



Combined
Jewish
Philanthropies

Donor and Volunteer
Recognition Report

2023–2024 | 5783–5784

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This report recognizes donor commitments through June 30, 2024. We have made every effort to ensure that the information, donor intent, and recognitions in this report have been captured as accurately as possible. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Cheryl January, Senior Director, Philanthropy Operations, at CJPDonorRelations@cj.org. CJP respects the wishes of those donors who have asked to be listed anonymously in this report. The identity of all donors is known to CJP.

Front cover photo credit: Jewish Federations of North America/Chris A. Williams

Dear Friends,

Just over a year ago, I joined thousands of others — including many of you — for a rally on Boston Common to stand strong in our support for Israel. It was two days after Hamas launched its surprise attacks on the Jewish homeland on October 7, marking the darkest moment for our people since the Holocaust.

As I looked out over the sea of faces gathered before me, I felt so many emotions: anger; grief over the horror of the attacks; heartbreak for the acute pain and suffering of the victims, their families, and the hostages; and deep concern about what the coming weeks and months would bring.

What I didn't feel was alone.

I was surrounded by you — our donors and volunteers, the foundation of our Jewish community. On that sunny fall day downtown — for the first of more times than I can count since the attacks — you showed up for CJP, for Israel, and for our Jewish future with your voices, your dollars, and your desire to help.

Since then, you marched on Washington, D.C., learned from military and academic experts during briefings, rallied for college students, donated millions of dollars to CJP's Israel Emergency Fund, and set seats at your Shabbat and Passover tables for the hostages.

As we often said during the pandemic, CJP was made for this moment. What I say now is that we are meeting this moment. We are putting back together the pieces of our broken world.

Your partnership has never felt more important or urgent. Beyond our impact in Israel, you continue to sustain Jewish life in Greater Boston.

Over the past year, you helped us establish CJP's groundbreaking Center for Combating Antisemitism (CCA) to empower our community with tools to fight back against Jewish hate. You ensured we could care for those among us in need and provide broad mental health resources. You helped us support our next generation in Jewish day schools and overnight camps, engage families with young children in the beauty of Jewish life and learning, and collaborate with local and national partners to keep our Jewish institutions safe and secure.

In the pages ahead, you'll read more about how we — individually and collectively — are meeting this moment. As I look back on what we accomplished this year, I'm reminded once again of the enduring spirit of the Jewish People and the power of community. Thank you for your deep commitment to CJP, your resilience in the face of challenges, and for never giving up hope that we can make things better.

Even in these hardest of times, I go back to that day on the Common and remind myself that I am not alone. I have you and we all have each other. Through CJP, we are lifting one another and moving forward to a brighter Jewish future.

With blessings,



Rabbi Marc Baker
President and CEO



Dear Friends,

After that devastating Shabbat morning last October when our Jewish homeland was attacked, three things became clear to me.

First, I saw how the terror in Israel sparked a clarion call for community here in Boston. As we have done so many times in the past during moments of strife, we came together through CJP to process the horror and navigate the war. We showed strength and resilience as we united in defense of Israel and the Jewish People. We answered the call.

Second, I witnessed a renewed sense of Jewish peoplehood — of our shared past and our collective destiny. I saw in our community a desire to learn more about Israel's politics, geography, and history, as well as a deep need to connect with Jewish life and values. As a people and as individuals, we paused and remembered why this all matters so much.

Third, I shifted my own mindset around antisemitism. I no longer think of it as a hatred that can be eliminated; I see now that antisemitism will always exist. Since October 7, it has become apparent that we have an obligation to fight it not only when it's on the rise, but in times when it's bubbling just beneath the surface. Complacency endangers us all.

Collectively, these three observations — and this historic moment — have inspired me to think long-term and strategically about the role of CJP and American Jewry. We must strengthen our community in new and innovative ways. We must keep moving forward and learning from the lessons we are living in real time to plan for a brighter Jewish future.

To that end, CJP's Board of Directors is considering how we can best flourish today — and tomorrow. We want to ensure that we go from strength to strength, that we have an empowered and educated next generation, and that Greater Boston's Jewish community remains safe and secure. We're focused on how to maximize support to Israel, how to revitalize Jewish peoplehood, and how CJP and other Jewish federations can make an even greater impact in the years to come.

While this process will begin with the Board, it will not end there. Our work will be strengthened by engaging and uniting with all of you.

Thank you for being part of our community, for always stepping up with your resources and even more so, with your hearts. Thank you for raising your hands to say *hineni* — that you are here, that you stand with CJP and with Israel, and that you want something better for the next generation.

With deepest gratitude,



Laurene Sperling
Chair, Board of Directors



In gratitude to you

JESSICA R. MYERS

Committee on Development, Chair

When Israel was attacked, you stood up to help, demonstrating remarkable generosity. At the same time, you maintained a steadfast commitment to meeting local needs and strengthening Jewish life in Greater Boston. Thank you for all you've given and done during this milestone year that we will never forget. I am so proud to stand next to you, as part of this exceptional Jewish community.



KIMBERLY CREEM

2023, 2024, 2025 Annual Campaign, Chair

This has been a most unprecedented year — a year in which members of the Jewish community lifted one another and Israel. It was so inspiring to watch you come together at a time of great need both abroad and at home. I am so honored to co-chair a campaign with dedicated and committed donors and volunteers like you who continuously help CJP meet the moment. Thank you for your generosity.

DAVID ADLER

2024, 2025 Annual Campaign, Chair

When we give through CJP, we make a bigger difference. Thank you for saying *hineni* (here I am) by responding to the urgency of our times and amplifying our collective impact in Greater Boston and beyond. Your commitment, your dollars, and your passion are changing lives. I'm inspired by what we've accomplished as a Jewish community, and I'm deeply grateful for your ongoing trust in CJP.



