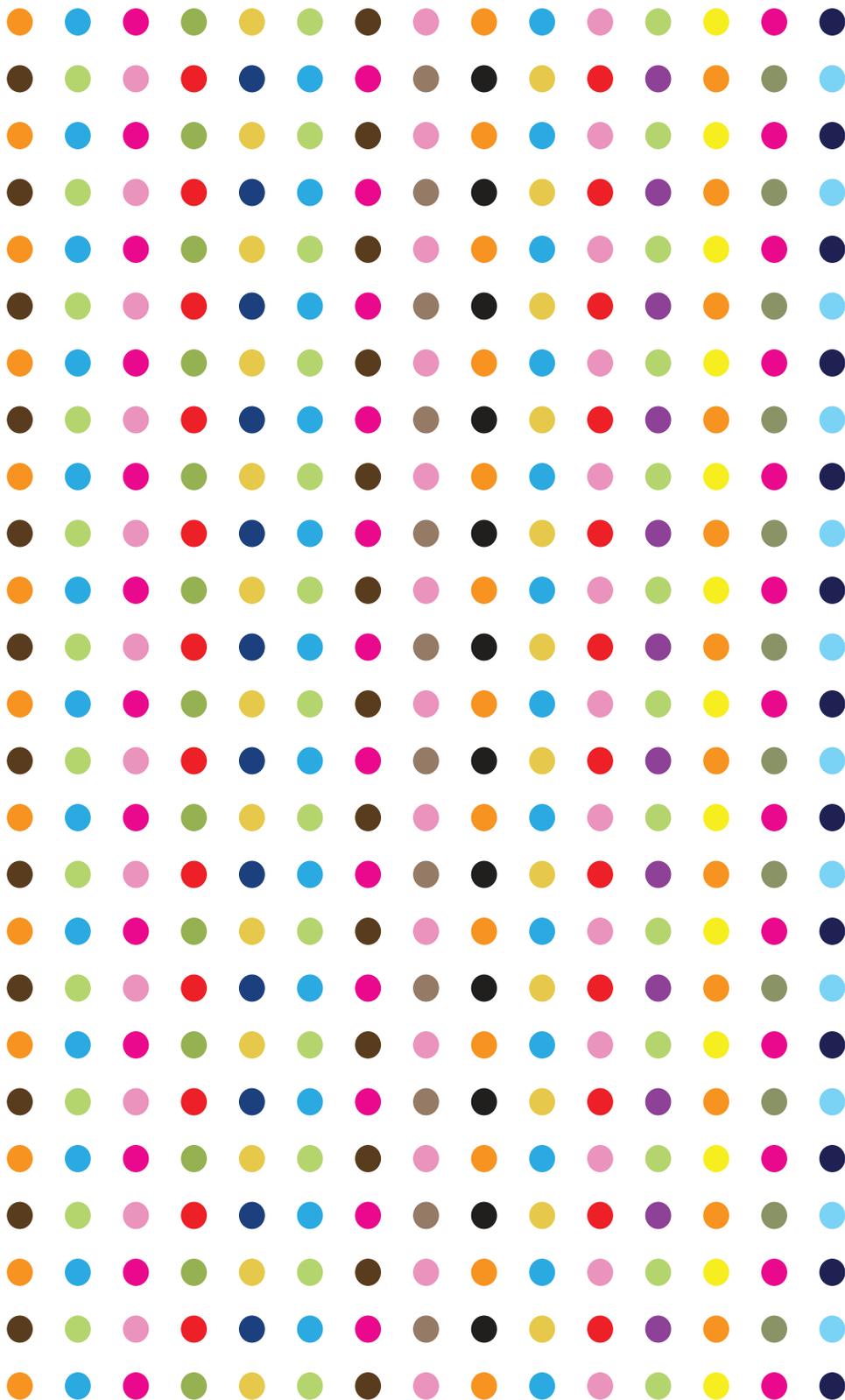


# SLINGSHOT

PRODUCED BY  
21/64





# SLINGSHOT

A RESOURCE GUIDE  
FOR JEWISH INNOVATION



# SLINGSHOT



AN EXPERIMENT AND ITS  
IMPACT THUS FAR

**We started *Slingshot* a year ago as an experiment** assembling an eclectic listing of the 50 most innovative Jewish organizations and projects—those with the right mix of big vision, effective leadership and creative strategy to make sense of the bewildering changes in generational identity and community in America today. The idea was a response to the demands of a network of young funders, the members of Grand Street, who had evaluated their values and interests and were ready to start funding but were unable to navigate the complex map of current Jewish life with traditional institutions competing with start-ups to provide meaning for young Jews today.

We were more than delighted with the response the book received. With a mixture of surprise and relief, we were swamped with requests for the guide from around the world and ran out of copies quickly after each reprint. Perhaps connected to this, we received twice the number of nominations for this year's guide, from across the United States. And in Jewish communal debate, the term “Slingshot” took root as a quasi-official term to connote those organizations that were seriously grappling with young Jews’ hunger to access self-confident Jewish identity, community and meaning.

Although the guide was created for funders of all ages and sizes, we were especially delighted with the response we received from younger

funders. It is hard to understate the optimism we draw from the fact that this year's book is being released in tandem with the founding of a Slingshot Fund—created by and for young Jews who want to support the bold visions of organizational innovators who will create a meaningful and effective Jewish community for the future. This new development, described in more detail in the back of the book, follows the words of Jonathan Sarna in the introduction of his definitive history, *American Judaism*:

*[Our history] is the story of how people shaped events: establishing and maintaining communities, responding to challenges, working for change. That perhaps is the greatest lesson that I can offer readers. The knowledge that they too can make a difference. That the future is theirs to create.*

As always, thanks to those individuals who have devoted their professional lives to creating the vibrant Jewish options that fill these pages. You are an inspiration to us all. We hope this project helps to cultivate the resources you need to grow from strength to strength.

