

Donor and volunteer
recognition report



Dear Friends,

In between songs at the spectacular Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel's Independence Day) celebration during CJP's Spark Israel experience, I stepped back from the crowded dance floor to take in the scene.

Dancing in a circle with hundreds of people in Tel Aviv to mark Israel's 75th birthday was something I had only dreamed of. And before my eyes, surrounded by lights and colors and so much happiness, it was happening.

In that moment of pure joy, I felt inspired — by our Greater Boston Jewish community, our strength, and what's possible when we come together to celebrate where we've been and where we are going.

I also was struck by the reality that things are not always easy. During Spark and in the months since, we've continued to bear witness to Israel's very real challenges, and wrestle with our roles as American Jews. Here at home, we grapple with the dynamic, creative, and sometimes messy process of telling our collective story, and living out the values of a history and a People that transcend time and place.

Through it all — both the joy and the joy of being Jewish here and now — I am inspired by your generosity and your trust in CJP. It's a feeling that's with me all the time when I'm in community with you. I continue to be inspired by your steadfast dedication to Jewish life, your commitment to fighting antisemitism, and your passion for engaging our next generation. You care for those in need, show up in a crisis, and want to create a better world for all.

You lead with head and heart to make CJP and our broader Jewish community stronger.

In the pages ahead, you'll read more about how your support lifts us all. Together, we're identifying emerging needs, collaborating with partners, and making significant and lasting change.

We are a People with a purpose. Thank you for always inspiring me and for being the donors and volunteers who keep the circle of joy going. It's my greatest privilege to be part of this dance with you. I can't wait to see where we will go from here.

With blessings,



Rabbi Marc Baker

President and CEO



Dear Friends,

When you work with CJP, you see the good in people.

You see dedicated donors share their resources to ensure our Jewish community is strong. You see incredible volunteers give their time to help those in need. You see diverse partners across the community collaborate to make more of an impact than they could alone. You see energized professionals pour themselves into serving the Jewish People.

Thank you for being part of the good. As we transition leadership on the Board of Directors, we are both so grateful for your continued trust and generosity — and for all the ways you keep showing up and stepping up for CJP and our community. We're honored to share with you our reflections from the past and a look ahead to where we're going.

With gratitude,

Shira Goodman and Laurene Sperling

Past Chair, Board of Directors and Chair, Board of Directors



A LOOK BACK — FROM SHIRA

In February, I lost my father, Rabbi Arnold Goodman (z"l). Over the past few years, as we talked about his life and mine, I found joy in sharing with him how meaningful it's been for me to helm the CJP Board. Working with CJP has truly been a *l'dor v'dor* (from generation to generation) moment — I spent my life watching my dad serve and lead the Jewish community as a dedicated pulpit rabbi. To have the chance to do it myself has been a great blessing.

I became Board Chair during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic — at a time when our Jewish community rallied around those who were suffering and lifted them with basic needs, financial resources, mental health support, and sometimes, just a friendly ear. Together, over the past few years, we've also cared for refugees from Afghanistan and Ukraine, escalated the fight against antisemitism, brought more families with small children and young adults under our tent, and celebrated Israel.

It hasn't always been easy. At CJP, we've had to prioritize and evolve, face what sometimes felt like never-ending crises, and unite as a community when polarizing issues divided us. Through it all, we've come out stronger, embracing the joy of our community and our traditions, and with more purpose and focus to march toward our future.

A LOOK AHEAD — FROM LAURENE

My parents were immigrants who came to the United States in the 1950s from the Iraqi-Jewish community. Their safe escape was orchestrated anonymously by Jewish organizations, and they relied on the Jewish community as a source of strength in their new home.

Ever since, I have been passionate about Jewish life and ensuring a vibrant Jewish present — and future. My first Jewish leadership role was in the early 1990s as chair of the parents' committee at the Temple Shir Tikva preschool. It made me want to dive in further to keep our community strong and our next generation deeply engaged.

As CJP Board Chair, I am now focused on how we can best serve our families with young children, encourage learning and connection, rally the fight against antisemitism, partner with synagogues, encourage leadership development, and become a world-class digital organization.

There is so much to do in the coming months and years — and we need your help. I am in awe of the generous, talented, and caring people we have among us in our Greater Boston Jewish community. When we each give even a little in service to the collective, we can move forward from a place of strength.

Thank you for the solid foundation you have helped to build. Together, we can make the world a better place for all.

In gratitude to you

JESSICA R. MYERS

Committee on Development, Chair

It's been an incredible year! We celebrated Israel's 75th with a magical Spark experience in April and inspiring programming across the community, leaned into our role as a strategic grant-maker, took a bold stand against antisemitism, and so much more. This work was only possible because of you — our passionate donors and volunteers. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to strengthening Jewish life now and for helping us build a bright Jewish future.



CAMPE GOODMAN

2023 Annual Campaign, Chair

2022 Annual Campaign, Chair

In my two years as Co-chair of CJP's Annual Campaign, we've journeyed from navigating COVID's uncertainties to launching Spark. It's been an extraordinary time that has fostered unity and made us stronger. Your generous contributions — the lifeblood of our mission — have shaped our community into a more inclusive and welcoming home, creating a powerful sense of belonging. It's been an honor to serve, and I extend heartfelt thanks for your commitment to our journey.

KIMBERLY S. CREEM

2024 Annual Campaign, Chair

2023 Annual Campaign, Chair

After completing my first year as Co-chair of CJP's Annual Campaign, I am filled with gratitude and appreciation for our community. We came together for those in need — both in Boston and beyond — and laid the foundation for a strong Jewish future. I am proud to be part of an organization that is building a welcoming community where everyone feels that they can belong. I am honored to help lead CJP for a second year as we continue to go from strength to strength!



DAVID F. ADLER

2024 Annual Campaign, Chair

I'm inspired by CJP's commitment to caring for the most vulnerable, nurturing Jewish life, and fighting antisemitism; by the generosity of CJP's donors and volunteers; and by the way this community welcomed my wife and me when we moved to Boston, making us feel that we belong. I look forward to building on the amazing work of those who came before and, with your partnership, making our Greater Boston Jewish community even stronger.



Living with purpose

Through incredible organizational partnerships — and the generosity and support of donors like you — we're building a purposeful, vital, and inclusive Jewish community, putting philanthropy to work in Greater Boston and beyond. We've selected highlights from the past year that illustrate the tremendous impact you make possible (and included a sneak peek at what's ahead).



Knowledge is power

MORE THAN 3,200 PEOPLE completed Countering Active Threat Training through CJP's Communal Security Initiative in the past year — over 1,000 more than those who participated in 2022.



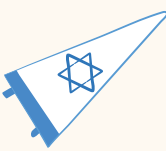
We see you

To help affirm and support LGBTQIA+ Jews in Greater Boston, CJP is sponsoring and participating in **SHIVYON: KESHET'S EQUALITY PROJECT** with 12 other organizations and 48 organizational leaders from 2023–2024.



The kids are alright

CJP's Jewish Teen Initiative Peer Engagement Fellows **CONNECTED 374 OF THEIR PEERS** to the vast menu of opportunities available to Jewish teens, reaching 161 schools, synagogues, summer camps, and youth-serving organizations in 47 cities and towns.