MATTHEW SIDMAN

2025 Annual Campaign, Chair

There has never been a more important time to support our Jewish community. My family has long been invested in the strength of CJP and our collective Jewish life and, in this moment, I felt called to step up and do more. I'm proud to co-chair our 2025 Annual Campaign and look forward to working with you to build a brighter Jewish future.

The promise of community



In one of the most challenging years in living memory, our Greater Boston Jewish community achieved something miraculous together: We carried on.

Up against hate, misunderstanding, violence, and the pain of loss and terror, we performed the extraordinary: We found joy.

Because of donors like you, CJP was able to help children experience the thrill of overnight camp, elevate local Jewish artists, fight antisemitism, provide holiday meals for those facing vulnerability, connect young adults to their Jewishness and one another, and so much more.

This community — and your incredible generosity — have fueled countless acts of kindness, life-saving resources, connections in a time of brokenness, investments into future generations, and healing for a wounded Israel.

In one of the most challenging years in living memory, our Greater Boston Jewish community continued what we've done for nearly 130 years: **We cared for one another.**

Did someone say core memories? A Jewish camp experience is priceless, and community generosity helps make it more affordable. This year, we've distributed over \$750,000 in One Happy Camper Grants and needs-based scholarships, helping over 400 campers experience the magic of Jewish camp.



CJP has provided more than \$200,000 in grants to its partner organizations to address gaps in teen offerings and create meaningful service learning and engagement opportunities for thousands of Jewish teens.



Since October 7, we've sent more than 100 CJP staff, donors, and volunteers to Israel across six solidarity missions. We've also offered five community events, both in person and virtual, to provide insights and updates on the crisis in Israel and CJP's response.



#

Between 2022 and 2023, antisemitic incidents surged by 189% in Massachusetts. Our Communal Security Initiative team has collaborated with more than 250 Jewish organizations, distributing upwards of \$1.5 million in grants and training thousands of individuals this year to help protect our community.



A vibrant Jewish culture keeps us connected to our history and to one another. This past year, CJP's Arts and Culture Initiative provided \$75,000 in grants to 10 artist projects, and awarded \$12,000 fellowships to four local creatives, helping them pursue their artistic visions.



With support from CJP's Center for Combating Antisemitism, 7,000 local students visited the Auschwitz Exhibition in Boston to learn about antisemitism, the Holocaust, and how to be allies to the Greater Boston Jewish community.



Our incredible volunteers are the backbone of this organization. This year's Evening of Honors celebration recognized nine individuals who are dedicated to forwarding CJP's mission of a connected, vibrant, and joyful community.



Quality experiences and hyper-local opportunities help support our littlest learners' engagement with Jewish life. This year, we invested in recruiting and training more than 70 early childhood educators and funded innovative, neighborhood-specific programs for 400 Jewish families with young children.



Helping to clear barriers to accessing mental health care, CJP assisted more than 350 community members in getting referrals to mental health providers through a no-cost referral line.



In February, CJP hosted student leaders from 10 Greater Boston Hillel executive boards for a retreat on antisemitism. More than 60 student leaders attended the retreat, which focused on navigating challenges in today's complex campus climate.



More than 270 community members attended the Pomegranate Society and Friends event. They heard from Juju Chang, Emmy Award-winning co-anchor of ABC News' *Nightline*, on the parallels between Asian hate and antisemitism.



More than 500 young adults came together for connection and opportunities to engage in Jewish life across 13 CJP events. This past year, CJP created our first LGBTQIA+ events, engaging 37 new participants.



Because of CJP's investments in seven partner organizations, we helped engage nearly 17,000 young adults in Jewish life. Through events and programs, young adults gained a deeper connection to our community and one another.



Together with our partners, we delivered 2,524 Passover meals through the Seder in a Box program to community members facing isolation and vulnerability.

Our community of supporters

BY THE NUMBERS



16,894

individuals, families,
and foundations made
gifts to CJP

12,157
returning donors

4,737
new donors

369

members of the
Dor L'Dor Legacy
Society



33

new Donor Advised
Funds created



616

people volunteered
through 57 committees,
task forces, and
working groups



3,600

community members
attended an event



1,280

community members
attended an event
for the first time

Extraordinary investment in our community and beyond: \$379.3 million

\$70.3 million

CJP's community investment and supporting services



grants created vibrant Jewish life across our community



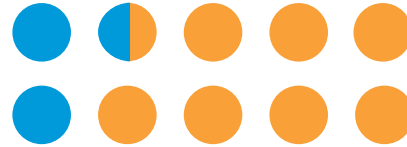
grants assisted vulnerable populations and community members facing crisis



grants strengthened organizational partners and bolstered the safety and security of our community

\$309 million

10,215 CJP Donor Advised Fund (DAF) grants to 3,102 charities



27%

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

73%

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.

783 funds total \$1.9 billion

CJP's DAF program includes 783 funds that total \$1.9 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.

CJP's Israel Emergency Fund

BY THE NUMBERS

On October 7, we woke up to a different world: Our beloved Israel was under attack, 251 people were taken hostage, and approximately 1,200 people were brutally murdered in the largest single-day massacre of Jews since the Holocaust. Since then, and with the guidance of our Israel Emergency Fund (IEF) Task Force members, we've been partners in the process of rebuilding and repairing — amid continuing pain and trauma. Together, we can find solace in the things that have remained the same: our incredible community and our steadfast support of Israel and its people.

Since October 8, 2023, **6,700 donors** have contributed to CJP's Israel Emergency Fund.

