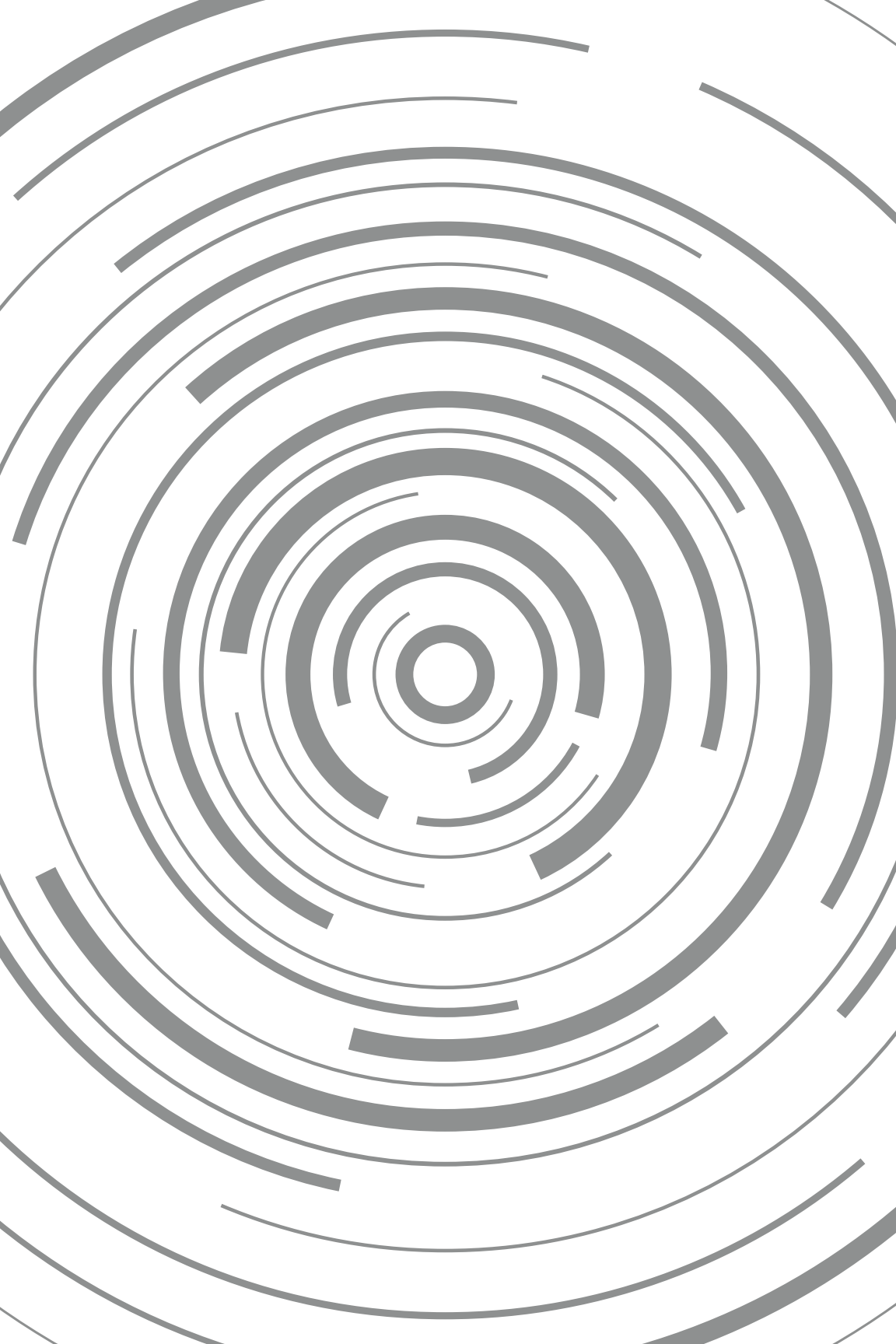




SLINGSHOT

14

15



SLINGSHOT

A RESOURCE GUIDE
FOR JEWISH INNOVATION

The offset quotation marks signify testimonials from *Slingshot* evaluators.

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the tenth annual edition of *Slingshot*, a resource guide featuring Jewish innovations from across North America. If this is your first time seeing this guide, you are in for a refreshing snapshot of Jewish life. This guide highlights projects that identify real needs in the Jewish community and launch creative programs to fill them. Start flipping through, and you will find initiatives that make you eager to run out and get involved.

For new and returning readers alike, we want to acknowledge that this tenth guide is a milestone year for us. Over the years, the *Slingshot* Resource Guide has helped to define what it means for an organization to operate with innovation at its core. Organizations selected for *Slingshot* commit to their missions over their tactics. In other words, they commit to the changes they want to make, not the ways they make those changes. Each organization is steadfast in its commitment to serving a need in the Jewish community, and flexible enough to adapt, creating new ways of operating and discontinuing existing programs that no longer work. On *Slingshot*'s own tenth anniversary, we have made some significant changes in order to better serve our mission and to ensure that our tactics remain relevant:

Unpinning from 50 organizations.

Long-time readers of *Slingshot* may recall that the guide began as a list of the 50 most innovative projects in Jewish life in North America. Today, a list of 50 projects does not adequately reflect the breadth and depth of Jewish innovation, so we have expanded. This year's process to select a list of 82 projects has been more competitive than ever before, as our total number of applicants has dramatically increased, since we began creating this guide.

We put it online.

The book has existed in PDF form for years, but this edition marks the first time we make the experience of reading the guide a virtual one. Please visit our website (www.slingshotfund.org) to learn more.

Some things remain the same – especially our commitment to transparency. You can turn the page to learn how we create *Slingshot* from an open application process to a thorough evaluation. You can also look in the back of

the guide for a list of more than 100 volunteer evaluators whose opinions shape this guide.

We have even added an “audit” step in which we open our data up to seven evaluators and other colleagues for a deeper dive into the selection process. The auditors have signed a letter affirming that the process we publish is the process we use.

We also take steps every year to ensure that the guide serves our target readers and functions as a valuable resource for everyone who picks it up. *Slingshot* exists for its readers – funders of all ages, leaders in Jewish life, and those not engaged with the community at all – to learn about relevant programs that often exist right under their noses. We don’t make Jewish life relevant, we find and share those relevancies with people who have no other way of learning about them.

Ten years ago, the first edition of *Slingshot* pulled together a loose group of social entrepreneurs filling the gaps between North American Jewish organizations and the needs of Jews in North America. Over time, funders and fellowships emerged, professionalizing the community and attracting hundreds of new social entrepreneurs. Slowly, lay and professional leaders began to realize that innovation did not form a separate, competitive sector, but instead offered a distinct way to identify needs and grow programs.

The economic downturn in 2008 provided a major boost to the Jewish innovation space, sending hundreds of organizations scrambling to use innovative techniques to serve the new needs of the Jewish community, often with fewer resources. Today, as the economy recovers and philanthropy surpasses previous highs, organizations have retained their newly acquired innovation IQ to build and scale projects. The result is this year’s *Slingshot*, which mixes

together organizations featured in the original guide ten years ago, newly innovative projects first formed more than 100 years ago, and brand new Jewish social innovations.

Innovation has not emerged as a counterpart to “traditional” Jewish life, but rather as a path forward for every organization seeking to remain relevant in a changing Jewish community.

A special thank you to the organizations featured in this guide. Readers who love *Slingshot* do so because your visions inspire them and prompt an eagerness to learn more about your work. Thank you also to the evaluators, who volunteer countless hours reading applications, providing feedback, and addressing due diligence questions. This guide is truly a resource created for the community, by the community, and we cannot create it without your support.

Thank you also to the readers. Ten years in, we continually aim to provide you with the resources to get involved and become inspired by Jewish life. We look forward to learning what impact *Slingshot* has had on you, and to your continued support of Jewish innovation.

Will Schneider
Executive Director

Julie Finkelstein
Associate Director

Hilary Schumer
Program Manager

METHODOLOGY

112 *Slingshot* Guide evaluators from across the country have reviewed applications from organizations and projects seeking to be listed in *Slingshot* '14-'15. To increase transparency in the selection procedure, we have undertaken the additional responsibility of auditing the process. In exercising this responsibility, we have reviewed quantitative and qualitative evaluation materials in order to ensure that *Slingshot* '14-'15 has been created fairly using the data and stated methodology. Following this review, we unanimously agree that:

1. The organizations selected for *Slingshot* '14-'15 represent the collective views of the evaluator panel and do not reflect the opinions or organizational views of any individual evaluator or his/her place of work.
2. Although the independent assessments of each evaluator are inherently subjective, *Slingshot* '14-'15 organizations have been selected through a rigorous process that makes every effort to fairly represent the most innovative projects in North American Jewish life today, given the wide-reaching set of nominations that *Slingshot* has received.
3. The process used to create *Slingshot* '14-'15 endeavors to assure all readers that no bias exists in the creation of this guide.

Sara Adland
Slingshot Board Member

Karyn Cohen Leviton
Jacobson Family Foundation

Jackie Fishman
The Natan Fund

Tova Katz
Jacobson Family Foundation

Rabbi Lee Moore
Lippman Kanfer Foundation for Living Torah

Daniel Sperling
The Marcus Foundation

Rachel Zamoiski
Slingshot Board Member

STEP 1 NOMINATIONS

November 2013

January 2014

We encourage everyone to apply or nominate the organizations and projects that inspire them, and to share how they best reflect our

FOUR CRITERIA:



INNOVATION



IMPACT



STRONG LEADERSHIP



ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

EVALUATORS EXPLORE:

Innovation: Does the organization take a creative, inventive, pioneering, or ground-breaking approach?

Impact: Does the organization affect the attitudes and behaviors of the Jewish community?

Strong Leadership: Is the organization a model for the field? Does it collaborate or partner strategically with others?

Organizational Effectiveness: Is the organization strategic in the way it does business?



STEP 4 PROFILES

May 2014

July 2014

Each profile summarizes the organization's mission, impact, and innovations. Slingshot staff seeks to capture the unique character of each organization by including unattributed comments from evaluators.

STEP 2 EVALUATION

February - March 2014

At least four evaluators read each application, including one evaluator who is familiar with the organization and one with no prior knowledge. The mix of the insider's point of view with a first-timer's opinion gives a well-balanced final picture.



250+
Applications

112
Evaluators

Grant-making professionals, Federation executives, and Jewish community consultants

STEP 3 DUE DILIGENCE

April 2014

Staff members condense the evaluation for each organization into a one-page summary – which is reviewed for accuracy – and choose approximately 100 semi-finalists. After carefully reviewing budgets, calling references, re-reading applications, and striving to represent the breadth of diversity in the Jewish innovation space, the Slingshot staff arrives at the final list of 82 organizations.

Questions about the process?

Visit www.slingshotfund.org/methodology

THE CONTINUUM OF CHANGE

Advancing Women Professionals and the Jewish Community (AWP) has played a critical role in closing the gender gap in the Jewish community. From its early research uncovering the deep-rooted bias in the system through its series of successful experiments intended both to change institutional policies and support individual leaders, AWP's persistent and strategic leadership has made a measurable impact on the Jewish landscape.

We have featured AWP in *Slingshot* for ten consecutive years because we consider it one of the most comprehensive approaches to systemic change in the Jewish world. This year, in anticipation of AWP's planned closing, we invited them to write the opening essay of this 10th anniversary edition in order to celebrate their contributions, learn from their experiences, and inspire new thinking. Read on to learn more.

Over the past thirteen years, AWP has experimented with different strategies to integrate gender equity into the fabric of Jewish life. The most radical – and we hope the most transformative – has been our decision to close as a formal organization in 2015 in order to shift the responsibility for carrying on the work of gender equity to our growing network. We believe that this new leadership model inspires bold thinking, stimulates effective action, and broadens support for women's advancement. It's not an exit strategy; it's an exist strategy – and the key to enduring, systemic change.

We knew early on that our success depended on our ability to move people and organizations along the continuum of change, from awareness to caring to action. To spur this progression and encourage ownership, we embedded “action” into every initiative, from the Op-Ed Project to Action Learning Teams, from Men as Allies to Better Work Better Life. In each case, we asked people to act on their values. Their cumulative actions set into motion a cycle of positive change.

Today's environment invites a deeper and broader commitment to shared leadership and equity. With fresh eyes and a readiness to take action, leaders in our network have already begun to use gender as a lens and laboratory for the next phase of change. As we look ahead, we reflect on what our story reveals about the mechanisms of effective action, and we find meaning in exploring these ideas with the *Slingshot* community of change makers with whom we share a commitment to innovation and impact. Here's our story. We hope it helps to illuminate the path forward.

We started by creating awareness.

Women have always been the “no problem/problem” in the Jewish community. When we set out, we confronted an overwhelming complacency about the significant gender gap in leadership. Our first task was to reveal the community's deep bias about women's leadership, rooted in cultural stereotypes and sustained by a dominant old boys' network, inflexible work-life policies, and limited professional development opportunities.

Through a wide-ranging set of conversations, workshops, action-research projects, and public

presentations, we engaged hundreds of stakeholders from volunteer leaders, board members and funders, to CEOs, mid-level professionals, and entry-level staff. This work developed a shared understanding of the complexity of the challenge. By revealing the problem, we stimulated a new awareness of the need for change on every level.

We knew change would only happen if people cared enough to make change.

One of the revolutionary aspects of our approach was a refusal to play the role of the expert who explained to people how to “add women and stir.” Instead, we insisted that organizational leaders and their teams work alongside us to create solutions. Through this approach, we sought to create the conditions that allowed people to invest more deeply in the outcomes – to care more.

Encouraging CEOs, funders, and board members to care was not easy, especially since “caring” often required organizational leaders to contemplate a major overhaul of existing practices. Our strategy focused on how changes that benefited women also strengthened the organization and the community. By persisting in connecting the issues that mattered to organizational leaders, such as effectiveness and excellence, with our agenda of advancing women, we succeeded in stimulating a commitment to both.

While we did not succeed in every project, nor did we persuade every person to take up the charge, we did make connections everywhere, at every level. Over the years, we offered support and encouragement to our growing cadre of allies. They, in turn, continued to deepen their commitments to gender equity and to work on dismantling bias and advancing women in their respective spheres of influence.

We spurred people to take action and women to lead.

Working with a wide range of individuals and organizations, we created initiatives that required taking specific action. Often, we asked people to announce their commitments publicly as a way to build momentum and inspire others to participate. We asked men to refrain from speaking on all-male panels, and CEOs to change their work-life policies on parental leave and formal flexibility. We asked

event organizers to showcase women, and search committees to create unbiased selection criteria and expand the diversity of the talent pool. We asked senior managers to act on gender pay disparities. And we asked women to lead. AWP helped individual women advance by promoting and mentoring them, expanding opportunities for visibility in prominent venues, creating peer networks, and influencing executive search processes.

Women, in every sphere, seized the opportunity. They built new spiritual communities, took on prominent roles as heads of Jewish social justice organizations, became editors-in-chief of national publications, took the helm as CEOs of foundations, JCCs, and social service agencies, launched start-ups, and stepped up to become senior rabbis of large congregations. Women shattered glass ceilings at large city Federations as well as in the Orthodox world, where the first rabba founded a new seminary to ordain women.

Women have changed the face of leadership in Jewish life. We find no better evidence of this sea change than in the ten years of *Slingshot* guides, where women lead almost two-thirds of the organizations and initiatives celebrated for innovation, strong leadership, effectiveness, and impact.

We begin again in a new place.

As more women – and the next generation of men – step into leadership in this new landscape, the focus shifts from access to impact. Women and men actively ask how to redefine leadership and create healthy workplaces. As they move along the continuum of change, from awareness to caring to action, they see possibilities and discover new paths. They root the change that we seeded.

This is sustained impact.

Shifra Bronznick

Hillary Leone

Didi Goldenhar

The AWP Team

TEN-TIMERS

To celebrate the milestone of *Slingshot's* tenth anniversary, we have taken the opportunity to learn from the experiences of those organizations that have been highlighted in *Slingshot* ten years in a row. We have asked the directors of these organizations about their perspectives on the evolution of the Jewish innovation space and what it has meant for their organizations' growth. They have revealed what challenges and excites them, and we share their responses here in order to inspire other organizations that look to grow and remain relevant to today's Jewish community.

Read on to see the lessons they have learned about the Jewish innovation space in the past decade, what advice they would share with others, and what they anticipate for the next ten years of Jewish innovation.

1. Innovation isn't Just about Startups, It's about Being Relevant

The work of all the amazing projects in the Jewish innovation space has done a great deal to dispel the myth that innovation can only happen at startups and new organizations. As **Nigel Savage of Hazon** puts it, "The innovation space ten years ago somehow thought it was separate from mainstream Jewish life. I don't think that's so today – either in reality or in perception. Those of us who are seeking to renew and strengthen Jewish life can be found in organizations founded ten minutes ago and a hundred years ago and everything in between."

"Over the past ten years, a segment of the Jewish [community] has been working to reclaim the heart of Jewish life," says **Melissa Balaban of IKAR**. "These organizations have been focused on catalyzing imaginative thinking in the Jewish community and

experimenting with new models of communal encounter that are designed to speak to a dynamic and diverse community, particularly appealing to previously disaffected and disinterested Jews."

The ten-timers stress that this type of innovation lies within everyone's grasp: "I have learned that at its core, innovation is not some mysterious, holy grail to be found," says **Carrie Bornstein of Mayyim Hayyim**. "Innovation is simply about paying attention to real needs, listening deeply to those with opinions, and bringing people together to make a change." All Jewish organizations, startup and establishment alike, can create cultures of innovation that allow them to do more effective and impactful work.

Jodi Bromberg and Ed Case of InterfaithFamily add, "We've learned over the past ten years that there are basic 'truths' that apply as much in the innovation space as everywhere else – listen to your audience, respond to audience demand, take risks and learn from mistakes, partner to accomplish more." As all Jewish communal organizations seek to become more nimble and innovative, these truths continue to guide organizations new and old.

2. Collaboration is Key

As more organizations join the innovation space, collaboration must trump competition to ensure continued success. **Stosh Cotler of Bend the Arc** emphasizes the importance of "the incredible interdependence that we share with one another. There is stronger recognition that we are so much better together – it's why so many of us have very strong relationships and strong affinities with one another's work."

The future of the Jewish innovation space continues to flourish on a foundation of collaboration and partnerships. Jodi Bromberg and Ed Case predict, "What is next for the Jewish innovation space is [even] more collaboration, more partnerships, more opportunities for cross-organizational and trans-organizational programming and thinking."

However, organizations must also remain true to their missions and cultures. This is particularly relevant today as "the Jewish innovation landscape is highly specialized, with organizations working to meet very

specific needs,” says Carrie Bornstein. “Mayyim Hayyim’s expertise is very different from Footsteps’, which is very different from G-dcast. This means we can all focus on what we do best – and in the process, the Jewish community will be better off because of our individual success.”

3. Having the Right People Makes It All Possible

Having the right intention is not enough – organizations have learned that the people they surround themselves with can make or break an innovative dream. “People matter, and it’s vital to get great people on the bus, both as staff and lay leaders,” says Nigel Savage. Jodi Bromberg and Ed Case add, “You can do so much more with excellent, carefully hired staff.” The ten-timers recommend finding creative individuals from diverse backgrounds who are able to bring new perspectives, skills, and networks to an organization. Creating a talented team of flexible collaborators is worth the time and effort, and can take an organization to the next level.

Also, consider the importance of the peers and colleagues you seek out from other organizations. Melissa Balaban reports that she is “thrilled that we have so many peers and partners with whom we can collaborate and leaders from whom we can learn and draw inspiration.”

4. Exciting Ideas Come from Experimentation

Taking risks goes hand in hand with creating lasting change, and the ten-timers look forward to seeing what ideas and innovations these risks uncover. As Melissa Balaban says, “The drive to innovate and experiment should not be curtailed by a fear of failure, but rather animated by inspiration. Some of IKAR’s most important achievements were the direct results of complete missteps and the important lessons we learned as a result.”

But these leaders remind us not to seek innovation for innovation’s sake; instead, use innovation to create positive, meaningful change in Jewish life. As Nigel Savage sees it, “The key question is not about the Jewish innovation space; it’s about the Jewish community.” He hopes new innovations coincide with “Jewish life [that] will be more vibrant, more passionate, more grounded, and more open.”

5. The Challenges of Transitioning from Startup to Sustainability

As innovation continues to spark new ideas and projects, Nigel Savage believes that “the single greatest challenge for all of the good young organizations is to build general operating support, and to start to build reserves. As a community, there needs to be a more substantial shift in asset allocation to enable organizations to do this.”

“Over the past ten years, some of the organizations that were very new and very small and innovative have become much larger [innovative organizations],” share Jodi Bromberg and Ed Case. “These second-stage organizations need larger amounts of general operating support. Fortunately, some funders of innovation are rising to that challenge with that kind of second-stage funding.”