Connected on campus

CJP supports college students through IACT, an initiative of Hillel International which engages students in a journey of Jewish discovery and meaningful Israel experiences. This past year, IACT **CONNECTED 1,025 STUDENTS** at universities across New England.

Enough is enough

In response to the troubling rise in antisemitism in Massachusetts, CJP launched FaceJewishHate.org, a powerful resource created to help our community and allies fight back. We're proud to partner with the Foundation to Combat Antisemitism in its national campaign, **#STANDUPTOJEWISHHATE**.





Igniting our community

CJP's Spark is an invitation for ongoing engagement with Israel and each other — made possible in large part by the generosity of incredible donors who made gifts that went above and beyond their annual support. Hundreds of community members participated in local programs and events (including 200+ young adults!) and a once-in-a-lifetime experience in Israel for a memorable Yom Ha'atzmaut. With **OVER 350 PEOPLE SIGNED UP** for our Spark Family Experience in December, a new generation will have the opportunity to share in the magic, beauty, and history of Israel — and our amazing community.

Unlimited (s)mileage

In a **FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND PARTNERSHIP**, CJP and JCC Greater Boston created Pomi, delivering immersive, hyper-local experiences to families and allowing them to connect to their Jewishness and one another, both digitally and in person.



Community support liaison

CJP AND JF&CS ARE TEAMING UP to bring social workers to synagogue communities throughout Greater Boston, enabling short-term one-on-one and group support to those in need of help.



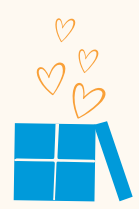
S'more fun

359 CHILDREN experienced Jewish overnight camp for the first time with the help of CJP's One Happy Camper grants.



Strength in numbers

This year saw the development of **STRONGER TOGETHER**, an innovative hub for resource-sharing and a platform to develop and launch programs that create innumerable benefits for Greater Boston's 14 Jewish day schools.



Love, boxed and delivered

Together with our organizational partners, we **PROVIDED 3,122 PASSOVER MEALS** and celebrated, in spirit, with those facing vulnerability through CJP's Holiday in a Box program.

Investing in community

For more than 125 years, CJP has turned individual acts of kindness into collective action that strengthens Jewish life in Greater Boston and beyond — and makes the world a better place.

As an organization driven by our Jewish values, learning, and culture, we build partnerships, develop resources, and put innovative philanthropy into practice. With your support, we care for those in need, keep the Jewish community strong, inspire our next generation, and empower hundreds of organizations and institutions to ignite positive change in Boston, in Israel, and across the globe.

Through the decades, CJP has been able to achieve so much because of donors like you — and your ongoing trust and generosity. Thank you.

Together, we are building a bridge between our shared past and a vibrant future for all.



Our community of supporters

BY THE NUMBERS*

10,423

individuals, families, and foundations made gifts to CJP

6,641

donors gave between \$1–\$999

3,782

donors gave \$1,000+

556

donors gave for the first time this year

94.9%

of CJP donors last year renewed their gifts this year

6,041

CJP donors have given for the last two or more years

2,074

individual, loyal CJP donors have consistently renewed their gifts each year for 18 years or more

16

new legacy donors welcomed into the Dor L'Dor Legacy Society

31

new Donor Advised Funds created

685

people volunteered through 59 committees, task forces, and working groups

3,682

community members registered for an event

1,205

community members attended an event for the first time

*These numbers reflect our fiscal year 2023, which ran from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.

Extraordinary investment in our community and beyond: \$224 million

\$65 million

CJP's community investment and supporting services



467 grants to create vibrant Jewish life across our community



186 grants to assist vulnerable populations and community members facing crisis



53 grants to strengthen organizational partners and bolster the safety and security of our community

\$159 million

9,482 CJP Donor Advised Fund (DAF) grants to 3,023 charities



35%

of dollars granted supported CJP and organizations serving the Jewish community and Israel

65%

of dollars granted supported broader needs locally and globally, including healthcare, the environment, education, and civil rights

CJP DAFs are managed and invested by CJP, and assets are subject to CJP's exclusive legal control. All grants are recommended by individual fund signatories and are reviewed and approved by CJP. Grants support a wide range of donor interests beyond CJP's areas of focus and may not conflict with CJP's mission.

For more information on the impact of your support, visit cjp.org/ourimpact.

Managing and stewarding our community's resources

CJP is proud to provide donors and Jewish organizations access to philanthropic and investment platforms.

771 funds total \$1.8 billion

CJP's DAF program includes 771 funds that total \$1.8 billion. We offer donors at all ages and stages of life a low-cost, easy-to-access opportunity to manage and optimize their giving in ways that significantly benefit the Jewish community and beyond.

82 organizations

CJP strengthens 82 organizations through the Jewish Community Endowment Pool, LLP (JCEP). Nearly all local Jewish educational organizations, social services partners, and synagogues — along with Jewish organizations from across the country — participate in JCEP.

For detailed financial statements, please visit cjp.org/fiscal-transparency.



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We belong together

Our community is rooted in meaningful connections to Jewish life — and to each other.

This year, through bold events and engaging conversations — and with everyone from children to seniors — we shared, learned, and celebrated together, both locally and globally.

Thank you for joining us as we build our vibrant community!

1. Participants in the 2022 cohort of CJP's Cynthia and Leon Shulman Acharai Leadership program engaged in intensive discussion, travel, study, and reflection to establish deep connections to CJP, the Jewish community, Israel, and each other.
2. Through CJP's *Spark something*, hundreds of young adults had the chance to learn and connect with each other in a series of four local events, run in partnership with more than a dozen young adult organizations.
3. 300 community members — including nearly 100 young adults — celebrated Israel's 75th birthday in April on CJP's Spark. The fun continues in December with the 80+ intergenerational families (325+ individuals) traveling to Israel for CJP's Spark Family Experience. More than half of the travelers combined are new to CJP or to involvement in the Jewish community.
4. Influencer and activist Lizzy Savetsky rallied the audience in the fight against antisemitism at the Women's Philanthropy Pomegranate Society event, Raise Your Voice.
5. Jewish educator Layah Lipsker led a local Spark education series on Kabbalah spiritual learning for Women's Philanthropy community members.
6. At the first Dor L'Dor Legacy Society in-person gathering since before the COVID-19 pandemic, donors with future commitments to CJP's endowment celebrated their dedication to our community.
7. This year saw the return of CJP missions — to Israel and beyond! In October 2022, next-generation community leaders visited the Shalom Hartman Institute to learn with Donniel Hartman and then celebrated Shabbat in Jerusalem.
8. Comedian Jared Freid brought down the house at Chai-larious Times. Hosted by CJP's Chai Society — our giving society representing young adults who contribute \$118 or more to CJP's Annual Campaign — the event featured food, drink, and a chance for 225 young adults to learn about the impact of collective philanthropy, leadership, and the local Jewish community.
9. Jewish teens throughout Greater Boston became leaders. As Jewish Teen Initiative Peer Engagement and Wellness Fellows, they helped remove the stigma around mental health through outreach and programming for other teens in the community.
10. Once again, CJP's Holiday in a Box program delivered thousands of meals to isolated older adults and vulnerable members of the community to help them celebrate the Jewish holidays. We are grateful to JFS Metrowest for managing the delivery of 3,122 Passover meals.
11. CJP unveiled a powerful billboard at North Station as part of the Face Jewish Hate campaign, which features stories of recent antisemitism in our community and provides resources to take action. This billboard was seen by more than 50,000 daily commuters.
12. Through Boston Onward Israel, college students traveled to Israel for summer-long internships with Israeli companies and nonprofit organizations. Ben, a native of Brookline, had a marketing internship with Cloudonix, which he said led him to "fall in love with the work culture in Israel."
13. Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Boston's annual Yom Sport event brought athletes and volunteers together in a day filled with competition, new friends, community building, and raising awareness for athletes with disabilities.
14. CJP and JArts were thrilled to name two new Community Creative Fellows for the 2022–2023 program year. Musician and composer Ira Klein and dancer and choreographer Rachel Linsky spent the year sharing their art throughout the community, creating fascinating capstone projects and building connections through a Jewish lens.