Together, we raised **\$59 million** and, as of June 30, 2024, have distributed nearly **\$31 million** across the following:

\$4.40
MILLION

Community-specific rehabilitation

Keeping communities temporarily together while they wait for safe returns home to promote psychological healing, continuity, and resiliency

\$3.95
MILLION

Emergency social services

Addressing short- and long-term personal needs through financial, educational, and therapeutic support to those directly impacted by trauma

\$2.50
MILLION

Economic relief

Stabilizing Israel's economy through support of its small- and medium-sized businesses, which have been deeply impacted by the war

\$1.35
MILLION

Volunteer mobilization

Supporting the thousands of volunteers in Israel who have mobilized to build, maintain, and deliver response mechanisms for the crisis

\$2.15
MILLION

Emergency trauma/mental health support

Providing acute care to victims of the war and vulnerable populations, including soldiers, reservists, and their families suffering from PTSD

\$0.83
MILLION

Boston-Haifa Connection

Providing the most vulnerable Haifa citizens and evacuees with essential services, employment aid, and tools to promote Shared Society during this time of conflict

\$0.74
MILLION

Supporting Shared Society

Investing in high-impact partnerships that strengthen vulnerable populations and promote a more equitable Israeli society

\$0.10
MILLION

Other

Grants supporting additional needs beyond the aforementioned categories

\$13.25
MILLION

The Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA)

Joining with federations across the country to leverage our collective philanthropy to maximize impact

\$1.55
MILLION

Donor designations

In partnership with the IEF Task Force, several donors made designated gifts directly to priority areas for Israel's healing and rebuilding



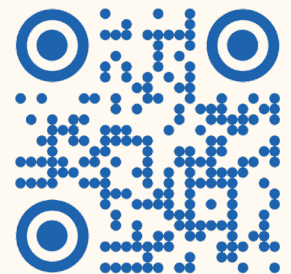
As the first federation to provide kibbutz-specific aid, CJP helped the surviving residents of Kibbutz Re'im secure temporary housing in Tel Aviv, psychological support, and other essential needs.



For more than 35 years, we have worked in partnership with our sister city of Haifa. IEF grants have supported Haifa citizens and evacuees, programs and organizations, and medical rehabilitation institutions aiding soldiers and reservists.



Amid unimaginable sorrow, the Hostages and Missing Families Forum exemplifies hope and resilience, and grants from CJP's IEF are helping the organization offer comprehensive support to families in need.



Learn more about the impact of the fund and read stories of resilience.



JAKA AND GADI SAARONY

Helping Israel Meet the Moment

Immediately after October 7, volunteers at the local Israeli-American Council New England (IAC) got to work, mobilizing hundreds of community members to donate, sort, and pack supplies to send to Israel.

Among those helping was Gadi Saarony, an Israeli American living in Newton. He was especially eager to send items to his cousin's two young sons who were serving in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) on the frontlines in Gaza.

"What the IAC was doing in those first weeks of the war was having a direct, personal impact on me and my family," says Gadi, a member of the IAC's Regional Council. "One of the reasons that work was possible was because of a CJP grant from its Israel Emergency Fund. I really appreciated that CJP trusted IAC to do what needed to be done."

Inspired by its swift support of the IAC, Gadi and his wife, Jaka, knew they wanted to partner with CJP to help Israel meet the moment. Later in October, the Saaronys made their largest gift to date to CJP — directed to its Israel Emergency Fund (IEF).

Gadi and Jaka also knew that CJP was making an important impact closer to home. To help, they doubled their support of its Annual Campaign.

"I see how CJP has a high-level understanding of all the issues impacting the Jewish community, and then is all about getting the right boots quickly on the ground to do the work," says Jaka. "Having an organization, like CJP, that takes care of all the needs of all the different groups within our Jewish community is so crucial."

Finding Jewish community

The Saaronys — who met in 2001 — had different paths that led them to Greater Boston's Jewish community.

Gadi was raised in Israel with a passion for Zionism, although his family did not participate in organized Jewish life. He moved to the United States in the 1980s. Jaka, born to Christian parents, came from western Massachusetts, and was determined to raise a family of her own with traditions and a strong identity.

After they married, Jaka found a spiritual home at Temple Emanuel in Newton and went through the long process to become Jewish. For the 19 years since then, Gadi and Jaka — and eventually their children, Shai, 18, Sadie, 16, and Max, 13 — have been members of the synagogue. All three children also attended Boston's Jewish Community Day School (JCDS).

"I really wanted my kids to know, 'This is who I am, and this is my community that I can fall back on, no matter what,'" says Jaka.

It was through fellow school families and parents on the sidelines of kids' sports games that the Saaronys learned about CJP.

During the pandemic, Jaka became immersed in Jewish learning and Torah study through CJP. Then, in 2022, she participated in CJP's Cynthia and Leon Shulman Acharai Leadership Program.

The experience, she says, was "life-changing" in helping her and Gadi understand the critical role that CJP plays in ensuring a strong Jewish Greater Boston.

From there, Jaka co-chaired the 2023

annual Women's Philanthropy (WP) Pomegranate Society and Friends event and then joined the WP Board.

Through her work on the WP Board — and her leadership with Educating for Excellence (E4E), an organization supported by CJP's IEF that reduces socioeconomic disparity, promotes equality, and creates social mobility for underserved Israeli youth — Jaka is continuing to help bridge the Boston Jewish and Israeli communities. This is something that resonates with Gadi and makes him want to connect more deeply with CJP and the local Jewish community.

Making a bigger difference

Since October 7, the Saaronys say they've become "more visible activists," attending rallies, marches, and other community events to support Israel.

