TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from the Co-Chairs .......................... 02
The Miriam Fund ................................. 03
Year in Review .................................... 04
The Year Ahead .................................. 05
Financial Overview .............................. 06
Grantmaking Process ............................ 07
Grantees ........................................ 08
Impact Stories .................................. 11
Leadership .................................... 12
Membership ................................... 13
Thank You .................................... 14

Photo provided by Jookender
Dear Members,

This has been another incredible year for The Miriam Fund (TMF), framed by flexibility and learning. We began the summer of 2021 hopeful that the fall would bring us together in person once again. We soon realized we would need to pivot in response to the continuing pandemic and quickly changed course to continue to connect on Zoom to achieve the goals we set for the year.

TMF’s events (virtual & hybrid) allowed for connection and created an opportunity for those who were out of town to participate from afar.
- At our opening event in October, we learned about menstrual equity from Anita Diamant and our grantee, Hope & Comfort.
- TMF welcomed seven new members with the support of our new mentor program.
- Our closing event, featuring current grantee Girls’ Leap and representatives of Massachusetts NOW, had both in-person and virtual attendance options.

It was a year spent listening and learning. The Executive Committee approved a Strategic Planning Process. Member feedback was collected through multiple modalities and research included in-depth analysis of TMF’s historical operations and external benchmarking. While there are always areas for improvement, we learned, overall, that members are very satisfied with their TMF experience. The Strategic Planning Process identified four priorities and established an implementation timeline. The strategic planning process also recognized the imperative that Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion considerations be incorporated across all aspects of our operations.

Our core work of grantmaking is at the center of everything we do. Our grants provided for the year ahead (FY23) will total $407,497, including a $25,000 Covid grant and a $25,000 grant to the CJP Ukraine Emergency Fund earmarked to support women and girls in Ukraine. In addition to grants, TMF has increased its efforts to provide grantees (and alumni grantees) additional supports to help them achieve even more impact and efficacy. Based on very positive feedback from the grantees on these unique and valuable offerings, TMF will continue this work, allowing us to deepen our relationships with our grantee partners.

We are thrilled with all we accomplished in FY22 and for the unwavering commitment and dedication of our members. We appreciate the feedback members have provided this year allowing us to continually reflect on and enhance The Miriam Fund experience for both our members and grantees. Together we continue to learn and grow, enhancing our skills as philanthropists and creating meaningful opportunities and social change for women and girls.

With respect and gratitude,

Cheryl Carner, Reva Fischman, Jodi Galin
Co-chairs The Miriam Fund
Since its inception in 2000, The Miriam Fund has awarded over $5 million to organizations doing crucial work in pursuit of gender equity.

**Mission**

The Miriam Fund is a philanthropic community committed to creating an equitable world that expands opportunities for women and girls*. Through strategic grantmaking, the Fund aims to inspire and strengthen women and girls within and beyond our Jewish community and, in the process, encourage its members to be advocates, leaders, and agents of change.

*Includes all for whom “woman” is a meaningful identifier or experience, including (but not limited to) cisgender women and girls, transgender women and girls, and nonbinary individuals.

**Priority Areas**

The Miriam Fund awards grants to both Jewish and secular organizations and programs within Massachusetts and Israel that serve women and girls.

**Priority Issues**

The Miriam Fund is a unique collaborative venture with Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP). We appreciate our mutual efforts to support the Jewish community and improve the world for women and girls.
Principle Highlights

- **Awarded $407,497 in Grants**
  - $357,497 to 16 organizations in Massachusetts and Israel.
  - Off cycle grants for COVID of $25,000 split between JF&CS and Yad Chessed, and $25,000 to the CJP Ukraine Emergency Fund to support women and girls in Ukraine.

- **Strategic Plan**
  - Formed Steering committee of 13 members.
  - Collected member feedback via a survey, focus groups, individual meetings, and a Town Hall; analyzed TMF’s historical data and researched other women’s funds.
  - Established four priorities of focus and an implementation timeline.

