



May 2025

From Rehovot to Minneapolis: Strengthening Connections, Expanding Collaborations

The Partnership's Rehovot steering committee recently returned from a significant visit to Minneapolis, the first visit since October 7. During the joint steering committee meetings, ten projects were approved for the coming year, including several new projects. Future initiatives were also discussed as well as ways to cooperate with other organizations.

The Partnership, which recently celebrated a decade of its activity, is part of the series of partnerships of the Jewish Agency, that connect cities and regional councils in Israel to Jewish communities in North America and beyond. The goal is to deepen the connection between Rehovot and the Jewish community in Minneapolis through meetings, joint projects, and getting to know local life in both communities.

The Partnership is led by a wide ranging steering committee that includes about 40 volunteer members – half from Rehovot and half from Minneapolis – who volunteer

year-round. At the head of the committee are two co-chairmen: Sharon Yaron, director of Beit Dror - the Holocaust Heritage Center in Rehovot, and Gaye Kaplan, a Jewish educator from Minneapolis. Hand in hand with the chairmen, the professional team is led by Amit Yaniv - Zehavi and Brenda Ganot and accompanied by the Rehovot Deputy Mayor, Zohar Bloom.

Within the framework of the Partnership, diverse projects are working, among them: educational cooperation between schools, the Emma Gilbert scholarship project for students, a delegation of IDF reserve soldiers and a reciprocal visit of American veterans, books clubs between synagogues, women's delegations in the framework of the project "Momentum" and more.

During the recent visit to Minneapolis, members of the delegation held joint discussions with their peers, met with leaders and community members, visited synagogues, and were hosted in the homes of local steering committee members – with a desire to deepen personal acquaintances and connections.

Among the future projects chosen were: “Ima & Me” - a program for mothers and daughters before their Bat Mitzvahs, collaboration with the Minneapolis Jewish film festival and “Artivism” a program for artists to combine art and activism highlighting a workshop led by Israeli artist Zeev Engelmayer.

The Rehovot Municipality invites the residents of the city - pupils, students, teenagers, young families and more - to follow the our posts and join the collaborative activities that take place throughout the year.