"We are showing our kids the importance of giving back — not only through dollars but through actions," says Gadi. "Everyone has the capacity in some way to roll up their sleeves, get their hands dirty, and get involved. If we don't do it, who will?"

Jaka agrees. Her involvement over the years in organizations including CJP, Temple Emanuel, JCDS, E4E, and IAC has shown her the value of "act first, and then understand," which is something she and Gadi are passing on to their children.

"It's important to latch yourself onto the organizations that are making a measurable difference," Gadi says. "CJP is one of those organizations, moving the needle locally and in Israel. CJP was always important, but October 7 put the exclamation mark on it."



M.S. WALKER FAMILY

From Generation to Generation: A Legacy of Giving

Editor's note: Two months after being interviewed for this profile, Harvey Allen (z"l) passed away at the age of 86. Over the decades, Harvey's passion, leadership, and vision helped to shape our Jewish community. During this interview, he was enthusiastic about sharing his family's story, commitment to CJP and Israel, and continued legacy of giving. May Harvey's memory be a blessing to his family, to all who knew him, and to our entire community.

As a 12-year-old boy, Harvey Allen attended a CJP awards dinner with his father, Leo, who was being recognized for his dedication to Jewish philanthropy.

"I was enamored with my dad," recalled Harvey. "I really looked up to him because of his accomplishments. He was my favorite person in the world, and after that evening, I made it my mission for the rest of my life to be involved in giving back."

As he took the reins of M.S. Walker — the family's wine and spirits importing and distributing business — from Leo, Harvey held true to his word. He continued to passionately support the Jewish homeland through his leadership with Israel Bonds and the Jewish community through his gift to CJP's Annual Campaign.

"CJP is the pillar of our Jewish community," Harvey said. "It truly helps and transforms Jewish lives."

Trust and confidence in CJP

In 1929, M.S. Walker got its start as a pharmaceutical business in Boston's South End. After the repeal of Prohibition in 1933, the company expanded into the production and distribution of alcoholic beverages.

Over the decades, as the business grew, so did its gift to CJP and the number of family members connected to the organization.

Now, the multigenerational family leads both the Norwood-based business and its philanthropy, which continues to include CJP.

The fourth generation of the M.S. Walker family — Doug Shaw, Gary Shaw, Scott Allen, and Brett Allen — all say they've

learned more than just how to run a business: They've learned the importance of caring for others and giving back — to their more than 600 employees, to causes throughout Greater Boston, and to the Jewish community.

"We have enormous trust and confidence in CJP's mission," says Scott. "We believe in CJP's values, its direction, and its leadership."

Early on, the four were taught that one of the anchors to their giving was the company's annual gift to CJP, says Doug, who serves as M.S. Walker's President.

"At first, it wasn't a choice. We were just part of it," he says. "Over time though, it evolved into a real desire on our part to support CJP, especially as we got to learn more about the organization, what it does, and the people there. It became a gift to us — and to our wives and our children."

Passing the torch

With the company's fifth generation now connected to CJP and part of the philanthropic decision making, Gary says he knows the tradition of support started by his grandfather, Leo, will continue strong.

"As Jewish people, we want to have links to the past; it's who we are," he says "At M.S. Walker, we've had this longtime link of giving back — and we know it will remain unbroken. When we think about how to spread our philanthropy to touch the broadest scope of Jewish needs, CJP is the answer."

Dana Brody is one of five family members who are among the "rising" generation of the business. As he's learned more about

CJP's work, Dana says, he's been able to understand firsthand its impact on his own life. His three children attended the Gilson JCC Early Learning Center in Sharon and still receive Jewish books by mail from PJ Library; both organizations receive funding from CJP.

"It's been exciting for me to really get to know how CJP works," he says. "With my kids, we often talk about *tzedakah* (charity) and how it's our obligation to give back to the community. I now can model that behavior through my involvement with CJP. I love that my Jewish values are aligned with CJP's values."

"This is our life's work"

Just a few weeks after the October 7 attacks on Israel — and after a long, involved process — Justin Shaw watched his wife, Taylor, complete her conversion to Judaism.

Like Dana, Justin is part of the newest generation of the M.S. Walker family involved in CJP. Taylor's dedication to Judaism, coupled with his family's longstanding philanthropy, has reinforced for Justin the power of commitment and the power of honoring community.

"Growing up, I was taught to give of yourself, your time, and your resources regardless of what you have or what you can contribute," he says. "At M.S. Walker, we are fully committed to engaging with and supporting CJP, the Jewish community, and Israel for many more generations to come. This is our life's work."



NIKKI NUDELMAN

An Activist Stands with Israel

Before Shabbat descended upon Tel Aviv on a Friday in early June, Nikki Nudelman and her daughters, Sammy, 17, and Rachel, 16, stepped into an eerily quiet Hostages Square to explore the art installations.

As they walked separately through the tunnel experience — meant to simulate the sounds and surroundings of the hostages in captivity — Nikki watched Sammy and Rachel both take deep breaths and exhale.

“Being in Israel as part of CJP’s parent-teen solidarity mission made what happened on October 7 more real,” says Nikki. “My girls saw that it was bigger than them, bigger than all of us. It was a sad yet important moment for me as a mother, and for the three of us together.”

A show of solidarity

For Nikki, being in Israel is like coming home. That’s why it was so critical to her after October 7 to do whatever she could to help.

Immediately, Nikki mobilized herself — and everyone she knew — to respond to the crisis. She attended the CJP-organized rally for Israel on Boston Common, gave to CJP’s Israel Emergency Fund, volunteered at the Israeli-American Council New England to help pack supplies to send to Israel, and joined with others locally to pay tribute to the hostages through weekly “empty Shabbat table” events.

