

ANNUAL REPORT 2016



Lorraine & Jack N. Friedman

Commission for

JEWISH

EDUCATION

of the Palm Beaches

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

25th Edition

Silver Legacy. Golden Future.



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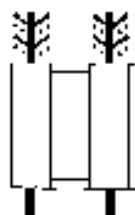
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Original logo circa 1991

Foreword

Rav Nachman Bar Yitzchak said, “Why are words of Torah compared to a tree, as it is said (Proverbs 3:18), ‘It is a tree of life for them that hold on to it?’ To say to you that just as in the case of wood and trees, a small piece of wood kindles the large one; so too small Torah scholars sharpen the great ones.” And this is akin to what Rabbi Chanina said, “I have learned a lot from my teachers, and from my friends more than from my teachers; but from my students more than all of them.” (Babylonian Talmud Taanit 7a)

A tree is an incredibly powerful symbol in Jewish tradition. As seen in the quote above, it represents the Torah, its teachers and its students. A tree is a symbol of connection between the past, present, and future. That is why it is the CJE’s logo.



This, our 25th anniversary year, we’ve celebrated our accomplishments: from hundreds of adults engaged in Jewish learning, to the thousands of teachers trained in cutting-edge pedagogy and technology, to the thousands of children and families who have been engaged through our programs and initiatives. We celebrated those achievements with more than 200 people at our “Celebrating 25! Gala” and with more than 100 people at our “Rockin’ Concert Event for Families.”

But we did more than simply celebrate our past. This year we planted the seeds of our future with a new strategic plan, starting with a new vision and mission:

Vision

A vibrant, engaged community energized by the beauty of Jewish life and learning.

Mission

CJE enriches and strengthens Jewish life and education throughout the Greater Palm Beaches.

These expressions of passion and commitment will direct our work as we look ahead to the next 25 years of serving the Greater Palm Beaches. We will use Jewish values and traditions to strengthen our community.

The quote above is an excellent example of putting Jewish values to work. It affirms our ultimate goal of creating inspired students who will become tomorrow’s teachers, tomorrow’s leaders.

Thank you for supporting our agency and our community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles Cohen".

Charles Cohen
Executive Director

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Today Rabbah, June!

In celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Lorraine & Jack N. Friedman Commission for Jewish Education, local fabric artist June Black volunteered hundreds of hours creating quilts to highlight CJE's main services and programs.

These quilts, displayed at our annual meeting, represent the work of CJE's staff, volunteers and community partners.



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CHAPTER 1

Professional Development & School Services

The Friedman CJE's Professional Development & School Services department impacts approximately 2,700 students each year through its work with hundreds of teachers, principals and lay leaders at the Arthur I. Meyer Jewish Academy, synagogues, Jewish preschools and religious schools in the Greater Palm Beaches.



Quick Facts

- Entered second year of PJ Goes to School for complementary schools using PJ Library® books and curriculum materials for kindergarten – 2nd grade students at four local synagogue schools, making the CJE one of only three pilot communities nationwide
- Connected and collaborated with Israel Educators' Exchange (School Twinning Program) to create meaningful, shared learning opportunities between classrooms in the Greater Palm Beaches and in the TZAHAR (Tzfat, Hatzor Haglilit, and Rosh Pina) region in Israel
- Presented a suite of professional development opportunities for teachers and principals such as Summer Institute, JEDCamp and the Conference for Early Childhood Educators
- Developed a new phase of its partnership with the National Museum of American Jewish History using a traveling curriculum to visualize the Jewish immigration experience for children at eight synagogue schools
- Created the CJEiLearn.org website to train teachers on incorporating digital learning into Jewish education in synagogues, early childhood and special needs classrooms

CHAPTER 2

Adult Learning: The Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning

The Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning is a sophisticated and interactive course taught locally by Friedman CJE's Melton-trained instructors. The classes are developed by a team of experts at the Hebrew University's Melton Centre for Jewish Education. The only requirement for this pluralistic program is a passion for learning.



Quick Facts

- Celebrated 5th anniversary of the Melton School in our community
- Showed largest enrollment to date with 129 students
- Offered seven classes in Boynton Beach, Palm Beach, West Palm Beach and Palm Beach Gardens
- Organized inaugural Melton Seminar trip to Israel for 14 participants focusing on “Herzl’s Dream Revisited”
- Received national recognition for innovative course scheduling that allowed seasonal residents to participate

CHAPTER 3

Adult Learning: Conversations with Jewish Women Writers

The Friedman CJE offers *Conversations with Jewish Women Writers* – an innovative, thought-provoking and intimate book & author series that brings together groups of women with Jewish female authors. In partnership with Hadassah-Brandeis Institute, this program explores Jewish and gender issues.