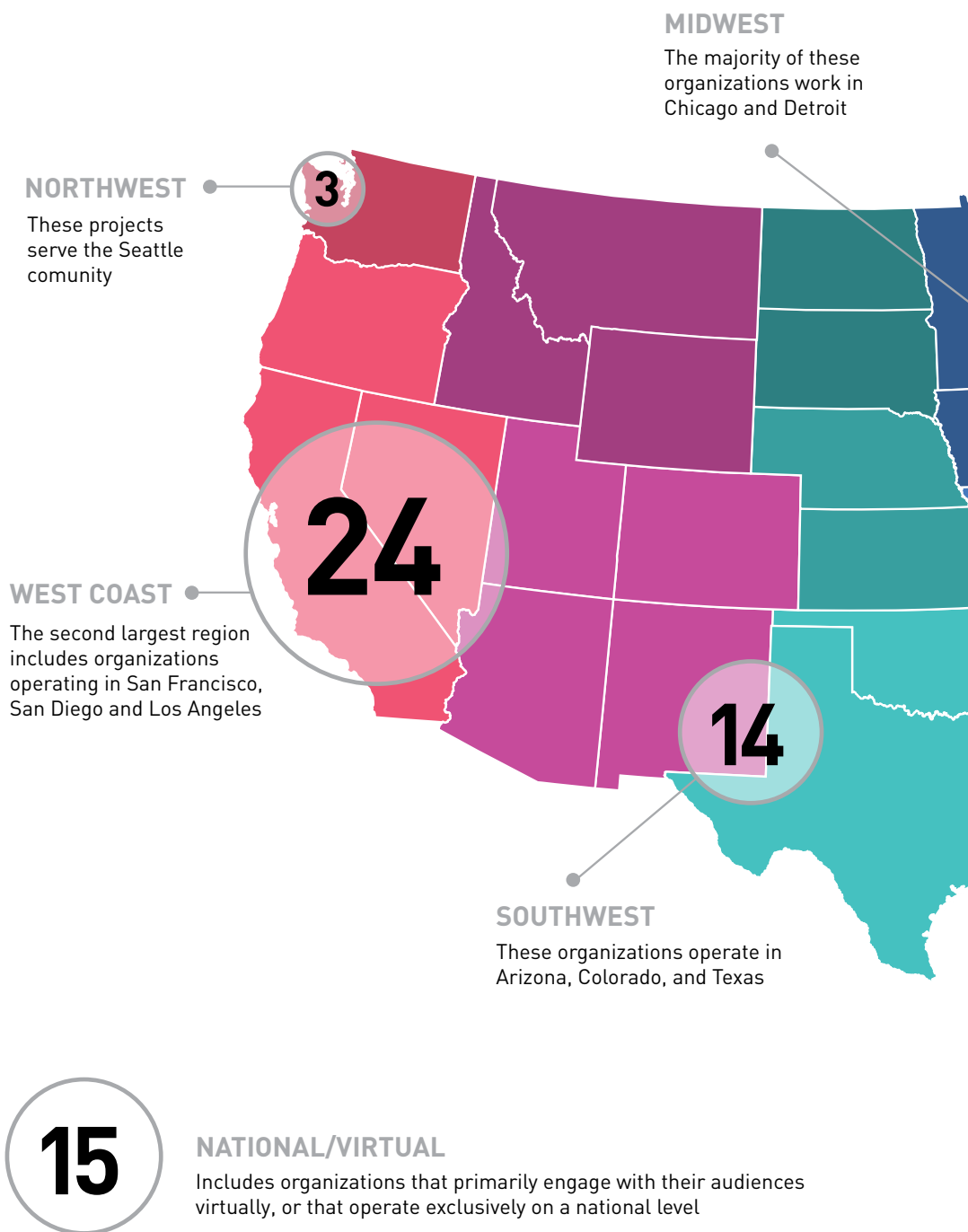
Stosh Cotler agrees: “Some organizations that started and demonstrated a lot of promise have gone, and I think that we need to ask ourselves as a community why that happens – one challenge that many of us in the field talk about is that there is much more funding for startups and for the new and exciting, and much less funding for ongoing technical assistance and support.”

These issues of long-term support do not apply exclusively to startups. Melissa Balaban shares, “All of us in the innovation sector face the challenge of continuing to entice funders to support our growth, innovation, and infrastructure when they tend to be mostly interested in startups and specific first-time projects instead of sustainable second-phase growth.”

What’s next?

As the Jewish innovation space continues to grow at an ever-faster pace, attention to sustainability, experimentation, and cultivating the talent to execute visions remain the keys to continued innovation in Jewish life. “I hope we stay nimble, adapting to focus on what can be, rather than blindly perpetuating that which has been successful in the past,” says Carrie Bornstein. “If we can do this, in ten years, there’s no telling how far we will go.”

SLINGSHOT '14-'15 ORGANIZATIONS BY REGION



CANADA

The Canadian organizations serve the Toronto and Montreal communities

4

NEW ENGLAND

12 organizations work in Boston, and 2 operate in Connecticut

14

NORTHEAST

About 50% of organizations in *Slingshot* work in communities throughout NY, NJ and Philadelphia

31

15

MID-ATLANTIC

These projects serve the Baltimore and DC communities

11

SOUTHEAST

Most organizations serving in the South work in Miami and Atlanta

18

BOOKMARKS

The Slingshot Guide is so much more than a book — it is a resource to help you make a positive impact in the Jewish community. Use these bookmarks on the adjacent page to remind yourself of organizations you want to join, support, or mention to a friend.



Amplifier is a global network of giving circles motivated by Jewish values and inspired by changemakers who are making a difference around the world. It catalyzes the creation of new giving circles, connects giving circles to each other and to grantseekers, and educates circle members on best practices in philanthropy. Amplifier empowers thousands of people of all ages and giving levels to amplify the impact of their giving. Reach out to Hello@AmplifierGiving.org to learn more about the potential of giving circles.

Love supporting *Slingshot* organizations? Amplify the impact of your giving by joining or starting a giving circle. Everything you need is at AmplifierGiving.org!

Does your organization want to apply for funding from Jewish giving circles? Check out Amplifier's Organization Directory and fill out a Common Grant Application at AmplifierGiving.org.



Jewish Communal Fund (JCF) is proud to co-sponsor the *Slingshot* Guide. We support educational initiatives aimed at fostering innovation in Jewish life. As the largest and most active Jewish donor advised fund in the country, JCF provides high impact philanthropic resources and educational opportunities to our more than 4,000 donors. Find out how we can help streamline your charitable giving and maximize your tax savings by visiting www.jcfny.org.

Download the JCF/*Slingshot* Guide to Funding Jewish Innovation at: www.jcfny.org/innovation.

TOP 82 FAST FACTS

Average Founding Year:

2006

Oldest Organizations:

Bend the Arc: A Jewish Partnership for Justice
(1984)

Jews for Racial and Economic Justice
(1990)

Newest Organizations (2013):

Asylum Arts
JScreen
RespectAbilityUSA
STORAHTELLING: LAB/SHUL
The Sefaria Project

**Number of organizations
profiled for the first time:**

29 (35%)

Average Budget:

\$944,363

**Number of projects of
larger organizations listed:**

42

Oldest host organizations:

Emory University (1836)
parent organization of JScreen
Congregation Temple Israel (1854)
parent organization of the TI Fellowship
Adas Israel (1869)
parent organization of Jewish Mindfulness
Center of Washington @ Adas Israel
Congregation Shearith Israel (1884)
parent organization of Makom

Projects hosted by...

Jewish Federations	2
Jewish Community Centers	3
Synagogues	5
Non-Jewish Organizations	5

Organizations led by Rabbis:

19%

Organizations led by Women:

62%

**Number of organizations and their leaders
receiving professional development from...**

Bikkurim	9
Joshua Venture Group	12
PresenTense	4
ROI Community	19
Selah/Rockwood	19
UpStart	9
Wexner Graduate	23
Fellowship/Heritage Program	

TABLE OF CONTENTS

01	A Wider Bridge
02	The Altamont Bakery
03	Amir
04	Asylum Arts
05	AVODAH: The Jewish Service Corps
06	Beit T'Shuvah: Youth Services
07	Bend the Arc: A Jewish Partnership for Justice
08	Challah for Hunger
09	City Harvest's Kosher Initiative
10	The David Project
11	Eden Village Camp
12	Encounter
13	Eshel, Inc.
14	Footsteps
15	G-dcast
16	Gateways: Access to Jewish Education
17	GLOE- Kurlander Program for GLBT Outreach & Engagement
18	Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life
19	Haggadot.com / Custom & Craft
20	Hazon
21	HEKDESH
22	The iCenter
23	iEngage - The Engaging Israel Project
24	IKAR
25	Innovation: Africa
26	InterfaithFamily
27	J'Burgh
28	JCHAI Transitions
29	Jewish Disaster Response Corps
30	The Jewish Journey Project
31	Jewish Kids Groups
32	Jewish Learning Venture
33	Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington @ Adas Israel
34	Jewish New Teacher Project
35	Jewish Renaissance Project at Penn Hillel
36	Jewish Student Connection
37	Jewish Without Walls (JWOW)
38	Jewish World Watch
39	Jews for Racial & Economic Justice
40	JLens Investor Network
41	JOIN for Justice

- 42** JScreen
- 43** The Kavana Cooperative
- 44** Keshet
- 45** Kevah
- 46** The Kitchen
- 47** LABA: A Laboratory for Jewish Culture
- 48** LE MOOD
- 49** Makom
- 50** Matan
- 51** Mayyim Hayyim Living Waters Community Mikveh
- 52** MazelTot.org
- 53** The Miracle Project Judaica
- 54** Mishkan Chicago
- 55** Moishe House
- 56** Moving Traditions
- 57** MyJewishLearning, Inc.
- 58** NewGround: A Muslim-Jewish Partnership for Change
- 59** Online Jewish Academy
- 60** Opening the Doors
- 61** ORA: Organization for the Resolution of Agunot
- 62** OurJewishCommunity.org
- 63** The Pearlstone Center
- 64** RespectAbilityUSA
- 65** Righteous Conversations Project
- 66** Ritualwell
- 67** The Sefaria Project
- 68** Shabbat Tent
- 69** Sharsheret: Your Jewish Community Facing Breast Cancer
- 70** Shores Jewish Environmental Programs
- 71** Silverlake Independent Jewish Community Center (SIJCC)
- 72** Sixth & I Historic Synagogue
- 73** SOJOURN: Southern Jewish Resource Network for Gender and Sexual Diversity
- 74** Storahtelling: Lab/Shul
- 75** Sunflower Bakery
- 76** T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights
- 77** TAMID Israel Investment Group
- 78** Tarbuton
- 79** TI Fellowship
- 80** Urban Adamah
- 81** Wilderness Torah
- 82** Yeshivat Maharat



A Wider Bridge

Building bridges between Israelis and LGBTQ North Americans and allies.

contact

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phone

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website

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2912 Diamond Street
#348
San Francisco, CA 94131

year founded

2010

board chair(s)

Dylan Tatz

2014 expenses

\$357,525

A Wider Bridge aims to build personal connections between lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) Jews and Israel. The North American Jewish community finds engagement with Israel increasingly complex, especially among LGBTQ Jews who regularly find themselves on the fringes of Jewish life. By providing participants with opportunities to form strong bonds with LGBTQ Israelis and to experience Israel first hand, A Wider Bridge ensures that North American LGBTQ Jews develop stronger Jewish identities and deep personal stakes in Israel's future.

A Wider Bridge's programs provide a range of opportunities that allow participants to develop meaningful connections with Israel and with LGBTQ Israelis. In Israel, A Wider Bridge runs an annual trip that allows LGBTQ North Americans to experience Israeli LGBTQ society and broaden their perspectives on Israel. Across North America, nearly 4,000 people have attended events this year, ranging from programs featuring LGBTQ Israeli leaders and artists of all kinds, to Israeli LGBTQ film and TV series screenings at universities for Jewish and LGBTQ campus groups. A Wider Bridge also publishes a daily news and culture magazine, exposing its 7,000 regular readers to stories that explore the intersection of Jewish and LGBTQ life in Israel and North America. A Wider Bridge often provides the only pro-Israel voice at the LGBTQ table and the only LGBTQ voice in the pro-Israel arena. Its work in these intersecting communities changes the conversation across the Jewish, pro-Israel, and LGBTQ worlds.

“ A Wider Bridge's voice is unique – creating connections with LGBT Israeli culture to reach often unengaged Jews here in North America.



The Altamont Bakery

Bringing together people with mental illnesses and synagogue volunteers to create an exceptional line of artisanal cookies in a supportive, strengthening work environment.

contact

Rabbi Marc Boone Fitzerman

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marboofitz@bnaiemunah.com

phone

918.583.7121

website

www.altamontbakery.com

twitter

@altamontbakery

address

1719 South Owasso Avenue
Tulsa, OK 74120

year founded

2011

board chair(s)

Jolene Sanditen-Stephens

2014 expenses

\$50,000

project of:

Congregation B'nai Emunah

parent org founded

1916

The Altamont Bakery offers a prime example of how a synagogue can use its facilities and human resources to create an initiative that benefits the community while providing meaningful engagement opportunities for congregants. Congregation B'nai Emunah, in partnership with the Mental Health Association in Tulsa, OK, operates the bakery as a unique Jewish response to the challenge of finding stable employment for intermittently homeless and mentally ill adults by providing this at-risk population with employment experience. In addition to supporting the individuals it serves, Altamont Bakery also educates the community; volunteers from the synagogue explore the Jewish values that inform the bakery's mission and learn to value the importance of all people in society.

“Altamont Bakery combines breaking down the stigma of mental illness with engaging Jews in powerful, positive social enterprise.

Altamont Bakery describes itself as a “self-sustaining pro-social business.” The bakery operates two days a week out of the synagogue kitchen and produces up to 12,000 cookies a month for sale in the community. Proceeds from the sales of its award-winning cookies go directly to employees; the synagogue does not make any money from this venture and contributes volunteer leadership, kitchen facilities, and delivery services. This type of collaborative endeavor serves as a model for successful partnerships between religious institutions and government agencies, and shows how the repurposing of synagogue assets can impact an entire community.

Amir

Scaling garden and farm education to Jewish summer camps in order to inspire and empower youth to serve others.

contact

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415.758.2647

website

www.amirproject.org

twitter

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address

510 3rd Street

Suite 102

Oakland, CA 94607

year founded

2010

board chair(s)

Yan Digilov

2014 expenses

\$253,776

There are more than 160 residential Jewish summer camps in North America, many of which seek to infuse environmental education into daily activities. Amir recruits and trains Jewish young adults to lead Amir Garden projects at these camps, expanding the educational capacity of Jewish summer camps by providing new outlets for building Jewish identity. Amir Gardens inspire kids by showing them firsthand where their food comes from and giving them the chance to be a part of the growing process for the first time. Amir offers a comprehensive and personalized approach to each camp, allowing partner camps to develop sustainable garden programs that enable campers and staff to engage in Jewish living through a new social action lens.

“ Amir provides an invaluable service to the Jewish community, training young people as farmers and providing kids with hands-on Jewish experience outdoors.

Amir Farmers receive training in how to design, build, and nurture large-scale organic gardens, and how to infuse that gardening experience with Jewish values. During the summer of 2014, Amir Farmers worked in 23 camps, providing over 2,000 children with the opportunity to learn about the intersection of Judaism and environmental values. Amir has created such a strong impact, the organization now signs camps to multi-year contracts in order to build long-term relationships. In the coming year, Amir plans to continue growing its summer programs, while also piloting year-round programming with three different institutions to help engage even more Jewish youth through gardening.



amirproject.org



@amirproject



Asylum Arts

A global network of Jewish artists that increases exposure of cultural initiatives, provides opportunities for new projects and collaborations, and elevates the level of excellence and artistic activity.

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year founded

2013

board chair(s)

n/a

2014 expenses

\$544,750

While cultural experiences provide a primary method for many people to tap into Jewish life, the creators of Jewish culture themselves often lack a sense of belonging within the Jewish community. Asylum Arts connects artists with Jewish life through its global network and supports them in ways that lead to a richer and more accessible Jewish life for all. Through its annual retreat, Asylum's young artists from across the globe connect with one another, build skills to advance their careers, and explore and deepen their links to Jewish ideas and community.

Asylum's International Jewish Artist Retreat in 2014 was host to 75 visual artists, playwrights, choreographers, musicians, composers, photographers, filmmakers, screenwriters, poets, and writers – diverse participants not only in their artistic pursuits, but also in their gender, racial backgrounds, and Jewish affiliations. Russian-speaking Jews and Israelis living outside of Israel make up nearly a third of this year's retreat participants, an exciting fact, as these populations often remain on the margins of Jewish involvement. Since Asylum's inception, many participants have developed communities of practice with other Jewish artists in their hometowns or launched artistic collaborations with other retreat attendees. In a time when funding and support for artists and Jewish cultural pursuits has diminished within the Jewish community, Asylum plays a vital role in filling this gap and ensuring a vibrant contemporary culture for the Jewish community today and in the future.

“ The next wave of Jewish culture will be shaped by Asylum's artists, who now have a more meaningful connection to Jewish life.



AVODAH: The Jewish Service Corps

Strengthening the Jewish community's fight against poverty in the US by training and supporting young Jewish adults to become lifelong leaders for social change.

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45 West 36th Street
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New York, NY 10018

year founded

1998

board chair(s)

Steven Dow

2014 expenses

\$2,640,500

AVODAH: The Jewish Service Corps builds and supports a generation of Jewish leaders committed to addressing the causes and effects of poverty in the United States. While the Jewish community remains thoughtfully committed to social justice, few Jewish outlets exist for young adults to make hands-on change. Through AVODAH, participants tap into their passion for service and gain the skills, knowledge, and networks necessary to make an impact, all while deepening their connections with Judaism.

“ AVODAH keeps reinventing to reach a new segment of young Jewish professionals and support individuals interested in social justice and antipoverty work.

The Service Corps offers a yearlong program for recent college graduates in Chicago, New Orleans, New York, and Washington, DC. Participants, who come from a wide variety of Jewish backgrounds, work full time at antipoverty organizations, live communally, and receive extensive leadership training. Since 2013, a new non-residential fellowship for early career antipoverty professionals has also developed in New York, providing mentorship and networking opportunities to help fellows work more effectively. While creating a network of leaders, AVODAH participants have added over \$11.5 million in capacity to antipoverty organizations in the US, providing services to more than 420,000 people in need. AVODAH strengthens connections with Jewish life and has launched the careers of many alumni, who, as social change leaders, can have far-reaching impacts on the Jewish community and, ultimately, on the alleviation of poverty in the US.



Beit T'Shuvah: Youth Services

Providing young people with spiritual tools to cope with daily stress and anxiety, guiding them towards positive choices and away from drugs, alcohol, and other self-destructive behaviors.

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address

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year founded

2005

board chair(s)

Dr. Bill Resnick

2014 expenses

\$282,436

project of:

Beit T'Shuvah

parent org founded

1986

Substance abuse, eating disorders, and unsafe sex are often taboo topics in the Jewish community. The fact is, however, that Jewish youth are at risk. Drawing on more than 25 years of experience working with Jewish addicts and alcoholics, the professionals at Beit T'Shuvah, a Jewish rehabilitation center and community support network in Los Angeles, ask a simple question: if Jewish frameworks can help individuals recover from self-destructive behaviors, why can't those same frameworks prevent negative behaviors too? Through Jewish learning and spirituality, Beit T'Shuvah's Youth Services helps Jewish teens find self-acceptance and self-worth that ultimately prevent a myriad of irresponsible behaviors.

Led by teams of Jewish educators, mental health professionals, and recovering addicts, Beit T'Shuvah's Partners in Prevention (PIP) curriculum focuses on giving teens the tools to make positive choices and the confidence to avoid risky pitfalls in everyday life. Synagogues and day schools host the program throughout the Los Angeles area and across the country, and its flexible curriculum can meet the differing needs of each community. Unlike the scare tactics used by the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) model, PIP focuses on strengthening family and religious connections, and reducing stress among teens, an approach that has been nationally validated by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA). In the past ten years, PIP has helped more than 30,000 youth make informed choices in life, nearly 3,000 in the past year alone.

“Addiction in the Jewish community is often misunderstood and denied, but Beit T'Shuvah delivers quality programs within the Jewish community to bring awareness to this issue.



Bend the Arc: A Jewish Partnership for Justice

Building the power and passion of the progressive Jewish movement in America by bringing together Jews from across the country to advocate and organize for a more just and equal society.

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Suite 1900

New York, NY 10001

year founded

1984

board chair(s)

Steve Rhode

2014 expenses

\$4,386,682

Inspired by the belief that Jewish Americans are compelled to pursue justice and create a more just America for all, Bend the Arc: A Jewish Partnership for Justice, mobilizes progressive Jews to take action on today's most pressing domestic issues. By continuing the legacy of Jewish activism in American history, Bend the Arc leads a national effort to make Jewish social justice engagement a defining characteristic of what it means to be Jewish in America today.

“ Bend the Arc has a significant voice for social justice that fills a necessary space in the Jewish world.

Through online campaigns, educational events, and on-the-ground advocacy, Bend the Arc rallies the Jewish community around causes such as immigration reform, marriage equality, progressive tax reform, and voting rights. Bend the Arc's efforts have changed federal labor rules to ensure that domestic workers receive pay for all hours worked, and the organization has also helped to pass legislation to create the Domestic Worker Bill of Rights in California. On the local level, Bend the Arc has created chapters in cities like Denver, CO and Raleigh-Durham, NC in order to build communities ready to advocate on statewide issues. Online, Bend the Arc has launched EntryDenied.org, where visitors can take a quiz to see what their own immigrant ancestors would face if they tried to immigrate to the US today. Through its prestigious leadership fellowships, Bend the Arc also networks and trains community organizers and advocates within the Jewish and progressive communities to become highly effective change agents within their communities. Bend the Arc provides the leading progressive Jewish voice on a myriad of domestic issues, and its multi-pronged approach, in partnership with other faith-based and community organizations, makes a real difference.

Challah For Hunger

Bringing people together to bake and sell challah in order to raise money and awareness for social justice causes.

contact

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twitter

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address

2121 Market Street
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Philadelphia, PA 19103

year founded

2004

board chair(s)

Kate Forester

2014 expenses

\$297,895

It's a simple recipe: get together with friends on campus, bake and sell challah, and donate the proceeds to a meaningful cause. Through Challah for Hunger (CfH), thousands of student volunteers gather to continue the centuries-old tradition of baking challah and engaging in social justice work. Launched in 2004 as a small initiative on one college campus, today, leaders at CfH's 68 university chapters worldwide provide fellow students with low-barrier-to-entry service opportunities that deepen their connections with the Jewish community. Because of CfH, 69% of participants have increased their involvement in Jewish life on campus, and 74% plan to seek out Jewish opportunities after graduation.

“Engaging thousands of college students and young adults is not an easy task. Doing it with limited resources is even harder – and incredibly impressive.

Students meet weekly, baking and selling dozens (and in some cases, hundreds) of loaves of delicious challah. Each chapter donates 50% of its profits to Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger and the remaining 50% to local organizations of its choosing, which opens the door to community-wide conversations about philanthropy among students and local nonprofit leaders. In the 2013-2014 school year, students have baked 47,000 loaves of challah and donated over \$200,000. CfH empowers each chapter to build a program that meets the needs of its own campus, while receiving support, materials, and training from CfH's national office and alumni advisors. While CfH continues to engage thousands of college students, it plans to celebrate its tenth anniversary by developing a CfH alumni network, aimed at helping young adults continue the CfH experience.

City Harvest's Kosher Initiative

Rescuing nutritious food that would otherwise go to waste to help feed New York's hungry kosher observers.

contact

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address

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5th Floor
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year founded

2002

board chair(s)

James D. Kallman

2014 expenses

\$930,000

project of:

City Harvest

parent org founded

1982

With over three billion people in the world living on less than \$2.50 a day, many Americans may view poverty and hunger as unsolvable, untouchable problems. Jewish tradition includes an obligation to feed the hungry, and while many people donate money and food, they may not realize the large number of Jews who do not have enough food to eat. City Harvest has created its Kosher Initiative to respond to the fact that 330,000 Jews live below the poverty line in the New York City area alone. Based on the notion that good food should not go to waste while people remain hungry, City Harvest has developed an incredibly effective strategy for fighting hunger on a local level.

