

RECENTERING THE SPIRIT

Growing Jewish Minds and Enriching Jewish Lives



JewishLearningWorks

2024–2025 IMPACT REPORT



FOSTERING HOPE THROUGH EDUCATION

Education is hard work. It is also heart work. Moreover, Jewish education is a sacred duty, and a pathway to community thriving through tradition, spiritual resilience, and courage. Our work is embedded with hope and possibility!

At Jewish LearningWorks we believe that the world we build will be shaped by our commitment to education as a shared effort, a task that belongs to all of us. **No child learns or grows alone, just as no educator teaches in isolation.** We carry one another forward, in partnership.

Go on! Unfold these pages to explore how we are re-centering the spiritual in Jewish educational spaces, meeting the moment with responsive Israel education, developing resilience for the next generation, and transmitting powerful values *l'dor v'dor*. Thank you for being our partners on the path!

Ben He-he said:
“According to
the effort is the
reward”

- Pirkei Avot 5:23

Dana Sheanin
Chief Executive Officer

Cindy Schlesinger
Board Co-president

Joel Abramovitz
Board Co-president



OUR IMPACT IN NUMBERS

AT-A-GLANCE

45 Professional development programs in 10 months

398 Hours of learning facilitated

630 Participants

22% required financial aid to participate

10% participated free of charge

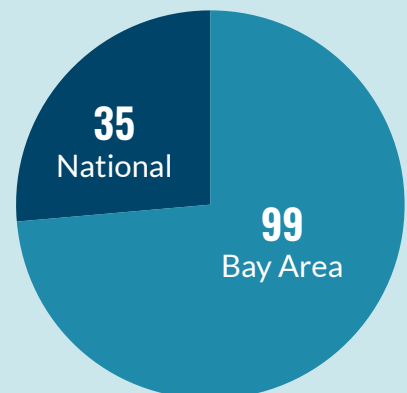
360 Jewish education and engagement professionals reached

28 received professional leadership coaching

18 mentored by veteran colleagues

We have touched more than **6,100** program participants from **400** organizations in the last 10 years.

These professionals are elevating learning in **134** Jewish organizations



HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR WORK

Leadership in resilience and re-centering the spiritual



Launched the Bay Area Jewish Youth Resilience Roundtable

with 34 members from 14 organizations. This peer-learning network included monthly meetings, and 3 expert-led workshops focused on climate anxiety, academic pressure, and trauma-informed education preparing educators to support teen wellness.

"Today, it really felt like this became a space where we started to advance the teen wellness agenda in the wider community. I love to see the learning from each other, and pinpointing opportunities for collaboration to elevate teen wellness work across the Bay Area." - Anonymous, Resilience Roundtable member



OROT
אורות

CENTER FOR
NEW JEWISH
LEARNING

Hosted a 6-week Beit Midrash in partnership with Orot

— offering educators opportunities to nurture their own spirituality, and in turn bring greater wisdom and inspiration to their learners.

*Not by might, nor by power,
but by my spirit alone.*

- Zechariah 4:6

"Hearing Dr. Miller say 'HaShem' was PROFOUND. Her radical spirituality required our radical listening. She was the perfect introduction to how we rock the boat with a purpose."

- Anonymous, Soul FULL participant

"I support Jewish LearningWorks to keep our community vibrant and connected today, while planting seeds for the future."

- Erica Aren, Senior Director of Roots & Culture, JCCSF



Gathered for Soul FULL, the 1st Bay Area-wide convening of Jewish educators since the pandemic, focused on the neuroprotective potential of spirituality. The keynote, Dr. Lisa Miller, and workshops with Meg Adler, Leora Wolf-Prusan, Arya Marvazy and Josh Feldman, introduced a new paradigm of Jewish learning for health, resilience and fulfillment.

TODAY we are leading a year-long community of practice expanding the work we began at Soul FULL, focused on re-centering the spiritual in Jewish education.

This fall we introduced a collection of online, Jewish spiritual education resources, to inspire educators doing this work.

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR WORK

Curiosity and learner-centered Israel education

We supported 5 organizations to use On the Map, our flagship Israel resource. This innovative curricular framework uses images of maps to explore Israel's past and present.

TODAY we are updating On the Map with new material reflecting the changing reality post-October 7.

"I deeply appreciate your willingness to take on difficult hot topics and bring them into our lives in a meaningful, relevant, and transformative way." - Mia Zimman, Israel LearningLab participant



Convened 21 Bay Area educational leaders for a new Israel LearningLab — a space to consider their own attitudes and approaches toward teaching Israel following October 7, 2023. Led by national experts Dr. Sivan Zakai, Dr. Kathy Simon, and Dr. Kathy Schwartz.

TODAY, the Israel LearningLab participants continue to gather to workshop ideas about teaching values, history and identity, against the backdrop of current events.

Yediat Yisrael, Knowing Israel [as a paradigm for Israel education] is a cognitive and an experiential learning process that builds interdependence and mutual understanding.

- Rabbi Dr. Laura Novak Winer



"Jewish Learning Works facilitated this journey with exceptional care and expertise, grounding us in Jewish values while encouraging open dialogue and diverse perspectives. I left each session feeling more equipped, not only to teach about Israel, but to support my learners in navigating these conversations with empathy and confidence."

- Nicole Novach, Director of Education, Congregation Shomrei Torah - Santa Rosa



Empowered 20 Bay Area educators to unpack the history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Learners engaged with this challenging topic using primary sources and constructive dialogue, facilitated by our partners at the iCenter.



"For years, the professional learning opportunities offered by Jewish LearningWorks have deeply influenced my education and career. That lasting impact is why I choose to give back to this organization."