Roger Bennett & Sharna Goldseker  
New York City, 2006  
info@2164.net  
www.2164.net

In the process of developing *Slingshot '06*, we read more than 200 nominations, 25 evaluation forms from our colleagues, 75 semi-finalist surveys, and reams of websites, strategic plans, brochures, publications and budgets to conduct additional due diligence and understand both the structure and the content of North American Jewish life in 2006.

Innovation is a quality that persists, so more than half of this book draws on organizations featured in *Slingshot '05* that are continuing to innovate. However, we also want to make room for organizations new to the *Slingshot* audience, as they bring in new energy, impact, efficacy and an ability to address emerging issues in the Jewish world.

In assembling the 50 organizations featured in this book, our research revealed a number of trends:

**Jewish identity is ever more diverse**, especially when compared to previous generations, and is perhaps a reflection that being Jewish is often just one of a number of personal identities young Jews consider to be important. For racial and ethnic diversity, check out Ayecha, BINA, El Centro de Estudios Judíos and Outside the Box. For diversity in sexual orientation see CBST, *Hineini* and Jewish Mosaic. For gender diversity, see Advancing Women Professionals, Drisha, Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance and Jewish Women's Archive.

**A hunger for inquiry** and even good old-fashioned debate is demonstrated in the multiple new media and mechanisms for Jewish

education, culture and history. Check out Limmud NY, New Voices and MODIYA.

**Innovation does not mean Jewish lite.** A number of the most innovative organizations featured in *Slingshot '06* draw heavily on Judaism and religious ritual: Mayyim Hayyim, Moving Traditions, Jewish Milestones and Storahelling, to name a few.

**Culture is no longer a luxury.** Jews are slowly catching on to what the Evangelical Christian community has known for a long time: books, music, magazines and documentary films are some of the most flexible tools we have to communicate values, reinforce identity and engage audiences in community. Some new and some steadfast groups are utilizing culture to play an active role in connecting with young Jews and to communicate Jewish values, including: Avoda Arts, BIMA, JDub Records and Reboot.