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Thanks for all you've given.



In the following pages, you'll find select portraits of *chesed* (lovingkindness), as well as the names of thousands of our community members.

Each of you has contributed to the initiatives, programs, grants, emergency funds, and acts of kindness that build and fortify our community. Your spirit — and your willingness to step up and give — are reflected in the stories and impact we're proud to share in this report.

When we talk about impact, here's what we can't quantify: the excitement of attending overnight camp for the first time. Feeling empowered to help a friend struggling through depression. Finding connection amidst the isolation that can come with raising a baby. The security to live proudly and publicly as Jews. The nourishment provided by a warm meal, delivered for the holidays. Hope for the next generation.

You make this happen.

Year after year, we're humbled by the dedication and generosity of those listed within these pages. Every name represents an expression of love for the people we serve.

When we talk about our incredible donors and volunteers, here's what we can't capture: all the stories and moments that led you to give so graciously and meaningfully to a brighter tomorrow. Your commitment to an inclusive, vibrant, and joyous community. The extent of our appreciation for everything you do to build a strong Jewish future.

You make this possible.

When we talk about gratitude, here's what we hope to always communicate: We're so thankful for your unwavering support and care for the Jewish community. Thank you for your trust in what we can accomplish together. Thank you for believing in CJP.



LEWIS FAMILY AND THE GRAND CIRCLE FOUNDATION

A deeply rooted commitment to Ukraine

When the war broke out in Ukraine last year, Alan Lewis (z"l) reached out to his rabbi and other Jewish friends for advice on how he could best help those struggling in the conflict.

A longtime travel executive and philanthropist, Alan wanted to support a Jewish organization with strong leadership that was making a real impact in Ukraine, where his father's family had deep roots.

Through his network, Alan learned about CJP's Ukraine Emergency Fund, which was supporting organizations on the ground as they provided the most vulnerable with food, shelter, medicine, and other basic needs. A fan of authenticity and boldness, Alan liked that CJP was clear in its mission of aid, collaborated with trustworthy partners — including the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) — and most importantly: delivered results.

In April 2022, the Lewis family's Grand Circle Foundation gifted \$150,000 to the emergency fund. Six months later, the foundation gave another \$100,000 to be used specifically in CJP's sister city of Dnipro.

"CJP was the right fit for our response to the unjust war in Ukraine," says Charlotte Lewis, Alan's daughter, and the Chief Operating Officer of the family's Kensington Investment Company. "It was a way for us to help a part of the world where our ancestors came from and partner with an outstanding organization like CJP to make a difference."

Proud of his ancestors

In November 2022, Alan unexpectedly passed away. The foundation's investment in Ukraine then took on new meaning for

Charlotte, her mother, Harriet, and her brother, Edward: It also became a way to help remember Alan and his family's close ties to the land.

"Alan felt this connection to Ukraine very deeply and was very proud of his ancestors," Charlotte says. "My father's family came from the Pale [a former territory of Russia that included Ukraine], where life was especially difficult and unjust for Jews. It was a badge of honor to get out and many who did were determined never again to be abused, humiliated, or discriminated against. Edward, my father's father, would fight to defend his honor if anyone insulted him for being Jewish."

"His heart was huge"

The gift to CJP was one part of the Grand Circle Foundation's overall commitment to Ukraine and helping people of all faiths survive and, in many cases, flee to safety.

Over the past year, the foundation — which raised funds from travelers of the family's Grand Circle Corporation — has donated more than \$2.5 million to various nonprofit organizations serving the war-torn region, with a particular focus on long-term housing and emergency relief.

"Our family believes that we are not in the travel business, rather we are in the business to help change people's lives," says Charlotte.

Alan, she says, was also motivated to care for those in Ukraine — the "underdog" in the war — because of his own childhood experience being raised by a single mother in Boston.

"My dad moved 14 times before he was 7 years old, from one tough neighborhood to the next," says Charlotte. "As a kid

on the streets of Boston, he was always trying to fit in. He ran with older boys and got into a lot of fights. When you grow up like that, you develop certain survival skills, as well as an eye for opportunity and the skills of an entrepreneur. He also developed a passion for using his philanthropy to help those struggling to beat the odds. His commitment was huge — and his heart was huge."

Honoring the connection to identity and history

Throughout his career — and his philanthropic work both at the Grand Circle Foundation and The Alnoba Lewis Family Foundation, which focuses on leadership development — Alan was known for his commanding presence, great charisma, and strong beliefs, says Charlotte.

He was also known for living out the Jewish values of caring for everyone — and always dreaming bigger and thinking bigger to improve the world.

"Like my father, I am very proud to be Jewish," she says. "From both of my parents, Jewish culture, community, and tradition are my bloodline. I want to continue to honor our connection to identity and history."

To that end, Charlotte and her husband, Mike, have enrolled their 3-year-old daughter, Roselee, at day care and summer camp at the Jewish Community Center of the North Shore in Marblehead.

"It feels so good to honor my ancestors and my Jewish roots to help the people of Ukraine," she says. "We have a shared heritage and a shared hope for a better, more peaceful, and just future for our children."



JUDITH AND LEE SELWYN

Investing in a connected community

In the 1960s, Judith (Judy) and Lee Selwyn — both native New Yorkers who met at MIT — put down roots in the Boston area to raise their family.

A few days after they settled in their new home in Brookline, Judy remembers a neighbor knocking at their door, asking if they were planning to join the local synagogue, Temple Emeth.

The answer was “yes” — and Judy and Lee ended up enrolling their three children in the temple’s nursery school. It was a decision that laid the groundwork for the couple’s future philanthropy.

“We really strongly believe that you’ve got to build the link to Jewish identity very early on and engage families in Jewish life when your kids are young,” says Judy. “We don’t live in a world with a lot of Jewish people. It’s so important for children to learn Jewish rituals and for families to make Jewish connections starting in preschool.”

A partnership with CJP

Fifty years after they first sent their children to Jewish nursery school, the Selwyns — through their Lee L. and Judith E. Selwyn Foundation — partnered

with CJP to create a grant pool to help synagogues better engage families in Jewish life.

In 2021, eight synagogues each received a \$10,000 grant to host innovative Jewish programming for families. In addition, the Foundation provided funding to CJP to convene a Communities of Practice for Jewish nonprofit professionals at organizations across Greater Boston to share learnings and expertise as they worked to engage families with young children through these grants.

“We strongly identify as Jews — and as parents and grandparents, we believe in Jewish continuity,” says Lee. “We are proud to work on this project with CJP to meet our common goals of engaging families with young children instead of just writing a check. CJP is efficient, and we appreciate the professional support for this program.”

In both 2022 and 2023, the Selwyns renewed their support for the grant program with \$120,000 each year. To date, 15 synagogues — in communities from Brighton to Lexington to Needham — have received funding to create innovative Jewish engagement opportunities for

children and families tailored to their specific populations.

An impact on Jewish identity

This isn’t the first time the Selwyns — who still belong to Temple Emeth as well as New Bedford’s Tifereth Israel Congregation near their summer home in Mattapoisett — have worked with CJP to keep the Greater Boston community engaged in Jewish life.

With a donation from the Selwyn Foundation in 2020, CJP was able to offer a Technology Grant Fund for synagogues to upgrade their technology (or acquire new technology) prior to the first High Holidays during the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the time, synagogues could apply for a grant of either \$1,000 or \$2,500 to be used for tech enhancements such as Zoom accounts, cameras, computers, audio equipment, consultants, and more. A total of \$172,000 was granted to 75 synagogues throughout Greater Boston.

“A lot of people learned a lot about technology very quickly,” says Lee. “It’s amazing how leaders of Jewish organizations stepped up to that challenge. We’re so proud that we helped to save Rosh Hashanah that year for Greater Boston’s Jewish community.”

The funding also helped synagogues continue to virtually engage their congregants in Jewish life over the next few years of the pandemic.

“Overall, through both grant programs, Lee and I feel like we’ve had an impact on Jewish identity,” says Judy. “We have a responsibility to step up and help build and nurture Jewish connections. If we don’t do it, who will?”

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JEFF AND LORI GLASSMAN

Love and leadership through CJP

In 1998, Jeff Glassman went on a CJP Summer Singles mission to Israel — and it changed his life.

After the trip, he jumped into CJP and took on several young adult leadership roles, including Co-chair of the 2000 Summer Singles Mission. For the trip, Jeff was tasked with helping to recruit 100 participants.

As it turns out, the 100th person to register was Lori Beberman, a 28-year-old Framingham native whose grandmother had encouraged her to go to Israel with CJP. On the mission, sparks began to fly between Jeff and Lori.

“When we got back, Jeff and I spoke on the phone for hours,” Lori recalls. “We went out for dinner the next night and we haven’t spent another night without each other since. We owe it all to CJP.”

Jeff and Lori married in 2002. More than 20 years later, they remain passionate about CJP — and building strong community connections to Israel and Jewish life. So, when Jeff was asked to join the Steering Committee for Spark, CJP’s journey of learning and travel to celebrate Israel’s 75th birthday, he immediately said “yes.”

On the spot, the Glassmans — and their three children, Noah, 19; Jack, 18; and Sydney, 13 — also committed to participate in CJP’s Spark Family Experience, a 10-day journey to Israel with hundreds of Boston-area parents, children, and grandparents. The December trip will be the couple’s first time in Israel since the mission that brought them together.

The spark of Jewish life and community

“We’ve been itching to get back to Israel ourselves — and we’ve also been itching to get back with our family,” Jeff says. “Basically, when CJP called, I asked, ‘What can I do?’ Lori and I started talking to others in our circle and now we’ve recruited about a dozen other families for Spark. We’re excited for our friends to pick up the little pieces of Israel that we did when we were there. If you take the little pieces back home, you keep that spark of Jewish life and community going. That’s the whole point.”



If you take the little pieces back home, you keep that spark of Jewish life and community going. That’s the whole point.

Inspired by their initial connection in Israel, Jeff and Lori made it a priority as a couple to create a strong Jewish life together and model a commitment to giving back for their family. They moved to Sharon for its thriving Jewish community, joined the town’s Temple Israel, and sent their

children to Jewish preschool and overnight camp. Jeff served on the JCC’s Board of Directors, co-chaired the JCC’s golf tournament, and joined CJP’s Campaign Cabinet. The couple also traveled to Cuba in 2015 on a CJP mission.

Over the years, they’ve continued to give to CJP and encourage their friends to do the same.

“We’ve always believed that if you lead by example, others will join you,” Jeff says. “We love that CJP does the groundwork to have a pulse on overall community needs — and specific needs in times in crisis. We give to the Annual Campaign so CJP can do the most important things with our dollars. We trust the organization to put our resources where they’re needed.”

Countdown to Israel

As they count down the months to their second time in Israel together, Lori says she and Jeff often reflect with gratitude on their love story — and their lifelong bond to CJP and their Jewish homeland.

“We feel so thankful and connected, and we want others to experience that,” she says. “You can’t even understand what Israel is like until you go. Once you’re there, the sense of belonging you feel — and the desire to give back — is so great and meaningful and moving. It all just clicks.”



MARA GOLDSTEIN

Giving back runs in the family

For Mara Goldstein, a passion for Jewish community runs in the family.

In the 1960s, her grandparents were active in CJP — which, in turn, influenced Mara's parents, Robert and Stepheny (z"l) Riemer to get involved. Looking back, Mara remembers her parents giving their time and treasure generously to CJP, Jewish Family & Children's Service (JF&CS), Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Boston, and JCC Greater Boston.

"The Jewish community was truly ingrained in our lives," she says. "My parents were incredible role models to me and my brother, Adam. They were just doing — but I don't think they realized how impactful it was for us as children to watch them make such a difference. It became part of who I am."

And it remains a part of her still. Now, Mara is living out the lessons from her childhood — and continuing her family's legacy of giving back. Since July 2022, she's served as Chair of JCC Greater Boston's Board of Directors. In addition, Mara, a longtime CJP donor, sits on CJP's Teen Engagement Committee, is active with the JF&CS Center for Basic Needs Assistance — and along with her husband and daughters — a regular JF&CS Family Table volunteer.

"I feel so honored to be able to serve the community in ways that help make a difference in people's lives," Mara says. "Giving back gives me such a warm, positive feeling that motivates me to keep doing it."

Creating comfortable spaces to be Jewish

For Mara, becoming JCC Board Chair was especially meaningful — given her parents' history with the organization and her own

family's longtime connection to the JCC. Mara and her husband, Bob, have been JCC members "forever," she says, and their three daughters, Hannah, 25; Sophie, 23; and Lila, 20; have long been active in JCC programs and activities.

"The JCC has always been important to my family, and I was so honored to have been asked to take on this leadership role," Mara says. "I have a passion for finding ways to create comfortable spaces for people to express their Jewish identity. The JCC embodies that. There are no questions asked — you show up as you are. Being able to represent an organization that is so in the forefront of welcoming matches perfectly with my passions."

In her role, Mara's had the chance to see firsthand the "incredible partnership" between CJP and the JCC as the two organizations work together toward a shared vision of a more connected and engaged Greater Boston Jewish community.

"It's more than just one plus one equals two — it's one plus one equals three," she says. "Being able to do this together in partnership enables us to really take advantage of the synergies between the two organizations and exponentially make the programs more impactful."

Within CJP, Mara is also focused on creating comfortable spaces to express Jewish identity, namely through her work on the Teen Engagement Committee, a group of volunteers who partner with CJP professionals to identify new and increased opportunities for teens to be inspired, empowered, and connected with each other and the Jewish community as they navigate their Jewish journeys.

"Teens these days are dealing with so

“
I love that CJP has its finger on the pulse of what's going on in the Jewish community and the greatest areas of need.”

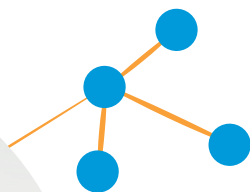
many issues — antisemitism, anti-Israel rhetoric, mental health, and just the stress of everyday life," she says. "CJP and its partners are meeting kids where they are to engage them in things they're interested in and care about — through a Jewish lens. CJP is giving teens experiences to be able to confront difficult situations. This is important work, which is helping to ensure the next generation will be able to stand up and identify with being Jewish."

Carrying on the legacy of those who came before

Just as her parents were very open about their philanthropic and volunteer commitments, Mara says she and Bob have encouraged their own daughters to "carry on the legacy of those who came before" and support causes that are close to them.

For Mara, CJP will always be close to her.

"I love that CJP has its finger on the pulse of what's going on in the Jewish community and the greatest areas of need — and acts upon them," she says. "There's a lot of action and doing with CJP. It supports and bolsters the whole community while allowing its partners to do impactful and meaningful work. CJP is the glue that holds everything together."



MICHAEL TAUER

Serving others through a Jewish lens

As an undergrad at the University of Pennsylvania in the 1990s, Michael Tauer spent a lot of time at the campus Hillel.

It was there that he began to understand there isn't a one-size-fits-all model for Judaism. Michael learned that Hillel is a place where — as a Jew — he could simply “do Jewish with other Jews.”

Nearly 25 years later, those words still resonate. Now a married father of three and an attorney, Michael is passionate about “doing Jewish” by volunteering with Jewish organizations that serve the broader community and help repair the world.

Through CJP's Hineni Volunteer Network — a program that matches community members with Jewish communal organizations that need governance and advisory support — Michael was connected to three opportunities to “do Jewish” in his own meaningful way. He's now on the Board of Directors of Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), a member of CJP's Campaign Cabinet, and an adviser to the Hillel Council of New England.

“Being Jewish is and has always been central to my identity,” he says. “For me, being Jewish means that I'm committed to serving others through the lens of Jewish learning and Jewish philosophy. When we, as Jews, see suffering in other communities — and mobilize to try to relieve that suffering — we are doing our highest and best work.”

“Exactly what I was looking for”

Growing up in Memphis, Michael “was trained that if you're Jewish, you support federation.” So when Michael, his wife

Sarah, and their three children moved to Boston in 2017, he discovered CJP and began making an annual gift without any connection to the organization.

After a few years in Boston, he craved deeper connection to the local Jewish community. Michael joined CJP's Leadership Learning Circles, where he and other volunteers got a behind-the-curtain look at CJP's key strategic areas and together, considered leadership questions. From there, he was introduced to Hineni, which Michael says, “was exactly what I was looking for.”

“I knew I wanted to do Jewish community service, but I didn't really know what that meant and where to start,” he says. “I really appreciated that through Hineni, CJP professionals talked to me and asked me about my interests, background, and skillsets. They connected me with organizations that matched up nicely and as a result, I've been able to form meaningful relationships with those organizations.”

Raising a hand to help

Michael joined the Hineni Volunteer Network in 2021 and then began serving on the Board of JCRC, an organization that advocates on behalf of the Jewish community in the broader civic space.

“I am so inspired by the work of JCRC,” he says. “I've just been blown away by how the staff partners with allies throughout the community to represent and advance Jewish values and priorities on difficult issues such as reproductive rights, mental health, and antisemitism. Day to day, they are showing up, working on problems, and building long-term relationships. Our safety as a Jewish people is linked to

our relationship with everyone else in the world. It can't be transactional — it must be based on mutual respect and mutual support.”

In addition, Michael joined CJP's Campaign Cabinet, a group of lay leaders who help raise funds for the organization's Annual Campaign and signed on as a volunteer with Hillel Council of New England, offering guidance to Executive Director Miriam Berkowitz Blue on board governance and other organizational issues.

“As Hillel Council of New England grows, expanding our Development Committee and focusing on a major gifts strategy have been integral over the past year — and Michael's expertise in fundraising, relationship building, and nonprofit management has been a tremendous resource for us,” says Miriam. “I am so grateful for all of the guidance and mentorship that Michael so graciously offers.”

Reconnecting with Jewish life

Getting involved throughout the Jewish community has been an important way for Michael to reconnect with Jewish life after the isolation of the pandemic.

“When I do this work, I don't feel alone,” he says. “I feel like I have agency to make the world better because I'm part of a group of like-minded people who are motivated by the same basic tenets of how we understand our obligations to do good. For so many years, CJP has been harnessing passionate people to make real and meaningful change for the Jewish and broader communities. CJP knows how to get that work done. And that's why it's an organization I want to be involved in — and an organization I'm proud to support.”



ROBIN POLISHOOK

A love affair with CJP

In the mid-1980s, Robin Polishook was a new mom with a 6-month-old baby. A neighborhood friend in Newton invited her to a CJP Young Women's Division (now Women's Philanthropy) event. Robin had no idea what to expect but decided to go.

"That was the start of my love affair with CJP," Robin says. "Almost 36 years later, I'm still here and I'm still passionate. I was raised in a Conservative household in Rhode Island with a clear sense of Jewish values and priorities as well as a strong desire to get involved. Getting connected through CJP was a natural extension of my experiences growing up Jewish — and proud."

From that first event, Robin jumped into all things CJP. Over the years, she's held several leadership positions across the organization, including serving on CJP's Board of Directors. Yet, it was through Women's Philanthropy (WP) that she found her deepest connections to Jewish life and community — and her own sense of purpose.

"It's been a journey of personal discovery, of increasing commitment, and of cherished friendships," says Robin of her decades of involvement with Women's Philanthropy, which included a stint as the WP Annual Campaign Chair. "I've broadened my perspective on so many issues, been challenged intellectually, and achieved a sense of fulfillment by integrating into my life the sacred obligations of *tzedakah* (charity) and *tikkun olam* (repairing the world). Because of WP and CJP, I'm a stronger leader, a more compassionate person and friend, and a more committed Jew."

A lifelong commitment to Jewish philanthropy

More than 20 years ago, Robin joined the WP Lion of Judah Giving Society, an international sisterhood of thousands of women who make an impact by giving their time and a minimum gift of \$5,000 annually to a Jewish federation. She then established a Lion of Judah Endowment (LOJE) fund, which continues her gift to CJP at the Lion of Judah level in perpetuity.

Currently, 986 Boston-area women are members of the Lion of Judah Giving Society — 42 of whom joined during CJP's 2023 Annual Campaign.

Last year, Robin received CJP's Kipnis-Wilson Friedland Award from CJP, which recognizes women who have set a high standard for philanthropy and volunteerism — and who have a lifetime of commitment to the Jewish world. The award is named after the two co-founders of the national Lion of Judah program.

"I felt an overwhelming sense of pride to have my name added to the list of distinguished women from Boston and around the world who've received this award before me," she says. "Women bring so much to the table, from our talents to our passion to our energy. Life is just more meaningful when we work together to improve the world and transform our Jewish future."

A healthy and safe world for all women

For the past three years, Robin has also been a member of The Miriam Fund, a CJP volunteer-led philanthropic community committed to creating an equitable world that expands opportunities for



Women bring so much to the table, from our talents to our passion to our energy. Life is just more meaningful when we work together to improve the world and transform our Jewish future.

self-identifying women and girls. She's been involved with strategic grant-making for organizations and programs in Massachusetts' secular community.

"The Miriam Fund has given me another avenue to channel my passion for social action, for justice, and specifically, for marginalized women and girls," Robin says. "As the mother of two girls and the grandmother of two young girls, this a real focus for me. I want it to be a healthy and safe world for all women."

While the world has dramatically changed in the decades since she first got involved, Robin says she feels more connected than ever to CJP. She describes herself as a "fierce advocate" for the important and difficult issues that the organization is tackling, such as fighting antisemitism, supporting mental health, and ensuring that Jewish life is welcoming and accessible to all, specifically to those in the LGBTQIA+ community.

"I've always referred to myself as a crusader for justice," she says. "I'm not wired to watch from the sidelines. It's not just about being Jewish, it's about being human. We're all in this together."



SAMANTHA GROSS

From volunteer to donor: creating a deeper connection to CJP

After graduating from Brown University in 2015, Newton native Samantha (Sam) Gross moved to New York City for a job in finance. At the top of her to-do list when she arrived in her new home: Find a way to give back through community service.

Yet, for Sam, the task proved surprisingly challenging. She found one organization that matched young adults with volunteer opportunities, but nothing panned out from that connection.

"It was really hard to find things to do in addition to just giving money," she recalls. "I had hoped that with my background in finance, I could learn more about joining a nonprofit board or find a way to support a nonprofit with insider advice. I wanted to get involved — and it was frustrating."

A new opportunity

So, when Sam relocated to Boston in 2021, she learned of CJP's Hineni Volunteer Network from her younger sister, Mika. Through Hineni, community members are matched with Jewish communal organizations (including CJP!) that need governance and advisory support. Sam immediately signed up for Hineni, had an interview, and was offered a volunteer role on the CJP Investment Committee.

"I remember thinking, 'That would be absolutely amazing,'" she says. "It was a far better opportunity than I could ever really hope for. I knew about CJP from my parents, who had been donors over the years, and who spoke fondly about the young adult events they attended in the past. I felt comfortable saying yes because I already had a positive association with CJP."

In July 2022, Sam — who works as an Associate Director in Member Strategy at TIFF Investment Management in Boston — joined the CJP Investment Committee, which is made up of asset management professionals who volunteer their time and expertise to oversee nearly \$900 million in investments for CJP's Donor Advised Fund program and other funds.

"It's been really great so far," she says.

"I'm proud to offer the CJP Investment Committee a perspective and voice from the next generation. It's an honor to have a seat at the table surrounded by so much knowledge and experience. I love getting the chance to learn from and be mentored by the other members. I hope it's a first step for me toward deeper involvement in CJP and on boards in general."

Family ties

Sam's personal story has made it especially meaningful for her to volunteer with CJP. In the mid-1970s, her mother, Marina, and grandparents, Alexander and Inna, came to the United States from the USSR with the help of HIAS, a Jewish organization that provides services to refugees and asylum seekers around the world.

"They left the Soviet Union because of antisemitism," she says of her family.

"So, that's always been a big part of my cultural identity. I wanted to give my time to an organization that stands for Jewish values and is a force for change. With its wide reach and long history, CJP is a place where I knew I could have a great amount of impact as a volunteer."

Becoming a CJP donor was the natural next step for Sam. Shortly after taking on the Investment Committee role, she joined

the Ben-Gurion Society (BGS), a national donor recognition society for young adults who make a gift of \$1,000 or more to CJP's Annual Campaign. Since then, she's attended BGS events and connected with other like-minded Jewish young adults.

"It was important for me to align my philanthropy with my volunteer work," she says. "It definitely felt like the right thing to do."

Sam says she's proud to support CJP and feels especially connected to the organization's work around immigration and refugee resettlement, antisemitism, and mental health.

"There's something about seeing the values you grew up with in action," she says. "I love the Jewish mindset of doing good, being inquisitive, and pushing boundaries. We are a People who have persevered, and I'm proud to be part of continuing our Jewish identity and connectivity."

“

It's an honor to have a seat at the table surrounded by so much knowledge and experience. I love getting the chance to learn from and be mentored by the other members.

Empowering women and girls

This year, The Miriam Fund granted a total of \$357,497 to 16 organizations in Massachusetts and Israel, and an additional \$25,000 of supplemental funding split between the National Council of Jewish Women's Fund for Abortion Access and Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action (JALSA) to support women's health and reproductive rights education.

Since its inception in 2000, The Miriam Fund has awarded more than \$6 million to Jewish, Israeli, and secular organizations doing crucial work in pursuit of gender equity, including the three grantees highlighted below.



MAYYIM HAYYIM LIVING WATERS COMMUNITY MIKVEH AND PAULA BRODY & FAMILY EDUCATION CENTER — JEWISH GRANTEE

To help create a more inclusive Jewish community, The Miriam Fund supported an initiative by and for Jewish women of color at Mayyim Hayyim, the Newton-based mikveh.

Called Let Justice Well Up, the program strives to provide a sense of welcome, empowerment, connection, and healing within the Jewish community — and is dedicated to creating space for Jews of color to engage with mikveh with other Jews of color.

Let Justice Well Up includes a six-part educational series by and for Jewish women of color as well as storytelling and ritual creation to help build bridges among the diverse women in our community.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT FOR WOMEN — ISRAELI GRANTEE

Founded in 2000 by women active in Haifa's feminist organizations, Economic Empowerment for Women (EEW) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supplying low-income women in Israel with the knowledge and tools to create their own small businesses as a means for gaining financial self-sufficiency.

Thanks to a grant from The Miriam Fund, EEW offered four business forums to help the entrepreneurs keep their businesses profitable and flourishing throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Each forum included group meetings and one-on-one consultations, focused on topics such as marketing, social media, branding, pricing, increasing sales and clientele, and personal empowerment.

Participants in the forums were primarily graduates of EEW's A Business of One's Own, a business and empowerment training program supported in the past by The Miriam Fund.

BELLESINI ACADEMY — SECULAR GRANTEE

With support from The Miriam Fund, Bellesini Academy — an independent, Catholic middle school dedicated to providing quality scholarship education to students from limited financial means living in Lawrence — continues to develop its Girls' STEM Lab Center with additional technology, curriculum, kits, and materials.

In addition to implementing a strong science curriculum across grades five through eight for girls, the school provides weekly hands-on labs and activities in science classes during the academic day, daily after-school STEM programs, and a four-week summer program.

Through the Girls' STEM Lab Center, Bellesini Academy is helping young women build confidence and skills in science, technology, engineering, and math concepts with the goal of preparing them for STEM courses in college and ultimately, for thriving STEM careers.