Quick Facts

- Enrolled more than 140 participants in 2016 season, including the highest number of new subscribers in the last ten years
- Hosted 350 participants since program's inception in 2002
- Celebrating its 14th anniversary, CJE's Conversations with Jewish Women Writers serves as the original model for dozens of Jewish communities nationwide



CHAPTER 4

Jewish Family Life

The Jewish Family Life (JFL) Department at the Friedman CJE provides “three Cs” in our community. Its **concierge** services help to connect families to Jewish life and learning opportunities in the Greater Palm Beaches. It provides expert **consultation** services to community partners in family life education, family engagement programming, professional teacher development and outreach. Through **collaborations** with community partners, CJE identifies the needs of local families and works together to fulfill those needs with family outreach, engagement programs, curriculum enhancement & in-home experiences, and implementation of this community’s PJ Library® program.



Quick Facts

- Distributed 100,000th PJ Library® book in the Greater Palm Beaches since 2008
- Expanded PJ Library® through age 8 – enabling hundreds of additional children to receive high-quality, Jewish-themed books and music each month
- Organized an intergenerational music celebration of CJE’s 25th anniversary - “A Rockin’ Concert Event for Families”
- Collaborated on more than 25 family engagement programs including public space story time events and synagogue-based tot Shabbat programs
- Provided concierge-style services to thousands of families by connecting them to synagogues, preschools, day schools, and other Jewish lifecycle experiences

CHAPTER 5

Special Needs Education

The J.N. Somers Yad Hebrew School for children with special needs began serving our community in 2001 and has been holding regular Sunday classes ever since. The 1:1 ratio of staff and adult & teen volunteers to students makes it the ideal place for Jewish children with disabilities to learn more about their heritage.



Quick Facts

- Organized inclusion programming with Temple Beth Tikvah's religious school and MorseLife
- Expanded use of new technology with individual iPads
- Initiated plan to broaden students' Hebrew language development
- Created a shared curriculum for Yad students and Israel's "Wings of Krembo" social program through "school twinning" with our sister region TZAHAR (Tzfat, Hatzor Haglilit and Rosh Pina)
- Advanced students' knowledge of synagogue rituals and prayers

CHAPTER 6

Community Engagement

The Friedman CJE's Community Engagement department seeks financial support to sustain and grow CJE's current programs and to ensure that quality Jewish education will be readily available in the Greater Palm Beaches now and in the future.



Quick Facts

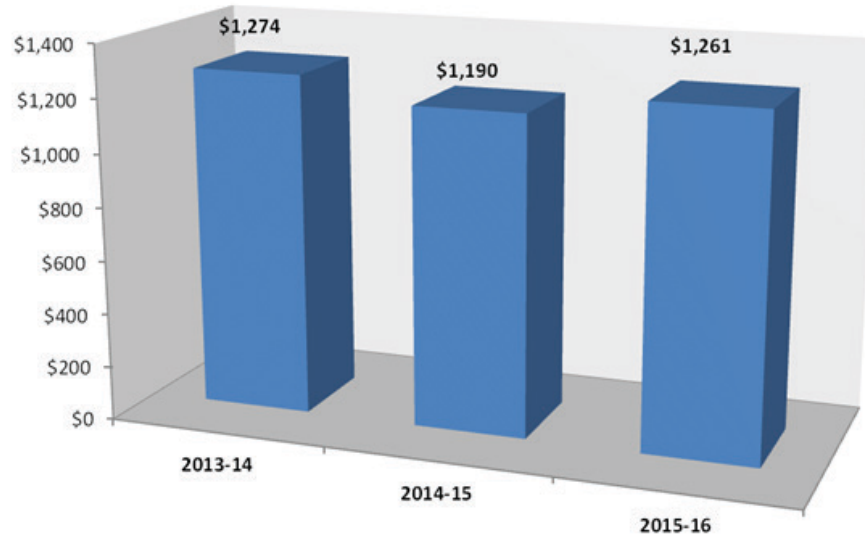
- Organized a first-time CJE gala celebrating 25 years of enriching and strengthening Jewish life and education where Dorothy Adler, Sheila & Alec Engelstein and Marilyn & Michael Winer were honored for their outstanding commitment to, and support of, CJE programs
- Announced the *Silver Legacy. Golden Future.* endowment campaign, an exciting new initiative that will secure CJE's role in the community as a leader in Jewish education and guarantee its future financial stability
- Received 43% of 2015 -2016 donations from first-time donors