**Peace, love and understanding** should not be underestimated. Comfort with diversity is expressed in a tolerance for the other and a quest for peace, despite the turmoil currently raging in the Middle East. See three new organizations featured this year: Abraham's Vision, Just Vision and Seeking Common Ground.

**Doing good goes a long way.** Jews want to help repair the world, as evidenced by the number of social justice organizations nominated this year. Those highlighted in the book include: American Jewish World Service, AVODAH, Jewish Funds for Justice and Progressive Jewish Alliance.



## A RESOURCE FOR FUNDING

After publishing *Slingshot '05*, we heard from a range of people who started to use the book to inform their funding decisions. From program officers constructing foundation dockets to young married couples giving jointly, from Bar and Bat Mitzvah teens making their first contributions to guys on Wall Street looking for a menu of options in their limited time, *Slingshot* became a resource.

We have included the comments below from funders in the foundation realm as well as from individual donors to help readers see how *Slingshot '06* can be a resource for their own funding decisions.

*The Jewish community has long struggled over how to preserve Jewish identity among successive generations as involvement in synagogues and other Jewish institutions steadily declines.... What's more, the Jewish community erects multiple barriers to entering ancient walls. It'd be like milk producers advertising the glories of milk and then keeping a padlock on the refrigerated section of local grocery stores. Take, for example, that dues-paying insiders are referred to as "affiliated," whereas those on the outside are "unaffiliated"—meaning, you're either a member of the club or not.*

*The challenge for today's Jewish community is how to disseminate Jewish values to a new generation amidst contemporary cultural forces and radically different priorities. The 50 organizations listed each year in *Slingshot* represent some of the most dynamic and effective organizations offering different perspectives and strategies on the Jewish experience.*

– Dr. Debbie Findling  
Deputy Director  
Richard & Rhoda Goldman Fund

*As a young couple in New York, we see need in the community all around us, but we haven't known how best to meet that need. We have been extremely fortunate in our lives and very much want to share that fortune with others, but with so many worthy causes, narrowing down the list of potential recipients can be a difficult task. *Slingshot* helped us do that.... [It] was like a menu, telling us what each organization was all about, so that we knew how our donations were being utilized....Also, attending the *Slingshot* launch event in New York was icing on the cake; getting to know the people who ran the various organizations gave us the confidence we needed to feel that our donations were going to the right place.*

– Lewis and Ariel Silberman

*As a Board member of a family foundation and a co-founder of Grand Street, a network of next generation philanthropists with an eye for innovation, I have come to use *Slingshot* as radar for innovation in the Jewish community. It emboldens up-and-coming leaders to take risks and try new things to engage the next generation and evolve Jewish identity. As a member of the next generation, *Slingshot* makes me eager and engaged by this face of the Jewish community's energy today and the potential going forward.*

– Scott Belsky  
Director, Kaplan Family Foundation

Whether you are reading this guide at a philanthropic foundation or at your kitchen table, you have a role to play in changing the face of society in general and Jewish life in particular. The number of private foundations has doubled in the last ten years. And while foundations may give larger sums at once, more than 75% of charitable contributions are raised from individuals. Everyone can make a difference. Many of the organizations in this guide are undercapitalized. *Slingshot* has offered them a platform for Jewish innovation, and you can help them meet the demand to provide Jewish life that engages the next generation.



## METHODOLOGY

To produce *Slingshot '06*, we sought the wisdom of our colleagues in the funding community and consulted the non-profit practitioners featured within.

In the first phase of research, we asked hundreds of colleagues to name the organizations that “inspired them.” This yielded a list of more than 200 Jewish organizations of virtually every size and shape, representing a broad range of geographic locations, denominations and longevity. By seeing which among those 200 organizations were identified by the most people, we narrowed the list down to 125.