- **New Member Onboarding Process**
  - Developed member welcoming packet, mentor program, and events and formed 12 Mentor/Mentee pairings.

- **Member Engagement Activities**
  - Opening event with Anita Diamant and Hope & Comfort.
  - Presentation on Jewish Community Endowment Pool.
  - Financial training for grant readers.
  - Presentations by third-year grantees.
  - Monthly newsletters.
  - Geographic Zoom meetups.
  - Closing event with MassNow and grantee Girls’LEAP.

- **Grantee Support and Resources**
  - Quarterly convenings with educational topics.
  - Monthly newsletters.
  - Transitioned to online LOI and grant application process.

- **Visibility**
  - Featured in CJP annual calendar.
  - Clarified definitional language for terms women and girls.
  - Published article about TMF in Jewish Journal.
  - Held info sessions on TMF for potential applicants.
  - Increased Facebook posts.
THE YEAR AHEAD

Goals for FY22

- **Implement Strategic Plan Action Items**
  - Membership:
    - Expand/diversify to attract younger members.
  - Grantmaking Practices:
    - Review LOI/ application process and streamline for second and third-year applicants.
  - Defining and Measuring Impact:
    - Define measurement goals and utilize evaluation materials collected to highlight impact of grants.
  - Enhancing TMF’s Visibility:
    - Continue to enhance visibility generally to spread the word about TMF and, specifically, among Jewish communal organizations to attract grant applicants.
  - Member Support:
    - Develop educational opportunities and training on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion issues.
  - Grantee Support:
    - Continue to develop professional development and educational support opportunities for grantees.
FINANCIALS

Membership
By year-end, The Miriam Fund has welcomed 7 new members into our community during FY22. This brings our membership total to 130. We will continue to explore new ways to recruit and retain members in FY23, in an effort to provide a continuously enriching and fulfilling experience for all members.*

Fundraising
In FY22, we raised a total of $355,290.14 from gifts, reaching 107% of our $330,000 goal for the year. We are deeply grateful to each of our members for their generous gifts and support.

Assets
Each year, The Miriam Fund raises money through membership dues and gifts. These donations are invested in a quasi-endowment fund, which is managed through the Jewish Community Endowment Pool (JCEP). Though we exceeded our fundraising goal, by the end of FY22 our total assets decreased by $285,650.00 (10%) largely due to a downturn in market performance. Our fund balance however remains strong at a total of $2,509,268.48.

* Over 75% of TMF members also make annual contributions to CJP.
GRANTMAKING PROCESS

The grantmaking process is the heart of The Miriam Fund’s work. Over the years our mission has remained consistent, but our methods have evolved as we gain new insights and react to the needs and capabilities of our grantees and the world at large. This hands-on, strategic process is led by TMF members.

- **August**: Letters of intent solicited & evaluated
- **November**: Applicants invited to apply
- **January**: Applications submitted & evaluated
- **March**: Meetings to discuss proposals
- **March**: Site visits with prospective grantees
- **April**: Meetings to decide grant allocations
- **May**: Grantees announced and onboarded
- **August**: Grantees receive 1st half of grant funds
- **December**: Mid-year reports due
- **February**: Grantees receive 2nd half of grant funds
- **June**: End-of-year reports due
GRANTEES

After extensive consideration, The Miriam Fund awarded $350,000 to 17 organizations for the regular 2021-2022 grant term. In addition, TMF provided $50,000 in emergency funding to support urgent needs in response to COVID and the war in Ukraine. We are honored to have supported these outstanding organizations during these difficult times. Together, we can build a more equitable future and advance the rights, wellbeing, and opportunities for women and girls.