When she learned that CJP was sending a group to the November 2023 March for Israel in Washington, D.C., Nikki reached out to dozens of friends from across the country to encourage them to join her at the rally.

“I needed a way to stand for and with Israel,” she says. “This was truly grassroots activism at its best. It was incredible to see the power of CJP and the strength of the national Jewish community.”

Nikki also knew she had to go on CJP’s January 2024 solidarity mission to Israel.

“The devastation we saw was overwhelming,” she says. “It was so quiet, and yet you had people screaming for the hostages. That was the only noise in Israel. Someone described it as a giant *shiva* (gathering for mourners).”

In March, she traveled to Israel again on a second solidarity mission, run by the Friends of the Israel Defense Forces. Back in Boston, Nikki couldn’t stop thinking about Israel and felt the pull to return — this time with her daughters. She partnered with CJP to create the June parent-teen solidarity mission, which she chaired.

“Since October 7, my girls understand my relationship to Israel and the Jewish community like never before,” she says.

“Now, they see that you have to lean in and use your voice. Before, we fully took it for granted.”

“Stand up and be heard”

Growing up in New Jersey, Nikki watched her parents, Merle and Fred Fish, devote their time and philanthropy to the Jewish community.

As a child, Nikki remembers “running around and gathering pledge cards” at the local Jewish federation’s phone-a-thon. When she was older, she accompanied her mother to federation conferences and events in Washington, D.C.

“I saw that my mom’s Lion of Judah [giving society] pin meant something,” she says.

“My parents taught me that everyone needed to make a gift, to be counted, and to stand up and be heard.”

They also taught her to love Israel. Nikki first visited the Jewish homeland in 1981 for her bat mitzvah; she’s since been back 15 times.

“It was just all about Israel in my house,” she says. “Israel became so much a part of my being, of my identity.”

“It’s what CJP does”

Nikki’s passion for Israel carried over to her career, which led her to roles at several Jewish organizations as well as the Israeli government.

When she moved to Boston in 2005 to be with her now-husband, Harry, she jumped at the chance to attend CJP events and support the Annual Campaign.

“Harry and I always make our first gifts to the Jewish community — and CJP has become our natural partner,” she says.

“It’s an organization that uses money in the most efficient ways and builds people-to-people connections.”

For Nikki, that was most clear on October 7 — when CJP was able to create its emergency fund within hours of the first attack.

“If we didn’t have a strong CJP and a strong organized national Jewish federation system on October 6, we wouldn’t have been able to jump in like we did and get to work,” she says. “It’s what CJP does — and what we do as a Jewish community — when Israel is in need.”



AVITAL SOKOLOW SILVERMAN

Sparking a Connection to Community



In 2019, Avital Sokolow Silverman was ready to connect with Greater Boston's Jewish community. The timing seemed right; she had just finished graduate school and was settling into a new job as a clinical social worker.

Avital attended services at a few different local synagogues, but nothing clicked. During the pandemic, she tried to build Jewish community via Zoom, but it was hard. Eventually, she gave up.

When she lost three of her grandparents in 2021, Avital realized she was missing her link to Jewish life. At the same time, she saw social media posts about CJP's upcoming April 2023 Spark experience, which included traveling to Israel with 300 community members to celebrate Israel's 75th Independence Day.

This time, the timing was right — and she decided to give Spark a go.

"It looked like the perfect opportunity for me, so I signed up right away," she says. "Spark ended up being phenomenal. CJP did a great job of helping people meet each other."

Creating a safe space

Avital returned from Spark with new Jewish young adult friends — and a desire to keep expanding her Jewish community.

She joined the Leadership Team of Riverway Project, an inclusive, collaborative Jewish community at Temple Israel of Boston for those in their 20s and 30s and participated in CJP's Dewey Stone Kadimah Leadership Program for young adults.

In July, Avital became Co-chair of CJP's new LGBTQIA+ Committee, a volunteer-led group that organizes events for young

adults within the queer Jewish community.

"This was an idea that really came out of our bus on Spark," she says of the committee. "We realized it was a chance to build a community of people who are queer and Jewish, who might not otherwise meet each other in Boston. Luckily for us, CJP heard us and responded. These events have become a space for people to feel safe and Jewish, and to be themselves."

"It's important to show up"

Growing up in New Haven, Connecticut, Avital says Jewish community and the local Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel were a core part of her family's life. Her father, Jay, was the synagogue president, and her mother, Ina, was the Hebrew school principal.

As a child, Avital and her family lived in Israel for a year. Since then, she's returned several times, and spent a gap year traveling in Israel before starting college at Brandeis University.

After the October 7 attacks, Avital says she felt called to go back to the Jewish homeland. When she heard about an upcoming CJP Solidarity Mission to Israel, she immediately registered.

"I went because I wanted to show support," she says. "One of the biggest things we learn in Judaism is that it's important to show up, especially after death. As a people, we were sitting *shiva* (mourning). I felt helpless and it was important to me to do whatever I could, even if it was just listening to someone's story to help them feel better."

Avital, who now works as a clinical social worker at Jewish Family & Children's



One of the biggest things we learn in Judaism is that it's important to show up.

Service, says it was also important for her to show up this year as a first-time donor to CJP. She made gifts to both CJP's Annual Campaign and Israel Emergency Fund.

"Although I have limited resources available to give, CJP was the obvious choice of where they should go," she says. "CJP supports the organizations doing the work that I want to support. I knew CJP would use my gifts efficiently and effectively and make the most out of every dollar."

"There's something for everybody"

Reflecting on her Jewish involvement over the past few years, Avital says she's glad she found CJP — and a place for herself in Greater Boston's Jewish community.