The Miriam Fund By the numbers

\$6 million

has been invested in the community since
The Miriam Fund was founded in 2000

130 members

make up The Miriam Fund's philanthropic,
multi-generational community of women



BACKMAN FAMILY

Fulfilling their parents' legacy

As he grew up in the 1960s, Larry Backman watched his parents, Charlotte (z"l) and Irving (z"l), devote their time and energy to all things CJP, Jewish life in Greater Boston, and Israel.

"They were always active, going to meetings, and just generally out and about," recalls Larry. "I have memories of my mother on the phone, incessant about fundraising for CJP's Annual Campaign. My father was a businessman who invested in early medical technology in Israel. He always wanted to help Israel. From a young age, I understood that Jewish community was important."

As Charlotte and Irving grew older, they made it clear they wanted to leave a legacy to CJP to forever strengthen Jewish life. The couple established two permanent endowment funds with CJP. One fund was to support Jewish teen experiences, created in memory of their daughter, Joan, who died in 1984 at the age of 24, and the other was to support Jewish camping; social services and emergency response in Israel; Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Boston; and CJP's Annual Campaign.

Honoring a 50-year commitment

After Charlotte passed away in 2021 and Irving followed in 2022, Larry and his sister, Ellen Kent, stepped in to ensure that their parents' wishes were honored.

Larry and Ellen connected with CJP professionals about continuing their

parents' philanthropic practice, which included acting as successor grant advisors on the Donor Advised Fund created more than 30 years ago by Charlotte and Irving, as well as helping to establish the purpose of a new permanent endowment fund at CJP, funded by a pair of generous bequests from their estate.

Guided by CJP, Larry and Ellen decided that the new endowment fund will support CJP's efforts to help members of Greater Boston's Jewish community meet their most basic needs and CJP's allocations for social services and emergency response in Israel. In addition, distributions from the fund will go toward a yearly gift to CJP's Annual Campaign in Irving and Charlotte's names — another way, says Larry, to keep their legacies alive.

"It was very easy," Larry says, of working with CJP. "I like how it's been a long-term dialogue as opposed to a one-time decision. I appreciated the guidance from CJP on how to best spend funds based on my parents' goals and make decisions. CJP provided a path — a historical record of what had gone on — that helped us honor a 50-year commitment of our parents."

Outside of CJP, the siblings are living out the values they learned from their parents by investing in Jewish life, Jewish youth, and Israel — and caring for the vulnerable. Ellen supports causes in Israel. Larry is passionate about his synagogue in Cape Cod, serving those in need locally both within and outside of the Jewish

community, and ensuring that the next generation — which includes his two young grandsons — feels a strong sense of Jewish identity.

"I'm a firm believer there's a Jewish culture that's keeping us all connected," he says. "We have to continue to teach those who come after us to honor and celebrate it."



I'm a firm believer there's a Jewish culture that's keeping us all connected.

Proud to partner with CJP

Larry says he and Ellen were proud to partner with CJP — which was near and dear to Charlotte and Irving — to ensure that their parents' final wishes became reality.

"There are many needs in this world and CJP knows how to put our funds to the best use," Larry says. "From watching my parents for 50 years, I believe CJP is a strong and multi-dimensional organization that's looking at many things. I have a longstanding trust in CJP."



Awards

Each year, CJP acknowledges outstanding individuals who demonstrate a strong commitment to furthering the organization's mission and creating a vibrant Jewish community in Greater Boston. On the following pages, we're thrilled to honor some of our donors and volunteers who've made an incredible impact in 2022-2023.

THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

CJP has long been committed to excellence in governance, and the Distinguished Service Award was recently introduced to honor former Board members whose time, talent, and leadership during their Board tenure lifted up our organization — and our entire Jewish community.

CJP is proud to give the first-ever Distinguished Service Award to Elizabeth Jick, who served as chair of the Board's Budget and Administration (B&A) Committee during the COVID-19 pandemic. Elizabeth led CJP through a challenging time with clarity and confidence.

A giant thank you to all of our volunteer leaders who partner with CJP to help move our mission forward and create a better world for all.



Elizabeth Jick



CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The Circle of Excellence Award winners, recognized in the categories of leadership, growth, and young leadership, have shown extraordinary effort and dedication to creating positive change in the world. The Barry Shrage Leadership Award recognizes the outstanding contributions of one CJP professional. CJP is proud to present the following awards:



CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE LEADERSHIP AWARD:

Marjorie Patkin

For her decades of leadership and deep passion for the Jewish community on the North Shore and beyond. In 2013, Marjorie played an instrumental role in the historic merger of the Jewish Federation of the North Shore and CJP. Since then, Marjorie — who serves on CJP’s Board of Directors — has worked tirelessly to engage people from all geographies in CJP events, programming, and education. A past Co-chair of CJP’s Annual Campaign, Marjorie is an articulate speaker and a selfless leader who is eager to share her experiences and wisdom with others. Currently, Marjorie is Co-chair of the Women’s Philanthropy Leadership Series, and she and her husband, Randy, are co-chairing a series of “anchor host meetings” to help community members connect (or reconnect!) to CJP around the fight against antisemitism.



CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE GROWTH AWARD:

Sarah Richmond

For her continued desire to grow as a leader within CJP. After participating in The Cynthia and Leon Shulman (z”l) Acharai Leadership Program at CJP from 2017–2018, Sarah co-chaired both the Women’s Philanthropy (WP) Hands-on Philanthropy event and “Mitzvah Mondays” initiative. She then joined the WP Board as the Vice President of Leadership Development and served on CJP’s Donor Advised Fund Task Force. Sarah is brilliant, kind, and dedicated — and is always looking for ways to bring new women into the fold at CJP. Beyond her incredible leadership, Sarah is deeply committed to her philanthropy. She established a Lion of Judah Endowment (LOJE) fund, which continues her gift to CJP in perpetuity, and created a Donor Advised Fund with CJP so that her giving is done through a Jewish lens.



CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE YOUNG LEADERSHIP AWARD:

Alyssa Bogdanow Arens

For bringing her professional expertise, thought partnership, and commitment to Jewish life to CJP. Alyssa — who works by day as a portfolio manager at the One8 Foundation — has been a key volunteer in helping CJP evolve its strategic grant-making and focus on Strategic Investment Priorities over the past year. A rising star at CJP, Alyssa sits on both CJP’s Commission on Strategic Priorities and the Families with Young Children (FwYC) Advisory Committee. She doesn’t shy away from asking tough questions and is always willing to jump on a call to help brainstorm ideas. Alyssa’s an incredibly supportive and thoughtful leader — and intuitively “gets” CJP’s role as the primary convener of Greater Boston’s Jewish community.



CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE YOUNG LEADERSHIP AWARD:

Kris Wilson

For flexing his outreach and community building skills to help strengthen CJP. After moving to Boston in 2020, Kris immersed himself — without hesitation — in CJP. A member of the Young Adult Philanthropy Board, he is passionate about helping others find meaning within the Jewish community (especially those who are newer to the area!) and is always willing to share his personal experience and offer guidance. Kris is responsive and thoughtful — and thinks proactively about how he can be the best leader for our community. In his short time in Boston, Kris has already made such a large impact within the young adult community and has proven to be an invaluable member of our volunteer network.