**Jewish Subcommittee, $123,000**

**Jewish Women's Archive (3rd Year)**
$25,000 - Rising Voices Fellowship  
*Empowering the next generation through a ten-month leadership development program for teens in 10th and 11th grade*

**Jewish Family & Children’s Service (2nd Year)**
$18,000 - TeenSafe  
*Implementing a dating abuse prevention program for teens*

**Gateways: Access to Jewish Education (2nd Year)**
$25,000 - Our Daughters, Our Future  
*Leading an educational series to raise awareness and promote dialogue around mental health*

**Jookender (1st Year)**
$5,000 - Go, Girls for STEAM!  
*Leading an engaging STEAM club for pre-teen girls*

**Mayyim Hayyim (1st Year)**
$25,000 - Let Justice Well Up  
*Providing an educational series that builds bridges among the diverse women in our community, by creating new immersion ceremonies*

**Torah Academy (1st Year)**
$25,000 - Makerspace Lab  
*Launching a Makerspace lab to foster interest in STEM for girls in 5th-8th grade*
Secular Subcommittee, $147,000

PAIR Project (3rd Year)
$25,000 - Access to Justice for Immigrant Families
Providing case-management (non-legal) services for women and children seeking asylum

Victim Rights Law Center (3rd Year)
$23,500 - Survivors’ Legal Access Fund
Supporting attorneys’ participation in two critical national lawsuits to preserve and protect the rights of K-12 and campus sexual assault survivors

Hope and Comfort (3rd Year)
$18,500 - Menstrual Hygiene Product Dispersal and Research
Supplying hygiene products to girls and conducting research on the needs of the target population

Girls' LEAP (3rd Year)
$15,000 - General Operating Support
Empowering girls to value and champion their own safety and well-being

Health Care Without Walls (2nd Year)
$15,000 - Bridges to Elders
Providing immediate medical care and intensive case management for homeless elderly women in Boston

Bellesini Academy (1st Year)
$25,000 - Enhanced Girls' STEM Lab
Creating a dedicated Girls' STEM Lab to provide a STEM program for girls

Science Club for Girls (1st Year)
$25,000 - Hybrid Virtual / In-Person Programming
Expanding and enhancing its virtual and in-person STEM programming for girls
Israel Subcommittee, $80,000

AJEEC-NISPED (3rd Year)
$20,000 - Taliyah Gap Year for Arab Women
Leading a gap year program for female high school graduates in the Bedouin community

Center for Women's Justice (3rd Year)
$22,500 - Let Freedom Ring
Providing legal aid and advocacy for women in Israel in regards to marital status

Itach Ma'aki (2nd Year)
$17,500 - City for All
Implementing a multi-level collaborative process to craft and execute a city-wide Gender Equality Action Plan in governmental institutions

Kaima Nahalal (2nd Year)
$20,000 - Kaima Earth Sisters
Promoting economic empowerment through innovative farming programs for women and girls

Urgent Response Grants, $50,000

Yad Chessed (COVID Emergency Grant)
$12,500 - Monthly Food Program
Serving senior women who live alone and face difficulty affording healthy food

Jewish Family & Children’s Service (COVID Emergency Grant)
$12,500 - Journey to Safety Program
Preventing domestic abuse in the Jewish community while helping all who have been abused find their way to safety

Project Kesher (Ukraine Emergency Grant)
$25,000 - via CJP Ukraine Emergency Fund
Supporting independent Jewish women’s organizations serving Jewish women and their families across nine time zones
Shali, *Girls' LEAP*

"Girls' LEAP definitely shaped my assertiveness and my authority and prepared me for this experience and ROTC. In ROTC, assertiveness and authority are just expected. The whole time I was with Girls’ LEAP, from age 15-18, prepared me for this. From that first Girls’ LEAP training — it was the first time that I had been in an environment that expected leadership. Then to just be able to keep doing it — getting comfortable speaking to others, leading groups, expressing what I needed — it’s exactly what is expected of me here. Excellence is expected at HBCUs. ROTC demands excellence. There are opportunities here but you have to take them. Girls’ LEAP prepared me to be assertive and to take them."