While she never ended up joining a congregation, Avital says she regularly attends events at multiple synagogues as well as through CJP. She says she's glad she broadened her thinking about how to build her own vibrant Jewish community.

"It's deeply appealing that CJP offers the opportunity to be together with other Jews, particularly those who aren't affiliated with a synagogue," she says. "It makes a lot of sense for a lot of people — especially young adults without children — for CJP to be the entry point into Jewish life. There are so many different parts of CJP. There's something for everybody."



PATTI MCWEENEY

Stepping up in a Time of Need

In 2009, Patti McWeeney joined the Women's Philanthropy (WP) Lion of Judah Giving Society. Over the years, she attended events, served on committees, and relished the friendships and connections she built as part of the international sisterhood.

She loved being a Lion but didn't consider wearing the group's signature pin — a symbol of the Lions' fierce commitment to strong Jewish federations and a thriving Jewish future.

Last October 7, Patti changed her mind.

"After Hamas attacked Israel, I wanted the pin," Patti says. "Now, I find myself wearing it much more than I expected to show my support for Israel and for Jewish causes. I like having it near my heart. Being Jewish is a major part of my persona. Being Jewish is me."

Leaving a legacy

A longtime CJP donor and volunteer, Patti says the war sparked a desire in her to step up even more for CJP, the Jewish community, and Israel.

So, she gave to CJP's Israel Emergency Fund, increased her Lion of Judah Annual Campaign gift above the \$5,000 minimum, and joined the WP Executive Board.

She also made the decision to include CJP in her estate plans.

"I've rebalanced my philanthropy portfolio over the years, so I give more Jewishly now than I did a decade ago," she says. "Then Hamas attacked — and I dug in deeper. I've become more worried about antisemitism and the growing anti-Israel shouts, which get louder and more dangerous by the day. I fear they will

outlast me. But even if I'm wrong — which I want to be — I'm happy to leave what I can to protect our Jewish community and Israel in the future."



As I learned more about CJP, I figured out pretty quickly that it's the backbone of Jewish philanthropy in Boston.

A love of Jewish life

Patti's passion for Jewish life started early. Growing up in Longmeadow, her family belonged to Temple Beth El, a Conservative synagogue in Springfield, as well as the Springfield JCC. Her parents, Fanchon and Harold Ratner, tried to instill the importance of Jewish community in Patti and her two brothers.

Patti's introduction to CJP came in 1987 when, as a young attorney, she attended CJP's breakfast for lawyers and accountants. Even as she and her husband, Michael — who's Catholic and incredibly supportive of Patti's Jewish involvement — moved from Newton to Boxford, Patti stayed connected to CJP.

When she retired in 2016, Patti knew she was ready to jump fully into CJP — and into giving back to Boston's Jewish community. She traveled to Budapest on a

WP mission and joined a WP learning circle, became active with CJP's The Miriam Fund, and took on volunteer leadership roles with Jewish Family & Children's Service (JF&CS), the JCC North Shore's Jewish Book Month, and AIPAC.

In 2020, Patti was honored as a CJP Superstar for her work to help the organization broaden its reach on the North Shore. Three years later, she was asked to join the JF&CS Board of Directors.


"As I learned more about CJP, I figured out pretty quickly that it's the backbone of Jewish philanthropy in Boston," she says. "CJP helps people directly and by funding different organizations, like JF&CS. It takes care of the local community and mobilizes resources in times of emergency. CJP is more than important — it's essential. It keeps us together, makes things happen, and protects us."

"I just want to honor my parents"

In the rare moments she's not doing something with the Jewish community, Patti can be found volunteering with Project Home Again in Andover, reading, playing tennis, hitting the local trails with her black lab, Rosie, or traveling with Michael.

Yet, in every part of her life, Patti says, she tries to live out the Jewish values of helping others, carrying on tradition, and supporting her community.

"At the end of the day," she says, "I just want to honor my parents and work to ensure that the causes important to me survive and flourish."



Boston
stands
against
antisemitism

CENTER FOR COMBATING
ANTISEMITISM

#

1,500+ people attended the
Stand up for Jewish Students
rally on April 28, 2024

Antisemitic incidents across the country are at an all-time high. In Massachusetts, antisemitic incidents rose by a staggering **189%** from 2022 to 2023. Anti-Jewish sentiment has increased since the October 7 attacks on Israel by Hamas.

To help meet this moment, we formed CJP's Center for Combating Antisemitism (CCA) to empower and support the Greater Boston Jewish community with clear and effective resources, tools, and strategies to foster action against antisemitism and make proactive and long-term impact.

We are focused on:

1. Making antisemitism unacceptable in civic society across Greater Boston
2. Ensuring the next generation is educated about antisemitism and confident and supported in standing up to hate
3. Providing resources to increase safety and security at Jewish institutions so our Greater Boston community (and surrounding communities) can engage in Jewish spaces free of fear

Working in partnership with local and national organizations, CJP's CCA is building relationships with civic leaders and allies, bringing training and resources to the community, and providing critical grants to advance this work.



Learn more about
CJP's CCA





GEORGIA AND JESSE FELDMAN

“We’ve All Heard the Wake-up Call”: An Investment in Fighting Antisemitism

As the Jewish community raced to support Israel after October 7, Georgia and Jesse Feldman began focusing on the impact of the war closer to home.

The Brookline-based couple quickly realized that their children’s school — like most others across Massachusetts — didn’t have the tools or resources to navigate the Israel-Hamas conflict, the rise in antisemitism, or the Jewish student experience.

“We worked with our school leaders to try to bring our concerns to light, but it was challenging,” says Georgia. “And then Marc Baker stepped in and talked to the head of our school. In that moment, we saw CJP as a leader, really leaning into this work.”

This desire to help ensure fair and equal treatment of Jews and Israel through the educational system led the Feldmans to the idea of investing in CJP’s Center for Combating Antisemitism (CCA). Earlier this year, Georgia and Jesse made a \$1 million lead gift to help CJP educate the next generation — and the academic institutions that serve them — about antisemitism and Jewish history.

“We just feel that the education system is not where it needs to be right now,” says Jesse. “What compelled us to make this gift is that we know that CJP can provide the tools, information, and knowledge to K–12 educators across the state to allow for more robust and complete discussions around Israel and the history of the Middle East. It is the right time for us to step up and be part of this work.”

A clear need to act now

The Feldmans’ gift will help CJP invest in a coordinated effort to build stronger relationships between education leaders and Jewish organizations to provide guidance and trainings on how to prevent and respond to antisemitism.

As part of this work, CJP funded a new position — Director of Educational Partnerships — at its partner, the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of Greater Boston. The new Director is working with parents, students, and clergy to strategically cultivate connections with school officials.

“We’ve all heard the wake-up call,” says Jesse. “Perhaps we’ve all put too much trust in the idea that other people understand Jewish perspectives on these issues. There’s a clear need to act now and an urgency that we must acknowledge.”

Last year, the Feldmans’ daughter, Allegra, now 14, did a school project on antisemitism. At the time, Georgia says, the concept of antisemitism was almost abstract for Allegra — and their entire family — which includes son, Ari, 12.

“Antisemitism wasn’t something we expected our kids to be immersed in or worry about on such a personal level,” says Georgia. “Now, we’re seeing a rapid increase in occurrences in real time.”

The Feldmans say they’re confident that CJP is the right partner to help change the narrative around Israel and antisemitism in K–12 school systems throughout Massachusetts.

“There is a huge need for this work, and we know that CJP will tap the right people and bring the right programming to meet schools where they are,” says Jesse. “At the same time that I want our children to have pride in being Jewish, I want them to understand they are part of a global community with people of other cultures, who may have different perspectives. I know that CJP will help everyone in our schools stay engaged in conversations that will lead to better outcomes.”

Hope for the future

The Feldmans, who moved to Boston from New York 20 years ago, first connected with the local Jewish community when their children attended preschool at Temple Israel of Boston. In 2016, they were invited to a CJP event at the home of a fellow preschool parent.

“It was wonderful to learn more about CJP,” says Georgia. “We were so thrilled that CJP existed and supported so many important organizations.”

Eight years later, the couple still believes that CJP is the engine of Jewish life in Boston. In addition to their investment in CJP’s CCA, the Feldmans also made a generous gift to support CJP’s Annual Campaign.

“A vibrant Jewish community takes a lot of behind-the-scenes work,” says Georgia. “We want to make sure we keep supporting CJP’s endeavors all around — and not just the antisemitism work — because we have hope in the future of our Greater Boston Jewish community.”

Empowering women and girls

Since 2000, The Miriam Fund (TMF) has granted more than \$6.5 million to Jewish, Israeli, and secular organizations working in pursuit of gender equity.

This year, TMF granted a total of \$375,000 to 17 organizations in Massachusetts and Israel, as well as an additional \$21,000 in off-cycle emergency funding in response to the October 7 attacks on Israel.

In 2025, The Miriam Fund will celebrate its 25th anniversary — and its incredible impact over the last quarter century!

Read on to learn more about three of our 2023–2024 TMF grantees.



BEIT RUTH: BUILDING JOB SKILLS FOR YOUNG WOMEN AND GIRLS AT RISK

In Israel, The Miriam Fund supports Beit Ruth’s Vocational Education & Skills Initiative to help young women develop critical job and life skills. Through its unique gourmet chocolate-making program for youth at risk, participants learn financial literacy, teamwork, and effective communication to set them on a path toward sustainable employment and eventually, an independent future.

One program participant shared, “I learned how important it is to take work seriously. Because of this program — and because of Beit Ruth — I feel empowered and look forward to a bright future.”



RESPOND: HELPING INCARCERATED WOMEN PLAN FOR SAFE FUTURES

In Massachusetts, The Miriam Fund supports the secular organization RESPOND through its Survivors of Abuse Feeling Empowered for Re-entry (SAFER) program. The program is dedicated to helping incarcerated and detained women navigate their experiences with domestic violence and plan for a safe transition upon release.

As one program participant shared, “SAFER gave me the support and resources I needed to rebuild my life.” Another said, “SAFER didn’t just offer a handout; it empowered me to create a better future for myself and my family.”



TORAH ACADEMY: DEVELOPING STEM LEADERS

In the Jewish community, The Miriam Fund supports Torah Academy’s robotics team to help middle school girls learn advanced computer programming, mechanical building, teamwork, problem solving, and other Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math skills. Through her involvement in the robotics team, Sari, a student at the Brookline-based school, began to grow as a leader.

“Everything changed for Sari when she had the chance to participate,” said Sari’s teacher. “She became an integral part of the team. Sari even helped other girls bring their design visions to life, offering guidance and troubleshooting with confidence.”

The Miriam Fund by the numbers

\$6.5+ million

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

130+ members

make up The Miriam Fund’s philanthropic,
multigenerational community of women



Superstar Awards

Each year, CJP acknowledges outstanding individuals who demonstrate a deep commitment to furthering the organization's mission and creating a vibrant Jewish community in Greater Boston and beyond.

On the following pages, we're thrilled to honor the incredible donors and volunteers who have been recognized as Superstars over the past year. These individuals have been advocates of CJP, networkers and connectors, supporters and fundraisers, and community builders.



