

connections

A PUBLICATION OF THE ST. PAUL JEWISH FEDERATION



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Minnesotans stand united against antisemitism

The joint rally was organized by JCRC, St. Paul and Minneapolis Jewish Federations and co-sponsored by 23 organizations across the Jewish community

On July 11, more than 250 Minnesotans came together at the Minnesota State Capitol to stand united against rising antisemitism and intolerance. Organized by the Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas, St. Paul Jewish Federation and Minneapolis Jewish Federation, the gathering featured speakers representing diverse streams of Judaism and identities within the Jewish community. The event was held on the same day as the No Fear Rally in Washington, D.C. Thank you to Erin Baldinger for her insightful remarks on behalf of St. Paul Jewish Federation, to all the speakers who shared inspiring messages, and to our 23 Jewish community co-sponsors. Go to minndakjrc.org to watch a recording of the event.



Building a caring community



RICK LINSK
BOARD PRESIDENT



TED FLAUM
CEO

Dear Friends,

As we approach the New Year, the world seems more divided than ever. Antisemitic incidents are on the rise. Our social fabric is stretched as too many of us pick a “side” and never retreat from blaming “the other side.” Compromise, understanding, and even regret and apology seem impossibly remote.

With Ben and Jerry’s recent decision to prohibit the sale of its ice cream in the West Bank, even ice cream has become political. In his article titled “The Bearable Heaviness of Being (Alone),” Daniel Gordis describes this experience of Jewish peoplehood as “the fundamental loneliness that often lies at the heart of Israeliness.”

The St. Paul Jewish Federation’s mission is to build community locally and globally as the antidote to loneliness and isolation. Our purpose statement affirms, “We believe no Jew should ever feel alone. We exist to ensure the lasting presence of an inclusive, vibrant Jewish community in St. Paul.”

We want to ensure that all Jews have access to a caring Jewish community, no matter their political belief, denomination, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, ability/disability, or socioeconomic status.

Federation is a unifying force in a time of discord because we are uniquely positioned to bring people together for the common good.

This last year, we saw the power of what we can accomplish under the Federation umbrella. When we initiated the Yad B’Yad campaign for COVID relief, our community responded generously and raised more than \$425,000 to help our neighbors in need.

In this issue of Connections, you will see examples of the ways Federation connects people. Whether at a community gathering to stand against antisemitism, or programs to engage young adults in Jewish life, or our *shaliach* who connects St. Paul to Israel — all of these efforts make our community vibrant and inclusive.

We wish you a Shanah Tovah and hope that you feel connected to and valued by our Jewish community. May this be a year of good health, safety, and peace.

Rick Linsk, President

Ted Flaum, CEO

GET INVOLVED!

Let’s talk about how you can use your talents in our community.

Connect with us at jewishstpaul@stpaulfed.org.

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CONNECTIONS is a publication of the St. Paul Jewish Federation

Editor: Julie Swiler
Copyeditor: Marilyn Ruby
Cover photo: JCRC/
Ethanrobertsphotos.com



YAD B'YAD

STRONGER TOGETHER



Federation distributes more than \$425,000 for COVID relief

Thanks to the generosity of our community, St. Paul Jewish Federation distributed \$426,387 in COVID relief to help those most in need during the pandemic.

Federation launched the Yad B'Yad COVID-relief campaign in mid-November 2020 in response to the critical needs in the community, securing more than \$400,000 in commitments in just the first eight weeks. One hundred percent of the funds raised went to local Jewish organizations to support community members affected by COVID-19 including emergency financial assistance, health and wellness programs, social services and safety measures.

The final round of distributions was made in July. Total allocations to community organizations:

- Jewish Family Service of St. Paul: \$86,000
- Lubavitch Cheder: \$16,000
- Minnesota Hillel: \$22,200
- Minnesota JCC: \$140,000
- Rochester Chaplaincy: \$1,187
- Sholom: \$145,000
- Talmud Torah of St. Paul: \$16,000

We thank Jimmy Levine, Yad B'Yad Campaign Chair, for his dedication and leadership, and we are grateful for our caring community members whose generosity made this campaign a success.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Welcome, Hadar

Meet our new Shaliach (Israeli emissary), Hadar Pe'er, who will be our local face of Israel for the next year.

Hadar grew up in Lod, a city of coexistence between Arabs and Jews, and now lives in Rehovot. In his youth, he belonged to Habonim Dror, a progressive Labor Zionist youth movement, where he guided and educated groups of students of all ages.

In the army, Hadar served in the Education and Youth

Corp. He also took an active role in a youth club for at-risk children. Before coming to St. Paul, he studied social sciences and humanities, and he volunteered at a nursing home and with a child who has special needs. Hadar loves Hebrew, music, and vegetarian Mediterranean cooking. He can't wait to get involved in the St. Paul Jewish community!



HADAR PE'ER
SHALIACH

Ellen Konstan joins Federation staff

We are happy to announce that Ellen Konstan has joined Federation as the new PJ Library coordinator.

Ellen has a bachelor's degree in Psychology and Social



ELLEN KONSTAN
PJ LIBRARY
COORDINATOR

Welfare, and a master's degree in Library and Information Science. She has been an active volunteer in the community, including at Mount Zion Temple, Jewish Family Service of St. Paul, Saint Paul Academy and the Minnesota Literacy Council. She also has tutored students and worked in classrooms.

Ellen, who loved being a PJ parent, lives in St. Paul with her husband Joseph and has two sons, Ben and Sam, who are in college. If you'd like your children to receive free Jewish-themed books from PJ Library each month, contact Ellen at ekonstan@stpaulfed.org.

BE THE FIRST TO KNOW.



Community updates to your inbox.
Sign up for enews at www.jewishstpaul.org



Empowering young adults to make Judaism their own

Federation helps 500+ young people in the Twin Cities engage in Jewish life

RAJMN Teen Fellowship wraps up 5th year

“I value the RAJMN Teen Fellowship program because it’s a very unique experience. There is something different in every program, and there is always something to learn,” said Michael Raykhfeld. He is one of 30 teens and six teaching assistants (college students who were RAJMN Teen Fellows during high school) who recently completed this year’s program for Russian-American Jewish teens that enables them to expand their understanding of who they are, who they want to be, and how they want to make a mark on the world. This year, students learned about their family’s immigration experience. They interviewed family members and captured their immigration stories, which were compiled in a hardbound book. A copy of the book was given to each participant at graduation. They now know each other’s family stories and have insight into how difficult it was for their parents and grandparents to come to the U.S. and start a new life.

Photo above: RAJMN Teen Fellowship Class of 2021
Learn more at jewishstpaul.org/get-involved/rajmn.

Leadership development through shared values

Sara Rice remembers nervously walking into her first Harry Kay Leadership Institute (HKLI) meeting. Just 30 minutes later, she said to herself, “I just found 39 new friends.”

Sara quickly recognized that she and her peers shared similar values and wanted to work for the community’s betterment. “The program gave me a good sense of what the Jewish ecosystem in the Twin Cities looks like and how vibrant our Jewish community really is,” she said.

Sara is part of Cohort 10 of HKLI, the two-year program for developing and training Jewish leaders. Sponsored by the St. Paul and Minneapolis Jewish Federations and the Harry Kay Foundation, HKLI has trained 350 participants, many of whom now serve in leadership positions across the Jewish community.



SARA RICE
HKLI COHORT 10
PARTICIPANT

As a new St. Paul Jewish Federation Board member, Sara already is using her leadership skills. “HKLI gave me an advantage by educating us on how nonprofits and boards work, and how Federation fits into our community,” she explained. “The ability to look at the big picture helps me understand how I can make a positive impact.”

Learn more about the Harry Kay Leadership Institute at jewishtwincities.org.

Creating Jewish community online through art

When Amalia Prohofska was in high school, she made and sold jewelry to help fund her trip to study abroad in India. While many people supported her, she remembers that the Jewish community really turned out. “People would reach out to me because they needed a bat mitzvah gift, for instance, and they also wanted to support me. It was a good feeling, and I want to facilitate that happening more,” she said.

Now an artist and database developer, Amalia is creating a website where local Jewish artists can sell their work. She’s calling it Esti Twin Cities — yes, it’s an intentional play on the name Etsy. Amalia is using the same type of multi-vendor marketplace design championed by Etsy to sell handmade items. However, Esti Twin Cities won’t take a percentage of the sale price. Instead,

a percentage of each sale will go to a local Jewish non-profit organization of the artisan’s choice.



AMALIA PROHOFSKY
YALA MINI-GRANT
RECIPIENT

Amalia likens her concept to Sisterhood giftshops that she saw when growing up in St. Paul. “My goal is to have it stay on a smaller, local scale,” she explained. “It’s a little virtual gift shop that benefits synagogues and other Jewish organizations.”

Amalia received a YALA Mini-Grant to help her build and maintain the website, and she is in the research and conception phase now. She appreciates that the YALA grant provides young Jews with the opportunity to explore new ideas, whereas many traditional grants are available only for established projects.



For local artist and YALA Mini-Grant recipient Amalia Prohofska, art is one way to interact with her Jewish community. Kippah by Amalia Prohofska.

By keeping Esti Twin Cities small and local, Amalia hopes the site will create an online community within the Jewish community through which people can support local artists and the organizations they care about at the same time.

“There is connection between members of the Jewish community where even if you don’t know each other well, you are still connected,” she said. “I think that is a powerful thing. It pushes us to build a stronger connection and get to know each other more.”



The YALA grant provides young Jews with the opportunity to explore new ideas.

YALA Mini-Grants help young adults with new ideas for programs or resources get their passion projects started. Powered by Young Adult Leadership Action (YALA) Twin Cities, co-sponsored by St. Paul Jewish Federation and the Minneapolis Jewish Federation, the grant program helps incubate projects by providing financial resources, promotion, and other support. Learn more at jewishtwincities.org/yalagrants.

MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE

Shalom Twin Cities

In your 20s and 30s? New to the Twin Cities or recently returned? Shalom Twin Cities offers fun, easy ways to plug into the local Jewish scene beginning with the Great Shabbat Together on Friday, Aug. 27. Contact Emma Dunn at edunn@jewishtwincities.org.

YALA Leadership Series

Offers a comprehensive overview of leadership essentials and Jewish communal organizations for adults under 40. Participants explore their leadership goals and values with a cohort of peers and facilitators. Applications for Cohort 2 will open Winter 2022.

Coffee Chat

New to town? Looking for ways to get involved? Let’s meet, and we’ll help you get connected to Jewish life in the Twin Cities. Contact Emma Dunn at edunn@jewishtwincities.org.

Join the campaign that builds Jewish community



Expand our reach by investing in our community with a three-year increasing commitment

According to the 2019 Twin Cities Jewish Population Study, St. Paul's Jewish population is 22,000, up from 10,900 reported in a 2004 population study. The study also identified increasing demands for social services, opportunities to engage, and programs to build Jewish identity.

When you join the Gimel Society with a three-year increasing commitment, you help Federation build a future with expanded social services, more options to connect, opportunities to travel to Israel, and more formal and informal education options.

We asked Gimel Society donors what Jewish community means to them and why they made a three-year increasing commitment.

Rabbi Adam Stock Spilker, Mount Zion Temple

“We are experiencing increasing polarization in our world. We need antidotes to such centrifugal forces. Federation still is the best opportunity for pulling us together and helping all of us. Federated giving takes funding out of individuals’ preferences and commits us to dialogue, values clarification, and community-building. To me, it is fairly simple: Hillel said, ‘If I am not for myself, who will be for me?’ We need to support our community members from cradle to grave and are blessed with vibrant local institutions and synagogues that do just that. We also need to support our wider community. As Hillel taught, both are possible. And if not now...”



RABBI ADAM STOCK SPILKER

Ari and Rachel Parritz

We have deep roots in this community, so it's important to us to help our community grow for our children and future generations. We met in Israel on the academic program Nativ, and we're excited about opportunities to strengthen young people's connections to Israel. We also both grew up in the Jewish day school system and plan on the same for our children. We're glad to make a three-year increasing commitment. The ability to forecast effectively for one, two or three years is better



Rachel and Ari Parritz with children Ella and Hannah.

Photo © 2021 Sofya Barth

for Federation, for agencies that receive funding, and for people who receive services. We hope our Jewish community grows and reflects all members, and we continue to strengthen the organizations that help make St. Paul and the Twin Cities area a great place to live.”

Susan Shapiro

“Having a vital Jewish community, both locally and worldwide, is important to me. I grew up in that world, and it has always helped me feel a strong sense of belonging and community. I've always believed that just because something seems important to me, it doesn't provide me with any sense of what other people's needs may be. With federated giving, we're able to meet a broad range of needs. Gimel Society giving enables Federation to have better insight into what funds will be available over the next few years. It is a big plus for Federation and agencies, and it will greatly assist in keeping needed services available.”



SUSAN SHAPIRO

YOU CAN HELP EXPAND OUR REACH

When you contribute to St. Paul Jewish Federation, you build a stronger community for all. You provide YALA grants, PJ Library books, kosher meals on wheels and emergency financial assistance. You change lives.

To learn more, contact Dan Mogelson at dmogelson@stpaulfed.org or 651.695.3185.

Thank you to these Gimel Society members who have invested in the future of our Jewish community by making a three-year increasing commitment.*

Mark and Elaine Adelman
Gretchen and Tom Anderson
Anonymous (2)
Erin Baldinger
Alan and Elisa Bernick
Aaron Biel
Sheila and David Brod
Beverly Calmenson z"l: Calmenson Family Fund
Martin & Esther Capp Foundation
Mary and Philip Cohen
Senator Richard Cohen
Jason and Mollie Divine
Susan and Dr. Robert Donsker
Jonathan and Kathleen Eisenthal
Ronald and Phyllis Ettinger
Keven and Frances Fischer
Nancy and Jeff Getzkin
Richard and Esther Gillman
Robert and Joanne Gillman
Dr. Barry and Janice Godes
Robert and Rebecca Goffman
Philip and Renae Goldman
Mavis Goldstein
Fred and Karen Gordon
Nancy Karasov
David Krco and Erin Odean
Rabbi Lynn Liberman and Elizabeth Barnard
Rick Linsk and Nancy Crotti
Dr. Bert and Paula Finkelstein
Judge Eric Lipman
Don and Rhoda Mains
Robert and Julie Mast
Ron and Karen Matz

Alan Milavetz and Bonnie Resnick
Danny Milavetz
David Milavetz
Talia Milavetz
Zoe Milavetz
Dr. Aaron Milbank and Dr. Amelia Burgess
Charles Nauen and Pati Jo Pofahl
Lindsay Nauen and Richard Weil
Ari and Dr. Rachel Parritz
Jonathan and Robin Parritz
Aron and Ellen Rolnitzky
Dr. Kenneth Rosenblum and Ann Simonds
Robert Rubenstein and Susan Andrews
Mitchell and Sarah Rubinstein
Lynne and Stuart Sanders
Gary and Cheryl Sankary
Dr. Susan Schloff
Andrew Seiler
Susan and Neal Shapiro
Dr. Richard and Diane Smookler
Rabbi Adam Stock Spilker and Cantor Rachel Stock Spilker
Anne Strasser and Peter Douglas
Ezra Strohm
Alex and Marni Tselos
Erin and Michael Waldman
Mary Ann Barrows Wark and Dr. David Wark
Sanford and Carol Weisberg
Sheri and Dr. Scott Yarosh



SAVE THE DATE

Sukkot fun with
PJ Library
Friday, Sept. 17
10 am – 12:15 pm
Dodge Nature Center



Join PJ Library for a nature walk/treasure hunt. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy, then cozy up for a Sukkot story with a special Sukkot project. RSVP to Stacy at sdockman@stpaulfed.org.



Great Big Challah Bake
Thursday, Oct. 21

Grab your family and friends, and get ready to brush up on your braiding skills. Our annual challah bake is back and better than ever!



JON PARRITZ



ANDY LUGER



BARRY LANDY

Twin Cities
Cardozo Society
21st Annual
Dinner

Tuesday, Oct. 26
Minneapolis Marriott
City Center Hotel

We will honor
Jon Parritz and
Andy Luger
with the Sidney
Barrows Lifetime
Commitment
Award, and **Barry
Landy** with the
Arthur T. Pfefer
Memorial Award.
Bari Weiss, author
of "How to Fight
Anti-Semitism,"
is the keynote
speaker.

*List reflects Gimel Society members as of 8/11/21. We apologize for any names inadvertently omitted or misspelled. Please advise us of any changes for future publications.



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