Elle, *Jewish Women's Archive*

“The most rewarding thing [about RVF] has been becoming more and more passionate about feminism, writing, and Jewish history as the fellowship has progressed. I now see these subjects fitting into my future, which is so exciting to me. It is also exciting that these amazing friends I have met will be in my future for conversation and support. The pluralistic spaces that RVF provides have given me a nuanced perspective on Judaism that allows me to view the issues in my community and the world at large more clearly. I now, more than ever, want to be a more effective change maker.”

Hanin, *AJEEC-NISPED*

"I joined [the Taliyah Program] in August of 2021 so that I could combine academic preparation with volunteer work. It was important to me that I would be able to prepare for the university psychometric exam. With very limited Hebrew, it felt impossible. I knew I’d need the support the program provided but what I didn't expect is that the new people I met in the program would become my support, too. Soon, they became some of my best friends. I started helping more and taking on responsibilities in the group when we'd study. Taliyah made me a leader. Now, I help others without hesitating. I take charge and feel in control of my life and, more importantly, my future. Taliyah allows me to give back in many different ways. I particularly enjoy volunteering with seniors, learning their stories and talking with them about life. The advantages of Taliyah are numerous. You get to study, learn Hebrew, and improve your community. I would recommend it to anyone."
LEADERSHIP
2021-2022

Fund Leadership
Cheryl Carner, Co-Chair
Reva Fischman, Co-Chair
Jodi Galin, Co-Chair
Rachel Goldstein, Grants Co-Chair
Janet Nahirny, Grants Co-Chair

Grant Subcommittee Leadership
Harriet Schnitman, Israel Co-Chair
Sharon Shapiro, Israel Co-Chair
Nancy L. Poorvu, Jewish Co-Chair
Debby Posin, Jewish Co-Chair
Janet Aserkoff, Secular Co-Chair
Nancy Karp, Secular Co-Chair

Executive Committee
Mary Akerson
Cheryl Carner
Louise Citron
Lynne Delise
Mady Donoff
Betsy Epstein
Esta Epstein
Reva Fischman
Leslie Gaffin
Jodi Galin
Carol Goldberg *
Deborah Goldberg *
Rachel Goldstein
Roz Gorin *
Nancy Karp
Beth Klarman *
Melanie Marcus
Janet Nahirny
Harriet Schnitman
Barbara Schultz
Joyce Schultz
Sharon Shapiro
Ellie Svenson
Barbara Targum
Carol Targum
Karen Tucker
Tana Weissman

* denotes a TMF Founder

Staff
Beth Tauro, Director
Alex Gaston, Grants Operations Manager
MEMBERSHIP
2021-2022