BARRY SHRAGE LEADERSHIP AWARD:

Amy Mitman

Vice President, Individual Giving and Campaign, Development

For her caring, loyal, and passionate nature — and her nearly 25 years of service to CJP. Nothing is more important to Amy than a thriving Jewish community. She has dedicated her entire professional life to CJP and the Jewish People. Over the years, Amy has held a variety of roles at CJP and has consistently gone above and beyond in each of them — seeking out new opportunities and strategies at every turn with a “we can do this” attitude. To her colleagues, Amy is a constant source of advice, counsel, and support. During her tenure, she has mentored dozens of development professionals, and is beloved by generations of donors, volunteers, and CJP staff. Amy’s heart truly beats to the rhythm of CJP.

SUPERSTAR AWARDS

CJP is proud to recognize volunteers who have a positive impact on our community. The following individuals have been recognized as Superstars over the past year for being advocates of CJP in the community, networkers and connectors, supporters and fundraisers, and community builders.



Josh Adler and Nicole Finkielsztein

As this year's Dewey Stone Kadimah Leadership Program Co-chairs, Josh and Nicole served with enthusiasm and passion as CJP pivoted back to its first in-person sessions since before the COVID-19 pandemic. Josh and Nicole have worked hard to foster strong relationships with participants through outreach and social gatherings they've organized outside of the program. Both Josh and Nicole are thoughtful and creative partners to CJP professionals, and care deeply about building a pipeline of strong and motivated young Jewish leaders.



Elie Codron

Elie is a Northeastern University graduate student who has been involved as a key partner on CJP initiatives throughout his collegiate experience. He served on the Campus Community Impact Grant Review Committee this past year, helping local organizations discover funding for new and innovative ways to cultivate Jewish life on campus. Elie also was the student representative on CJP's Fighting Antisemitism and Anti-Zionism Task Force and worked alongside influential lay leaders to identify growth opportunities to combat antisemitism within our critical cohorts, including on campus.



Reva Gold Fischman

Reva is deeply involved in CJP — serving on the Board of Directors and as a Co-chair of The Miriam Fund (TMF). Reva leverages her widespread network to educate, connect, and engage people with the mission of CJP and TMF. She brings a collaborative and strategic approach to a breadth of issues, reflected in her service to CJP's Equity Task Force, the Coronavirus Emergency Fund Task Force, the Commission on Strategic Priorities, and the Campaign Cabinet. Reva serves as an ambassador for this work — broadening its reach, expanding people's understanding of our impact, and yielding more meaningful results.



Lauren Gendzier, Mackenzie Owades, Rachel Philipson, and Harris Wallack

Lauren, Mackenzie, Rachel, and Harris were Co-chairs of the Young Adult Spark Committee. Together, they oversaw efforts to connect and inspire young adults to help build community among their peers. Under their leadership, nearly 100 young adults traveled to Israel on the Spark Community Trip in April 2023. Additionally, the Co-chairs helped launch *Spark something*, a series of four local social events for young adults highlighting some of CJP's partner organizations. Each chair has demonstrated what it means to be a leader and, collectively, they have asked thoughtful questions, problem-solved in creative ways, and cultivated meaningful relationships.



Edward Katersky

Ed's work as a CJP volunteer embodies our community's greatest asset — our talented and smart people. For the past 10 years, Ed has been consulting in the risk management profession and has helped us take an innovative and strategic approach to our annual insurance renewal cycle, crafting presentations to better market CJP and our affiliates as progressive clients and advising CJP management on market conditions and renewal strategies. With Ed's support, all policies were renewed in a difficult market, and we negotiated a new broker compensation arrangement yielding immediate savings for all community organizations.



Marni Smilow Levitt and Dale Okonow

Marni and Dale were the 2022 Co-chairs of the Cynthia and Leon Shulman (z"l) Acharai Leadership Program. This Acharai cohort originally launched in January 2020 but abruptly came to a halt due to the pandemic and was finally relaunched in 2022. Throughout the challenges and uncertainties of COVID-19, Dale and Marni continued to be advocates of the mission and goals of Acharai and, above all, the experience of the participants. Between Marni's warmth and Dale's passion for mentorship, these two brought a wealth of leadership experience and excellence to the program.



Marcia Metz

Marcia is an incredible volunteer leader who rises to the challenge and proactively looks for ways she can make a difference. Marcia is very concerned with the rise of antisemitism, and not only did she participate on CJP's Fighting Antisemitism and Anti-Zionism Task Force, but she also organized a gathering of women to meet with CJP leadership to learn more about how they can help. Marcia is also deeply committed to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB), standing against hate in all forms, and the role education and dialogue play in fostering DEIB.



Matt Ogden

Matt always steps up — and brings others along with him. In his work as a member of the Committee on Development and through his participation in the Cynthia and Leon Shulman (z"l) Acharai Leadership Program, Matt has continuously demonstrated his quiet leadership, his respect for the professionals he works with, and his gift of building community. Recently, Matt participated in a VIP men's mission and personally sponsored two men to join that mission, helping to build their relationship to CJP and inspiring them to become more involved.



Sapir Weizman

Sapir shines as a leader in the Jewish/Israeli community as an advocate for engaging young adults in Jewish life. Originally from Haifa, Sapir came to Boston while working for El Al and became immersed in the young adult community, serving as the Director of Israeli House Boston. Within CJP, she sits on the Campus Community Impact Grant Review Committee and is a member of the Israel and Global Jewry's Leadership Development Committee. Sapir also recently represented CJP by welcoming a group of students from Technion — Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa — to Boston as they began their ConnecTech mission.

Powered by community



At CJP, our work thrives on the idea that together, we can do more, turning individual acts of kindness into collective action that strengthens Jewish life and makes our world a better place for all. Through the generosity of donors like you, we invest in programs that sustain Jewish life and learning, strengthen our community, and provide for people during times of need. By making strategic grants and thinking big with our partners, we empower hundreds of organizations and institutions to maximize their impact. And by doing it together, we help to build a purposeful, vibrant, and inclusive Jewish community — here in Boston, in Israel, and around the world. As a community united by shared purpose, we can create positive change that impacts us today and for generations to come.

“I feel lucky to have the ability to give of my time to CJP for something greater than just myself and my family and to make a greater impact on our community and our world. I hope my efforts as a volunteer will be a small part of that.”

— **Erica Abate Recht**

“CJP is one of the premier organizations for the Jewish community in Massachusetts and a star of the federation world. Aside from my synagogue — which is very personal for me — CJP is the most important organization I support because of all the things they do for people in need. I want to share with more people what CJP can do, and the power behind the organization. I feel like that’s where philanthropic efforts should go for us as Jews.”

— **Amy Farber**

“For me, CJP was my launchpad into making friends in Boston. It became a huge anchor to the Jewish community and a way to make a lot of social connections very early on. That has stayed with me ever since.”

— **Aaron Ganz**



CJP’s mission is to inspire and mobilize the diverse Greater Boston Jewish community to engage in building communities of learning and action that strengthen Jewish life and improve the world.

You can give with confidence. CJP has received the highest 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, reflecting our efficient and fiscally responsible management. Read detailed financials at cjp.org/our-financials.

