

BUILDING THE FUTURE

TO EDUCATE A CHILD IS TO BUILD A WORLD



BUILDING THE FUTURE, TOGETHER.

A thriving Jewish future will not happen by accident.

We are building it every day in our classrooms and camps, in conversations around tables; in moments when children ask big questions, when an educator finds a new way to teach, or a community makes room for someone who has not always felt they belong.

For more than 125 years, our offerings have grown alongside the needs of the community. Every year, we nurture the critical role models who make Jewish learning possible: teachers, educational leaders, clergy, youth and camping professionals, and so many others who shape Jewish life.

Our 2025–2026 work reflects a deep conviction: Jewish education is one of the most powerful ways we build a better future.

Last year, we built opportunities to deepen leadership skills, and invested in the professional development for the individuals who sustain Jewish life every day. **Together we are ensuring that Jewish education changes lives, and the world.**

Thank you for creating the future with us.



Dana Sheanin
Chief Executive Officer



Cindy Schlesinger
Co-President



Joel Abramovitz
Co-President

ONE EDUCATOR CAN CHANGE A ROOM

ONE ROOM CAN CHANGE A COMMUNITY

57

learning programs held over
10 months including 324
hours of learning

137

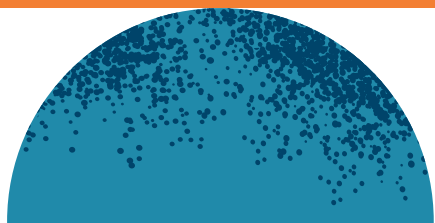
organizations served across
the field of Jewish education
in the Bay Area, and beyond

600+

educators and community leaders
supported through learning,
leadership development, coaching,
mentoring, communities of practice,
and resources

15,000+

children and teens
reached through
the educational and
organizational leaders
we support



**“First build cities for your children, and only then,
folds for your flocks” -Bamidbar 22:9**



BUILDING BELONGING

שִׁיכוּת *Shayachut*

"I cannot wait to share what I learned with my staff. I especially appreciated how the Jewish values of B'tzelem Elohim (creation in the image of God) and Tikkun Olam (repair of the world) were woven into the exercises throughout the day. The presenters were inspiring and brought such a wealth of experience. It was truly an honor to learn from them!"

-Melanie Marcus

Preschool Director at Gan Mah Tov, Oakland

We strengthen our foundation when there is a place for everyone.

Belonging doesn't happen by accident. It requires intention, including leaders and educators who notice who is in the room, who is missing, and what everyone needs to participate fully.

Last year, we deepened our commitment to building more inclusive Jewish learning environments, **strengthening our organizational commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging**, and helping educators acquire practical tools for supporting learners with neurodivergence. We partnered with field-leader **Matan** on professional learning to enhance accessibility and inclusion. We also expanded our support for organizations through new **Capacity Building grants**, maintaining for the fifth year the support of learners of all ages through sensory tools, and best-practices to use them.

Since October 7, we have spent hundreds of hours helping educators **navigate questions of Jewish peoplehood and Israel** with greater care and complexity. This includes an Israel Learning Lab, sessions for early childhood educators, and updated content for **On the Map**, our flagship Israel curricular framework for adolescent and adult learners.



Building belonging means celebrating the full complexity of Jewish life, as well as the full humanity of every learner.



*Jewish LearningWorks' Strategic Plan Commitment:
Championing Inclusive Jewish Life.*

BUILDING MEANING

מִשְׁמָאוֹת *Mashma'ut*

"The SoulFULL Community of Practice group is so positive and encouraging, and I leave each session feeling lighter, more connected, and positive about my work as a Jewish educator. Thank you for creating this space!"

-Melissa Pescatore

Chair of Professional Learning at the Association
of Reform Jewish Educators



Jewish education inspires the mind and reaches the soul.

Jewish learning is not only about knowing what we do or what we believe. When done well, it also helps us experience wonder, gratitude, belonging, and purpose.

Last year, we helped educators recommit to the central role of spirituality in Jewish education through training and educational resources:



Released 5 SoulFULL

Sources seeding a growing collection of spiritual teaching resources created in partnership with national leaders

Launched the SoulFULL Community of Practice

gathering educators to explore research, pedagogy, and practices that add spiritual depth to their teaching

Published our Source Sheets

Library making Jewish text study accessible to educators, clergy, and lay leaders to explore Torah, values, leadership, and inclusion

We are building Jewish education that does more than transmit tradition. We are enabling educators to create experiences that that help children and teens feel alive, seen, and connected.



*Jewish LearningWorks' Strategic Plan Commitment:
Placing Spirituality at the Heart of Jewish Education.*



BUILDING LEADERS

מנהיגות *Manhigut*

"I'm getting stronger, the community is getting stronger, the Jewish people are getting stronger. I'm seeing my reaction to hard things differently compared to two years ago. If there were more spaces like this it would be that much better."

-Lena Fishman

Executive Director of the Golda Meir House Museum



Leadership is not a role. It is a daily practice.

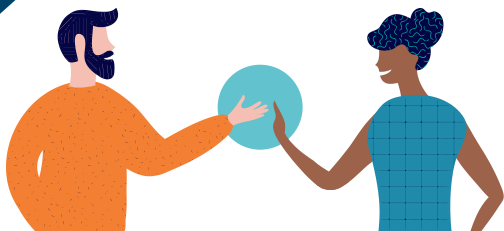
The power of Jewish education depends on those providing it; these people also need support and room to grow.

This year, we concluded the third cohort of the **Voices for Good Fellowship**, celebrating women's leadership, and brought together 34 graduates from a decade of fellowship programming for a day of learning, networking, and celebration.

We expanded our **Coaching** and **Mentorship** initiative to include a new small group experience in partnership with **ARJE**, and continued to generously subsidize individual leadership coaching.

Since 2016, we have served:

111 coaching participants
135 mentees
64 mentors



Behind the scenes, we respond to dozens of calls from colleagues when they seek a trusted thought-partner to navigate difficult decisions, respond to crises, or think through their career trajectory.

Sometimes leadership development means a fellowship. Sometimes it requires a coach. Often, it simply means a colleague who will listen and ask the right questions.



*Jewish LearningWorks' Strategic Plan Commitment:
Supporting Community Leaders at All Levels*



BUILDING RESILIENCE

Jon Hosen

"Our last Jewish LearningWorks training was incredibly helpful in leading my classes in a discussion about the war in Iran. I received multiple positive comments from students about how well-facilitated the experience was, and how they felt safe to share conflicting and complicated views. Thank you!"

-Jeremy Mann

Jewish Affinity Group Co-Facilitator at St. Ignatius College Prep

No one carries this work alone.

Jewish educators are navigating a great deal: leading through complexity, creating meaningful experiences for learners, supporting young people through uncertainty, and responding to changing community needs, all while managing their own well-being.



Our response is to build communities of care.

Last year, we continued our leadership of the **Bay Area Jewish Youth Resilience Roundtable**, inviting teen educators to learn about adolescent development, and collaboratively address the challenges they face. Training included a session with **NewGround** on communicating across differences, and another focused on addressing antisemitism. We are now starting our third year.

We also gathered early childhood education directors for a **third-annual retreat**, and our year-round community of practice, **GanCircle**, offering early childhood directors opportunities to step out of the day-to-day, and think together about their schools, teams, and challenges.

Finally, our new **Capacity Building grants** offered community organizations the chance to choose how to invest in their own learning, and strengthen their own capacity. We are proud to expand this initiative this year.

Awarded **\$61,500**
to **10** Bay Area
organizations

Resilience is not something people find alone. It is something we create together.



*Jewish LearningWorks' Strategic Plan Commitment:
Creating Communities of Care.*



BUILDING PARTNERS

שותפות *Shutafut*

"All of the Jewish LearningWorks programs that I have participated in have left me feeling inspired, refreshed, and with some new insight I can carry forward. There's a real mental shift that happens for me. I have seen both professional and personal growth in myself through your programs. I love Jewish LearningWorks!"

-Dalya Azulai

Youth Programs Director at Temple Sinai,
Oakland

We are building something that lasts.

Jewish LearningWorks is more than a collection of programs. **We nurture relationships over decades and across bridges with those who care deeply about the future of Bay Area Jewish life.**

We prioritize **depth over breadth**, creating opportunities for educators to return again and again.

387

unique
professionals
reached

53

people participated
in 10 or more
sessions

42%

of participants
attended 3 or more
sessions

230+

guest presenters and
expert facilitators
engaged over the
last 10 years

Our participants tell us that connection and peer collaboration are essential.

