

The Impact of Your Gift Jewish Learning and Education Report on Fiscal Year 2019

CJP believes that Jewish learning enriches our lives, strengthens our community, and connects us more deeply to one another. Thanks to your support, we are working to ensure that at every age, life stage, and for any family makeup, there are meaningful ways to experience our history, traditions, and texts.

Making Jewish Decisions for Your Family

We know that families' foundational years—when couples first get married and begin to have children—represent a time when they might be looking to connect to Jewish communities and traditions. That's why we enable our partners to bring this demographic programming that inspires them to make Judaism an integral part of family life.

- **Parenting Through a Jewish Lens** helps parents navigate the changes that come with a growing family. Parents with young children explore how Jewish values, traditions, and community can enhance and support their lives as parents. Last year, **230** parents participated in **26** cohorts.
- CJP's **Families with Young Children (FwYC)** initiative supports a range of programs that introduce families to Jewish life, including age-appropriate learning opportunities, home and holiday celebrations, and playgroups. This year **325** new parents received a personal visit from **Welcome Baby!**, complete with information on family-friendly events and community resources. We also supported **PJ Library's** effort to send free books that celebrate Jewish values and culture to **9,018** families in Greater Boston with children ages six-months through eight-years. In all, FwYC touched more than **15,000** families last year.
- **Honeymoon Israel (HMI)** and CJP have now sent **140** young couples to Israel. On HMI trips across the country, participants reflect local demographics and are given a safe and supportive space to explore the role Judaism plays in their lives. In Boston, alumni and non-traveling applicants alike benefit from an alumni network, long-term follow-up, and support in building and finding Jewish community.



Immersive Experiences for School-Age Children

The elementary school years represent a unique time to imbue children with a love for Jewish learning and life. We can be most successful when we immerse young people in joyful, vibrant Jewish experiences among a community of their peers—which is exactly what happens at Jewish overnight camp and day schools. With your help, CJP is proud to support both of these critical, Jewish-identity-building experiences.

Jewish Overnight Camp

For many children, overnight camp is their primary Jewish experience.



95% of parents reports that camp creates an ambiance and atmosphere where their child is proud to be Jewish and **88%** say that camp positively impacted their child's Jewish identity and/or participation in their synagogue or local Jewish community.



CJP provides needs-based scholarships to help more families afford Jewish camp. Last year, CJP awarded **\$379,430** in scholarships to families who could not otherwise afford camp—an increase of 14% from 2018.

Day Schools

Greater Boston's Jewish Day Schools are home to more than 2,200 students.



CJP continues to work with our Catholic School counterparts, school leadership, and state and federal agencies to ensure that non-public schools receive their share of public funds. Last year, CJP helped secure more than **\$564,000** for Jewish day schools.



CJP partnered with the AVI CHAI Foundation to help teachers in the STEM disciplines integrate technology into their teaching. Based on enthusiastic responses from participants, AVI CHAI is renewing their support for this program in 2019-2020.

Keeping Teens Engaged

CJP is investing resources in organizations throughout Greater Boston to ensure that young Jews have—and *feel* like they have—a way to engage in the Jewish community after their bar or bat mitzvah.



The Jewish Teen Initiative (JTI) connects teens to each other and to meaningful Jewish opportunities in our community. JTI's signature Peer Leadership Fellows program trains and empowers teens to build relationships with their peers and engage them in Jewish life. Last year, three cohorts of Fellows, engaged **436** teens in **290** organizations. Recognizing that our community is at its strongest when we include people of all abilities, one of the cohorts was the newly piloted **Ruderman Peer Inclusion Fellows**. Working with synagogues and organizations throughout Greater Boston, the teens in this group helped to redefine what inclusion can look like for Jewish teens.



61 teens learned about philanthropy through the Jewish Teen Foundation of Greater Boston. In total, they raised and allocated more than **\$155,000** to organizations working on issues related to immigration, child abuse, and the environment.



60 students traveled to Israel for summer programs thanks to scholarships from CJP. In total, we awarded \$155,142 to help make their experience possible. **58** teens are also going to Israel thanks to matching funds from the *Myra and Robert Kraft Passport to Israel Program*.

Jewish Learning, Young Adult-Style

Today's young adults can find deep meaning and purpose in Jewish learning when it is offered in ways that are relevant to their lives. With your help, CJP is developing programming for this demographic that is easily accessible, tailored to their interests, and authentically aligned with their passions and curiosity.



An Evening of Un-Learning brought together more than **94** young adults last fall to explore a common Jewish text in uncommon ways—through art, movement, and food. The evening culminated with a presentation by Christian Picciolini, a former white supremacist, on unlearning hate.



Open Circle Social Action combines text study with hands-on service to the community. Launched this spring, **62** students in five classes explored topics that apply Jewish thought to contemporary issues, including what our tradition teaches about healing the world in difficult times.



CJP's on-going partnership with **Hadar** inspires young adults to delve into the meaning and lessons of our holidays. Last year **444** participants joined pop-up *batei midrash* in advance of Rosh Hashana and Passover to explore holiday liturgy and other texts and deepen the power of their celebrations.

Life Long Learning

Ongoing study is integral to Jewish life in one's adult years. Our rich tradition offers endless new insights and points of connection. Your generosity makes it possible for us to enable our partners to offer substantive learning opportunities like Me'ah and Eser. The popularity of these intensive programs demonstrates that people are finding meaning and community through these classes. Our goal is to continue to create tailored Jewish learning opportunities that meet the needs of adult learners with diverse backgrounds, interests, and availability.

Programs like **Open Circle Jewish Learning (OCJL)** are attracting more participants by offering a wide array of topics, such as mindfulness, Jewish culinary traditions, and Torah study. Last year, OCJL was over-subscribed with 627 learners in 56 learning circles. Moving forward, we need to consider how to scale this program to more fully meet demand.

By developing options that are more accessible—geographically, topically, and logistically, CJP is making it easier for people to engage in Jewish learning. **Genesis Forum** experienced improved attendance this year in large part due to the pilot of Genesis Forum West—held at Temple Emanuel in Newton, a readily accessible location for much of the target audience.

Thank You

We remain deeply grateful for your generosity, which allows us to provide the comprehensive range of Jewish learning experiences detailed above. With your support, we have been able to enrich the lives of thousands of individuals, spanning all ages, stages, and life experiences. You have given them the unparalleled gift of Jewish education. Thank you.