- Elaine Manno, Director of Children's & Family Education, Congregation B'nai Tikvah - Walnut Creek

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR WORK

Connecting the community and supporting one another



"We need quality inspiration, learning and convening, and you are doing this! Jewish LearningWorks is staffed by remarkable educators and communal leaders, and that's what makes the organization and its work so valuable."
- Ariela Ronay-Jinich, Founder of Olamim



20 Jewish organizations received a sensory tools microgrant to build or enhance the inclusion of all, including neurodivergent learners.



27 professionals received complimentary, on demand, support to respond to challenges ranging from educational leadership, to career progression, to inclusion. Another marker of the financial investment we make in the community.

9 East Bay preschools piloted in-house staff development and family engagement programs, supported by us in partnership with the national ElevatED initiative.

100% of leadership coaching participants received subsidies enabling them to access trusting space to reflect, set goals, respond to challenges, and grow.

The entire Jewish people are considered guarantors for one another.

- Shevuot 39a:22

"I support Jewish Learning Works because I believe that by investing in the professional development of Jewish educators, we strengthen the Jewish identity of our children and ensure the continuity of the Jewish people for generations to come." - Cindy Schlesinger, Board Co-president



"When you read leadership theory in grad school you don't know what you're doing or how it connects to your life. It is Torah-esque. You have to read it over and over." - Beth Lipschutz, Voices for Good Fellow

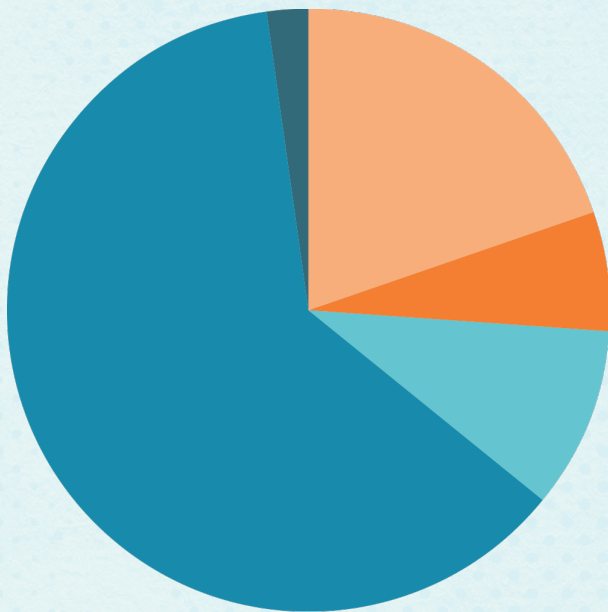


"The value of subsidized training that Jewish LearningWorks provides to Jewish preschools in our region cannot be quantified directly. It goes above and beyond the monetary amount reimbursed. It strengthens our teacher pool and supports teachers' commitment to the field of Jewish Early Childhood Education. One cannot put a dollar amount on how important that is."
- Alison Sorscher, Interim Preschool Director, Netivot Shalom Preschool - Berkeley



FINANCIALS

REVENUE

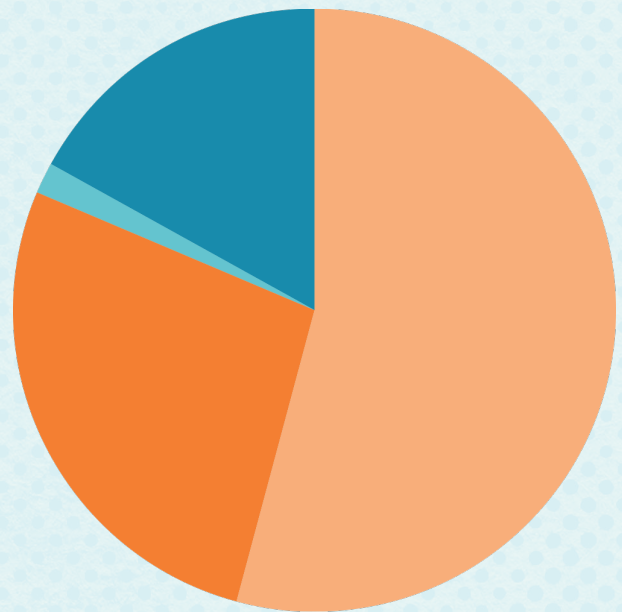


- Grant Income \$452,473
- Contributions & Gifts \$146,021
- Earned Income \$221,758
- Rental Income \$1,402,948
- Other Income \$48,033

Total \$2,267,594*

**Includes funds received for FY26 programs*

EXPENSES



- Personnel Expenses \$1,048,120
- Educational Programs \$530,115
- Marketing & Promotion \$28,647
- Occupancy & Administration \$327,528

Total \$1,921,534



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

The words of our community's educators reflect our commitment to deepening spirituality and emotional resilience across the Jewish educational landscape.

Your gift is an investment in our community, and in our future.



**DONATE
WITH TRUST**

LABYRINTH

A Tool for Meditation, Reflection and Spiritual Connection



How to use the labyrinth

Trace the labyrinth slowly with your index finger. Make sure you enter with intention and focus the mind on the journey rather than the destination. At each turning, pause to reflect on what you can release or change. When you reach the center, take time to sit quietly and listen for inner wisdom. As you trace the path out, allow yourself to integrate the insights gained.

Jewish mavokh, sevakh or labyrinths serve as tools for spiritual contemplation, prayer, and meditation, particularly for *t'shuvah* — for returning to our best selves. Jewish labyrinths often feature seven walls, referencing Jewish numerology like the seven walls of the biblical city of Jericho, the seven days of creation, the weeks of the Omer, and the sabbatical year. The single, unbranching path of a unicursal labyrinth encourages reflection on the life journey, spiritual growth, and finding inner peace, recalling how the ancient Israelites wandered in the desert to become a people.