In the second phase, we asked 25 foundation professionals with expertise in funding Jewish life to evaluate those 125 against four criteria: innovation, impact, leadership and organizational effectiveness. Within the criteria, certain questions were inherent:

*Innovation:* How creative, inventive, pioneering or groundbreaking is the organization in responding to the changing needs of the Jewish community and the world around it?

*Impact:* Does the organization reach a critical mass of people? Is it affecting the attitudes and behaviors of its constituents and the Jewish community?

*Strong Leadership:* Is there someone at the helm of the organization who brings character, vision and guidance? Is this person paving a new path in the Jewish community? Is s/he seen as a strong leader by her/his organization? Is s/he a mentor to others?

*Organizational Effectiveness:* Is the organization sound? Is it strategic in the way it does business? Is it efficient and responsible about how it spends money?

With feedback from our peers, we invited 80 organizations to submit semi-finalist surveys. Each survey asked 11 questions and was filled out and returned to 21/64, whereby staff invited

additional due diligence materials. By vetting surveys, organizational documents, publications, budgets, films, music, and by consulting our peers once again, we arrived at the final 50. While we are grateful to our colleagues for their input in the development of this book, 21/64 takes full responsibility for its contents.

The summaries we have included about each organization or project reflect the origin, mission and strategy of each, as well as some details about their unique characters. We have included a few comments from reviewers, un-attributed, and have highlighted elements of the 50 that you might want to learn more about, as space does not allow for a fuller description.

While the list is organized alphabetically, we have also asked each organization to provide data on its project or organizational budget, years in operation, geographic reach and other factors that will help readers compare similar organizations. Some readers may prefer to fund organizations of the same size; others may prefer a range of sizes or a range of “risk.”

One of last year’s readers asked us to find out who else funds the 50 organizations included in the book, so we added that question to the semi-finalist surveys posted on our website. Another asked us to sort the organizations by categories. While it’s hard to categorize new forms of Jewish life, we asked each of the 50 how they would categorize themselves and added lists in the back to help you quickly find organizations or compare apples to apples within your program areas of choice.

We will leave you to develop your own funding strategy, but we hope this gets you started. For data, as well as more comprehensive descriptions of the organizations and projects listed in *Slingshot '06*, we encourage you to visit <http://www.2164.net/resources.html> or to contact the organizations directly.





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# ABRAHAM'S VISION



**Abraham's Vision**

**464 5th Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11215**

**contact: Aaron Hahn Tapper  
phone: 646.266.6908  
email: aaron@abrahamsvision.org  
website: www.abrahamsvision.org**

**1101 Peppertree Lane  
Berkeley, CA 94704**

**contact: Gibran Bouayad  
phone: 626.235.2729**

**board chair: Anas Shallal  
budget: \$450,000  
inception: 2003**

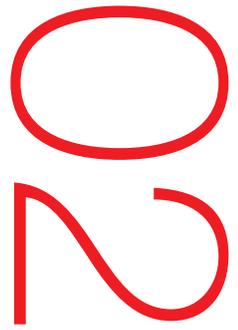
With one of the patriarchs as its namesake, Abraham's Vision strives to instill principles of hospitality and friendship with the "other" in the next generation of leaders. Starting with its own leadership structure, including a Jew and a Muslim-Arab as co-directors, Abraham's Vision is building a movement of Jews, Palestinians and Muslims across the U.S. with equal representation across gender and ethnic lines.

One of three projects promoting peace in *Slingshot '06*, Abraham's Vision works specifically with high school and university age students through coursework. Workshops in conflict analysis, inter-group relations, interfaith religious studies and communications skill building are all offered as an alternative path to the violence of the Middle East conflict. Additional coursework for adults and teacher training—such as "Istima'a/Shma," signifying the word "listen" in Arabic and Hebrew—builds on their systemic approach toward making peaceful coexistence a reality in our lifetimes.