Members

Sherri Ades Falchuk
Hedy K. Adler
Mary Akerson
Nancy Allen
Paula Apsell
Janet F. Aserkoff
Enid Beal
JoAnn Gantz Bendetson
Leah Berk
Ellen Berk
Sara Bernstein
Amy Bloomstone
Joyce Bohnen
Lorraine Bressler
Julie Callum
Cheryl Hoffman Carner
Roberta Chafetz
Louise Citron
Alison Clew
Dayl Cohen
Michele Cohen
Lisa Popik Coll
Nancy Cott
Estelle G. Cushner
Alice Cutler
Lynne Schiffman Delise
Mady Donoff
Laura Dubin
Betsy Banks Epstein
Esta G. Epstein
Ruth Ann Feinberg
Loren Feingold
Fran Feldman
Gail Fields
Andie S. Finard
Peggy Goldsmith Fineman
Reva Gold Fischman
Glenda Fishman
Gretchen Fox Stein
Barbara Freedman Wand
Brenda Freishtat
Leslie B. Gaffin
Jodi Galin
Linda Gelb
Carol R. Goldberg
Deborah B. Goldberg
Rachel M. Goldstein
Molly Goodman
Doris Gordon
Rosalind E. Gorin
Teri Gorsky
Susan E. Gotz
Lisa Gross
Jill Hai
Nancy Hodin
Diane Bernstein Homer
Harriet Kantrowitz
Kyle Karp
Nancy R. Karp
Donna Katzman
Beth S. Klorman
Wendy Kraft
Lisa Krakoff
Barbara Krakow
Debbie Kurinsky
Sheryl Lappin-Levy
Rhonda Lassner
Marcia Leifer
Linda J. Lerner
Ellen Haas Levine
Nancy Levitan Poorvu
Joan F. Loren
Debbie A. Mann
Cynthia Marcus
Deborah Marcus
Melanie Marcus
Lauren Mazella
Lisa Michel
Sonia Michelson
Annette Miller
Beth Moskowitz
Janet Nahirny
Barbara R. Newman
Linda M. Noonan
Rabbi Suzanne Offit
Sylvia Perlman
Janet Polansky
Lorre Polinger
Robin M. Polishook
Lia G. Poorvu
Deborah Posin
Suzanne Priebatsch
Rosemary Putnam
Nancy Raphael
Patricia F. Ribakoff
Susan Riley
Betsy Rosen
Gail Rothenberg
Lisa Rourke
Gayle Rubin
Lauren E. Rubin
Ronni Sachs Kotler
Winnie Sandler Grinspoon
Aviva Sapers
Susan Schechter
Cindy Schlessinger
Harriet Schnittman
Barbara Schultz
Joyce Schultz
Pamela G. Schwartz
Sharon Shapiro
Jennifer K. Silver
Toby M. Sloane
Susan Snider
Noni Stearns
Ellie Svenson
Gerri Sweder PSY,D.
Barbara Targum
Carol Targum
Wendy Traynor
Karen Tucker
Jeane Ungerleider
Phyllis Viscidi
Jennifer Weinstock
Tana Weissman
Susan Whitehead
in Honor of Kate Sayare
Arnee R. Winshall
Robin Wolk
Beverly Zweiman
Anonymous
THANK YOU

Dear members,

Commencement is tied to graduations and thought of as an ending, yet its true meaning is a start or beginning. Looking at FY22, the closing event truly felt like commencement. We reflected on all that we accomplished during the year, and in the same moment, were making strides and moving forward. The closing event felt like an exciting new beginning.

To me, it was wonderful bringing so many members together in person for the first time since the pandemic and to meet so many members who I only knew through Zoom boxes. The energy and excitement of members seeing each other after a long hiatus created an indescribable buzz and reflected the sense of connection and community which is a hallmark of The Miriam Fund. Being in person made me appreciate the added effort each of you put into our work and to this community to build new norms and hold it together with remote technology. The moment reflected a commencement of being together in person and including others by virtual technology.

Cheryl focused her remarks on the significant work we accomplished this year and highlighted the strategic planning process. We looked back at our mission, vision, and at what makes TMF the strong and effective organization it continues to be. With this as our guiding light, we will move forward to enhance processes and opportunities for members and grantees, building on the past to create some exciting new ideas and beginnings.

The relevance and importance of TMF’s work increases daily. We are facing new challenges in our continued efforts to create change for women and girls. Moving toward our 25th anniversary, we will increase our efforts in the years ahead with even greater resolve, working diligently to support our grantee partners and continually creating new opportunities for the women and girls they serve. I am so grateful for your continued support and look forward to working side by side to accomplish meaningful goals together.

With gratitude,
Beth Tauro
To learn more about The Miriam Fund:

Visit our website at
www.cjp.org/get-involved/join-a-group/the-miriam-fund

Contact:
Director Beth Tauro at betht@cjp.org

Like our Facebook at
www.facebook.com/themiriamfund

The Miriam Fund is a unique collaborative venture with Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP).