

# connections

A PUBLICATION OF THE ST. PAUL JEWISH FEDERATION



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## Announcing One Happy Camper grants

**Is your child ready to try overnight camp? You may be eligible for up to \$1,000 off**

At Jewish overnight camp, children connect to their Jewish identities while having the time of their lives. They race across ziplines, jump into lakes, create enduring friendships and learn important life skills. Children with Jewish camp experiences are more likely to become adults who value their Jewish heritage, support Jewish causes, and take on leadership roles in their communities.



That's why Federation is excited to partner with One Happy Camper to offer grants to greater St. Paul families with first-time overnight experience campers. Emily Slagle and Aaron Leff already signed up

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## Our commitment to you



**RICK LINSK**  
BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

Hardly a week goes by that we aren't asked to fund a new need, initiative, or organization. As the convener and organizer for our Jewish community, we work to identify changing needs and provide solutions.

Federation answered the need to increase engagement by developing and funding programs including PJ Library, YALA for young adults, and our Israeli emissary, to name a few.



**TED FLAUM**  
CEO

We also are positioned to respond to emergency needs. Last year, we launched into action to provide COVID relief, and we work with national and international partners to respond to natural disasters.

Equally important is our work with our beneficiary agencies. With our support, our partners educate our children, help vulnerable neighbors, and protect our community in St. Paul, Israel, and worldwide.

Our work varies widely, but each program we support is important to people in need. This is all possible because of you — our generous donors.

### When you give to Federation, you can trust that we are delegating funds using the highest ethical standards.

When you give to Federation, you can trust that we are delegating funds using the highest ethical standards. In fact, our Charity Navigator score is 87.92, signifying that donors can "Give with Confidence." Our rating includes 100% for Governance and Transparency.

We also adopted the Association of Fundraising Professionals Donor Bill of Rights — standards to ensure confidence in your support of Federation. Read more at [jewishstpaul.org](http://jewishstpaul.org).

When you support Federation, you join a movement to build and strengthen the Jewish community. We thank you and look forward to what we will accomplish together in 2022.

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](mailto:jewishstpaul@stpaulfed.org).

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### CONNECTIONS is a publication of the St. Paul Jewish Federation

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**Ira Leff, shown here with his younger brother Avi, will attend Jewish overnight camp this summer, thanks in part to Federation and One Happy Camper.**

*Continued from front cover*

nine-year-old Ira, who is attending URJ Olin-Sang Ruby Union Institute (OSRUI) in Oconomowoc, Wis., next summer after enjoying a brief “taste of camp” experience there last year. “He was so excited to be around other Jewish kids,” said Slagle, who is grateful for the assistance One Happy Camper will provide. She said that Ira enjoyed the Shabbat service at camp and told her all about it. “He also had one counselor who was Israeli and that was cool for him,” Slagle said.

Federation, in partnership with One Happy Camper, provides qualifying campers with a \$700 grant for an overnight camp lasting 12 to 18 days or a \$1,000 grant for overnight camp lasting 19 or more days. There are more than 150 camps to choose from based on the interests and needs of your child.

One Happy Camper is a program of the Foundation for Jewish Camp in partnership with the St. Paul Jewish Federation. Grants are first come, first served and are not need based. To get started, go to [jewishcamp.org/one-happy-camper](http://jewishcamp.org/one-happy-camper) to choose a camp and fill out an application.

## **FEDERATION CAMP SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN**

**Application Deadline: March 31, 2022**

Federation also offers need-based scholarships for Jewish overnight camps and approved Israel experience programs for Jewish children and young adults living in St. Paul. Apply at [jewishstpaul.org/camp-scholarships-and-grants](http://jewishstpaul.org/camp-scholarships-and-grants).

# COMMUNITY BRIEFS

## Welcome Amy Yoelin

We’re excited to welcome Amy Yoelin who recently joined our development team as financial resource development associate. Amy moved to Minnesota in



**AMY YOELIN**  
FINANCIAL RESOURCE  
DEVELOPMENT  
ASSOCIATE

2018 after she graduated from Mount Holyoke College. In school, she studied abroad in Israel at the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies. Amy’s background includes communications and fundraising, having worked at Bet Shalom Synagogue and Great River Greening. “Federation’s mission and vision deeply resonate with me, and I’m looking forward to becoming involved in St. Paul’s unique and vast Jewish community,” said Amy. You can reach her at [ayoelin@stpaulfed.org](mailto:ayoelin@stpaulfed.org).



## Harry Kay leaders volunteer

Cohort 10 of the Harry Kay Leadership Institute (HKLI) volunteered at Jewish Family and Children’s Service of Minneapolis’ Chag Sameach program, wrapping gifts that go to families in need during the holidays. HKLI is the Twin Cities’ premiere Jewish leadership program, sponsored by the St. Paul and Minneapolis Jewish Federations and the Harry Kay Foundation.

# BE THE FIRST TO KNOW.



Community updates to your inbox.  
Sign up for enews at [www.jewishstpaul.org](http://www.jewishstpaul.org)



# Joyful, meaningful Jewish experiences

Federation connects families to Jewish culture, traditions and to one another



Max Schibel in Jerusalem during his high school in Israel experience.

## Life-changing experiences in Israel

“Living in Israel showed me how Judaism is a living culture instead of just a religion and strengthened my ties to Israel and Judaism,” said Max Schibel, who attended high school in Israel last year with the help of a Federation Israel Experience scholarship.

His mom Lisa told us what the scholarship meant to her family. “I’ve read stories of how you impact families greatly. Now, I really feel it,” she said. “Our son had a late last-minute decision to go to high school at URJ Heller High; this would not be possible without your quick and loving response.”

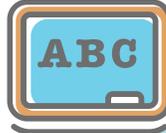


### NEW BABY

Welcome home! Enjoy your **Shalom Baby** swag bag with gifts provided by community organizations.

### 3 YEARS

Get free Jewish books each month thanks to **PJ Library**.



### 6 YEARS

Learn your ABC's and Aleph-Bet at a Federation-funded day school.

### 8 YEARS

Start saving to go to Israel when you're a teen or young adult with **Passport to Israel**, the savings incentive program.



### 9 YEARS

Make new friends at overnight summer camp — get there with a **One Happy Camper** grant or summer camp scholarship.

### 11 YEARS

Choose your own free Jewish book each month from **PJ Our Way**.



### 13 YEARS

Delve into Jewish studies and Hebrew at **Talmud Torah of St. Paul's Midrasha** program.

### 14 YEARS

Meet your friends at the **JCC** for basketball, swimming, acting — you name it!



### 16 YEARS

Explore your dreams and develop leadership skills with the **RAJMN Teen Fellowship**.

### 18 YEARS

Participate in Jewish events on campus — you're always welcome at **Minnesota Hillel**.



### 20 YEARS

See for yourself. Experience it for yourself. Travel to Israel with **Birthright Israel**.

## Family fun with PJ Library and PJ Our Way

What's better than making s'mores? Making them right before Havdalah at a bonfire hosted by PJ Library St. Paul and Mount Zion Temple. In addition to free books dropped on members' doorsteps each month, PJ Library and PJ Our Way offer free family-friendly activities for Jewish children from birth through 12 years old.

On a recent Saturday, families gathered as PJ Library coordinator Ellen Konstan lit the braided candle. Parents and children sang and warmed themselves at the bonfire.

David Nathan's 9-year-old twin daughters Margaret and Siri have participated in the program since infancy. "The books have become family. They really are magical books," said David, who said they've gotten to know many families through PJ Library.

David's daughter Margaret said that as soon as a book arrives, "I usually go right to my room and read it." Her favorite is *The Hanukkah Hamster* by Michelle Markel.



David Nathan and daughter Margaret at the recent PJ Library bonfire event.

## Reaching more students through online learning

Federation partner Talmud Torah of St. Paul has attracted learners from across the country, thanks to its online class offerings.

The Dashevsky family, from Boston, sought a more flexible online program for their children than what was available locally. After their son Ari began attending classes, his mother Anya said, "Ari would be so excited and wanted to share what the conversation was about and their discussions."

Heidi Tarshish, Director of Education, noted that families like the Dashevskys are enjoying the convenience. "It's especially helpful to families that have no Hebrew School or supplementary education close to home."

Other TTSP families beyond St. Paul hail from Philadelphia, and Stockholm and Hudson, Wis.



The Dashevsky family, including children Ari, Eli and Liora; and parents Zhenya and Anya; meet with Rabbi Yosi Gordon and Heidi Tarshish.

## RAJMN Teen Fellows prep for Israel trip

Hadar Pe'er, St. Paul shaliach, and Jenna Mittleman, JCRC Speakers Bureau, recently met with RAJMN Teen Fellows to discuss Israeli society and culture in preparation for a trip to Israel in June 2022. They learned about Israeli politics and current events, made desserts and enjoyed Israeli dancing.

This year, 30 teens and ten teaching assistants are participating in RAJMN (Russian American Jews in Minnesota) Teen Fellowship, an experience that helps them develop into their adult selves.

"RAJMN truly is a built-in community," said Arielle Shofman. "The more that you interact with these people, the closer you get to them. It's not just personality-wise, it's that you share the same background with them, so you understand where they're coming from."



RAJMN Teen Fellows learn about Israeli society, culture and cooking.

# We care for our community by supporting Federation

When you support the St. Paul Jewish Federation, you unite with others to care for Jews here and abroad, you create opportunities to engage in Jewish life, and you inspire leadership and community innovation.

“**K**ol yisrael arevim zeh la zeh — all Jews are responsible for one another. This powerful statement connects us as a people. It embraces us with the assurance that we are part of an inclusive, caring community and reminds us of our obligation to each other.



The St. Paul Jewish Federation embodies our community’s collective commitment to care for one another. When you support Federation, not only do you ensure that people most in need receive help, you also care for and safeguard the future of the Jewish people.

Please make a gift to the Federation Annual Campaign today. Please also consider joining us as Gimmel Society members by investing in our community with a three-year increasing commitment.”



**FEDERATION SHABBAT**

Dec. 17 and 18  
Please join Beth Jacob Congregation, Mount Zion Temple, and Temple of Aaron for Federation Shabbat.

Let’s explore how we can support all members of our community.

Learn more at [jewishstpaul.org](http://jewishstpaul.org)



**RABBI RACHEL AND RABBI MARCUS RUBENSTEIN**  
TEMPLE OF AARON

“We support our Jewish community because that is what it means to live a full Jewish life. So much of Jewish literature from the Torah to the Talmud is about how to create community — a community that is just, that is compassionate, and that cares for one another. Federated giving is vital because it allows us to lift up the entire community.”



**RABBI ADAM RUBIN**  
BETH JACOB CONGREGATION

“It is a mitzvah to support our local Jewish community, the institutional expression of which is the St. Paul Jewish Federation. We trust the professionals at the Federation to distribute tzedakah in wise and equitable ways, making sure that a broad array of worthy causes receive their fair share of support.”



**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.”

Please make a gift today at [jewishstpaul.org/donate](http://jewishstpaul.org/donate)

# THANK YOU, GIMEL SOCIETY MEMBERS

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, and more initiatives to build Jewish identity. *You change lives.*

To learn more, contact Dan Mogelson at [dmogelson@stpaulfed.org](mailto:dmogelson@stpaulfed.org) or 651.695.3185.

*We thank these Gimel Society members\* who have invested in the future of our Jewish community.*

Mark and Elaine Adelman	Stevan and Eve Kafitz	Dr. Kenneth Rosenblum and Ann Simonds
Gretchen and Tom Anderson	Nancy Karasov	Dr. Freeman and Shirley Rosenblum
Anonymous (2)	Alexandra Klass and Stephen Warch	Randi Roth
Erin Baldinger	Barbara Klick	Michel Rouache
Rabbi Shlomo and Chavie Bendet	David Krco and Erin Odean	Rabbi Rachel and Rabbi Marcus Rubenstein
Rabbi Zalman and Nechama Bendet	David Kristal and Cristiana Giordano	Robert Rubenstein and Susan Andrews
Alan and Elisa Bernick	Donna Lande	Rabbi Adam Rubin and Judith Schleyer
Aaron Biel	Charles Levine and Marjorie Dana-Levine	Mitchell and Sarah Rubinstein
Sheila and David Brod	Rabbi Lynn Liberman and Elizabeth Barnard	Lynne and Stuart Sanders
William and Joni Burg	Rick Linsk and Nancy Crotti	Gary and Cheryl Sankary
Beverly Calmenson z"l: Calmenson Family Fund	Judge Eric Lipman	Lisa and Dan Schibel
Martin & Esther Capp Foundation	Lee Litman	Dr. Susan Schloff
Mary and Philip Cohen	Don and Rhoda Mains	Andrew Seiler
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Jason and Mollie Divine	Robert and Julie Mast	Steven Silverman
Michael and Stacy Dockman	Ron and Karen Matz	Dr. Richard and Diane Smookler
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Fred and Karen Gordon	Aron and Ellen Rolnitzky	
Adam Green		
Steve Hunegs and Jenifer Robins		

\*List reflects Gimel Society members as of 11/19/21. We apologize for any names inadvertently omitted or misspelled. Please advise us of any changes for future publications.



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# *Todah rabbah,* Sharyn Effress Pesses

After 23 years of dedicated service to St. Paul's Jewish community, Sharyn is retiring at the end of 2021.

Sharyn began her career at Federation when Executive Director Sam Asher hired her as volunteer coordinator for Federation, the St. Paul JCC, and Jewish Family Service of St. Paul. Six months later, she became women's division director, a position she held for 21 years. Most recently, Sharyn served as associate development director.

"I cannot tell you how much I have loved my job, the staff I have worked with, and most of all, our donors and our committed community members who have worked so hard to maintain the strength and vitality of our beloved Jewish community of St. Paul," Sharyn said.

Sharyn looks forward to spending more time with friends, her children and grandchildren. Fortunately for Federation, she will continue working with us as a volunteer.

"The board and staff of Federation are deeply grateful for Sharyn's contributions to the success and vitality of Federation and her commitment to our Jewish community," said Ted Flaum, CEO. "We wish her much happiness in her retirement."



**SHARYN EFFRESS PESSES**  
ASSOCIATE DEVELOPMENT  
DIRECTOR