The City Harvest Kosher Initiative has rescued 3 million pounds of kosher food in the past year, including at least 1.8 million pounds of fresh produce, delivering it to a network of 30 kosher emergency feeding programs. Limited budgets mean that kosher soup kitchens and food pantries must often rely on canned and starch-heavy foods; City Harvest's emphasis on fresh produce ensures that low-income Jews not only maintain their kosher diets, but do so healthfully. By working to rescue food from restaurants, grocery stores, wholesalers, and farmers, and to deliver it free of charge to emergency food programs in New York City, City Harvest demonstrates the ways that a small non-profit can impact a global issue.

“ It is innovative that a major non-sectarian organization has made an explicit commitment to serving Jews, developed cultural competency, and [is] doing all of this with little funding or encouragement from the Jewish community.



cityharvest.org



[@cityharvest](https://twitter.com/cityharvest)



The David Project

Helping college students use their own voices, points-of-view, and experiences to positively shape campus opinion on Israel.

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address

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year founded

2002

board chair(s)

Seth A. Klarman
Grace Zimmerman

2014 expenses

\$2,860,142

The David Project has reinvented itself, transforming from an advocacy-based organization to one that works to change the conversation about Israel on college campuses. By deeply engaging with a limited number of schools, called “core campuses,” The David Project prioritizes meaningful dialogue and relationship building over talking points, attendance numbers, or petition signatures. Each campus maintains a personalized, relationship-focused approach that reflects The David Project’s philosophy that change comes from authentic peer interactions that address students’ real concerns rather than reactionary arguments or aggressive debates about Israel.

“ The David Project has modeled to the field how an organization can undergo a complete strategic shift and emerge on the other side stronger, more effective, and more focused.

Participating in relational advocacy, the campuses each emphasize relationship building between Israel advocates on campus and diverse student leaders. Through outreach activities, campus conversation events, strategic mapping of campus networks, and formal training for student leaders, The David Project serves as a network hub. Its Israel Uncovered mission, which brings non-Jewish campus partners on trips to Israel to experience the country first-hand, provides context for dialogue about Israel back on campus. These interactions reflect the ideology of a pro-Israel advocacy group with a unique, bold strategy.

Eden Village Camp

The only Jewish organic farm overnight camp – nurturing Jewish leaders through organic kosher food, animal care, wilderness adventure, herbalism, creative arts, and sports, all in a vibrant, kind, diverse community.

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Putnam Valley, NY 10579

year founded

2008

board chair(s)

Robert Levitan

2014 expenses

\$1,330,000

Eden Village Camp has set a new standard for what it means to “go green.” As the first and only Jewish environmental summer camp, the Eden Village experience gives campers an opportunity to live and breathe organic farming, environmental education, spirituality, and social justice – all through the lens of Jewish values. By bringing to life Jewish topics that matter to young people today, the camp draws in Jewish families from across the religious spectrum, including 44% of camp families who say they would not have chosen a Jewish camp if not for Eden Village.

“Eden Village is an amazing opportunity for kids to attend a Jewish camp who would otherwise not. [It is] setting a new standard for the Jewish camping world.

Eden Village Camp offers a pluralistic, co-ed, Jewish overnight camp for 3rd to 11th graders, and a home base for year-round community programs. In the summer, campers shift from consumers to producers: they harvest their own meals, make campfires without matches, and thresh wheat to bake the challah they enjoy on Friday nights. This may not sound like life in 2014, but these types of activities (plus swimming, sports, and the magic of traditional summer camp) make the vibrant Eden Village Camp community work. During the year, families visit the camp to celebrate Jewish holidays, home-schooled children participate in creative wilderness programming, and adults and teens take classes in maple sugaring, herbal medicines, and Jewish greening practices. Eden Village staff also regularly consults with other Jewish organizations interested in adopting Eden Village’s practices, thereby helping to catalyze a shift in the Jewish community towards increased environmental and social responsibility.



edenvillagecamp.org



@edenvillagecamp

Encounter

Strengthening the capacity of the Jewish people to be constructive agents of change in transforming the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

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year founded

2005

board chair(s)

Steve Jacobson
Julie Schaffer

2014 expenses

\$742,000

Conversations about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict can often feel unproductive and divisive. In response, Encounter creates an unprecedented space for nuanced conversations that allow American Jewish leaders to lean into challenging issues, hear multiple perspectives, and help find their own voices around the conflict. Additionally, conversation within the Jewish community typically excludes engagement with Palestinians, which creates misunderstandings and perpetuates a sense of “otherness.” Jewish and Palestinian journalists have recently recognized Encounter as one of the only organizations to break conflict-perpetuating isolation and create space for complex conversation.

Encounter’s flagship program brings American Jewish leaders and Israelis on trips to engage with Palestinians. Encounter also provides delegation trips for Jewish communal leaders and uses webinar technology to bring Palestinian voices to the US and around the world. Encounter’s newest program provides four four-week trainings in leadership and advanced understanding of the conflict. After completing the program, participants build on their experiences by publishing articles, delivering sermons, and facilitating programs in their communities that expand the reach of Encounter’s programs. Encounter’s use of clear communication guidelines has become a resource for many other organizations, which borrow these guidelines for their own tough conversations. Deliberately nonpartisan, Encounter brings together Jews of all religious and political backgrounds and models how the Jewish community can constructively encounter the “other.”

“ Encounter creates an amazing opportunity for individuals to use a powerful experience to influence others to create meaningful change.

Eshel, Inc.

Creating inclusive Orthodox communities for LGBT Jews and their families by providing resources, trainings, and community building events.

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address

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year founded

2010

board chair(s)

Shlomo Ashkinazy

2014 expenses

\$159,121

Eshel, Inc. uses community organizing principles to combat homophobia in the Orthodox Jewish community. Due to Eshel's work, Orthodox parents have begun to stand up for their lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) children, and Orthodox LGBT Jews are increasingly able to live meaningful lives without hiding their religious, sexual, or gender identities. Other organizations, several listed here in *Slingshot*, work to increase inclusivity of LGBT Jews within different sections of the Jewish community, but no other organization has made these specific efforts in the Orthodox world. Eshel understands the unique sensitivities of the Orthodox community and advocates for greater inclusivity of LGBT Jews with these considerations in mind.

Eshel runs weekend gatherings for LGBT Orthodox Jews that create community and allow participants to celebrate Shabbat in a way that integrates their religious and LGBT identities. Eshel also trains its participants to speak out and advocate for LGBT Orthodox Jews, while overseeing a speakers' bureau to help LGBT Orthodox Jews and their families learn to share their stories. Eshel also operates family groups and retreats for parents to learn how to better support their children and pave the way for the children to return to their communities after they have been rejected. Eshel reshapes the role of LGBT Jews in the Orthodox community and provides hope for a better future for the women, men, and teens that it serves.

“ This is an historic moment to address issues related to inclusion in the Orthodox community, and Eshel is expertly leading this charge.



eshelonline.org



@eshelonline



Footsteps

The go-to address for any individual who leaves an ultra-Orthodox Jewish community, providing crucial resources and supports as people redefine their identities, build new communities, and establish self-determined lives.

contact

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twitter

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address

217 Thompson Street
PO Box 367
New York, NY 10012

year founded

2003

board chair(s)

Mark Goldberg

2014 expenses

\$845,445

In contrast to the average American Jewish experience, some Jews feel trapped rather than empowered by their religion and community. Footsteps gives Jews who choose to leave the insular ultra-Orthodox communities the tools and skills necessary to live on their own terms. Leaving the ultra-Orthodox community may mean giving up family and friends, economic security, and even physical safety. Footsteps is the only organization of its kind, and it helps its 850 members through this journey by providing an identity exploration process, counseling, and introductions to a peer community.

“Footsteps is a nurturing community, providing vital services for Jews who have fallen through the cracks.

Members find Footsteps as exiles trying to navigate a new society without an understanding of the language, social norms, or economic realities. As a result, many struggle with depression and addiction, making their journeys into secular life even more complicated. Footsteps teaches skills for economic self-sufficiency and provides access to education and community. Highlights include \$85,000 a year in school scholarships, a summer internship program, and peer mentoring. Footsteps also leads the charge in public awareness, drawing national media attention and putting the issue on the agendas of many Jewish communal organizations. Due to the high cost per participant, demand far outstrips Footsteps' ability to serve the need, and as the ultra-Orthodox community grows, this dilemma promises to intensify. In response, Footsteps continually explores models to expand and adapt its programs to address the real needs of the community.

G-dcast

Giving every Jewish child and adult the chance to learn the basics of Jewish text through media, with zero barriers to entry.

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phone

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twitter

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address

131 Steuart Street
Suite 205
San Francisco, CA 94105

year founded

2006

board chair(s)

Joshua Weinberg

2014 expenses

\$1,027,000

Through a mastery of animation and new media, G-dcast creatively transmits basic Jewish knowledge to a generation that may not have paid attention in Hebrew school. By turning stories from Jewish tradition into short, animated films, G-dcast gives viewers access to important knowledge hidden in plain sight, but unavailable to those who cannot read Jewish texts. Thousands of years of Jewish tradition explain why Jews mourn in certain ways, the value of observing Passover, and how to understand food laws in modern society. Even relatively engaged families find value in G-dcast's work, given that Jewish education may primarily focus on b'nai mitzvah preparation, for example, rather than on understanding how to apply this knowledge to important life decisions. G-dcast differs from hundreds of other sources for Jewish information by offering an agenda-free and easily accessible approach to Jewish education.

“ G-dcast continues to be the most innovative organization using media to engage and teach Jewish tradition and text.

In addition to turning stories into animated videos – which have over 1.5 million views on YouTube – G-dcast also creates e-books and apps, and works with teachers and rabbis to incorporate these materials into classrooms and synagogues. In 2014, the organization has released a new set of videos and an app to introduce Shabbat to young children. Studio G-dcast events allow in-person opportunities for groups to make their own G-dcast episodes, involving participants behind the scenes and sparking creativity. This work allows a new generation of Jews to view G-dcast as an entry-point into Jewish life, creating a ripple effect throughout the Jewish community.



g-dcast.com



@g_dcast



Gateways: Access to Jewish Education

A central agency for disabilities-focused programs and services for students, working across Jewish educational organizations and denominations.

contact

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phone

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address

333 Nahanton Street
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year founded

2006

board chair(s)

Marni Levitt

2014 expenses

\$2,100,000

Gateways: Access to Jewish Education has dramatically changed the disabilities education landscape for the Boston Jewish community. Among the most devastating aspects of having a child with a disability is that doors – or opportunities for the child – begin to close. Until recently, having a child with learning differences in Boston has meant encountering untrained Jewish educators and underprepared Jewish schools. In too many communities, parents of children with disabilities are turned away from Jewish education, told there is no space for them in an already financially taxed system. For too many parents, efforts to obtain a Jewish education for their children have led to more closed doors. In response to this unacceptable status quo, Gateways creates programming and partnerships that provide entryways into Jewish life for families of children with disabilities.

Gateways offers programs for students at day schools, professional development for educators, and independent Sunday school programs for students ages 5 to 18 years old. Gateways also offers a b'nai mitzvah program that allows children with disabilities to participate in the most defining Jewish childhood rite of passage. Realizing that no single solution can address the broad needs of families, Gateways has forged many partnerships to become Jewish Boston's disabilities center of gravity. Beyond its programs for the Boston community, Gateways also serves as one of the most important models for communities across the country, showing that full inclusion is possible.

“ Gateways is the ‘go to’ organization for effectively engaging children and teens with disabilities and their families in Jewish life.

GLOE – The Kurlander Program for GLBT Outreach & Engagement

Creating and modeling engaging and sustainable community for GLBT Jews.

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address

1529 16th Street, NW
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year founded

2006

board chair(s)

Amy Cotton
Alex Greenbaum
Joshua Siegel

2014 expenses

\$95,228

project of:

Washington DC Jewish
Community Center (DCJCC)

parent org founded

1985

GLOE proves that mainstream Jewish communal organizations can become inclusive of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) culture in all programming and policies. While many Jewish cultural organizations take steps to include GLBT community members, the Washington, DC JCC (DCJCC) provides a shining example of how GLBT inclusion can become fully integrated into the fabric of an organization. Thousands of GLBT Jews find community at the DCJCC through GLOE, which shows the value of creating GLBT Jewish community inside the Jewish establishment rather than alongside it.

“ The Washington DC JCC’s GLOE program is a national leader in GLBT programming for Jews, and it should serve as a model for other communities looking for greater GLBT inclusion.

Responding to important topics in the GLBT Jewish community, GLOE runs more than 40 programs each year. It has recently created a program to support GLBT parents, who notoriously have difficulty staying connected with their communities after having children, and it also runs anti-bullying and suicide awareness initiatives for the community. GLOE also hosts programs just like any other JCC, including Havdalah on the (P Street) Beach or an outing to a DC Nationals baseball game, all in the context of creating GLBT community. GLOE runs social justice programs with the DCJCC’s community service department, teaches classes, and offers many other secular and religious events for thousands of local participants. Above all, GLOE gives GLBT Jews in Washington, DC a home base, inspiring other organizations to do the same.



washingtondcjcc.org/gloe



@gloejcc

Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life

Providing dynamic, trans-denominational Jewish programming for communities throughout the Southern United States.

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address

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year founded

2000

board chair(s)

Rachel Reagler Schulman

2014 expenses

\$2,300,000

The Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life (ISJL) works as a laboratory to develop methods that engage small and far-flung Jewish communities across the American South. ISJL has mastered this delicate process, continually evolving its programs to meet the changing needs of hundreds of partner communities, that are often underserved by other national Jewish organizations. A team of itinerant rabbis tours through isolated Jewish communities, regularly making 90 visits to 44 communities across 13 states, and literally bringing Jewish life and learning to communities with no other access to these opportunities. ISJL has evolved from the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience, which preserves the memory of Jewish life in the South, and works to not only preserve the past but also ensure the future. While this model has proved its worth in the South, small and isolated Jewish communities across the United States can benefit from this type of connection.

ISJL provides Jewish education to 3,000 children in 69 communities by offering a standard curriculum that allows teachers to create meaningful educational experiences for their students, while literally putting students across the South on the same page. ISJL also organizes community visits from education fellows, cultural speaking tours, and an annual conference for Jewish educators to master the curriculum. ISJL continually adapts its programs to meet the changing needs of its constituents, ensuring a rich future for Southern Jewish life.

“ Without the work of ISJL, we would be talking about the Jewish community in parts of the South in the past tense.



Haggadot.com/Custom & Craft

Combine your favorite traditional and innovative Jewish texts, artwork, and readings into a personalized Haggadah or Shabbat service using simple online tools.

contact

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#3
Los Angeles, CA 90035

year founded

2008

board chair(s)

n/a

2014 expenses

\$107,208

For those seeking modern meaning in ancient Jewish rituals, look no further than Haggadot.com. Passover provides one of the best opportunities for meaningful ritual, even for Jews with less religious backgrounds, and Haggadot.com serves as an online tool that helps each user create a custom Haggadah (the Passover Seder text). The Seder offers many chances to connect to Jewish history while discussing modern injustice and Jewish values, yet many Seders simply feature dog-eared Haggadot and find families skimming through the service to enjoy the meal. To reinvigorate the Seder, Haggadot.com features thousands of pages of user-generated content that anyone can mix and match into a meaningful and personalized Passover story.

A creative social media partnership with the Schusterman Philanthropic Network has boosted Haggadot.com's work, and secular media hits on NPR's "All Things Considered" and the Wall Street Journal have introduced the site to thousands of unaffiliated Jews. Once primarily a site for Jewish community insiders, 2013 has seen more than 50,000 users visit the site, resulting in hundreds of thousands of page views. Building off its success in making Jewish ritual more accessible through reinvention and customization, Haggadot.com has also expanded into a custom Shabbat website, Custom & Craft. Users of Haggadot.com report deeper understandings of Jewish ritual, including why many rituals spend time telling and re-telling the same stories, and how these traditions can provide practical value today.

“ Haggadot.com makes it easy for Jews to create their own ritual resources, ensuring that rituals will continue to be relevant years from now.

Hazon

Creating healthier and more sustainable communities in the Jewish world and beyond.

contact

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year founded

2000

board chair(s)

Richard Shuster

2014 expenses

\$6,895,515

Due to Hazon's tireless leadership, the Jewish community across North America now takes more responsibility for the health of the world around it. Hazon, Hebrew for "vision," educates the Jewish community about how to make sustainable choices through a Jewish lens. The ideas of making conscious food choices and knowing where food comes from may not seem groundbreaking to young Jews, but applying a Jewish perspective to this awareness is certainly innovative. Through running educational programming, supporting social entrepreneurs, and collaborating with thousands of volunteers and partners, Hazon continues to show not only the ability to bring environmental advocacy into Jewish life, but also the opportunity to involve unengaged Jews who care about sustainable and healthy choices.

“Hazon is a powerhouse – it continues to be an organizer and leader in the Jewish environmental movement.

Best known for its bike rides that connect participants with Jewish tradition and Israel, Hazon also supports more than 70 Community-Supported Agriculture programs across the country, writes popular food-justice blogs, and runs conferences and festivals. In addition, Hazon serves as the fiscal sponsor for several new environmental and food justice initiatives and has helped encourage a consortium of funders to sponsor a field-wide study of the impact of environmental programs on Jewish life. The organization is also completing a merger with the Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center, which will double Hazon's capacity for programming and its ability to impact the field. Hazon remains the center of gravity for the Jewish Outdoor, Food, and Environmental Education movement, and it aims to continue leading this community for years to come.

HEKDESH

Using collective giving to build community and leadership among geographically, chronologically, and ideologically diverse program alumni.

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year founded

2006

board chair(s)

Max Socol

2014 expenses

\$3,500

project of:

Dorot Fellowship in Israel

parent org founded

1990

HEKDESH has pioneered the adaptation of a giving circle model in order to engage its alumni. Fellowship organizations throughout the Jewish community face a similar problem: while many participants desire to continue their intense and meaningful experiences post-fellowship, geographic realities and the responsibilities of new careers and resumed lives create roadblocks to ongoing relationships. A group of Dorot Fellowship in Israel (DFI) alumni has solved this problem of ongoing engagement through HEKDESH, a replicable giving circle for young DFI alumni.

“ HEKDESH empowers [its] alumni to pool small gifts to support causes they collectively care about – this is philanthropy at its best!

Through a low buy-in of \$180, HEKDESH engages alumni immediately post-fellowship when they still have strong memories of their experiences. HEKDESH also empowers small dollar donors by allowing nominations from all members and asking members to allocate their own grant dollars among the finalist organizations. HEKDESH helps alumni pool these gifts into a giving circle, which enables them to pool their donations and make collaborative decisions about how to direct those funds. HEKDESH has made several unique updates to the classic giving circle to meet the needs of its alumni. The organization sponsors one-time events as well as a two-year Tzedakah Learning Pod program, which connects participants and provides grant making and leadership education. DFI alumni remain geographically widespread, but HEKDESH allows them to remain in contact and convene annually to make grant decisions and engage in collaborative learning and growth.



hekdes.org



n/a



The iCenter

Making Israel an integral and inspiring component of the personal and collective identity of North American Jewish youth.

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year founded

2008

board chair(s)

Lisa Eisen

2014 expenses

\$3,500,000

Recognizing that a focus on the politics and history of Israel does not resonate with many Jews, the iCenter offers a new kind of Israel education grounded in meaningful encounters between North American Jews and the land, culture, and people of modern Israel. This approach prioritizes the role Israel can play in the everyday lives of diaspora Jews over political Israel advocacy. The iCenter aims to professionalize and improve the quality of Israel education across North America. Rather than produce a stand-alone curriculum, the iCenter opts for a person-centered method, training educators from camps, schools, and congregations in best practices for connecting kids and teens with Israel.

The iCenter's educational materials include the Aleph-Bet of Israel Education, a set of core values, educational strategies, and different content lenses. The iCenter also holds a number of trainings for rabbinical students and students pursuing Master's degrees in Jewish education. It has worked with educators from 36 independent Jewish camps to enrich the quality and impact of Israel education and has expanded this powerful training to Birthright Israel staff, in partnership with Taglit. The iCenter also plans to create a certificate program in experiential Israel education, enabling the organization to have an impact on thousands of young Jews in the coming years.

“ The iCenter is dynamic – continuously evolving to improve the way Israel is perceived.”



iEngage – The Engaging Israel Project

A pluralistic effort to create a new narrative regarding the significance of Israel in Jewish life.

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year founded

2010

board chair(s)

Angelica Berrie

2014 expenses

\$3,387,500

project of:

Shalom Hartman Institute
of North America

parent org founded

2009

iEngage's curriculum makes space for serious conversations about Israel and Jewish values without pushing preconceived opinions. The disinterest that many American Jews feel about Israel creates a vicious cycle: apathy leads Israel-advocates to push even harder, which serves to further disengage North American Jews, who do not find a crisis-based focus reflective of their own experiences. iEngage provides a meaningful and serious opportunity for dialogue that, without discounting the danger that Israel faces on a daily basis, accounts for the fact that political and economic success around the world and in Israel diminish the resonance of the emergency narrative. This intervention in the American Jewish discourse gives Jewish professionals the tools to better engage their communities in meaningful dialogue about Israel.

A project of the Jewish community think tank Shalom Hartman Institute of North America, iEngage has created a video lecture series with accompanying curriculum, sharing these materials with major Jewish organizations across the country. Since 2010, hundreds of congregations, Hillel directors, Jewish Federations, and denominational movements, as well as social justice professionals and Christian leaders, have viewed the iEngage curriculum. iEngage teaches that Israel most needs an engaged Jewish population around the world, but the current dialogue only results in a growing indifference towards Israel from North American Jews. iEngage provides the basis for a much needed new and shrewder dialogue.

“ [iEngage is] leading the way on a new approach to Israel education even in institutional settings.”

IKAR

A new iteration of Jewish community based on the belief that social justice work – both local and global – remains a core expression and central obligation of Jewish religious life.

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year founded

2004

board chair(s)

Karen Hanovice Hogan
Todd Kessler

2014 expenses

\$2,900,000

Now in its tenth year, IKAR continues to prove that a synagogue must act as a hub of innovation and experimentation in order to flourish in 21st century Jewish life. For many Jews, a haze of conversations about building funds, membership fees, and leadership volatility clouds the value and purpose of congregational life. IKAR, Hebrew for “essence,” operates based on the idea that disaffected Jews can find value in the connectedness of congregations if presented with an engaging mix of social justice work and meaningful study and prayer. Today, IKAR engages more than 500 families, and its programs continually bring new families to the table, pushing other Jewish organizations across the country to also improve.

“ IKAR has built innovation into [its] organizational DNA. IKAR will adapt and evolve its programs in order to always provide a valuable community to Jews in LA.

Among IKAR’s innovations is Minyan Tzedek, which aims to engage every IKARite in hands-on activism through programs that include Global Partnership, Feeding our Neighbors, Green Action, and Organizing. IKAR mixes this social justice experience with study and prayer, holding weekly and High Holiday services and providing congregants with the chance to study Jewish texts and discuss soul-searching questions. IKAR clearly demonstrates that despite decreasing affiliation with synagogues, Jews continue to value congregational life when service, prayer, and meaningful learning create a balanced experience.

Innovation: Africa

Engaging young Jews by bringing Israeli innovation to African villages.

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year founded

2008

board chair(s)

Steven Ackerman

2014 expenses

\$1,000,000

Innovation: Africa harnesses the energy of the Jewish community and the technological advances emerging in Israel, binding them together in an approach that saves lives, supports Israel, and strengthens participants' ties to Judaism. Innovation: Africa's network of more than 750 volunteers works to deliver Israeli technology to African villages, providing educational opportunities, medical care, and access to clean water for over 500,000 African people.

“ Innovation: Africa benefits Israel, the developing world, the Jewish diaspora, and presents the best possible face of the Jewish community to the world.

Working to build community among participants, Innovation: Africa has recently launched several campus chapters that build Jewish networks for college students while raising awareness of Innovation: Africa's campaigns. Participants dream big – the Volunteer Executive Committee is currently planning a trip to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro while simultaneously funding a \$30,000 water project in Africa. The ability of the volunteer community to make an outsized impact inspires Innovation: Africa to set big goals for the future, including expanding services into new African countries, increasing partnerships with likeminded organizations to strengthen the North American volunteer community, and bringing together the organization's student activists for a national summit.



innoafrica.org



@innoafrica



InterfaithFamily

Supporting interfaith families in exploring Jewish life and community.

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year founded

2001

board chair(s)

Lynda Schwartz

2014 expenses

\$2,466,356

InterfaithFamily serves one of the most rapidly expanding populations in the Jewish community: individuals and families navigating the complexities of interfaith relationships. Operating based on the belief that more interfaith families would choose to engage with Judaism if they could comfortably learn about Jewish life without embarrassment or shame, InterfaithFamily provides educational resources and connection with a community of families that shares similar interfaith dynamics. InterfaithFamily also works to educate interfaith families about welcoming and open Jewish organizations, programs, and services. These efforts support the organization's goal of helping interfaith families feel included and wanted, not excluded or rejected, by Jews and Jewish organizations.

Continuing to serve as a one-stop shop for interfaith families, InterfaithFamily facilitates online basic Judaism courses and hosts local programs through the InterfaithFamily/Your Community initiative in Boston, Philadelphia, San Francisco, and Chicago. While providing unique content through an online model, InterfaithFamily also works collaboratively with local Jewish organizations to ensure that interfaith families receive the services they need. As the organization looks to the future, InterfaithFamily plans to continue expanding its impact, both online and in-person, by building a strong national organization of many connected local communities.

“ IFF is reframing the response to the taboo of interfaith marriage as an opportunity for inclusion instead of exclusion.



J'Burgh

Investing in the future of the Jewish community by engaging young Jewish adults through a variety of programs and leadership development opportunities.

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of Pittsburgh
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year founded

2007

board chair(s)

Rachel Goffman
Rachel Paul

2014 expenses

\$150,000

project of:

The Edward and Rose Berman
Hillel Jewish University Center
of Pittsburgh

parent org founded

1954

Through a focus on peer-to-peer engagement and leadership development, J'Burgh successfully engages the scores of young people who come to Pittsburgh for college and graduate school and settled there after graduation. Anticipating a temporary stay in Pittsburgh, these young adults often choose not to seek deeper connections with the local Jewish community, but J'Burgh challenges these assumptions. The organization builds connections between young Jews and the broader Pittsburgh community, creating opportunities for meaningful engagement in Jewish life. Since J'Burgh's inception in 2007, Pittsburgh's young, engaged, innovative Jewish community has seen explosive growth and has attracted many national Jewish initiatives.

J'Burgh works with a twelve-member leadership board to produce a variety of activities, ranging from providing Shabbat dinners and religious services to organizing sports teams and happy hours. J'Burgh provides the tools that empower Pittsburgh's young adults to create their own connections with Jewish life through peer-to-peer engagement networks that reach over 1,000 individuals. Beyond its local work, J'Burgh also serves as a model and consultant for other cities, including Chicago, Cleveland, and Columbus. Over the past seven years, J'Burgh has used its focus on pluralistic, peer-based community engagement to completely change attitudes about young Jewish life in Pittsburgh.

“ J'Burgh's model of empowering 20s/30s is a great, successful approach – all communities could learn from this model.

JCHAI Transitions

Supporting young adults with disabilities as they move from living with their parents to independent living through afterschool, weekend, social, and vocational programming that enables them to develop skills and a social network.

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year founded

2013

board chair(s)

Judith Creed

2014 expenses

\$1,803,644

project of:

JCHAI

parent org founded

1987

By creating an address for young adults with disabilities within the Jewish community, the Judith Creed Homes for Adult Independence (JCHAI) expands the notions of community and of who has a place in that community. JCHAI helps adults with disabilities live rich Jewish lives through its focus on teaching skills for independent living while providing a caring social environment. JCHAI has served the disabilities community in Philadelphia for over 25 years, creating its Transitions program in response to a group of parents looking for services specifically for young adults in the transition years – the time when students with disabilities graduate from school programs and can no longer receive services via the public education system.

“All communities should look to JCHAI to better support Jewish adults with disabilities.

JCHAI Transitions offers individualized care plans for participants along with afterschool and weekend activities at the JCHAI Café. Focused on young people ages 18 to 28, JCHAI Transitions offers independent living skills training, social networking opportunities, and Jewish programming for all participants, including regular Shabbat celebrations and opportunities to participate in High Holiday services. A leader in the Philadelphia community, JCHAI Transitions provides necessary assistance intertwined with rich Jewish content for an underserved population. JCHAI Transitions serves as a model for other communities seeking to successfully engage the young adult population with disabilities.



Jewish Disaster Response Corps

Mobilizing Jewish young adults to help North American communities recover from natural disasters through service learning disaster relief trips.

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year founded

2009

board chair(s)

Josh Abraham

2014 expenses

\$371,650

After an initial emergency recovery, areas affected by natural disasters often fall out of the public spotlight, even when they still require significant recovery work. Recognizing that serious and effective volunteering opportunities interest large numbers of young Jews, Jewish Disaster Response Corps (JDRC) closes the gap between the Jewish community and the need for volunteer domestic disaster relief. JDRC brings multiple groups of volunteers to affected communities over extended periods of time. Participants work with local rebuilding organizations during the day and spend their evenings and Shabbat engaging in reflection, Jewish learning, and interactions with the local community.

“ The landscape of disaster relief is dominated by religious groups – thanks to JDRC, the Jewish community can now be counted among them.

The JDRC model often brings groups of Jews to areas with small or isolated Jewish populations, showing communities recovering from disasters that the Jewish community cares about their futures. As one tornado survivor in Oklahoma remarks, “The silver lining inside the tornado cloud that hit us is the support we have received from JDRC. [Its] presence makes us feel like we are part of a larger Jewish community.” JDRC participants also frequently volunteer alongside non-Jews, allowing for moments of authentic, cross-cultural value-sharing and learning opportunities. In addition to rebuilding after the tornado in Oklahoma, JDRC currently works with New York Says Thank You to rebuild 200 first responders’ homes destroyed in Hurricane Sandy, demonstrating that communities near and far require serious and sustained disaster relief efforts.

The Jewish Journey Project

Revolutionizing Jewish supplemental education through the rich Jewish history, heritage, and culture of NYC and the collaborative energies of Jewish communal institutions.

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year founded

2012

board chair(s)

Sheila Lambert

2014 expenses

\$854,700

project of:

The Jewish Community
Center in Manhattan, Inc.

parent org founded

1988

The Jewish Journey Project (JJP) is shifting supplementary Jewish education through creative programming and institutional partnerships. JJP encourages Jewish communal institutions, from the JCC to synagogues, to see each other as partners rather than competitors in order to create a better experience for the children and families they serve. The resulting shared resources allow JJP to create multiple points of entry into Jewish life that appeal to the interests and scheduling needs of busy New York City families. These successful collaborative efforts enable JJP to offer an alternative model of Hebrew school without displacing or threatening synagogues.

Families enroll in JJP through the JCC or through their congregations, in which case students participate in JJP's off-site courses and a Meetup, a community-building component at the home institution. Meetup allows each congregation to complement JJP learning with its own values, rituals, and community. Offsite JJP classes range from Krav Maga lessons to a course about Jewish protest music throughout history that features field trips all over New York City. Each of the over 200 families involved with JJP meet with an advisor to select the path that best suits the child and the family's education goals. In only two years, JJP has developed an innovative model for meaningful educational partnership that diverse communities can easily replicate.

“ This model looks at the marketplace through a completely different approach and seeks partnership as a key component.

Jewish Kids Groups

A reimagined, reinvented, and ridiculously cool Hebrew school: a new educational model to revitalize Jewish learning nationwide.

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year founded

2008

board chair(s)

Susan Levitas

2014 expenses

\$426,640

Jewish Kids Groups (JKG) challenges the existing system of Hebrew school by offering fun and exciting afterschool Jewish education outside of the walls of a synagogue. By reimagining where, when, and how Jewish education takes place, JKG reaches families who are affiliated, unaffiliated, and everything in between. JKG offers a camp-like program six days a week that combines homework help and childcare with hands-on Jewish education, Hebrew language instruction, and a staff of teens and young adults that serve as cool Jewish role models. This year, the organization has also launched JKG Journey, a b'nai mitzvah-oriented program for middle school children and families that explores each family's values and Jewish goals.

“JKG is turning the traditional Hebrew school model on its head. [It is] making a change to what has been called a ‘broken’ model for many years.

JKG sets itself apart with clear strategic thinking: its model is scalable, replicable, and poised to impact Jewish communities all over the country. In addition to its own programs, JKG has also reached out to synagogues to create a collaborative Atlanta-wide center of Jewish learning. Congregations pay a small fee to “outsource” their Hebrew schools to Jewish Kids Groups, which provides content and quality professional development. This has resulted in a diverse group of more than 130 children learning and growing together. Jewish Kids Groups fosters powerful Jewish content and learning while instilling a love of Judaism in children from kindergarten to 5th grade.



jewishkidsgroups.com



n/a



Jewish Learning Venture

Inspiring and empowering those who seek to make Jewish life, learning, and community meaningful and relevant.

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year founded

2009

board chair(s)

Jonathan M. Broder

2014 expenses

\$1,725,949

Jewish Learning Venture (JLV) believes that work to engage Jews and strengthen Jewish institutions requires a respect for tradition balanced with an insistence on change. This approach makes sense, coming from an organization that has continued to evolve since its 1836 founding in order to meet the needs of centuries of Jews. Today, JLV serves as a hub for Jewish education, family engagement, and strong congregations in the Greater Philadelphia area. By offering an array of services and focusing on multiple aspects of Jewish life, JLV effectively meets the varied needs of the community.

JLV's jkidphilly initiative has built relationships with more than 2,000 families and has enrolled over 5,000 children in PJ Library, a program that sends Jewish-themed books to families with young children. This work builds a community of young families, giving them the confidence to create their own Jewish experiences. JLV also works closely with Jewish institutions, connecting them with one another, supporting their efforts to become more accessible to people with disabilities, and providing training opportunities for leaders and educators. This year, JLV has also integrated its family engagement and institutional empowerment work by creating dialogue between synagogues and jkidphilly parents who feel disenchanting with religious school education. This project encourages the entire community to adapt and evolve. Working locally within Philadelphia while also consulting with multiple communities across the country, JLV enables many people to find meaning in Jewish life and learn what it means to be part of the Jewish community.

“JLV is a leader in Jewish Education, and [it works] with communities all over the country to do what [it has] accomplished in Philadelphia.

Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington @ Adas Israel

Using Jewish mindfulness, meditation, and yoga to reclaim a spiritually vibrant Judaism with body, heart, and soul.

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year founded

2012

board chair(s)

Arnold Podgorsky

2014 expenses

\$55,000

project of:

Adas Israel Congregation

parent org founded

1869

The Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington (JMCW) at DC's Adas Israel Congregation has emerged from the 145-year-old synagogue's complete change of approach in an effort to become more relevant to its contemporary community. Many Jews today seek spiritual fulfillment in yoga, meditation, and Eastern religions, while reporting a lack of fulfillment found through the Jewish practices offered in synagogue life. JMCW works to make Judaism more spiritually meaningful and accessible to Jews in the DC area, creating new paths into other aspects of Jewish life for participants, and reinvigorating the culture of the synagogue as a whole.

JMCW appeals to unaffiliated spiritual seekers who would otherwise never set foot in a synagogue. The organization, housed within the walls of a synagogue building, has engaged nearly 2,000 participants in Jewish mindfulness programming, learning, and worship over the last 18 months. Participants of all ages can choose from weekly meditation sessions and yoga classes that incorporate Jewish texts and teachings to focus the mind and body on balance. Hundreds of people attend JMCW's soulful Shabbat services, mikvah workshops, and spiritual retreats, and more than 1,200 people have attended JMCW's outdoor Kol Nidre service on Yom Kippur. JMCW's transformation of an existing synagogue presents a unique approach to meeting the spiritual needs of a Jewish community.

“ The program is altering perceptions of synagogue life and engagement and is a model for other communities on what it means to be a catalyst for change.



adasisrael.org/jmcw



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Jewish New Teacher Project

Turning veteran day school teachers into mentors who accelerate the effectiveness of new teachers and promote the growth of school leadership.

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year founded

2002

board chair(s)

Lance Fors

2014 expenses

\$1,058,000

project of:

New Teacher Center

parent org founded

1998

Much like their secular counterparts, Jewish day schools face significant challenges when it comes to teacher retention: nearly 50% of teachers leave the field after five years. The Jewish New Teacher Project (JNTP), a program of the New Teacher Center, provides training and mentorship for new teachers in order to strengthen teaching skills and encourage longer careers in education. Recognizing that merely providing training for new teachers is not enough, JNTP uses a three-pronged approach that supports new teachers, trains mentors, and coaches principals. Nearly 99 schools and 700 teachers benefit from this focus on all levels of the educational experience, supporting change and excellence throughout the system.

“ JNTP provides an essential service and resource that benefits the entire Jewish day school system.

New teachers receive weekly mentorship through classroom observation and daylong seminars, while mentors participate in monthly forums that teach mentoring skills along with techniques to strengthen the mentors' own teaching practices. This year, JNTP has also piloted a principal coaching program, which provides one-on-one and cohort-based training for new principals. All programs concentrate on creating collaborative teaching environments and strengthening hiring and supervision to foster teaching growth. JNTP's approach has succeeded – a comprehensive ten-year study shows that almost 90% of past participants still work in the field of Jewish education. JNTP is a recognized leader in improving professionalism and academic excellence in Jewish day schools, and the organization plans to bring its materials and programs to other cities and schools across the country.



Jewish Renaissance Project at Penn Hillel

Igniting sparks of Jewish identity through new models of community and education for college students who have not found a Jewish home.

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year founded

2007

board chair(s)

Ronald Perilstein

2014 expenses

\$1,950,000

project of:

Penn Hillel

parent org founded

1919

The Jewish Renaissance Project at Penn Hillel (JRP) has emerged from the realization that a lack of interest in participating in Hillel does not mean a lack of interest in engaging with Jewish life during college. Knowing that uninvolved students hang out in different places and have different backgrounds than “Hillel regulars,” JRP seeks to provide meaningful Jewish experiences outside of the Hillel infrastructure for students who would otherwise feel uncomfortable or uninterested in the organized Jewish community. Operating outside of the physical space of Penn Hillel, and eliminating many of the geographic, social, and educational barriers to Jewish life, JRP runs 11 different initiatives that target different types of students, including freshmen, students participating in Greek Life, and juniors and seniors living off-campus.

“ Penn Hillel essentially created a shadow brand, to engage the bulk of the Jewish community at Penn. [Hillel] gave [this project] its own staff and structure, in a way that speaks completely to the consumer.

JRP staff recruits groups of 10 to 15 campus influentials not already involved in Jewish life to serve as JRP fellows. Together, these students engage in weekly learning and then bring Jewish life back to their own peer networks, resulting in everything from monthly Shabbat dinners and holiday celebrations, to participation in Birthright and service learning trips. In the past year alone, 150 JRP fellows have reached over 1,300 unique students. Hillel International uses the JRP model as the seed for the Senior Jewish Educator and Campus Entrepreneur Initiatives, which now exist on over 60 campuses across the country.



Jewish Student Connection

Creating Jewish community in public and private high schools across the country by facilitating extra-curricular educational Jewish clubs.

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year founded

2012

board chair(s)

Barry Wallach

2014 expenses

\$1,700,000

Many teens disconnect from Jewish life after their bar or bat mitzvah. Rather than expect an influx of teen involvement in current organizational offerings, Jewish Student Connection (JSC) counters this trend by bringing Jewish experiences to where teens are – their high schools. Unlike synagogues, where entire families must join, or youth groups with dues and inconvenient locations or meeting times, JSC weaves Jewish experiences into the regular lives of teens at their public high schools.

Since a 2012 split from its partnership with the Orthodox Union, JSC has focused on pursuing its vision of a non-affiliated, non-denominational youth organization. Working from this perspective, the organization welcomes both Jews and non-Jews alike to explore what Judaism means to them, and nearly all of these students would not have access to Jewish engagement otherwise. Staff members act as mentors to students who meet on campus and engage in deep and fun Jewish experiences, including cultural programs, discussions of current events, and visits from Israeli speakers. JSC provides multiple points of entry for students, without boxing them into a routine or schedule. Some students attend JSC clubs three days a week, while others pop in at their convenience and when they feel comfortable doing so. Now based in Chicago, Denver, South Florida, and New York, JSC aims to replicate its model in more regions throughout North America, thereby ensuring that more teens have access to Jewish identity-building programs.

“ There is a great need to reach teens with meaningful Jewish opportunities, and the strategy of going to where they are and allowing non-Jews to participate is very successful.



Jewish Without Walls

Creating vibrant Jewish communities across denominations and affiliations.

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year founded

2011

board chair(s)

n/a

2014 expenses

\$15,000

A majority of Jews do not belong to a synagogue or a JCC, but that does not mean they lack a desire to connect with the Jewish community and each other. To fill this need for connection, Jewish Without Walls (JWOW) offers vibrant and joyful Jewish experiences in Long Island, NY, unaffiliated with any institution or denomination. These events allow people of all ages and backgrounds to make Jewish friends and participate in Jewish activities. In the past year, JWOW has reached over 1,500 people with creative, volunteer-run events in non-traditional spaces. The organization has celebrated Sukkot at a bookstore, observed Shabbat at the beach, and arranged a huge Hanukkah party at the mall.

A team of over 100 volunteers organizes fresh and creative programming under the direction of a leadership team of six volunteers dedicated to steering JWOW as it continues to grow. Last year, JWOW almost doubled its number of participants while also increasing the number of offered programs. In addition to stand-alone programming, JWOW also offers ongoing JBabies and JSprouts classes, Jewish cultural classes for parents with infants and children ages 0 to 5. Additionally, JWOW is developing partnerships with local organizations, ranging from UJA-Federation and Hadassah to local synagogues and businesses, all of which strengthen JWOW's ability to reach Jews across the community.

“Amazing use of social connections to create wide-ranging Jewish programs outside institutional walls.”



Jewish World Watch

Mobilizing the Jewish community to fight against genocide across the globe by supporting tangible projects, advocating for political change, and developing high-impact projects that improve the lives of survivors.

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year founded

2004

board chair(s)

Janice Kamenir-Reznik

2014 expenses

\$1,538,816

Jewish World Watch (JWW) responds to the dissonance between the Jewish communal promise of “never again” and the reality of modern day genocide. Initially a synagogue-based organization in Southern California raising awareness and funds in the fight against genocide, JWW has grown into a global coalition that includes schools, churches, communities, and partner organizations. While grounding all education, fundraising, and activist work in Jewish tradition and a shared history of tragedy, JWW has raised over \$12.5 million to support the fight against global genocides and mass atrocities.

“Motivated by tragedy from Jewish history, JWW has a powerful reach and impact in building awareness in the fight against genocide.

Focused on the ongoing crises in Sudan and eastern Congo, JWW partners with on-the-ground organizations to improve the lives of survivors, advocate for political change, and channel the energy and efforts of the Jewish community into creating a safer world. With a coalition of more than 100 community institutions, JWW has mobilized thousands of activists, educated thousands of students, and reached more than 500,000 Darfuri and Congolese survivors. A dynamic, vibrant presence in the Southern Californian and global Jewish communities, JWW provides a unique, powerful, and meaningful way for Jews to access their own history and tradition while acting as a force for change in the world.

Jews for Racial & Economic Justice

Organizing the New York City Jewish community to work with impacted communities, creating systemic change and improving people's daily lives.

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year founded

1990

board chair(s)

Shira Eve Epstein

2014 expenses

\$240,300

Jews for Racial & Economic Justice (JFREJ) provides a political voice in New York City for Jews who are passionate about local social justice issues. Rooting its organizing work in Jewish history and culture, JFREJ brings together Jews from all corners of the community to express their Judaism through action. This approach strengthens participants' Jewish identities as they work towards a vision of a more just world. Now over 20 years old, JFREJ continues to inspire as it engages in the vital work of immersing the Jewish community in social change movements.

“ If you live in New York and care about local social justice, you will find your Jewish community here.

JFREJ addresses multiple social justice concerns through its ongoing campaigns. The Shalom Bayit: Justice for Domestic Workers Campaign comprises both a workforce development strategy for the national Caring Across Generations campaign, and a Covenant of Care, outlining community-wide standards for ethical treatment of domestic workers. The Campaign for Police Accountability looks towards implementation of recent reforms while encouraging Jewish involvement in the fight against racism and Islamophobia. New campaigns include an effort to engage post-b'nai mitzvah youth by connecting Jewish tradition with political art and culture, and a focus on healing the impacts of anti-Semitism within the Jewish community. Serving as a model for Jewish organizing efforts across the country, JFREJ continuously develops and implements new strategies and tactics to work within the ever-changing landscape of New York and the Jewish community.



jfnej.org



[@jfnejnyc](https://twitter.com/jfnejnyc)



JLens Investor Network

An investor network and consulting organization engaging the Jewish community on impact investing through a Jewish lens.