CHAPTER 7

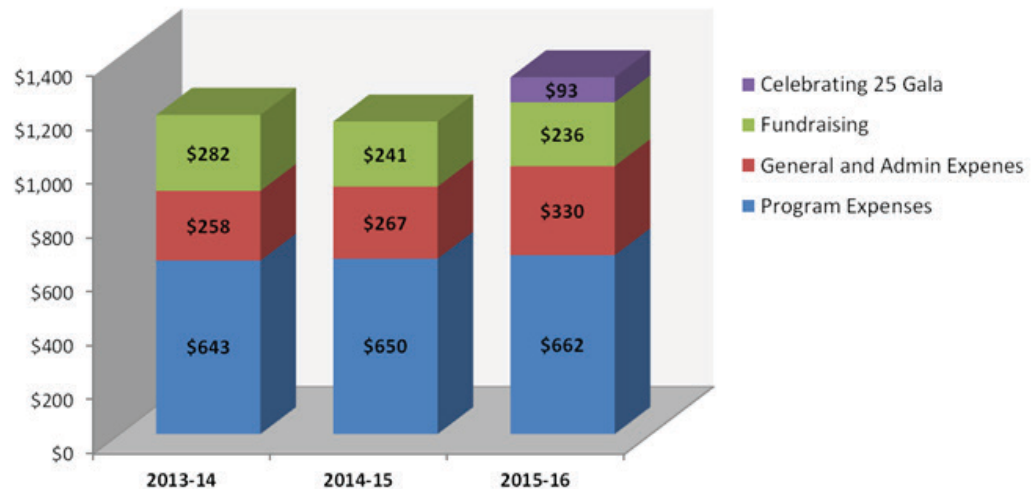
Finance

Friedman CJE is grateful to its supporters who enable the agency to enhance its services and programs, while keeping expenses stable each year.

Total Revenues (\$ Thousands)



Total Expenses (\$ Thousands)



CHAPTER 8

Public Relations

The Friedman Commission for Jewish Education has received more publicity in its 25th year than ever before. The agency's services, programs, events, partnerships and initiatives have been featured in news media online, in print and on television in the following publications:

Florida Weekly

Jewish Federation's Belong magazine

Kravis Center's Ovation magazine

Macaroni Kid

Palm Beach Daily News

Palm Beach Gardens Lifestyle magazine

Palm Beach Illustrated magazine

Palm Beach Post

Palm Beach Post Neighborhood edition

Palm Beach Post Notables

PJ Library's PROOF magazine

Playbill magazine

South Florida Business Journal

South Florida Parenting

Sun Sentinel

Sun Sentinel Marketplace

Sun Sentinel Society Scene

The Jewish Journal

The Jewish Voice

WPEC, CBS 12

WPTV, NBC 5 - Mosaic weekly show



CHAPTER 9

Partner Organizations

Alpert Jewish Family and Children's Service	Kravis Center for the Performing Arts
Alzheimer's Care Resource Center	Mandel Foundation
Arthur I. Meyer Jewish Academy	Mandel JCC
Autism Speaks	MorseLife
B'nai Aviv Early Childhood Education Center	National Museum of American Jewish History
B3/The Jewish Boomer Platform	NewCAJE
Big Tent Judaism	Palm Beach Synagogue
Chabad House of Palm Beach	Temple B'nai Jacob
da'at Educational Expeditions	Temple Beit HaYam
Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning	Temple Beth Am
Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization	Temple Beth David
Gratz College	Temple Beth El Israel
Hadassah-Brandeis Institute	Temple Beth Tikvah
Harold Grinspoon Foundation	Temple Beth Torah
Historical Society of Palm Beach County	Temple Emanu-El
Jack and Harriet Rosenfeld Foundation	Temple Israel
Program in Jewish Education at the University of Miami School of Education and Human Development	Temple Judea
Jewish Early Childhood Center (JECC)	Temple Shaarei Shalom
Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County (including: Israel & Global Initiatives, Jewish Teen Initiative, P2Gether and Synagogue Institute, Jewish Community Relations Council)	Temple Torat Emet

CHAPTER 10

Awards

Congratulations to our community members who are the recipients of these prestigious awards.



2016 Grinspoon Award for Excellence in Jewish Education

Lital Dayan is a teacher at the Barbara & Jack Kay Early Childhood Learning Center at the Mandel JCC of the Palm Beaches.

This award is sponsored by Commission for Jewish Education of the Palm Beaches and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation to recognize local teachers who make a lasting impact on the lives of Jewish children, and contribute to excellence in Jewish education.



2016 Hiddush Award for Innovations that Transform Learning

Ronit Meirom is a teacher at Temple Beit HaYam in Stuart.

This new award was created by the Friedman CJE and its professional development awards committee to recognize high-impact teachers who initiate positive changes in the learning environment, and who use innovative curriculum and teaching to transform the classroom and school.

CHAPTER 11

Annual Campaign Donors

Benefactor

\$50,000 and above

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Trustee of Jewish Education

\$18,000 - \$49,999

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\$1,800 - \$3,599

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The Jack and Harriet Rosenfeld Foundation Program in Jewish Education
at the University of Miami • Belle Winston • Marian and Irving Wiseman

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\$1,000 - \$1,799

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Linda and Dr. Scott Fayne • Gloria and Paul Fine • Linda and Ray Golden
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Temple Beth Torah • Temple Emanu-El • Temple Israel • Temple Judaea
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