cultural sphere by harnessing the dynamic talent and potential of young Israeli artists.

Iris holds advanced degrees in business, finance and marketing. She lives in Tel Aviv with her husband, Micha, and her children.

Scott Mortman, Israel Chair (and US Board member)

Scott Mortman is a lawyer and businessperson active in the fields of commercial litigation, international trade, governmental affairs, technology, energy and the environment. Since moving to Israel in 2004, Scott has advised the Israeli Prime Minister's Office, led global business development in several Israeli ventures, and opened and managed the Tel Aviv office of the international law firm, Greenberg Traurig, as a shareholder.

A patron of the arts, Scott believes that Israel's future will be most secure when the strength of Israeli artistry equals that of its army. To this end, Scott helps direct the AICF toward its vital goal of supporting the next generation of outstanding Israeli artists. Scott lives in Tel Aviv with his wife, Hila, and their three children, Ariel, Edan and Daniel.

Kristina Reiko Cooper, Israel Vice-Chair (and US Board member)

Kristina Reiko Cooper is a cello virtuoso who performs regularly as a soloist and chamber musician around the world. Her solo appearances include venues such as Carnegie Hall, The Kennedy Center, Suntory Hall in Tokyo, and Radio France in Paris, with orchestras including the Prague Chamber Orchestra, the Toronto Symphony, the Osaka Symphony and the Tokyo Yomiuri Symphony.

Kristina received her Bachelors, Masters and Doctorate in Musical Arts from the Juilliard School of Music in New York and serves as visiting professor at the Tel Aviv University Buchmann-Mehta School of Music. She established her career as a classical artist, eventually expanding to world music, popular and contemporary music, in which original works have been written for her by prominent composers, such as Phillip Glass and Josef Bardanashvili.

Kristina's most recent solo album is "Around the World With Love", Roven Records, 2016. Kristina plays on the ex-Havemeyer 1743 Guadagnini cello and a 1786 William Forester cello. Originally from New York, Kristina made Aliyah in 2007 and lives in Tel Aviv with her family.