

New Israel Fund

(Washington, DC)

Religious Pluralism/Environment/Bedouin

Negev Initiatives

Total Award: \$845,000 over 15 months

To support the Religious Pluralism/Environment/Bedouin Negev Initiatives of the New Israel Fund (NIF) in order to: 1) Promote the development of a pluralistic, tolerant Israeli culture that is inclusive of diverse approaches to Judaism and Jewish identity and establishes a strong Jewish social voice through mobilizing pluralism organizations on behalf of social change; strengthening liberal elements within the Orthodox Jewish community; supporting Israelis seeking to change the legal structure that limits religious freedom; and bringing more immigrants and Mizrahi Jews into the circle of liberal Judaism; 2) Create a sustainable environment and safeguard the public health of all Israeli citizens by promoting environmental justice, with an emphasis on protecting the health of vulnerable populations, safeguarding water and air quality, and creating effective partnerships especially between Jews and Arabs; and 3) Assist the Bedouin citizens of the Negev to achieve their political, economic, social, and cultural rights; marshal public support for their right to participate in determining their community's future; and support the Bedouin to negotiate their basic needs for health, education, and employment.

Jewish Life and Values/Contemplative Practice: *Goal I, Objectives 1,2,3 & 4*

Ruth Cummings Sorensen, James K. Cummings and a staff member have participated on the New Israel Fund Advisory Committee