Amit Botzer

Shortly after the start of the Israel-Hamas War, Amit, a graduate student at Harvard Business School, raised his hand to help. Using his analytical skills, he began to lead the research into grant requests received by CJP’s Israel Emergency Fund (IEF). With a team of two other students, Amit developed assessment tools to review grant proposals and investigate grant opportunities for the IEF. This critical function has allowed CJP to vet potential grantees swiftly and thoroughly to ensure the dollars raised for the IEF are directed in the most impactful ways. Amit has invested a tremendous amount of time in this work, which, in turn, has helped CJP make strategic grants to support Israel during this crisis.



Caroline Dorn, Kasey LeBlanc, and Michael Vonnoh

Caroline, Kasey, and Michael have demonstrated a deep commitment to creating and implementing authentic, meaningful, inclusive, and warm LGBTQIA+ offerings at CJP. Together, they’ve led the new LGBTQIA+ Young Adult Committee, providing important insight and guidance on first-of-their-kind events at CJP. They helped CJP host a successful social gathering that drew a record number of participants and planned the organization’s first Pride event.



Amanda Goodman

A parent of three and an early education professional, Amanda has given her time and expertise to CJP for its work engaging families with young children in Jewish life. As Chair of CJP’s Families with Young Children Task Force (FwYC) and a member of the newly formed FwYC Advisory Committee, Amanda has brought great insight, working in partnership with CJP professionals and other volunteers to elevate successes, ask strategic questions, and think in innovative ways. She is a team player who provides timely, concrete, and critical feedback to meetings and written materials. Amanda is someone you can count on — she shows up ready to activate her networks to help CJP ensure a bright Jewish future for our next generation.



Diana Lloyd

Diana is a dedicated volunteer lay leader who has played a significant role in contributing to the evolution of CJP’s Center for Combating Antisemitism (CCA) workplace strategy. As a member of CJP’s Antisemitism Action Committee, a one-year pilot to explore innovative ideas, she brought enthusiasm and a strong drive for action. Diana took the initiative to successfully advocate for antisemitism training within her law firm. The training, developed in partnership with Project Shema, now serves as a model for corporations across Greater Boston. Diana is open to helping in any way she can to making a difference in the Jewish community, is known for being thoughtful when dealing with challenging issues, and is always kind and sensitive to others.



Erin O'Connor

For more than five years, Erin has demonstrated consistent initiative and a willingness to help with any project that's part of the CJP Boston-Haifa Connection's Leadership Development Committee. Erin, who serves as chair of the Women in Leadership Subcommittee, helped implement numerous *Mifgash* (encounters) events for emerging leaders in both Boston and Haifa, with high-level speakers and breakout rooms for networking. Recently, Erin organized a Boston-Haifa State House Luncheon with young legislators for the Young Lay Leaders Mission to Boston and hosted the Haifa delegation for dinner at her home in Salem. Erin's positive disposition and planning skills have made her an invaluable Boston-Haifa volunteer.



Gayle Rubin

Gayle is the consummate volunteer — always willing to pitch in regardless of the task. Gayle was involved in the early years of the North Shore Teen Initiative (NSTI) before it became the Jewish Teen Initiative (JTI). Through her involvement with JTI, Gayle has built strong relationships with teens, their parents, volunteers, staff, and more than 100 partner agencies — earning the respect and admiration of all. She is arguably JTI's biggest champion of collaboration and partnership, and a true convener, advocate, and connector. More recently, Gayle has also become involved with CJP's The Miriam Fund (TMF), quickly finding a leadership role as Co-chair of its Membership and Development Committee. Inspired by TMF's mission, Gayle became an instant advocate for its work and focused her energies on being a wonderful ambassador and engager who has helped grow TMF membership.



Hope Sidman

Hope is an all-around leader at CJP! She's an ardent supporter of CJP's Center for Combating Antisemitism (CCA), and always encourages her friends and family to join her in making an impact. Recently, Hope chaired a Prime Minister's Council event at her home, which successfully introduced CJP's most generous donors to CJP's CCA. Hope is a member of this year's Cynthia and Leon Shulman Acharai Leadership Program cohort, where she's demonstrated exceptional leadership within both CJP and the broader Jewish community. Hope's commitment to CJP — coupled with her generosity of time, talent, and philanthropy — makes her an incredible partner to the organization and a champion of Jewish life in Greater Boston.



Zach Goldberger, Danielle Greenberg, and Molly Shuman

Zach, Danielle, and Molly are shining examples of the next generation's commitment to Greater Boston's Jewish community. Last year, the three served as Co-chairs of CJP's Chai Society Committee, which recognizes young adults between the ages of 22–40 who make a gift of \$118 or more to CJP's Annual Campaign. Zach and Molly have continued their leadership into a second year. All three have eagerly contributed to CJP's mission — posting on social media and within their networks, recruiting event attendees, meeting with prospective young adults, and fearlessly addressing the wider Boston Jewish community during events. Zach, Danielle, and Molly are exceptional CJP ambassadors who have helped make the Chai Society an inclusive space for all young adults who seek community, a platform for giving back, and a source of joy and connection.



Andria Weil

A member of CJP's Investment Committee since 2022, Andria played a leading role in creating CJP's first-ever Sustainable Fund — an investment option for its Donor Advised Fund (DAF) program that focuses both on strong returns and addressing climate change. She advocated for taking a serious and focused approach to defining this portfolio, helping to identify managers, setting an asset allocation, and becoming an advocate with fellow committee members. Andria was a critical player in bringing this longstanding priority to the finish line, applying her deep professional experience in sustainable investing and her consensus-building skills for the benefit of CJP, the Jewish community, and the planet.



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.



Thank you for your support. 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.