Its new 2006 summer fellowship in the Balkans is only one example of how this team is balancing creativity and visionary impulses with lessons learned from others in the coexistence community.



**ADVANCING WOMEN PROFESSIONALS  
AND THE JEWISH COMMUNITY**



**Advancing Women Professionals and  
the Jewish Community**

**1114 Avenue of the Americas  
Suite 3400  
New York, NY 10036**

**contact: Shifra Bronznick  
phone: 212.869.9700 x 217  
email: [bronznick@advancingwomen.org](mailto:bronznick@advancingwomen.org)  
website: [www.advancingwomen.org](http://www.advancingwomen.org)**

**founding board chair: Shifra Bronznick  
budget: \$565,000  
inception: 2001**

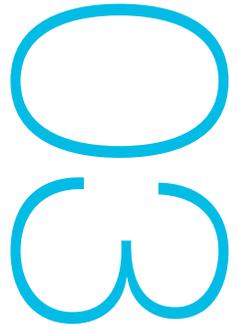
Advancing Women Professionals and the Jewish Community (AWP) was founded in 2001 to confront gender inequality in the top ranks of Jewish organizations. While women constitute approximately 70% of the total professional federation work force, no women lead any of the 20 largest federations. Among the major Jewish organizations in the educational, religious, policy and social service arenas, only a handful of women serve as Chief Executive Officers.

Given this enduring gender gap in salary and top leadership positions, AWP persists in its efforts to create measurable change at the national and local levels. This year alone, AWP worked with United Jewish Communities to ensure a 50% representation of women in its Mandel Center Executive Development Program for aspiring federation CEOs.

AWP has become a reliable and central resource for the Jewish community. Always at the forefront of knowledge creation on the issue of what women can bring to the field, AWP convened *24/7: Is It Time to Change the Way We Work?*, a discussion about work-life balance in the Jewish community. Keep an eye out later this year for *Leveling the Playing Field: A Guidebook for Change*, which will inspire professionals and volunteers across the country with strategies for converting their “homegrown” ideas into campaigns that advance the role of women in their communal organizations.



**AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE'S FELLOWSHIP  
IN INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC AFFAIRS**



**American Jewish Committee's Fellowship  
in International and Domestic Affairs**

**165 E. 56th Street  
New York, NY 10022**

**contact: Rebecca Neuwirth  
phone: 212.751.4000 x 227  
email: fellowship@ajc.org**

**board chair: E. Robert Goodkind  
program budget: \$118,000  
program inception: 1999**

**org. budget: \$38,007,000  
org. inception: 1906**

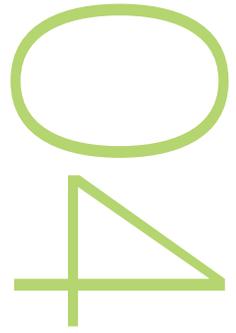
In an increasingly global and interconnected world, American Jewish Committee's (AJC) Fellowship in International and Domestic Affairs is one of the least well known jewels of the Jewish community. Founded in partnership with the Joyce and Irving Goldman Family Foundation, the Fellowship offers 15 undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to work in one of AJC's 33 national and 18 overseas field offices.

For young Jews pursuing a career in public service, who are interested in international relations, domestic policy or interfaith relations, this nine week opportunity exposes next-generation programmers and policy wonks to real-time challenges in the Jewish communities of Berlin, Brussels, Jerusalem, New York, Warsaw, Washington, D.C. and others. As all communal organizations are looking to meaningfully engage young Jews, this is an instance in which one of the largest conglomerates in the Jewish world has created a demand for its program.

Thanks to its leadership's willingness to innovate—as evidenced by the Fellowship and other next-generation initiatives launched this year—AJC ranks among the top 50 of 2006.



**AMERICAN JEWISH WORLD SERVICE**



**American Jewish World Service**

**45 W. 36th Street  
10th Floor  
New York, NY 10018**

**contact: Riva Silverman  
phone: 212.356.2968  
email: [rsilverman@ajws.org](mailto:rsilverman@ajws.org)  
website: [www.ajws.org](http://www.ajws.org)**

**board chair: Marty Friedman  
budget: \$21,264,927  
inception: 1985**

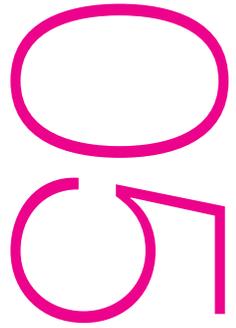
American Jewish World Service (AJWS) remains the standard bearer for the Jewish conscience when turmoil arises around the globe. Through its responsiveness to natural disasters, the persistent AIDS epidemic and human rights infractions, AJWS has become the voice of the American Jewish community in the developing world.

With 250 projects in more than 40 countries, AJWS has grown exponentially under Ruth Messinger's leadership. Yet with this increased outreach, AJWS has not backed off of its principled agenda, as witnessed this year around its Darfur mobilizations. Its leadership and creativity in organizing the Jewish community to participate in the first anti-genocide rally in Washington, D.C. exemplifies the organization's steadfastness combined with innovation.

Through grantmaking, volunteer service abroad, advocacy and education programs, there are many ways to participate in AJWS' work.



# AN ETHICAL START



**An Ethical Start**

**15 E. 26th Street  
New York, NY 10010**

**contact: Miraim Healy  
phone: 212.786.5106  
email: mhealy@jcca.org  
website: www.jcca.org**

**board chair: Lisa Brill  
program budget: \$800,000  
program inception: 1999**

**org. budget: \$10,000,000  
org. inception: 1917**

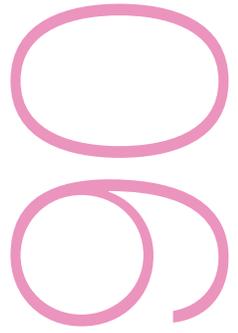
Reggio Emilia, Italy is not only known for its parmesan cheese but also for a break-through approach to early childhood education developed there. In this case, the Jewish Community Center Association decided to learn from the best, and brought back a new method of teaching from Italy. Rather than teaching memorization of Jewish holidays and rituals, founder Ruth Pinkenson Feldman identified a need to shift the emphasis of its curriculum to values and ethics.

Built on the text *Pirkei Avot*, An Ethical Start blends the values of Jewish texts with the diversity of the current Jewish population. Parents, teachers and children learn the same text at their respective appropriate levels with books, CDs and a doll called *Peer K*, developed especially for the preschool population. Now parents have not only the right words but also a shared vocabulary to teach Jewish values to their children.

To those of us familiar with progressive education, this integrated learning style may sound familiar; however, An Ethical Start has transformed early childhood Jewish learning and the culture of JCC preschools. With a start-up grant from the Righteous Persons Foundation, An Ethical Start is now planning to train consultants to replicate the program in interested communities across North America.



**AVODA ARTS**



**Avoda Arts**

**330 7th Avenue  
21st Floor  
New York, NY 10001**

**contact: Debbie Kirvoy  
phone: 917.558.9017**

**email: [info@AvodaArts.org](mailto:info@AvodaArts.org)  
website: [www.AvodaArts.org](http://www.AvodaArts.org)**

**board chair: Carol Brennglass Spinner  
budget: \$374,000  
inception: 1999**

A great example of a new organization creating a fresh dimension to the Jewish experience, Avoda Arts provides a new entry into Judaism for students of all ages. "Because text is not the only way that students learn," Avoda Arts incorporates music, art, photography, film, theater and academic inquiry to illuminate Jewish ritual, history and tradition.

The brainchild of entrepreneur Carol Brennglass Spinner and artist Tobi Kahn, a dedicated team of partners has steadily grown Avoda Arts into an innovative educational provider. Its curricular offerings include initiatives for middle and high school students, a semester-long *Artist Beit Midrash* for university students, and the *Student Film Festival*, showcasing filmmakers from around the world. Informed by research on how people learn, these new models have reached more than 60,000 participants since 1999.

At this stage, Avoda Arts is also becoming a communal partner, providing programming for post-birthright israel, Hillel, B'nai B'rith Youth Organization, and others. Whether you are a student of one of its courses, receive teacher training, book their practitioners for special events or become a partner, experiences with Avoda Arts are "memorable" and of high quality.



## AVODAH: THE JEWISH SERVICE CORPS



**AVODAH: The Jewish Service Corps**

**116 East 27th Street  
10th floor  
New York, NY 10016**

**contact: Ilanit Gerblich Kalir  
phone: 212.545.7759  
email: [ilanit@avodah.net](mailto:ilanit@avodah.net)  
website: [www.avodah.net](http://www.avodah.net)**

**board chair: Elsie Stern  
budget: \$1,222,000  
inception: 1998**

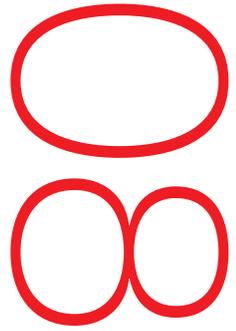
Did you ever dream of volunteering for a year? AVODAH: The Jewish Service Corps affords fifteen 21 to 26 year-olds the opportunity to live with their peers and serve for a year in low-income communities in New York or Washington, D.C. While at work on issues of poverty, the AVODAH house offers participants a Jewish home and educational experience to frame their year of service.

AVODAH consistently receives three or four times the number of applicants to spaces available, so it is launching a new residentially-based program this year in Chicago. By starting with the next generation of volunteers, AVODAH aims to cultivate the expectation that every American Jew will conduct a year of service, and by doing so, increase the involvement of the Jewish community in public service relating to solving issues of poverty.

In its eighth year, AVODAH has mobilized its alumni network of 180 Avodahniks, affected the lives of 100,000 people in New York and D.C., and saved the group of non-profits with which they have worked an estimated total of \$2 million in free staff support.



**AYECHA JEWISH DIVERSITY RESOURCES**



**Ayecha Jewish Diversity Resources**

**111 8th Avenue  
11th Floor  
New York, NY 10011**

**606 North and South Road  
Suite 211  
St. Louis, MO 63130**

**contact: Yavilah McCoy  
phone: 800.929.3242  
email: [info@ayecha.org](mailto:info@ayecha.org)  
website: [www.ayecha.org](http://www.ayecha.org)**

**board chair: Andria Simckes  
budget: \$300,000  
inception: 2000**

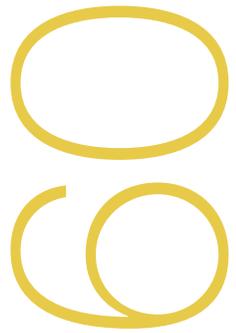
Ayecha Jewish Diversity Resources is at the forefront of educating, training, promoting and celebrating the diversity of the American Jewish community. It aims to bring Jews together to experience the warmth and beauty of a racially and culturally enriched Jewish community and accomplishes this through training, curricula and programming. Additionally, it is building support across communities of Jews of color and multi-racial families through networking, advocacy and leadership development programs.

On the ground, Ayecha facilitates a Rabbinical Advisory Council to educate and foster a culture of inclusion in synagogues and communal outreach environments. It also offers marketing tools and strategies to organizations that want to recruit diverse audiences. Furthermore, Ayecha provides special events and workshops such as *Welcoming the Stranger* and *Building a Just Community through Inclusion, Equality and Tikkun Olam*.

With more than 400,000 Jews of color in the United States, G-d's question to Adam in the Garden of Eden applies to all of us: "Ayecha: Where do you stand?" With the help of Ayecha Jewish Diversity Resources we can all answer, "We stand together."