We are equally committed to building lasting relationships with the individuals and organizations who invest in Jewish education. Our individual and foundation **donors, community partners, and other supporters are critical to building a sustainable future for Jewish learning.**



*Jewish LearningWorks' Strategic Plan Commitment:
Building Sustainably.*

BUILDING THE FUTURE ACROSS THE BAY AREA

Serving 137 organizations across Jewish education.



- Adamah SF
- APJCC Preschool - Los Gatos
- B'nai Israel Jewish Center - Petaluma
- Beth Chaim Congregation - Danville
- Beth El Nursery School (BENS) - Berkeley
- Beth Jacob Congregation - Oakland
- Beth Sholom Preschool - San Leandro
- Brandeis Marin Day School - San Rafael
- Brotherhood Way Preschool - San Francisco
- Camp Tawonga
- Congregation Am Tikvah - San Francisco
- Congregation B'nai Shalom - Walnut Creek
- Congregation B'nai Tikvah - Walnut Creek
- Congregation Beth Am - Los Altos Hills
- Congregation Beth El - Berkeley
- Congregation Beth Sholom - San Francisco

- Congregation Beth Sholom Family Preschool - San Francisco
- Congregation Emanu-El - San Francisco
- Congregation Emanu-El Preschool - San Francisco
- Congregation Emeth - Morgan Hill
- Congregation Etz Chayim - Palo Alto
- Congregation Kol Shofar - Tiburon
- Congregation Ner Shalom - Cotati
- Congregation Netivot Shalom - Berkeley
- Congregation Rodef Sholom - San Rafael
- Congregation Sha'ar Zahav - San Francisco
- Congregation Sherith Israel - San Francisco
- Congregation Shomrei Torah - Santa Rosa
- Congregation Sinai - San Jose
- Contra Costa Midrasha
- Diller Teen Fellows
- Diller Teen Tikkun Olam Awards
- Eden Village West
- Gan Avraham Preschool - Oakland
- Gan Ilan Preschool - Lafayette
- Gan Israel Preschool - Petaluma
- Gan Mah Tov Preschool - Oakland
- Gan Outdoor Preschool - San Rafael
- Gan Shalom Preschool - Berkeley
- Gideon Hausner Jewish Day School - Palo Alto
- Helen Diller Family Preschool - San Francisco

Hillel at Stanford University - Palo Alto
JCC Maccabi Sports Camp
JCC of the East Bay Preschool - Berkeley
JCC Preschool - San Rafael and Mill Valley
JCC of San Francisco
JCC East Bay Preschool - Oakland
JCC Sonoma County - Santa Rosa
Jewish Community Relations Council
(JCRC) - San Francisco
Jewish Family and Children's Services
Jewish Federation Bay Area
Jewish Silicon Valley - Los Gatos
Jews of Color Initiative
JFCS Holocaust Center
Jim Joseph Foundation
Keshet
Koret Foundation
Leslie Family Early Childhood Education
Center - Palo Alto
Netivot Shalom Preschool - Berkeley
Oakland Hebrew Day School - Oakland
Or Shalom Jewish Community - San
Francisco
Oshman Family Jewish Community Center
(OFJCC)
Peninsula Sinai Congregation - Foster City
Peninsula Temple Beth El - San Mateo
Peninsula Temple Sholom - Burlingame
Peninsula Jewish Community Center
(PJCC)
Peninsula Jewish Community Center
Preschool
Ronald C. Wornick Jewish Day School -
Foster City
Rosenberg Early Childhood Center - San
Francisco
San Francisco Campus for Jewish Living
San Francisco Hillel
Shalom Bayit
Shir Hadash Early Childhood Center - Los
Gatos

South Peninsula Hebrew Day School
St. Ignatius College Prep
Temple Beth Abraham - Oakland
Temple Beth Hillel - Richmond
Temple Beth Sholom - San Leandro
Temple Emanu-El - San Jose
Temple Isaiah - Lafayette
Temple Israel - Alameda
Temple Sinai - Oakland
Temple Sinai David Pregerson Preschool -
Oakland
The Brandeis School of San Francisco
The Grove Preschool at Kol Shofar -
Tiburon
The Kehillah School - Palo Alto
The Kitchen - San Francisco
UpStart Bay Area
URJ Camp Newman
Yavneh Day School - Los Gatos



PEOPLE BUILD COMMUNITIES

Thank you for being our partner as we adapt to our evolving landscape and shape the Jewish learning environments of 600+ educators and 15,000+ children and teens across the Bay Area.

There are many ways to build with us.

>> Invest in People

Support our year-round training programs, networks, and leadership coaching.

>> Strengthen a Community

Fund leadership fellowships, communities of practice, and peer-learning.

>> Bring Jewish Learning to Life

Support innovative curricula, spiritual learning, and new resources for educators.

>> Make a Lasting Gift

Partner with us through our annual campaign, major gift program, or by leaving a legacy gift.



תודה רבה, THANK YOU

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



**DONATE
WITH TRUST**

COMMUNITIES BUILD THE FUTURE

Even as the philanthropic landscape tightens, Jewish LearningWorks is growing. **Thanks to you, last year we served:**

6%

more
organizations

10%

more
participants

"I am proud to support Jewish LearningWorks and their role in strengthening Jewish education, identity, and community by inspiring educators, empowering families, and creating meaningful opportunities for people of all ages to connect with their Jewish heritage, traditions, and values.

One aspect of Jewish LearningWorks that is especially meaningful to me is their commitment to inclusion and ensuring that children with special needs have the opportunity to participate fully in Jewish education and community life. As a parent of two children with special needs, I deeply appreciate the organization's efforts to support children with diverse learning abilities and to provide educators and families with the resources they need to create welcoming, inclusive environments. Every child deserves to feel a sense of belonging, to be valued for who they are, and to experience the richness of Jewish learning and tradition. And all community members benefit from their rightful presence.

I support Jewish LearningWorks because I believe in their mission and in the power of Jewish education to inspire future generations, embrace every learner, strengthen our community, and ensure that Jewish life continues to thrive."



Eileen Boussina
Board Member

Jewish LearningWorks



SHAPING the
FUTURE of
JEWISH LIFE
IN THE BAY AREA...
...AND BEYOND



GOAL
#1



place
SPIRITUALITY
at the **HEART** of
JEWISH EDUCATION

SHema
שְׁמָע

GOAL
#2

CHAMPION
INCLUSIVE
Jewish Life

GOAL
#3

create
COMMUNITY
of **collaboration**
EDUCATION
NAVIGATING
POLARIZATION

TOGETHER WE WILL...

and more!

LAUNCH **NEW**
FELLOWSHIPS for
RISING LEADERS

EMBRACE PEOPLEHOOD
as a LAUNCHPAD
for ISRAEL EDUCATION

HELP EDUCATORS and
OTHERS ADDRESS
ANTISEMITISM
and DEMOCRACY

EQUIP EDUCATORS
with SKILLS for
NON VIOLENT
COMMUNICATION

DEVELOP
NEW CURRICULUM
HELP CHILDREN
EXPERIENCE
and PURPOSE

EMPOWER
JEWISH EDUCATORS
with \$100,000 in
CAPACITY GRANTS



GOAL
#5

sustain
JEWISH ORGANIZATIONAL
LEADERS
AT ALL LEVELS

COMMUNITIES
for
LEADERS
PREVENTING
BURNOUT

GOAL
#4

SECURE
A PATHWAY TO
FINANCIAL
STABILITY

Noted by Ellen



Learn more about our
2026–2030 strategic plan:



OUR LEAD SUPPORTERS

Donations from foundations and committed individuals who align their financial resources with their values are critical to fostering lifelong Jewish learners, and keeping Bay Area Jewish life vibrant. Todah, thank you!

מנהיגות · Manhigut · Leadership (\$10,000+)

Amy and Mort Friedkin

Donny and Janie Friend

Fred Isaac and Robin Reiner

Eileen Ruby

Anonymous

אחריות · Achrayut · Mutual Responsibility (\$5,000+)

Julie Dorsey and Daniel Leemon

Laura and Gary Lauder

Steve and Judy Lipson

Geoff Piller and Karen Tiedemann

Paula Pretlow

Foundations

Donald and Carole Chaiken Foundation

EarlyJ

ElevatED

Jewish Federation Bay Area

Jim Joseph Foundation

Lisa and Douglas Goldman

Newton and Rochelle Becker

Charitable Trust

San Francisco Humanities, Inc.



JewishLearningWorks

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