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year founded

2012

board chair(s)

n/a

2014 expenses

\$152,000

JLens Investor Network mixes education, consulting, and fund management in order to bring Jewish values to investment. Many people use Jewish values to guide their charitable donations, and JLens encourages investors to think conscientiously about financial investments as a way to engage in Jewish life. The organization also demonstrates how financial investments can create a positive impact in the world without sacrificing returns. Connecting Jews of all backgrounds with Jewish values, ethics, and Israel, while at the same time educating them on values-aligned investing and global challenges, JLens sparks a Jewish conversation on investment and Jewish values, serving as a Jewish representative to the larger impact investment movement.

JLens currently advises nearly 3,000 donors in the Jewish community on how to manage a combined \$1 billion in investment capital. Many of JLens' educational activities focus on the intersection between Jewish values and investment, highlighted in its recently launched blog. Focusing on investment opportunities inspired by the Jewish value of tikkun olam, JLens' consulting activities help organizations develop, implement, and monitor impact investment policies. Going forward, JLens plans to explore the launch of a new Jewish values-based equity mutual fund.

“ All Jewish foundations, institutions, and donors should be investing with this philosophy.



JOIN for Justice

Strengthening the community organizing practice of Jewish leaders, ensuring that Jewish communities play a powerful role in American struggles for social justice.

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year founded

2012

board chair(s)

Phil Rosenblatt

2014 expenses

\$769,464

In service of the Jewish vision of a just world, the American Jewish community has a long tradition of engaging in antipoverty and social justice work. Recognizing that this passion sometimes outpaces the skillset within the Jewish community, JOIN for Justice works to make that vision a reality by training rabbis and lay leaders in community organizing skills, helping them leverage relationships and move others to action. Believing that successful activism revitalizes Jewish communities while building a more just world, JOIN for Justice has over 500 alumni across the country who mobilize their communities to address today's most pressing social issues.

JOIN's Jewish Organizing Fellowship, based in Boston, places fellows in full-time jobs where they organize on issues ranging from disability rights to environmental health to worker justice, all while learning about organizing in a Jewish context. A separate JOIN training program, the Seminary Leadership Project, offers courses in organizing and leadership development to students around the country. JOIN has also expanded with new technologies that broaden its reach, piloting an online class with the Harvard Kennedy School and providing online training and support to a cohort of Conservative rabbis across the country.

“ JOIN has been at the forefront of enabling the Jewish community to learn, embrace, and enact the powerful tool of community organizing.

A public health initiative that aims to prevent Jewish genetic diseases through affordable, online genetic carrier screening and counseling.

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year founded

2013

board chair(s)

Larry Smith

2014 expenses

\$1,800,000

project of:

Emory University

parent org founded

1836

While most individuals with Ashkenazi Jewish ancestry are familiar with some inherited genetic diseases, many do not know that they possess an increased risk for up to 19 Jewish genetic diseases. If both parents are carriers for the same condition, each of their children has a 25% chance of inheriting a potentially devastating and preventable genetic disease. Despite the efforts of existing genetic screening programs, 40% of Jews of reproductive age do not realize their carrier risks and also do not know that they can receive screening nationwide. JScreen fills this gap, offering online education and at-home screening programs, making it easy, accessible, and affordable for people to receive important medical information.

“ JScreen is well positioned to change the face of online genetic testing.

Since its launch in the fall of 2013, JScreen has screened over 400 people across North America from a variety of Jewish affiliations and backgrounds. Participants log on to the website, where they receive educational materials and can request a screening “spit kit.” The organization mails kits directly to participants in their homes, where, thanks to advances in technology, they simply provide a saliva sample and mail the kit to a local testing facility. JScreen reviews the results, shares them with participants, and provides complementary genetic counseling as needed. By making screening convenient and affordable, JScreen works to turn the tide against Jewish genetic diseases.



jscreen.org



@myjscreen



The Kavana Cooperative

Pioneering a new high-engagement model for how local Jewish communities can be organized through building compelling and meaningful Jewish life.

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year founded

2006

board chair(s)

Julie Katz

2014 expenses

\$377,000

The Kavana Cooperative knows that local, intimate, neighborhood-based Jewish communities best meet the needs of 21st century Jews, and its approach radically changes the form and function of a synagogue. Kavana is a true co-op: the organization refers to members as “partners” rather than “congregants,” and each partner must contribute to the cooperative in a meaningful way. This allows for multiple entry points into Jewish engagement in an authentically pluralistic community unlimited by denominational affiliations. Unlike other unaffiliated spiritual communities, The Kavana Cooperative does not center solely on prayer but seeks to help its partners become producers, rather than merely consumers, of Jewish lives with kavana, or “intention.”

“Kavana is willing and able to challenge the evolving status quo and present a truly innovative cooperative model that challenges establishment assumptions about young Jews’ interests and commitment.”

Kavana partnership involves regular participation, volunteering, and financial contributions, and 95% of partners meet that commitment with active engagement in the community. Partners meet regularly for holiday and Shabbat services in locations ranging from parks to living rooms, and the cooperative offers camping trips, varied educational opportunities, and a Hebrew-language immersion preschool. Within Kavana, other smaller groups and gatherings occur based on the interests and locations of partners. All of these elements together create what the cooperative calls “personalized Judaism in a community context.”



Keshet

Working for the full equality and inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Jews in Jewish life.

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year founded

1996

board chair(s)

Andrew Zelermyer

2014 expenses

\$1,927,600

The Jewish community increases in strength by welcoming and including every Jew. Since Keshet's founding in 1996, the organization has worked to ensure that all Jewish organizations become stronger by implementing policies and programming that embrace lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) Jews. Keshet has already moved mountains, creating online resources for LGBT Jews, training the leaders of synagogues and community organizations on inclusive practices, and building a network of LGBT parent activists, among other accomplishments. Yet homophobic bullying and gender policing still exists, and parts of the Jewish community have not moved beyond merely tolerating LGBT presence into full inclusion.

In response, Keshet continues to develop relevant programs that address the areas of LGBT need, including training and supporting Jewish educators and community leaders, providing the community with resources such as The Purim Superhero, the first Jewish children's book with LGBT characters, and building community for LGBT Jews via an array of social, cultural, and educational events. In 2014, Keshet's work has impacted the lives of 10,000 youth by training professionals to address homophobia and gender stereotypes, and the organization has also provided leaders of 45 Jewish institutions with tools that help make their organizations more inclusive, influencing 22,500 organizational members across North America. Through its innovative efforts, Keshet continues to lead the expansion of LGBT inclusion in Jewish life.

“Undeterred by the enormity of the challenge, Keshet continues to innovate and find new ways of building a Jewish community that honors full inclusion of LGBT Jews.



Kevah

Empowering individuals and organizations to build Jewish learning communities.

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year founded

2010

board chair(s)

Dan Oppenheimer

2014 expenses

\$600,000

Kevah unlocks the potential of Jewish text study by making it as easy as planning a party: gather some friends together and choose a topic, and Kevah brings an educator and all necessary materials. This approach allows Kevah to connect Jews of all ages, backgrounds, and knowledge levels with teachers who engage them in thought-provoking conversations around Jewish texts, often in participants' homes and neighborhoods. As group organizers convene small groups of their friends and peers, Kevah tailors its educational content to the group's specific demographic needs and interests, from a group of mothers in Los Angeles to a gathering of Jewish professionals in New York City and everything in between.

The customizable nature of the content means that Kevah can create unique and meaningful learning experiences that address participants' needs and interests while also connecting them with the broad history of Jewish text and tradition. Kevah also runs successful trainings in small-group teaching skills for 25 young adult educators, and plans to launch an intensive certification program in the coming year. With 50 groups already in existence and micro-communities continuing to pop up across the country, Kevah inspires others with its replicable and engaging model for small-group learning.

“ Kevah empowers Jewish adults to engage in Jewish learning in a way that is meaningful to them.

The Kitchen

A religious start-up and an innovation-driven community platform that helps people live Jewishly in order to change lives, make meaning, and invest in the world.

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year founded

2011

board chair(s)

Samantha Grant Wiesler

2014 expenses

\$581,000

In San Francisco, the data show that 72% of Jews under 40 have no connection with any Jewish institution, yet the staff at The Kitchen knows that these young people still search for community and belongingness. The Kitchen makes connections between Jewish experiences and content for people who search for meaning everywhere except within the Jewish community. Just like its name, The Kitchen is the place where everyone gathers during a party. Through its highly substantive but informal and easily accessible programs, The Kitchen transforms the landscape of the San Francisco Jewish community.

“The Kitchen is what happens when an organization successfully combines cool with meaningful Judaism.

Community Shabbat and holiday prayer and learning experiences happen at The Kitchen, and participants can participate in Jewish activities at home with The Kitchen's “take out” initiatives. The organization offers a Shabbos Supper Club that serves food from the best restaurants in the city, experiential Shabbat learning opportunities for children at Freedom School, and a course in spiritual endurance. With 150 families paying dues (representing a 230% increase in two years) and over 1,000 unique visitors in 2013, The Kitchen clearly impacts San Francisco Jewish life. The organization plans to continue its quest to transform local Jewish community through a partnership with the innovation firm IDEO to design reimagined delivery systems for Jewish living and learning – a perfect next step for an organization with a start-up approach appropriate to San Francisco and Silicon Valley.



LABA: A Laboratory for Jewish Culture

A laboratory for Jewish culture where classic Jewish texts inspire the creation of new art.

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year founded

2007

board chair(s)

Harvey Schulweis

2014 expenses

\$506,018

project of:

14th Street Y of the
Educational Alliance

parent org founded

1889

The Jewish community has a rich cultural tradition full of art, literature, theater, and dance inspired by Jewish text and history. Recognizing that some Jews experience their Jewish identities through cultural platforms rather than religious expression, LABA: A Laboratory for Jewish Culture creates opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to engage with Jewish texts in creative, open-minded, and intellectually stimulating ways. LABA uses classic Jewish texts to inspire the creation of new artistic work, combining tradition with experimentation in ways that bring new energy to the experience of Jewish life and culture.

“ I have not seen any other JCC make an investment of this kind – this is a great model for how and why the Jewish community should support artists.

Each year, LABA chooses a theme that serves as an organizing principle for its programming. LABA: House of Study then serves as an incubator for 10 to 15 artists who study classic Jewish texts on this theme and interpret them via their various art forms. LABAlive, an ongoing series of original events and performances, serves as a showcase for LABA artists and engages diverse members of the community in text study, conversation, and Jewish culture. LABA's continued success and expansion illustrates how supporting Jewish culture makers can transform a community and deepen engagement with communal life.



LE MOOD

A year-round community daring young adults to explore Jewish identity through informal, off-beat and unexpected Jewish learning, arts and culture.

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CANADA

year founded

2010

board chair(s)

Mike Savatovsky

2014 expenses

\$90,000

project of:

Federation CJA

parent org founded

1917

Montreal's young Jewish adults are accustomed to a traditional way of Jewish life, but LE MOOD tells a new story by creating relevant experiences for Jewish life today. LE MOOD, Montreal's Festival of Unexpected Jewish Learning, Arts, and Culture, has emerged from the idea that something incredible can happen when Montreal's most creative young Jews come together. After three years and eight gatherings, LE MOOD has become a massive convening of young Jews, experimenting with new ways of connecting Jewish traditions with everyday life, all planned by the young adults it serves.

Jewish life in Montreal has received a breath of fresh air from LE MOOD's latest gathering, allowing 1,100 participants to choose from hands-on workshops, learning opportunities, performances, and art exhibitions. LE MOOD generates content throughout the year in partnership with hundreds of volunteers in the community, exploring topics of interest, discussing how these topics intersect with Judaism, and then creating sessions for the conference based on these areas of interest. The organization continually improves its programs through participant feedback and regularly asks members what they want to see at the next conference. LE MOOD's yearlong, smaller-scale, follow-up opportunities also strengthen relationships between participants and organizers and ensure that LE MOOD continues to affect how people live Jewishly in Montreal.

“As a volunteer-driven organization, LE MOOD is cultivating and empowering leaders in a community that is ready for a younger generation with new interests.



Makom

A dynamic young community reanimating Jewish life through celebration, learning, and sacred mission.

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year founded

2012

board chair(s)

Danielle Rugoff

2014 expenses

\$100,000

project of:

Congregation
Shearith Israel

parent org founded

1884

Makom proves that Jewish communal innovation can succeed in any corner of the country, including smaller Jewish communities like Dallas, TX. In Dallas, as in many cities throughout North America, Orthodox outreach organizations and synagogue affinity groups offer the only young adult engagement options. Through grassroots community building, Makom provides a new option designed to connect young Jewish adults with Jewish life on their own terms. An initiative incubated by Dallas' oldest and largest Conservative synagogue, Makom breathes fresh energy into Jewish life in Dallas, enhancing the Jewish identities and spiritual growth of all those who participate.

For participants, mostly non-synagogue members, Makom reimagines how to integrate daily Jewish experiences into people's lives. From its First Fridays Kabbalat Shabbat services to Third Thursdays learning programs, hundreds gather for events that combine accessibility, tradition, and creativity. Makom also inspires growth and creativity in its incubator parent congregation, showing how transformative engagement can and should be a part of every Jewish experience.

“ Makom engages hundreds of Jews by shattering preconceived notions on what young Jews want.



Matan

Training current and future Jewish communal leaders and educators to change the Jewish community's approach to educating Jewish children with disabilities.

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year founded

2000

board chair(s)

Rabbi William Plevan

2014 expenses

\$350,000

Many families feel that they cannot access the best Jewish education for their child with disabilities. In response, Matan equips those on the front lines of Jewish education with the knowledge, skill-sets, resources, and materials to create large-scale change across the country. By advocating for students with disabilities and supporting educators, Matan ensures that providing access to Jewish education becomes a communal responsibility and that the challenge does not fall solely on the shoulders of parents of children with disabilities.

“Matan understands the importance of leveraging educator training to make significant waves in the world of Jewish disabilities education.

The Matan Institutes provide intensive training and ongoing mentorship for current and future Jewish leaders. To date, the Institutes have attracted educators from 13 states, and in the past year, Matan has trained over 1,000 educators from schools, camps, and JCCs. Cohorts of educators engage in an ongoing professional development network, connecting with each other for ideas, support, consultation, and webinars. Matan's website also features a blog for parents and educators, provides materials created for and tested by kids, and hosts an online store with products to help meet the needs of all learners. Through a partnership with Gratz College, Matan teaches courses on Jewish special education, and it also works to develop more partnerships in new communities. When other institutions seek a strong voice of inspiration regarding special needs, they turn to Matan.



Mayyim Hayyim Living Waters Community Mikveh

A re-imagined and radically inclusive mikveh where education is as important as immersion, and all Jews come for healing, celebrations, life transitions, and conversions to Judaism.

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year founded

2001

board chair(s)

Jennifer Slifka Vidal

2014 expenses

\$601,366

Mayyim Hayyim's work to reinvent the ancient tradition of the mikveh, or Jewish ritual bath, for the 21st century provides a case study on why some Jewish traditions become less prominent, and how to make them relevant again. Although the mikveh was a routine activity two generations ago, by the 1990s, most Jews outside of the Orthodox community viewed the mikveh as an all but irrelevant relic. The tradition did not adapt to the needs of the community – liberal Jews had to feign conservative values, lesbians had to pretend to be married to men, and participants immersed in front of poorly trained witnesses. As with other rituals that fell by the wayside, the experience of the mikveh no longer provided value. In response, Mayyim Hayyim began training mikveh guides, welcoming participants of all genders and religious affiliations, and ensuring that the experience became valuable once again.

“ For a guidebook on how to reanimate ritual, look no farther than Mayyim Hayyim.

Today, Mayyim Hayyim hosts over 1,400 immersions and 110 educational programs every year, including conferences, site visits, webinars, and telephone consultations. Some of its newer initiatives include greater outreach to men, a program to foster connections between bat mitzvah girls and their mothers, and programs for young couples. These experiences are so powerful that word has spread across the country - Mayyim Hayyim consults with 80 communities who envision a role for the baths in their modern, progressive communities. Mayyim Hayyim's work in reclaiming and reframing the mikveh provides an example of how ancient, misunderstood Jewish rituals can become part of meaningful modern practice.



MazelTot.org

Increasing Jewish engagement and community among families with prenatal through preschool-aged children by making it easy for them to explore local Jewish life.

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year founded

2009

board chair(s)

Jennifer Atler Fischer

2014 expenses

\$213,350

project of:

Rose Community Foundation

parent org founded

1995

The high cost of Jewish living often negatively affects a family's Jewish choices, therefore, Colorado-based MazelTot.org provides Denver and Boulder families with a platform to help make these choices. In a location where only 13% of Jews ages 25 to 39 feel included in the Jewish community – partly because of lack of easy access to information and perceived high cost of involvement – MazelTot.org creates a more networked and affordable Jewish experience. The organization touches on a key moment in the arc of Jewish life: if families connect when their children are young, they are more likely to continue to “choose Jewish” as their children grow.

MazelTot.org eases a family's entry into Jewish engagement by partnering with 37 organizations to create an online forum that provides access to a full spectrum of Jewish programming and discounts for events. Through sampling many different programs (like prenatal yoga, Jewish music classes, or gardening), families create robust Jewish lives without the financial commitment of joining an institution. This approach inspires families to keep coming back; 64% of families report greater participation in Jewish life since signing up for MazelTot.org, and over 1,900 families have registered, redeeming over 2,000 discounts. The benefits of MazelTot.org's work also extend beyond the families. In response to the clear demand of MazelTot.org participants, 71% of partnering organizations have created new or improved programs. Through this innovative approach, MazelTot.org raises the bar for how the Jewish community responds to the changing needs of the Jewish family.

“MazelTot is doing fabulous work and is truly moving the needle on Jewish engagement in a city that has one of the highest intermarriage rates in the country. Other communities should learn from this model and replicate locally.

The Miracle Project Judaica

A Jewish theater and film program for children, teens, and young adults with autism and other disabilities and their non-disabled siblings and peers that embraces and strengthens the entire family, creating a dynamic, inclusive Jewish community.

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year founded

2011

board chair(s)

Lauren Katz
Rebecca Kennerly

2014 expenses

\$125,000

project of:

Project Miracles

parent org founded

2004

Parents of children with disabilities find very few Jewish experiences that are accessible to the entire family. The Miracle Project Judaica (TMPJ) provides a common language for families of children with disabilities to share in creative Jewish experiences together. By involving individuals of all abilities in musical theater workshops, inclusion within families and Jewish communities develops organically. This work helps to reconnect families with their Jewish communities and heals wounds caused by feelings of isolation or exclusion.

TMPJ uses a unique “reverse inclusion” approach that prompts non-disabled parents and siblings to enter the world of the children with disabilities, encouraging participants to work together to write plays and create songs based on their own explorations of Judaism and the Torah. TMPJ also offers a path to b’nai mitzvah celebration and has used its personalized, multi-sensory approach to Jewish learning and Torah study to help over 25 families create meaningful ceremonies. Thousands of individuals have benefitted from TMPJ’s workshops and professional training programs for synagogue, school, and camp professionals, and the organization plans to create an infrastructure for sharing training materials and curricula to help other Jewish communities replicate its model. By using musical theater, a genre successfully used in the broader disabilities community, TMPJ builds bridges between Judaism and families.

“ TMPJ has been a life-raft for those families with children with disabilities who have felt frustrated and rejected by the Jewish community.



themiracleproject.org



@coache



Mishkan Chicago

Engaging, educating, connecting, and inspiring Chicagoans through dynamic experiences of Jewish prayer, learning, and community building.

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year founded

2012

board chair(s)

James Johnson

2014 expenses

\$446,000

Mishkan Chicago is the latest spiritual community to disprove the conventional wisdom that young Jews do not want to engage in religious life. Many initiatives designed for younger people provide a watered-down version of Jewish content, thinking that anything too deep or involved causes young people to balk. Mishkan, however, works precisely because it does not offer a “lite” version of Judaism. The organization shows that asking less of participants only gets less from them, but asking for more – and giving real spiritual connection and community – gets much more. Through discussion groups, classes, music, and prayer, through developing individual relationships and community-building activities, Mishkan Chicago provides a diverse, accessible, and relevant set of authentic Jewish opportunities.

“The leadership of Chicago’s Jewish community of the future are Mishkan-goers today.

Over 1,500 young adults have attended Mishkan Chicago programs in the past year, including 75 volunteers for one of its three leadership teams: Love, Justice, or Davening (prayer). Mishkan has deeply entrenched itself in the broader Chicago Jewish community, working in neighborhoods throughout the city. The organization partners with organizations across Chicago, including fellow *Slingshot* organizations AVODAH, SVARA, and Moishe House. This year, it has also developed Mini Mishkan, which works to expand Mishkan Chicago’s offerings to young parents who, for various reasons, do not feel at home in traditional synagogue settings. By offering a new and relevant model for “doing Jewish,” Mishkan has built a new address for progressive and rich Jewish engagement in Chicago.



Moishe House

Creatively redefining post-college Jewish life through a peer-led model of connection.

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year founded

2006

board chair(s)

Kevin Waldman

2014 expenses

\$4,498,609

Moishe House has changed the way Jewish programs are created, proved that 20-somethings are interested in Jewish life, and found a way to do it both inexpensively and on a worldwide scale. At Moishe House, a small group of Jewish young adults lives together with subsidized rent in exchange for planning a number of events for the local Jewish community. With this simple model, Moishe House attracts more than 80,000 attendees annually to events around the world. Today, Moishe House has 69 houses, often locally supported, operating in 17 countries.

“ Moishe House is becoming as synonymous with 20-something Jews as Hillel is for college students. For funders looking to spark young adult programming in their communities, start with Moishe House.

Residents, all 20-something Jews from diverse backgrounds, develop Moishe House programs based on the needs of their communities. Events range from learning programs to Shabbat and holiday celebrations to social action projects. An alumni and outreach network, Moishe House Without Walls, creates further opportunities for engagement, leadership, and networking. By partnering with organizations and synagogues, Moishe Houses offer participants many different points of connection and numerous ways of accessing Jewish experiences. Through collaboration with other Jewish organizations, Moishe House ensures that participants always have a place to turn for Jewish experiences.



Moving Traditions

Engaging teens in meaningful Jewish community while applying a gender lens and Jewish values to the challenges of everyday life.

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year founded

2005

board chair(s)

Sally Gottesman

2014 expenses

\$1,889,552

Amidst the note passing and acne, teens' lives overflow with social pressures, bullying, depression, eating disorders, and questioning sexuality. Moving Traditions creates a framework for integrating Jewish values into these typical teenage challenges. Teens face daily bombardment from competing messages about each of these issues, and Moving Traditions is the only organization that bridges that messaging with Judaism, utilizing experts in the field of sexuality education to create a state-of-the-art curriculum for teens. By training rabbis, camp counselors, day school educators, and youth group leaders, Moving Traditions affirms that the Jewish community provides the best place to engage with teens on the most pressing issues in their lives.

