

# US LEADERSHIP BIOGRAPHIES

---

## **David Homan, 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, 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.

---

## **Josh Tanenbaum, President (and Israel Board member)**

Josh Tanenbaum is a member of Korn Ferry's Global Asset Management & Alternative Investments Practice. Josh specializes in recruiting senior investors, lifting out teams, and assisting asset managers in merging and acquiring firms. Josh is also the Founding Partner of Clearstone Enterprises, a venture investment, design and innovation platform that targets and builds businesses profiting from "giving a voice to the voiceless". He previously founded LOCAL VIBES, a tech-enabled music talent scouting and development platform.

Josh has spoken at forums such as The White House, Nexus Global Youth Summit, as well as judged the President Clinton-backed Hult Prize. He currently serves as Senior Advisor to an emerging markets private equity fund and is a member of the University of Michigan Ross School of Business's Erb Institute External Advisory Board.

In addition to serving as the President of the Board of Directors of the America-Israel Cultural Foundation, Josh also serves as a Trustee of the Polonsky Foundation and Vice Chair of the Council of Young Jewish Presidents. Josh graduated from the University of Melbourne, Australia where he earned a dual B.A. in Sociology and Politics & International Studies.

# ISRAEL LEADERSHIP BIOGRAPHIES

---

## **Iris Reff-Ronen, 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, 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, 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.