Through its two programs, Rosh Hodesh: It's a Girl Thing! and Shevet Achim: The Brotherhood, Moving Traditions has certified more than 1,200 educators and empowered over 12,000 Jewish teenagers of all affiliations to immerse themselves in Jewish tradition as they navigate what it means to be a teen. These non-judgmental safe spaces allow teens to fall back on their Jewish communities when the trials of teenage life emerge. Continually growing and evolving, the organization has recently trained 55 new adult male group leaders in order to increase the number of Brotherhood participants. As Moving Traditions moves into its tenth year of operation, it continues to create a new ethic of respect, equality, and healthy sexuality, which allows teens to be the leaders of a new, countercultural conversation.

“Moving Traditions offers time-tested programs that are unlike anything else offered for girls and boys in the Jewish community as they figure out what it means to be an adult in the world.

MyJewishLearning, Inc.

Leveraging the Internet and other new media to spread knowledge of Jewish religion, history, values, traditions, and culture.

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year founded

2002

board chair(s)

Daniel Gorlin

2014 expenses

\$1,400,000

Given that many people now pay taxes, buy groceries, and find life partners online, it makes sense that many also view the Internet as their primary source of information about Judaism. MyJewishLearning, Inc. provides an Internet home base for all things Jewish, serving an online community of people seeking an open, pluralistic approach to Judaism and reaching 650,000 unique individuals a month. MyJewishLearning.com has become the most highly trafficked trans-denominational Jewish education website, and its sister site Kveller.com provides the first and only Jewish parenting website, offering parenting resources, blogs, and an online center for Jewish parents to call home. MyJewishLearning harnesses the accessibility of the Internet to bring Jewish education, community, and resources directly to people's fingertips.

MyJewishLearning's daily emails deliver tidbits of Torah, cultural information, and trendy Jewish topics into subscribers' inboxes. Its online articles educate readers about the depth and breadth of Jewish history, literacy, and ritual. MyJewishLearning also hosts blogs for like-minded organizations, promoting them and providing a broader audience. Kveller's local sites for communities in Baltimore and Long Island have recently begun to offer local resources to promote offline events in order to create micro-communities within the larger Kveller network. MyJewishLearning continues to represent the largest forum for online Jewish engagement, and as the leading website of its kind, other organizations looking to enhance their online appeal view MyJewishLearning as a resource and a consultant. Going forward, the organization plans to develop greater niche market products that target specific communities with the robust content of MyJewishLearning.

“ MyJewishLearning.com and Kveller are unique in their ability to host Jewish content in an agenda-free space.



myjewishlearning.com



@jewlearn

NewGround: A Muslim-Jewish Partnership for Change

Equipping Jews and Muslims with skills, resources, and relationships to strengthen Muslim-Jewish relations and increase cooperation.

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year founded

2006

board chair(s)

David Weiner

2014 expenses

\$185,000

project of:

Community Partners

parent org founded

1992

While interfaith dialogue has increased in popularity within the Jewish community, the lack of sustained engagement with American Muslims causes concern. NewGround: A Muslim-Jewish Partnership for Change believes that engaging and collaborating with the Muslim community reduces tensions and transforms how the two communities see one another. Instead of viewing community relations from a defense-based perspective, NewGround uses coalition-based advocacy to overcome previous pitfalls in dialogue and proves that Jewish-Muslim dialogue can serve as a component of mainstream Jewish communal relations.

“NewGround is actually facilitating relationships between Muslims and Jews by providing a safe space to reflect on their past through identity defining, as well as working towards a more equitable future.

NewGround's leadership-training fellowship gives young Jews and Muslims the skills to more deeply understand their own identities while also creating relationships between the groups. The fellowship brings 20 Jewish and Muslim young professionals together for weekend retreats and twice-monthly sessions to learn about each other and to develop projects for the larger Los Angeles community. Through this model, which NewGround has also adapted for high school students, Jews and Muslims collaborate to transform their own communities' perceptions of “the other.” Alumni have worked with over 45 partner organizations to create lasting projects based on mutual interest, impacting over 7,000 individuals. NewGround's alumni continue to contribute to the lasting success of the program and mobilize during moments of tension to diffuse conflict and bring the two communities together.



Online Jewish Academy

Providing personalized learning opportunities to students with learning disabilities and other atypical learners.

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year founded

2011

board chair(s)

Matthew Weintraub

2014 expenses

\$400,000

The Online Jewish Academy (OJA) believes that no student should lack a Jewish education just because he or she struggles in traditional classrooms or has learning disabilities. OJA uses innovations in technology to make Jewish education more available and accessible than ever before. Often, Jewish day schools alone do not have the abilities to create individual learning plans for students in ways that enable students to succeed and remain in Jewish day school. OJA supplements day schools' efforts by offering student-centered, online and in-classroom educational support.

“ Many of us challenge ourselves to figure out how to provide meaningful and participatory Jewish education for children with disabilities, and OJA clearly has discovered and developed a successful venture.

Through OJA, students learn on their home campuses with their time split between regular classrooms and OJA's online blended learning Beit Midrash, which serves students of many different learning styles. Highly-trained OJA professionals partner with schools to create individualized learning plans, helping students excel not just academically but also in extracurricular pursuits, sports, and other campus activities. Learning coaches adjust the courses for each student's interest, pace, and strengths. OJA offers new possibilities for children with learning differences and provides an excellent example of combining educational and technological innovations with the rich body of Jewish tradition.

Opening the Doors

Providing trained disabilities educators, aides and consultants to supplemental, early childhood, and day schools so that diverse learners are able to fully participate in Jewish education.

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year founded

1995

board chair(s)

Douglas Bloom

2014 expenses

\$325,556

project of:

Jewish Federation of
Metropolitan Detroit

parent org founded

1926

Opening the Doors continues to work for the full inclusion of children with disabilities into Jewish learning environments. By placing disabilities educators in Jewish day schools, early education centers, and congregational programs throughout the Detroit metropolitan area, Opening the Doors ensures that children with diverse learning needs can fully participate in Jewish education with their peers. Believing that all students should have access to appropriate and quality Jewish education, Opening the Doors provides all individualized services for free, impacting over 1,000 children in 26 schools in the Detroit area.

In addition to the placement of Master's-level disabilities educators, Opening the Doors also trains paraprofessionals to assist in the classrooms. The Madrichim Leadership Institute prepares teens to assist students with learning differences, enabling those students to further their participation in Jewish education. Opening the Doors also partners with Chabad's Friendship Circle to offer a collaborative Sunday school program with more intensive support for children with more complex disabilities. Additionally, Opening the Doors has developed anti-bullying materials for use in area schools and hosts community conferences to raise disability awareness and provide strategies to enable diverse learners to be successful in academic and social situations. Opening the Doors' model is replicable and empowers individuals with disabilities to overcome challenges and engage with the community. As one family reports, "We were told that [our child with autism] would receive whatever supports needed to enable him to receive a Hebrew education."

“ The scope of this program is wide, touching not just the target population but also families, educators, and Jewish educational institutions.

ORA: Organization for the Resolution of Agunot

Freeing chained wives and fundamentally changing attitudes about get-refusal and domestic abuse.

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year founded

2002

board chair(s)

Michelle Greenberg-Kobrin

2014 expenses

\$400,000

Under traditional Jewish law, a husband can deny his wife a divorce by refusing to give a “get,” a religious bill of divorce, which forces many women to remain in unhealthy or abusive marriages. ORA: Organization for the Resolution of Agunot fights for these women and offers support, education, and resources. Agunot, a Hebrew term used to describe these “chained” women, cannot begin new relationships until they receive the get, and husbands often deny the get in order to blackmail their wives. ORA works to change the way that the Jewish community views agunot, creating large-scale awareness about this dangerous form of domestic abuse.

Since its founding in 2002, ORA has successfully freed over 200 women through amicable facilitation and advocacy. When these efforts do not succeed, ORA organizes community protests and applies social, financial, and communal pressure on husbands who refuse to give their wives a get. In the past year, ORA has received acclaim from several national newspapers for its work in resolving a five-year agunah case, and its social media efforts have garnered support from over 13,000 people for another woman. ORA’s Agunah Prevention Initiative also educates religious communities to create awareness about agunot and preventative Jewish prenuptial agreements.. Rabbis from both Modern Orthodox rabbinic associations endorse signing this halachic prenuptial agreement. Through ORA’s work to resolve current get-refusal cases and prevent future issues, the organization strives to eliminate abuse within the divorce process.

“ It is impossible to deny ORA’s success in advocating for vulnerable women and changing the conversation about divorce in the Orthodox community.



getora.org



@oragunot

OurJewishCommunity.org

An online Jewish community that reaches people where they are and celebrates a Judaism that is bold, intellectually honest, and ever-evolving.

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year founded

2008

board chair(s)

Paul Korn

2014 expenses

\$230,020

project of:

Beth Adam Inc.

parent org founded

1980

OurJewishCommunity.org (OJC) does not merely host a website with a radical new vision for the Jewish community, it embodies that very community. With many Jews identifying as non-religious, not affiliating with synagogues, or living farther away from community centers, OJC uses technology to create a spiritual home online. Community members include soldiers serving abroad, people who cannot physically attend a synagogue, people who have disengaged from Judaism, and others who have not found the right community for them. Regardless of what attracts participants, OJC's modern, inclusive liturgy and humanistic values offer a comfortable entry point for Jews who may not consider themselves religious in a traditional sense, but who still seek a Jewish experience.

“ OJC is changing the nature of Jewish community by building connections online and even hosting one of the largest High Holiday services in the country.

OJC began as an online synagogue of simply streaming High Holiday services, and it has quickly expanded to include weekly Shabbat services with opportunities to live chat with the rabbis, live-streamed Passover Seders, and educational lifecycle information, webinars, and podcasts. During major holiday weeks, its Facebook page reaches over 750,000 individuals. OJC staff creates content specifically for online platforms and maximizes technological innovations for the virtual audience. More than just a successful website, OJC also provides a strong voice for Jewish engagement. Conferences and news sources often feature OJC when discussing how to work with populations that are estranged from traditional Jewish communities, as well as when referencing best practices in using technology to its full potential to reach constituents.



The Pearlstone Center

Inspiring vibrant Jewish life through warm hospitality, immersive experiences, living Judaism, and environmental stewardship.

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year founded

2001

board chair(s)

Ilene Vogelstein

2014 expenses

\$2,188,878

Part retreat center, part Jewish educational farm, the Pearlstone Center offers a space for Jewish living and learning. Pearlstone serves as an entry point to meaningful Jewish engagement, meeting the needs of those seeking to reconnect with Judaism through ethical living, environmental concern, or exploring nature. Visitors can collect eggs and feed goats, learn to harvest, or engage in workshops about “greening” Jewish lifecycle events. All visitors experience Jewish life outside of the classroom at Pearlstone, where gaining exposure to nature opens an avenue of connection for Jews of all ages, backgrounds, and levels of observance.

“ Pearlstone has become one of the organizations at the “top of the food chain” of the Jewish farming and environmental education communities. Best practices from Pearlstone will set the tone at Jewish retreat centers and farms across the country.

In the past year, over 4,500 people have visited the 164-acre campus for Shabbat retreats, conferences, field trips, and Family Farm Days, which allow families to visit and volunteer monthly. Pearlstone has also launched the Integrated Sustainability Apprenticeship program, where eight young adults live and work on-site for a year while studying Jewish texts and developing leadership skills. Going forward, the center plans to launch Hebrew School on the Farm, a partnership with local synagogues to provide a new model of congregational education. Pearlstone collaborates with many local organizations and participates in the JOFEE (Jewish Outdoor Food Environmental Education) consortium, continuing to provide an excellent model for bold leadership and creative thinking.

RespectAbilityUSA

Enabling the full inclusion of people with disabilities and their families into Jewish life.

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year founded

2013

board chair(s)

Donn Weinberg

2014 expenses

\$77,913

project of:

Autism Society of America

parent org founded

1965

While many organizations work towards the inclusion of people with disabilities, none works on as large a scale as RespectAbilityUSA. Focused on changing organizations' perceptions and reshaping attitudes about inclusion, RespectAbilityUSA operates as a research institution, an advocacy center, and a resource for organizations looking to enhance their inclusion policies and programs. As a part of a coalition of faith-based groups working towards greater inclusion, RespectAbilityUSA brings the best inclusion practices in the disabilities field to the Jewish community.

By conducting national polls on the intersection of Judaism and disabilities, the organization understands what work needs to be done and advocates for it. Nationally, RespectAbilityUSA has influenced and advised on inclusion goals for three major Jewish denominations. Its Washington, DC-based Kovod (Hebrew for respect) program provides trained professionals to Jewish institutions to better serve those with disabilities, and the organization has also served as an inclusion advisor to the Jewish Federation and local Jewish day schools. Whether through publishing over two-dozen op-eds in major publications, co-sponsoring conferences, or administering PR for major film festivals, RespectAbilityUSA publically demonstrates that the Jewish community offers a safe and welcoming place, and that disabilities inclusion remains a necessary item on the agenda of every Jewish organization.

“ Changing people's attitudes will lead to the change of organizations and communal behavior. RespectAbilityUSA is that change-maker.



Righteous Conversations Project

A collaboration of Holocaust survivors and young people coming together for creative work and social action.

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year founded

2011

board chair(s)

E. Randol Schoenberg

2014 expenses

\$223,854

project of:

Los Angeles Museum
of the Holocaust

parent org founded

1961

By connecting teenagers and Holocaust survivors, the Righteous Conversations Project (RCP) changes ideas of how to engage in Holocaust awareness and remembrance efforts. Participating teens commit to carrying on the voices and stories of aging Holocaust survivors by sharing survivors' narratives with a new generation of Jews. RCP partners with schools and other community organizations to enable teens to create video projects that help participants connect with a story from the past and carry it into the future. RCP's ground-breaking work compels teenagers to care about narratives of the Holocaust and to also face contemporary injustice.

Together with partnering organizations, RCP pairs teenagers with Holocaust survivors in thoughtful conversations that engage with the past and confront the present. Some programs facilitate small-group conversations, while others feature community service projects, challah baking, or art projects as forums for dialogue and relationship building. Teens then create public service announcements that connect the stories of the Holocaust with contemporary issues of injustice. Several national nonprofits disseminate these PSAs through their own advocacy work. In addition, RCP's Tell and Retell program allows survivors and their grandchildren to partner in carrying on their family stories. Through these programs, RCP influences a young generation of Jews to passionately carry on the legacy of survivors, bearing witness and sharing the survivors' life stories with local communities.

“ Righteous Conversations Project looks at a shrinking pool of Holocaust survivors and puts the onus back upon us, the listeners, to ensure these important stories continue to be told.



Ritualwell

An interactive website that allows users to find, create, and share contemporary and traditional rituals to enhance everyday life and Jewish connection.

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year founded

2001

board chair(s)

David Roberts

2014 expenses

\$109,773

project of:

Reconstructionist
Rabbinical College

parent org founded

1968

Ritualwell provides online access to do-it-yourself, individualized Jewish rituals, ranging from milestone celebrations like marriage and baby naming to smaller moments of everyday blessing. In addition to explanations of traditional rituals, users can find and create complete outlines for alternative Jewish approaches to celebrating occasions such as same-sex marriage, pregnancy, or a child's first lost tooth. The site's content also helps users create healing ceremonies that provide a structure for losses that traditional Jewish practice does not address. These rituals reflect the full range of religious backgrounds and perspectives in order to support diverse, individualized, and meaningful expressions of Jewish life. This approach gives Ritualwell's visitors the ability to pair regular, everyday occurrences with Jewishly infused ritual and tradition.

“Ritualwell is providing rituals that people need that are not otherwise addressed in traditional Judaism, helping people use Jewish customs to enhance their everyday lives.

In the past year, Ritualwell has received over 160,000 unique visitors and over 530,000 page views from people looking for homemade rituals. These users access ceremonies, prayers, songs, and videos to make their lives more Jewishly vibrant. Users can also create their own rituals and upload them to the site to share with other visitors. A rabbinic team responds to questions about ritual and Jewish life, creating a full-service Jewish experience on a user's computer screen. In the coming year, Ritualwell plans to offer its wide range of services in an iPhone/Android app, making Jewish ritual instantly accessible to all.

The Sefaria Project

Revolutionizing Jewish literacy and learning through an interactive, comprehensive online living library of Jewish texts and commentaries.

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year founded

2013

board chair(s)

Joshua Foer

2014 expenses

\$898,194

The Sefaria Project takes the ancient concept of intense text study and imbues it with the amazing possibilities of 21st century technology. Unlike other websites that host Jewish texts only in ancient Hebrew or in English with limited explanation or commentary, Sefaria aims to provide a resource for novices and experts alike. Its creators believe that if an individual wants to explore Jewish texts, those texts should be easy to find, easy to understand, and free to access. Sefaria lowers the bar to entry into meaningful Jewish learning by making texts more educationally accessible and by bringing ancient texts into the contemporary public domain.

“Sefaria is an easily accessible, public domain approach to Jewish text, that will radically enhance how our texts are taught and learned.

Sefaria's website provides texts in Hebrew and English, with a Wikipedia-style interface for user contribution. Any user can help translate, add commentary, add a text, or mark connection points between different texts, allowing students to easily move between textual references that span centuries. Sefaria's website also features a simple tool to create a source sheet of Jewish texts for educators, all publicly available online for anyone to search and use. As Sefaria grows in terms of content and users, its staff continues the process of adding new texts and experimenting with new ways to use technology to enhance the study of traditional Jewish texts.



sefaria.org



@sefariaproject

Shabbat Tent

Creating Jewish hospitality and programming at national music and camping festivals.

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year founded

2007

board chair(s)

Josh Kaplan

2014 expenses

\$200,000

project of:

JConnect

parent org founded

2006

Celebrating Shabbat might be the last thing on young Jews' minds when planning their next trip to a music festival like Bonnaroo or Coachella. But by setting up camp at popular music festivals, Shabbat Tent broadens ideas about where Shabbat celebrations can occur and what those celebrations can include. Instead of trying to create events that attract young Jews into Jewish establishments, Shabbat Tent finds the festival where Jews in their 20s and 30s already hang out and seamlessly weaves an energizing Shabbat experience into the excitement of the event.

Shabbat Tent offers meals to festivalgoers along with a full spectrum of Shabbat activities, from candle lighting to Havdalah, as well as Jewish yoga and meditation classes or deep theological conversations. Run by volunteers, including veteran campers, cooks, Jewish educators, and music experts, the Shabbat Tent's 1,600 square-foot decorated landmark visibly makes its mark at festivals. Some festival coordinators already recognize Shabbat Tent as an important element of the overall experience, setting the organization in high-trafficked, centralized locations and placing its location on official festival maps. Going forward, Shabbat Tent aims to have a tent at every festival, ensuring that wherever Jews go, they can always access Shabbat.

“ This is a brilliant idea. The festival scene is huge, and the approach of going to them, pitching a tent, and inviting those who would like to come in is simple and elegant.

Sharsheret: Your Jewish Community Facing Breast Cancer

Supporting young women facing breast and ovarian cancers and their families by fostering culturally relevant, individualized connections with networks of peers, health professionals, and related resources.

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year founded

2001

board chair(s)

Dana Norris

2014 expenses

\$2,223,705

For people facing a diagnosis of breast cancer, or finding out that they are one of the 1 in 40 Ashkenazi Jewish women and men who carry the BRCA breast cancer gene, nothing is more important than linking with a network of survivors in order to move forward. For young people in particular, meeting other young survivors who have wrestled with a diagnosis while balancing Jewish cultural pressures around having and raising children, among many other concerns, provides an especially important resource. Sharsheret, which means “link” in Hebrew, is the first and only national Jewish community response to breast and ovarian cancers that makes important links between women facing cancer and the information and support they need.

Since its founding in 2001, Sharsheret has responded to more than 40,000 breast and ovarian cancer inquiries, involved more than 3,000 peer supporters, developed 12 national support and education programs, and presented more than 250 educational programs nationwide. The Sharsheret on Campus program has also enabled 30,000 students to participate in over 850 student-led cancer awareness programs, empowering young women to take charge of their health and have honest conversations with their families about inheritable medical conditions. In addition, the live chat feature of Sharsheret’s website maximizes its ability to offer support to all women in a way that works with each woman’s lifestyle and schedule, whether she prefers to remain anonymous or needs to find time to connect after full-time work or childcare. While breast and ovarian cancers continue to menace the Jewish community, Sharsheret offers a vital community for young Jews facing cancer.

“ By providing unique types of supports for Jewish women with breast cancer, this organization provides an important connection to Jewish life and critical support.



sharsheret.org



@sharsheret

Shoresh Jewish Environmental Programs

Developing environmental programs and grassroots initiatives to cultivate a more connected and sustainable Jewish community.

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Canada

year founded

2009

board chair(s)

Michael Schechter

2014 expenses

\$250,000

While the Jewish environmental and food justice arena has blossomed in the United States, Shoresh remains the only organization dedicated to hands-on, earth-based Jewish experiences in Canada. Shoresh fills a void in the Toronto Jewish landscape, providing Jewish agricultural experiences in a uniquely Canadian context. Through its urban garden, farm, and educational programming, Shoresh uses food and the environment to explore Jewish identity and offer meaningful entryways into Jewish community and living.

“Shoresh has successfully taken the Jewish environmental energy in the US and become the go-to address for like-minded Jews in Canada.

Shoresh's activities happen at its outdoor public education spaces: the Toronto Kavanah Garden and the rural, 100-acre Bela Farm. In both locations, Shoresh provides educational programs and professional development for students and staff of Jewish day schools, synagogues, and camps, both for children to learn about the Jewish values connected with agriculture, and to help those institutions become more sustainable. The organization runs a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) program as well as the Shoresh Food Conference to create opportunities for adults to deepen their knowledge of food issues and help them formulate Jewish responses. Shoresh's activities and infrastructure have gained international notice, and the organization now mentors four similar start-up projects across the globe. Through its ongoing efforts, Shoresh helps unengaged, urban Canadian Jews build a more sustainable, conscientious, and connected world.

Silverlake Independent Jewish Community Center (SIJCC)

The leading center for Jewish education, arts, and culture on the east side of Los Angeles.

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year founded

2002

board chair(s)

Micah Fitzerman-Blue

2014 expenses

\$1,660,000

The Silverlake Independent Jewish Community Center (SIJCC) offers a prime example of how an old institution can reinvent itself to become relevant and meaningful to the community it serves. Withdrawing from the national JCC movement in 2002, SIJCC has developed a new model for a Jewish cultural center on the east side of Los Angeles. SIJCC empowers community members to become leaders and create meaningful programming from their own perspectives. A core group of 20- and 30-something leaders attracts thousands of participants unaccustomed to seeing grassroots Jewish programming.

“ SIJCC is a great model of a 21st century Jewish Community Center whose leadership fully represents the people it seeks to serve.

Many people connect with SIJCC through its East Side Jews program, which holds monthly events at unlikely locations and celebrates less popular holidays. The Culture Lab brings together five artists (nominated by their peers) from different disciplines to collaborate on a piece of art inspired by a Jewish theme. Bimonthly Jewish Learning Center classes teach children about identity, culture, and ritual in an experiential environment, while parents gather for conversations with leading LA thinkers. SIJCC's program creators pay close attention to the content of programming but also focus on the environment of events, resulting in a high-energy, welcoming, and diverse atmosphere. Thousands of people have become involved with SIJCC over the past decade, and the organization plans to reach even more with its new “pop-up” programming around town.



sjcc.net



n/a

Sixth & I Historic Synagogue

A multi-denominational and membership-free historic synagogue focused on engaging young adults in their 20s and 30s through impactful, entertaining, and thought-provoking programs that span Jewish and secular traditions.

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year founded

2004

board chair(s)

Shelton Zuckerman
Ronald Abramson

2014 expenses

\$2,793,895

Sixth & I offers a place where young adults in Washington, DC can explore creative and thought-provoking ways to become involved with Judaism. Sitting at the intersection of secular and Jewish life, the organization reinvents synagogue life in ways that speak to its constituency of intellectually and spiritually curious young professionals. Sixth & I uniquely targets one age group – people in their 20s and 30s, largely without children – and offers this audience a space where Jews and non-Jews alike can experience and explore Judaism through a menu of affordable and wide-ranging programs. Focused on creating a “convening point” rather than a membership- or fees-based community, Sixth & I reaches over 100,000 young adults each year.

Nearly every night, Sixth & I hosts programs in its beautiful, historic synagogue, ranging from trivia night to yoga to Shabbat and holiday celebrations, and from sold-out learning opportunities like Interfaith Couples or Jewish Welcome Workshops, to concerts and book talks from some of the biggest names on tour today. As the organization celebrates its tenth anniversary this year, Sixth & I continues to look inward and regularly innovate in order to meet the needs of the local DC young adult community, while also looking outward through Inside Sixth & I, an initiative that allows other congregations and communities to adapt the Sixth & I model across the country.

“Disproving the idea that synagogue life is not attractive to single adults in their 20s and 30s, Sixth and I is a wake up call to congregations across the country seeking to provide meaning to young adults.

SOJOURN: Southern Jewish Resource Network for Gender and Sexual Diversity

Promoting increased understanding, acceptance, and inclusion of individuals across the entire spectrum of gender and sexual orientation in the Deep South through education, outreach, and advocacy inspired by Jewish and universal ethics and ideals.

contact

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@sojourngsd

address

1530 Dekalb Avenue
Suite A
Atlanta, GA 30307

year founded

2001

board chair(s)

Leanne Rubenstein

2014 expenses

\$143,000

While some might expect an organization working with lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) communities in the Deep South to leave religion out of the conversation, SOJOURN proudly promotes equality and inclusion for gender- and sexually-diverse people from a Jewish perspective. Much of public life in the South is intrinsically tied to religious life, and working within rather than around the system allows SOJOURN to best support the people it serves. SOJOURN's most impressive work remains its collaboration with other religious and secular institutions. In addition to running inclusion training workshops for Jewish organizations throughout the South, SOJOURN has also contracted with the state of Georgia to train clergy of all faiths to address these issues in their communities.

Within the Jewish community, SOJOURN's Welcoming Synagogues program works with clergy and lay leaders to guide congregations through enacting policies inclusive of LGBT people in all areas of synagogue life. The organization also runs suicide prevention workshops in deeply Christian rural areas in the Deep South and regularly influences local Georgia politics. Due to SOJOURN's efforts, participation in Pride events has grown tremendously within the Atlanta Jewish Community: the number of organizations co-sponsoring the Jewish contingent in annual Pride events has more than tripled since 2011. Going forward, SOJOURN aims to bring its life-saving, Jewishly-inspired programming to other cities and rural communities throughout the country.

“ This is a necessary resource in the Atlanta area for GLBTQ individuals, friends, and allies.



sojourngsd.org



@sojourngsd



Storahtelling: Lab/Shul

An everybody-friendly, experimental community for sacred Jewish gatherings, dedicated to exploring, creating, and celebrating Jewish life.

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@storahtelling

address

125 Maiden Lane
Suite 8B
New York, NY 10038

year founded

2013

board chair(s)

Michael Dorf

2014 expenses

\$485,900

Lab/Shul reinvents the synagogue from the ground up – no easy task, and one that requires creative experimentation. It serves as both a laboratory for ritual experimentation and a synagogue that uses new content, different locations, and a fresh delivery to breathe new life into ancient traditions. Lab/Shul is a collaborative endeavor; decision making and leadership happen not just among the clergy and staff, but also among congregants of all ages, orientations, beliefs, and backgrounds. Through co-creation of programs and initiatives, Lab/Shul participants help to build the congregation of the future.

“ This feeds a real need that many synagogues across the US should scramble to adopt.

Lab/Shul's approach works, with over 4,000 people attending prayer services during its inaugural High Holidays Season. It hosts pop-up programming all over the New York City area for Shabbat and holidays, and its Shabbat To Go program brings together Lab/Shul neighbors to share in Shabbat dinner guided by Lab/Shul-created spiritual and intellectual content. Its b'nai mitzvah program, Raising the Bar, comes from parent organization Storahtelling's curriculum combining serious Jewish study with performance art to celebrate this rite of passage. Lab/Shul provides an inspiring look at how all synagogues can use experimentation and creativity to create meaningful, people-oriented spiritual communities.



Sunflower Bakery

Preparing individuals with developmental or other cognitive disabilities for employment through skilled, on-the-job training, internships, and employment services.

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twitter

n/a

address

8507 Ziggy Lane
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

year founded

2008

board chair(s)

Daphna Raskas

2014 expenses

\$452,019

Founded by Jewish community disability professionals and lay leaders, Sunflower Bakery is a kosher establishment that enables Washington, DC-area Jews to make mindful choices not just about what they eat, but how their eating decisions can support a population in need. Inspired by the lack of employment opportunities and high poverty rates among young adults with cognitive and developmental disabilities, Sunflower Bakery prepares this population for employment in the baking industry through skilled training in an inclusive environment. Sunflower has developed a highly replicable model; leaders from across the country and Israel look to Sunflower for guidance on how to establish similar programs in their own communities.

“Sunflower Bakery lets us live out our Jewish values – every community should adopt this model to supporting its adults with disabilities.

Sunflower makes its unique vocational program available to people with disabilities in both the Jewish and wider DC communities. Its three- to six-month Pastry Arts Training Program prepares participants to work in all aspects of the pastry arts industry. After hands-on experience at Sunflower Bakery, students participate in off-site internships and gain the confidence and skills necessary to seek employment in the field. Sunflower's Next Steps Employment Program continues to provide graduates with one-on-one counseling for interviews and help transitioning into a new workplace. Currently, 81% of graduates have found employment in the DC area. As one participant says, “They were exactly what I needed in order to turn my life around.”

T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights

Mobilizing rabbis to bring a Jewish moral voice to human rights in North America and Israel through advocacy, education, and direct action.

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address

266 West 37th Street
Suite 803
New York, NY 10018

year founded

2002

board chair(s)

Rabbi Anna Boswell-Levy
Rabbi Ayelet S. Cohen

2014 expenses

\$960,000

T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights provides a resource for rabbis interested in doing more than merely offering lip service to the Jewish values of social justice and repairing the world, and instead move their congregations to action. Not content to simply teach about biblical verses in support of an issue, T'ruah teaches clergy to integrate all aspects of Jewish living – prayer, text study, and action – with justice work. The word “t’ruah” refers to the shortest blasts of a shofar, which symbolize the brokenness of the world and remind the Jewish community of its responsibility to serve as a moral leader.

Through summer fellowships and yearlong Israel programs, rabbinical and cantorial students gain the experience and skills to work as human rights leaders. After completing these programs, clergy engage with local, national, and international political issues from a perspective grounded in Jewish ethics. T'ruah leads the conversation on the Jewish approach to human rights through opinion pieces and social action campaigns. The organization has recently partnered with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers to secure livable wages for over 80,000 tomato farm workers in Florida, which has received praise from the White House as a model to end modern-day slavery. Currently, T'ruah works to highlight the devastating impact of slavery and fieldwork on women, who experience sexual harassment and assault at alarmingly high rates. Through its multiple programs, T'ruah works to increase respect and support the human rights of all people.

“ There is a moral imperative that we as Jews take a stand on the human rights issues of our day; T'ruah is taking on this necessary work.

TAMID Israel Investment Group

A comprehensive program connecting business-minded college students with the Israeli economic sector.

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@tamidgroup

address

800 8th Street NW
3rd Floor
Washington, DC 20001

year founded

2008

board chair(s)

n/a

2014 expenses

\$472,117

TAMID offers a radically new approach to college students' engagement with Israel by enabling them to learn about and invest in Israeli businesses. The organization provides a different lens for budding young professionals to explore Israel, their own Jewish identities, and their future career plans. Started by two friends in a dorm room at the University of Michigan, TAMID serves as a model of student-driven empowerment, giving Jewish students real leadership opportunities to change the focus of the Israel conversation on college campuses.

TAMID's on-campus program consists of an educational component, a fund for students to invest in Israeli markets, a student-run consulting practice working with Israeli companies on US-based projects, and an eight-week summer fellowship where students work at Israeli companies. TAMID partners with various regional Jewish Federations and offers its summer fellowship in collaboration with the Israel Summer Business Academy at Washington University in St. Louis. Since spreading to 15 other campuses, the on-campus membership has jumped from 281 students to 800 in June 2014. As the program continues to grow, TAMID stays dedicated to ensuring that it remains student-run and continuously enmeshed in exploring how Americans can participate in conversations with Israel through finance and business.

“ TAMID brings an exciting new angle to the Israel conversation on campus – and it's entirely student driven.



tamidgroup.org



@tamidgroup



Tarbuton

Creating new entry points to the Jewish community through Israeli cultural, non-denominational Jewish programs for youth and adults.

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phone

858.245.9375

website

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address

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Barn 2
Encinitas, CA 92024

year founded

2006

board chair(s)

Jennie Star

2014 expenses

\$210,000

Realizing that prayer or traditional modes of Jewish education do not appeal to a large percentage of San Diego's Jewish community, Tarbuton offers a cultural approach to Jewish life. Tarbuton's afterschool Israeli cultural programs do not require membership or affiliation and remain easily accessible by occurring in multiple locations on various days and including transportation from local public schools. Tarbuton also partners with local public schools to offer on-campus Hebrew language instruction after school, and it has recently begun meaningful collaborations with existing synagogues to both strengthen Tarbuton's offerings and enrich the Israeli/Hebrew cultural events at area congregations.

“ Tarbuton is at the center of immense Jewish experimentation, creativity and collaboration that is happening in San Diego.

Tarbuton offers numerous options for different audiences with an à la carte, fee-for-service model. In addition to weekly educational programming for children and a program that emphasizes cultural approaches to bar/bat mitzvah, Tarbuton also hosts an Israeli dance troupe and adult affinity groups for cooking, speaking Hebrew, or exploring Israeli film and literature. The Jewish Federation of San Diego has awarded Tarbuton a NextGen grant for 2014–2015 to collaborate with other local Jewish organizations and create exciting programming aimed at young adults. Tarbuton has gained visibility across the country for its leadership in non-denominational Hebrew and Israeli culture engagement, and it aims to help other cities replicate the success of its model.



TI Fellowship

Providing professional experiences to attract Jewish young adults to Jewish life, community, and each other.

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twitter

n/a

address

1376 East Massey Road
Memphis, TN 38120

year founded

2012

board chair(s)

Jeff Dreifus
David Edelson
Sam Fargotstein
Adam Grossman

2014 expenses

\$105,750

project of:

Temple Israel

parent org founded

1854

The TI Fellowship responds to high young adult unemployment and a declining Jewish population in Memphis by creating opportunities for rich summer internships and meaningful engagement in Jewish living that reveals Memphis as a great place to put down roots. The fellowship has developed through a creative collaboration between a rabbi and two investment bankers, and it benefits not only the fellows and the Memphis Jewish community, but also the local businesses that gain access to a new pool of talented young professionals who might not otherwise consider opportunities in Memphis. The fellowship offers a unique approach to addressing the real concerns of Millennial Jews: finding post-college employment and creating a purposeful life.

“ The TI Fellowship program raises the bar on young adult programming by bridging the needs of college students (finding a job) with meaningful Jewish life.

Fellows, some originally from Memphis and others from across the country, learn about the potential of post-college Jewish life and explore how to balance independent living, working, and Jewish engagement. Fifteen fellows each receive a small stipend, free housing, professional development, work experience, and access to meaningful Jewish programming, such as text studies and volunteer opportunities. Both the fellows and the businesses with which they intern view the experience as highly beneficial. By bringing Jewish young adults to Memphis for an immersive, well-rounded summer experience, the TI Fellowship models how to engage young adults in Jewish life while creating robust Jewish and professional opportunities in a smaller Jewish community.

Urban Adamah

Taking agriculture from rural fields to the heart of the inner city with the first urban Jewish community farm in the country.

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address

1050 Parker Street
Berkeley, CA 94710

year founded

2010

board chair(s)

Mark Jacobs

2014 expenses

\$825,000

Unlike Jewish environmental programs that bring city-dwellers to acres and acres of rural farm, Urban Adamah offers agricultural programming in the heart of the city of Berkeley. Its interactive, farm-based programs foster a love of Judaism, environmental responsibility, and social action – all without asking participants to drive several hours out of the city. This urban farm (adamah means “earth” in Hebrew) allows Jews of all backgrounds to come together for opportunities to learn and participate in social action activities, including a focus on providing healthy food and nutritional education for poor neighborhoods in Berkeley and San Francisco.

Urban Adamah’s sustainable urban agricultural programs work to reconnect Jews with the land, themselves, and each other. More than 5,000 people have participated in the past year through holiday programs, educational workshops, and volunteer events. Urban Adamah offers Hebrew School on the Farm as well as an agriculture-focused summer camp for children. Its central program, The Urban Adamah Fellowship, provides a three-month residential experience for young adults that combines urban organic farming, social justice internships, and progressive Jewish learning. As the only urban farm dedicated to Jewish community building and environmental education, Urban Adamah serves as a key player in the national conversation on Judaism and the environment.

“Bringing the power of Jewish farming to urban areas, Urban Adamah exposes a whole new group of people to Jewish environmentalism.

Wilderness Torah

Awakening Judaism's ancient earth-based roots to create transformative, deeply engaging Jewish experiences for children and adults.

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2150 Allston Way
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Berkeley, CA 94704

year founded

2007

board chair(s)

Rebecca Redstone

2014 expenses

\$500,173

Wilderness Torah is an environmental organization that does not preach about environmental advocacy or organic living, instead focusing on elevating the relationship between nature and Judaism, meeting the spiritual needs of Jews of all backgrounds, affiliation, and ages. Harnessing the excitement for environmental stewardship among Bay-area Jews, Wilderness Torah provides new ways to connect with Jewish life outside of traditional institutions – literally outside. As one participant notes, “Wilderness Torah takes Jewish practice and tradition from the urban environment back to where it all got started – on the land, which is the only way I have stuck with Judaism.”

Wilderness Torah offers family-centered Jewish festivals to celebrate holidays in the woods and the desert, as well as Jewish nature education for children through B’hootz: Sunday School in the Woods. Its B’naiture program enlivens b’nai mitzvah education with a two-year journey of nature, ritual, and mentorship. All programming shows how wilderness can make Judaism relevant to everyday life, and in 2013 alone, these programs have served more than 1,500 people. Wilderness Torah continues to provide leadership in the earth-based Judaism space by creating curricula and leadership training designed to help others bring this pluralistic, environmental model to communities across the country.

“Wilderness Torah is a dream come true for Jews who are passionate about nature.



wildernesstorah.org



@wildtorah

Yeshivat Maharat

The first yeshiva to ordain Orthodox women as clergy.

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Riverdale, NY 10463

year founded

2009

board chair(s)

Leah Krakinowski

2014 expenses

\$665,800

Dedicated to creating space for equal female and male leadership in the Jewish community, Yeshivat Maharat is the first yeshiva (learning institution) to ordain Orthodox women as clergy. Due to Yeshivat Maharat's efforts, the conversation within the Orthodox community about women's leadership has grown from limited to essential. Yeshivat Maharat students and graduates normalize this profound shift with their educational efforts throughout the country. Yeshivat Maharat radically changes the definition of Orthodox Jewish leadership and enables the entire Jewish community to harness its full leadership potential.

“Yeshivat Maharat is at the front of a revolution that will change the face of Jewry, not just for the Orthodox, but for all of us.

Through a rigorous curriculum, the four-year program at Yeshivat Maharat provides students with a rabbinic education comparable to any Modern Orthodox rabbinical school for men. Students receive training to become pastoral counselors, community organizers and leaders, teachers, mentors, and authorities on Jewish law. The yeshiva currently enrolls 21 students, and 5 graduates work professionally as religious leaders within the Jewish community. Yeshivat Maharat also provides leadership in the conversation on women's ordination at home and abroad. Its leaders speak at conferences and serve as visiting scholars, and since the graduation of Yeshivat Maharat's first students, two Israeli institutions have announced their intent to also offer ordination for women.



INDEX

A RESOURCE GUIDE
FOR JEWISH INNOVATION

PROGRAM AREAS

Advocacy

Bend the Arc: A Jewish Partnership for Justice
The David Project
InterfaithFamily
Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit - Opening the Doors
Jewish World Watch
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights

Arts & Culture

Asylum Arts
G-dcast
Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life
Haggadot.com
LABA: A Laboratory for Jewish Culture
LE MOOD
Mayyim Hayyim Living Waters Community Mikveh and Paula Brody & Family Education Center
Sixth & I Historic Synagogue
SIJCC
The Miracle Project Judaica

Children

Eden Village Camp
Gateways: Access to Jewish Education
Jewish Kids Groups
Jewish New Teacher Project (JNTP)
MazelTot.org

Coexistence

Encounter

Community Building

Asylum Arts
Eshel, Inc.
Footsteps
Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life
Hazon
HEKDESH
IKAR
J'Burgh
The Jewish Journey Project
Jewish Learning Venture
Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington @ Adas Israel
Jewish Renaissance Project at Penn Hillel
Jewish Student Connection
Jewish Without Walls (JWOW)
Jews for Racial & Economic Justice
JOIN for Justice
The Kavana Cooperative
Keshet
Kevah
LABA: A Laboratory for Jewish Culture
LE MOOD
Makom
MazelTot.org
Moishe House
NewGround: A Muslim-Jewish Partnership for Change
The Pearlstone Center
The Sefaria Project
Shabbat Tent
Shores Jewish Environmental Programs
SIJCC
STORAHTELLING: LAB/SHUL
Tarbuton
Wilderness Torah

Disabilities

The Altamont Bakery
Gateways: Access to Jewish Education
JCHAI Transitions
Matan
The Miracle Project Judaica
Opening the Doors - A Project of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit
Online Jewish Academy
RespectAbilityUSA
Sunflower Bakery

Disaster Relief

Jewish Disaster Response Corps

Domestic Violence

ORA: Organization for the Resolution of Agunot

Environment

Amir
Eden Village Camp
Hazon
Innovation: Africa
The Pearlstone Center
Shores Jewish Environmental Programs
Urban Adamah
Wilderness Torah

Economic Security

Sunflower Bakery
TAMID Israel Investment Group

Family

Beit T'Shuvah: Youth Services
Eshel, Inc.
InterfaithFamily
Jewish Without Walls (JWOW)
Jscreen
MazelTot.org
MyJewishLearning, Inc
The Jewish Journey Project

Financial Investing

JLens Investor Network
TAMID Israel Investment Group

Gender

Moving Traditions
SOJOURN: Southern Jewish Resource Network for Gender and Sexual Diversity
Yeshivat Maharat

GLBTQ

A Wider Bridge
Eshel, Inc.
GLOE- Kurlander Program for GLBT Outreach & Engagement
Keshet
SOJOURN: Southern Jewish Resource Network for Gender and Sexual Diversity
SVARA: a traditionally radical yeshiva

Health

Jscreen
Sharsheret: Your Jewish Community Facing Breast Cancer
Beit T'Shuvah: Youth Services

PROGRAM AREAS

Holocaust

Righteous Conversations Project

Interfaith

InterfaithFamily

Jewish Kids Groups

Jscreen

NewGround: A Muslim-Jewish Partnership for Change

Israel

A Wider Bridge

The David Project

Encounter

The iCenter

iEngage - The Engaging Israel Project

Innovation: Africa

Jewish Student Connection

JLens Investor Network

T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights

TAMID Israel Investment Group

Tarbuton

Jewish Education

Amir

The iCenter

G-dcast

Gateways: Access to Jewish Education

Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life

Hazon

iEngage - The Engaging Israel Project

The Jewish Journey Project

Jewish Kids Groups

Jewish Learning Venture

Jewish New Teacher Project (JNTP)

Jewish Renaissance Project at Penn Hillel

Jewish Student Connection

The Kavana Cooperative

Keshet

Kevah

The Kitchen

LABA: A Laboratory for Jewish Culture

LE MOOD

Matan

Mayyim Hayyim Living Waters Community Mikveh and

Paula Brody & Family Education Center

The Miracle Project Judaica

Moving Traditions

MyJewishLearning, Inc.

Online Jewish Academy

OurJewishCommunity.org

The Pearlstone Center

Righteous Conversations Project

The Sefaria Project

Shabbat Tent

Shoresh Jewish Environmental Programs

Sixth & I Historic Synagogue

SIJCC

SOJOURN: Southern Jewish Resource Network for Gender and Sexual Diversity

STORAHTELLING: LAB/SHUL

SVARA: a traditionally radical yeshiva

Tarbuton

TI Fellowship

Urban Adamah

Yeshivat Maharat

Leadership Development

Amir

AVODAH: The Jewish Service Corps

Bend the Arc: A Jewish Partnership for Justice

Challah for Hunger

The David Project

Encounter

HEKDESH

iEngage - The Engaging Israel Project

J'Burgh

Jewish Renaissance Project at Penn Hillel

Jews for Racial & Economic Justice

JOIN for Justice

Mishkan Chicago

Moishe House

NewGround: A Muslim-Jewish Partnership for Change

Media & Technology

G-dcast

Haggadot.com/Custom & Craft

MyJewishLearning, Inc.

Online Jewish Academy

OurJewishCommunity.org

Righteous Conversations Project

Ritualwell

The Sefaria Project

Outreach & Engagement

Challah for Hunger

GLOE- Kurlander Program for GLBT Outreach & Engagement

J'Burgh

Jewish Learning Venture

Jewish Without Walls (JWOW)

Jewish World Watch

JLens Investor Network

Kevah

Makom

Mishkan Chicago

Moishe House

RespectAbilityUSA

Sixth & I Historic Synagogue

Philanthropy

HEKDESH

Poverty

The Altamont Bakery

City Harvest's Kosher Initiative

Professional Development

Asylum Arts

The iCenter

Opening the Doors – A Project of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit

Jewish New Teacher Project (JNTP)

Matan

Moving Traditions

Sunflower Bakery

TI Fellowship

Ritual

Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington @ Adas Israel

The Kitchen

Haggadot.com/Custom & Craft

PROGRAM AREAS

Mayyim Hayyim Living Waters Community Mikveh and
Paula Brody & Family Education Center
Ritualwell
Wilderness Torah

Service & Volunteerism

AVODAH: The Jewish Service Corps
Jewish Disaster Response Corps
TI Fellowship

Social Justice

The Altamont Bakery
AVODAH: The Jewish Service Corps
Bend the Arc: A Jewish Partnership for Justice
Challah for Hunger
Footsteps
GLOE- Kurlander Program for GLBT Outreach &
Engagement
IKAR
Innovation: Africa
Jewish Disaster Response Corps
Jewish World Watch
Jews for Racial & Economic Justice
JOIN for Justice
The Kitchen
ORA: Organization for the Resolution of Agunot
RespectAbilityUSA
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights
Urban Adamah

Social Services

Beit T'Shuvah: Youth Services
City Harvest's Kosher Initiative
Footsteps
JCHAI Transitions
Sharsheret: Your Jewish Community Facing Breast Cancer

Spirituality

City Harvest's Kosher Initiative
Eden Village Camp
IKAR
Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington @ Adas Israel
The Kavana Cooperative
Makom
Mishkan Chicago
OurJewishCommunity.org
Ritualwell
Shabbat Tent
STORAHTELLING: LAB/SHUL
Yeshivat Maharat

Women & Girls

ORA: Organization for the Resolution of Agunot
Sharsheret: Your Jewish Community Facing Breast Cancer

POPULATION SERVED

20's and 30's

Asylum Arts
AVODAH: The Jewish Service Corps
Bend the Arc: A Jewish Partnership for Justice
Challah for Hunger
Eden Village Camp
Footsteps
Haggadot.com/Custom & Craft.com
Hazon
HEKDESH
IKAR
Innovation: Africa
J'Burgh
Jewish Disaster Response Corps
Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington @ Adas Israel
Jewish Renaissance Project at Penn Hillel
Jews for Racial & Economic Justice
Jlens Investor Network
JOIN for Justice
Jscreen
Kevah
The Kitchen
LABA: A Laboratory for Jewish Culture
LE MOOD
Makom
MazelTot.org
Mishkan Chicago
Moishe House
NewGround: A Muslim-Jewish Partnership for Change
OurJewishCommunity.org
The Pearlstone Center
Righteous Conversations Project
Ritualwell
Shabbat Tent
Sharsheret: Your Jewish Community Facing Breast Cancer
Shores Jewish Environmental Programs
Sixth & I Historic Synagogue
SIJCC
Sunflower Bakery
SVARA: a traditionally radical yeshiva
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights
Tarbuton
TI Fellowship
Urban Adamah
Wilderness Torah
Yeshivat Maharatz

Adults

A Wider Bridge
The Altamont Bakery
Asylum Arts
AVODAH: The Jewish Service Corps
Bend the Arc: A Jewish Partnership for Justice
Encounter
Eshel, Inc.
Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life
Hazon
HEKDESH
iEngage - The Engaging Israel Project
IKAR
JCHAI Transitions
Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington @ Adas Israel
Jewish New Teacher Project (JNTP)
Jewish Without Walls (JWOW)
Jewish World Watch
Jews for Racial & Economic Justice

Jlens Investor Network
JOIN for Justice
The Kavana Cooperative
Kevah
LABA: A Laboratory for Jewish Culture
Mayyim Hayyim Living Waters Community Mikveh and
Paula Brody & Family Education Center
MyJewishLearning, Inc.
The Sefaria Project
Sharsheret: Your Jewish Community Facing Breast Cancer
Shores Jewish Environmental Programs
Sixth & I Historic Synagogue
STORAHTELLING: LAB/SHUL
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights
Tarbuton
Wilderness Torah

Baby Boomers

Bend the Arc: A Jewish Partnership for Justice
Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington @ Adas Israel
Kevah

Children

Amir
City Harvest's Kosher Initiative
Eden Village Camp
G-dcast
Gateways: Access to Jewish Education
Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life
IKAR
Jewish Kids Groups
The Jewish Journey Project
Jewish Without Walls (JWOW)
The Kavana Cooperative
LABA: A Laboratory for Jewish Culture
Mayyim Hayyim Living Waters Community Mikveh and
Paula Brody & Family Education Center
The Pearlstone Center
RespectAbilityUSA
Shores Jewish Environmental Programs
Urban Adamah

College Students

Amir
Challah for Hunger
The David Project
Footsteps
iEngage - The Engaging Israel Project
Innovation: Africa
Jewish Disaster Response Corps
Jewish Renaissance Project at Penn Hillel
Jewish World Watch
Jlens Investor Network
TAMID Israel Investment Group
TI Fellowship

Disabilities

The Altamont Bakery
Gateways: Access to Jewish Education
JCHAI Transitions
Matan
The Miracle Project Judaica
Opening the Doors – A Project of the Jewish Federation of
Metropolitan Detroit Online Jewish Academy
RespectAbilityUSA
Sunflower Bakery

POPULATION SERVED

Educators

Encounter
G-dcast
Gateways: Access to Jewish Education
The iCenter
Innovation: Africa
Jewish Learning Venture
Jewish New Teacher Project (JNTP)
Keshet
Matan
The Miracle Project Judaica
Moving Traditions
Opening the Doors – A Project of the Jewish Federation of
Metropolitan Detroit Online Jewish Academy
The Sefaria Project
SOJOURN: Southern Jewish Resource Network for Gender
and Sexual Diversity
Urban Adamah

Elderly

City Harvest's Kosher Initiative
Righteous Conversations Project

Families

Beit T'Shuvah/Partners in Prevention
City Harvest's Kosher Initiative
Eshel, Inc.
G-dcast
Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life
Haggadot.com/Custom & Craft.com
Hazon
HEKDESH
InterfaithFamily
The Jewish Journey Project
Jewish Kids Group
Jewish Learning Venture
Jewish Without Walls (JWOW)
Jews for Racial & Economic Justice
Jscreen
The Kavana Cooperative
Keshet
The Kitchen
MazelTot.org
The Miracle Project Judaica
Opening the Doors – A Project of the Jewish Federation of
Metropolitan Detroit
ORA: Organization for the Resolution of Agunot
OurJewishCommunity.org
The Pearlstone Center
Ritualwell
Sharsheret: Your Jewish Community Facing Breast Cancer
SIJCC
SOJOURN: Southern Jewish Resource Network for Gender
and Sexual Diversity
STORAHTELLING: LAB/SHUL
Tarbuton
Yeshivat Maharat

GLBTQ

A Wider Bridge
Eshel, Inc.
Footsteps
GLOE- Kurlander Program for GLBT Outreach &
Engagement
Keshet
Mishkan Chicago

SOJOURN: Southern Jewish Resource Network for Gender
and Sexual Diversity
SVARA: a traditionally radical yeshiva

Interfaith

Haggadot.com/Custom & Craft.com
InterfaithFamily
Jewish Kids Groups
Jewish Student Connection
Jscreen
The Kitchen
MazelTot.org
Mishkan Chicago
NewGround: A Muslim-Jewish Partnership for Change
OurJewishCommunity.org
Righteous Conversations Project
Sixth & I Historic Synagogue
SIJCC
STORAHTELLING: LAB/SHUL

Jewish Professionals

AVODAH: The Jewish Service Corps
Encounter
iEngage - The Engaging Israel Project
InterfaithFamily
Jewish Learning Venture
JOIN for Justice
Matan
RespectAbilityUSA
Righteous Conversations Project
Ritualwell
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights
TI Fellowship

Teens

Amir
Beit T'Shuvah/Partners in Prevention
Eden Village Camp
Jewish Disaster Response Corps
Jewish Student Connection
Jewish World Watch
Moving Traditions
NewGround: A Muslim-Jewish Partnership for Change
Online Jewish Academy
ORA: Organization for the Resolution of Agunot
Righteous Conversations Project
The Sefaria Project
Wilderness Torah

Women & Girls

Jewish New Teacher Project (JNTP)
Mayyim Hayyim Living Waters Community Mikveh and
Paula Brody & Family Education Center
Moving Traditions
MyJewishLearning, Inc.
ORA: Organization for the Resolution of Agunot
Sharsheret: Your Jewish Community Facing Breast Cancer
Yeshivat Maharat

2014 ANNUAL EXPENSES

<\$100,000

The Altamont Bakery
GLOE- Kurlander Program for GLBT Outreach & Engagement
Haggadot.com/Custom & Craft
HEKDESH
Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington @ Adas Israel
Jewish Without Walls (JWOW)
Makom
RespectAbilityUSA

\$100,001-\$200,000

Eshel, Inc.
J'Burgh
LE MOOD
The Miracle Project Judaica
NewGround: A Muslim-Jewish Partnership for Change
Ritualwell
Shabbat Tent
SOJOURN: Southern Jewish Resource Network for Gender and Sexual Diversity
SVARA: a traditionally radical yeshiva
Tarbuton
TI Fellowship

\$200,001-\$500,000

A Wider Bridge
Amir
Beit T'Shuvah/Partners in Prevention
Challah for Hunger
Jewish Disaster Response Corps
Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit - Opening the Doors
Jewish Kids Groups
Jews for Racial & Economic Justice
JLens Investor Network
The Kavana Cooperative
Matan
MazelTot.org
Mishkan Chicago
Online Jewish Academy
ORA: Organization for the Resolution of Agunot
OurJewishCommunity.org
Righteous Conversations Project
Shoresh Jewish Environmental Programs
STORAHTELLING: LAB/SHUL
TAMID Israel Investment Group

\$500,001-\$1,000,000

Asylum Arts
City Harvest's Kosher Initiative
Encounter
Footsteps
Innovation: Africa
The Jewish Journey Project
JOIN for Justice
Kevah
The Kitchen
LABA: A Laboratory for Jewish Culture
Mayyim Hayyim Living Waters Community Mikveh and Paula Brody & Family Education Center
The Sefaria Project
Sunflower Bakery
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights
Urban Adamah
Wilderness Torah
Yeshivat Maharatz

\$1,000,001-\$3,000,000

AVODAH: The Jewish Service Corps
The David Project
Eden Village Camp
G-dcast
Gateways: Access to Jewish Education
Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life
IKAR
InterfaithFamily
JCHAI Transitions
Jewish Learning Venture
Jewish New Teacher Project (JNTP)
Jewish Renaissance Project at Penn Hillel
Jewish Student Connection
Jewish World Watch
Jscreen
Keshet
Moving Traditions
MyJewishLearning, Inc.
The Pearlstone Center
Sharsheret: Your Jewish Community Facing Breast Cancer
Sixth & I Historic Synagogue
SIJCC

\$3,000,001+

Bend the Arc: A Jewish Partnership for Justice
Hazon
The iCenter
iEngage - The Engaging Israel Project
Moishe House

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Leadership

Slingshot is guided by a board of directors without whom *Slingshot* '14-'15, the Slingshot Fund, and our annual community gathering, Slingshot Day, would not be possible.

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21/64

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The Adler Family

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Evaluators

Thank you to the team of evaluators that has helped to assemble *Slingshot* '14-'15. The evaluators who decide which organizations to feature in *Slingshot* devote at least some professional time to supporting innovative Jewish organizations. These evaluators have lent extraordinary analytical skills, sector expertise, and valuable time to assist in the near impossible task of choosing the most innovative projects in Jewish life. Their commitments ensure that *Slingshot* features organizations that inspire their participants and can play a role in shaping the future of Jewish life.

Amanda Abrams
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Robin Hettleman Weinberg
Sara Weinreb
Heather Wolfson
Jonathan Woocher
Rachel Zamoiski

OTHER INFORMATION

What is Slingshot?

The core of the idea that became *Slingshot* developed organically following a 2003 weekend retreat for a dozen young Jews who were preparing to become involved in their families' philanthropic efforts. Participants wanted to learn how to navigate the alphabet soup of the Jewish community and sort out which organizations resonated for themselves and their peers. *Slingshot: A Resource Guide to Jewish Innovation* was launched shortly after as a Zagat-style guidebook to highlight the most innovative nonprofits in North America each year.

What is the Slingshot Fund?

Since 2007, the next generation funders responsible for *Slingshot* have taken their concept a step further by supporting innovative Jewish organizations through the Slingshot Fund. In conjunction with their peers, Slingshot Fund members pool their funds, review proposals, conduct site visits and make allocation decisions. Being part of the Slingshot Fund offers members opportunities to connect with peers, explore Jewish interests, find causes that are meaningful to their own identities and experiences, and hone leadership skills.

Why should I join the Slingshot Fund 2015?

The Slingshot Fund offers grant-making training to next generation funders across the country. Members may join to build relationships with other funders in their 20s and 30s, explore the Jewish not-for-profit world, learn more about grant-making, or simply have philanthropic experiences independent of their families. There is no one-size-fits-all reason for joining, but if you are interested in having a peer- grant-making experience, leveraging your giving, joining a community of next generation philanthropists, receiving grant-making training, or learning about cutting-edge Jewish organizations across North America, the Slingshot Fund may be right for you.

How does the Slingshot Fund work?

All organizations featured in *Slingshot* in a given year are eligible to apply for a Slingshot Fund grant. Slingshot Fund members pool their donations and spend five months examining proposals, conducting site visits and selecting grantees whose organizations not only fit the criteria, but who also resonate with a next generation audience.

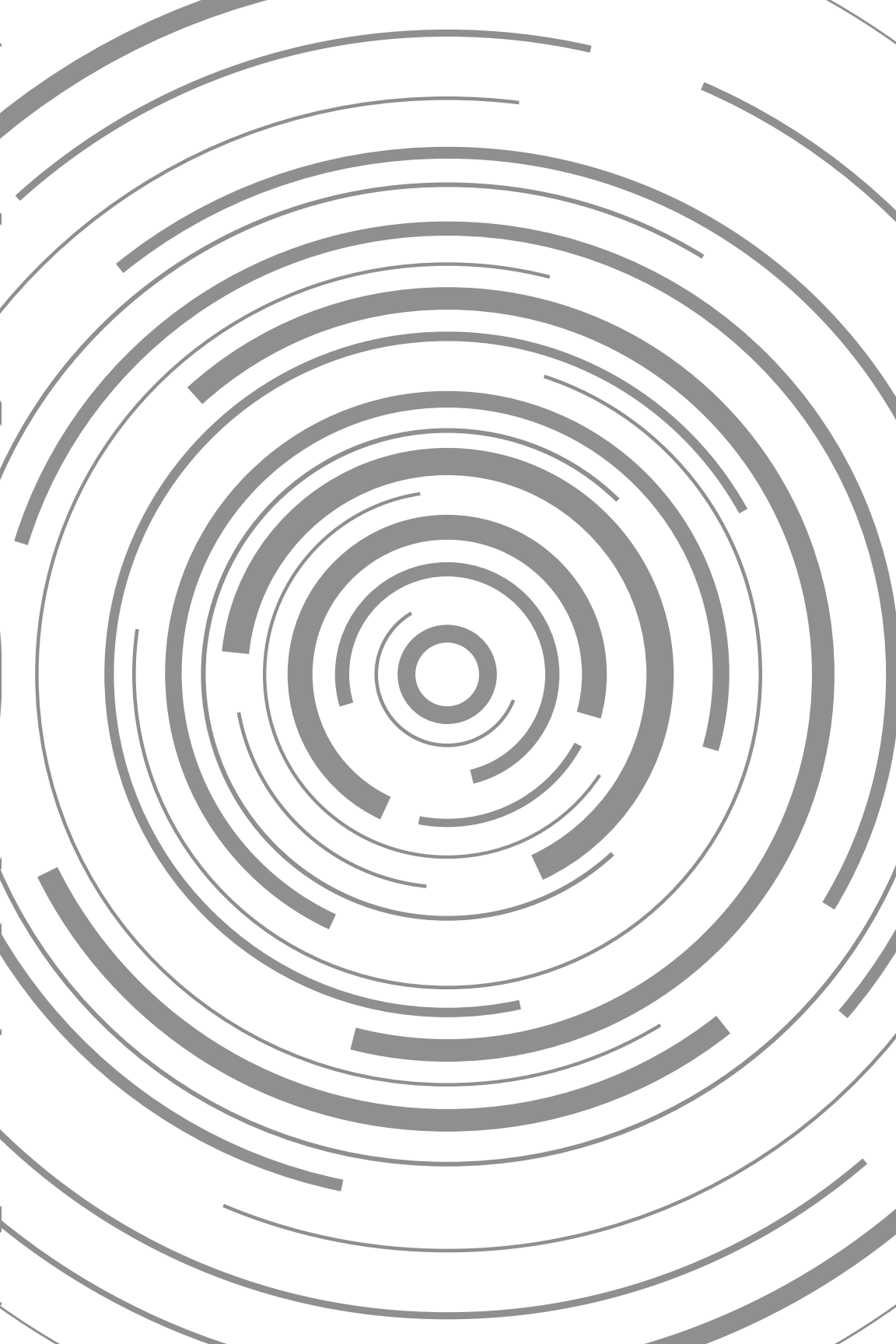
www.slingshotfund.org

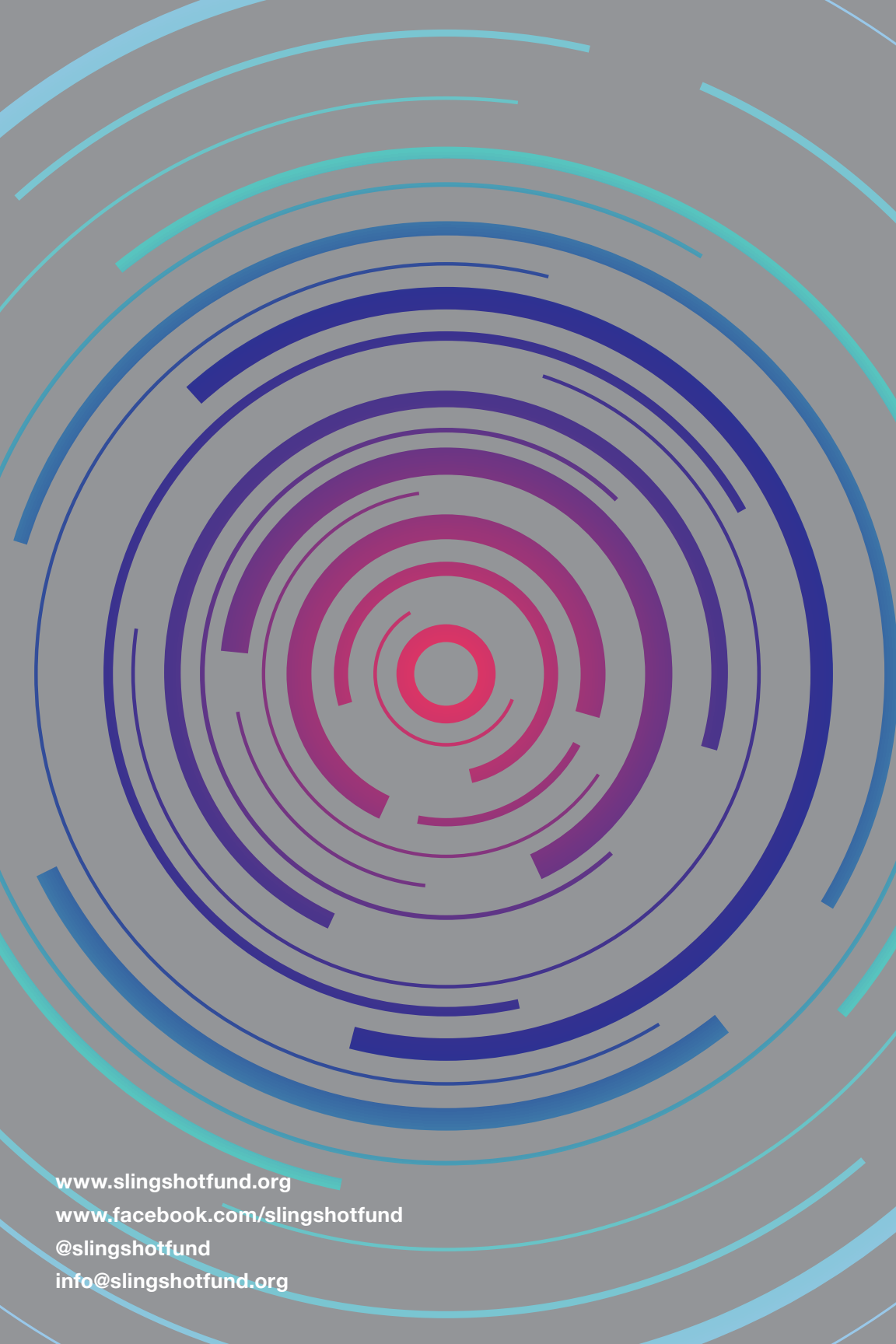
Grand Street

The idea for *Slingshot* and the Slingshot Fund has evolved through the Grand Street network. Grand Street is a meeting place for young Jews (18 to 28 years old) who are involved or will be involved as leaders in their families' philanthropic efforts. Beginning in 2002 with 12 people meeting for a weekend to ask their own questions, Grand Street seeks to develop a Jewish philanthropic analysis and capacity for strategic thinking, as well as to create a space where members can pursue personal development and build a network of peers in similar positions of philanthropic responsibility. A new cohort of 12 individuals is added each year.

Some participants are in college or have recently graduated, some have already assumed roles within their families' foundations, and many others are just becoming aware of those imminent responsibilities. All feel alone in being young and associated with philanthropic wealth. Many struggle with allocating, or planning to allocate, money while also seeking to reconcile their personal passions with their families' interests, both Jewish and universal.

www.grandstreetnetwork.net





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