**BERKSHIRE INSTITUTE FOR  
MUSIC AND ARTS**



**Berkshire Institute for Music and Arts**

**333 Forest Street  
Waltham, MA 02452**

**contact: Lauren Tishler Mindlin  
phone: 781.642.6800 x 313  
email: lmindlin@bimasummerarts.org  
website: www.bimasummerarts.org**

**board chair: Linda Greenseid  
budget: \$425,000  
inception: 2003**

Prior to the creation of the Berkshire Institute for Music and Arts (BIMA), Jewish youth who were serious students of the arts had to choose between secular summer arts programs or Jewish camps. Now, 100 teens from 18 states in the U.S. and 15 teens from Haifa have found a haven at BIMA, held on the Williams College campus each summer.

Artistically, BIMA emphasizes individual skill development in the areas of vocal, jazz and chamber music; creative writing; and painting through daily art classes, studios, rehearsals and master classes taught by artists performing at nearby Tanglewood, Jacob's Pillow and other professional venues in the Berkshires. Simultaneously, BIMA offers Jewish learning and the combination of the two. At *DeBeit Midrash*, students debate a case from Jewish and artistic perspectives, and *Insight and Imagination* invites participants to explore a Jewish issue through an artistic medium.

Founded in 2003, BIMA recently brought on its first Executive Director last year, so it is in the early stages of infrastructure development. With guidance from the Foundation for Jewish Camping and in partnership with the Samuel Bronfman Youth Fellowship and The New Jewish High School of Greater Boston, we anticipate seeing this gem shine even more brightly in future years.



**BETH ISRAEL OF NORTH AMERICA**



**Beth Israel of North America**

**111 8th Avenue  
11th Floor  
New York, NY 10011**

**contact: Beejhy Barhany  
phone: 212.284.6942  
email: [info@binacf.org](mailto:info@binacf.org)  
website: [www.binacf.org](http://www.binacf.org)**

**board chair: Ephraim Isaac  
budget: \$10,000  
inception: 2001**

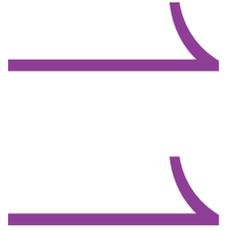
BINA, meaning “knowledge and understanding” in Hebrew, also stands for Beth Israel of North America, an organization created by Ethiopian Jews for Ethiopian Jews. While more than 90,000 of the Beth Israel fled to Israel in 1991 via an Israeli military campaign called Operation Solomon, many have also settled in Florida, Los Angeles, New York and Washington, D.C.

Multifaceted in its goals, BINA strives to meet the needs of the Ethiopian community in New York, ensure the preservation of their culture and history, and promote cooperation between Jews of color and the larger Jewish community. Housed at Bikkurim, a non-profit incubator in New York, BINA is receiving organizational development support to build capacity and further achieve its goals.

Though still small in scale, BINA reflects the growing presence of Ethiopian Jews in the United States and the leadership within the Beth Israel community that exemplifies their determination to persevere. While previous efforts rescued the Ethiopian Jews, the opportunity now exists to count them among the North American Jewish community. Through BINA, we can not only assist the Beth Israel but also benefit from learning about their unique artistic and spiritual culture and history.



**BIRTHRIGHT ISRAEL**



**birthright israel**

**521 5th Avenue  
27th Floor  
New York, NY 10175**

**contact: Larry Cohen  
phone: 212.457.0036**

**email: [foundation@birthrightisrael.com](mailto:foundation@birthrightisrael.com)  
website: [www.birthrightisrael.com](http://www.birthrightisrael.com)**

**board chair: Susie Gelman  
budget: \$40,000,000  
inception: 2000**

No other Jewish education program has captured as significant a percentage of the next generation as birthright israel. Six years after founders Charles R. Bronfman and Michael H. Steinhardt took the initial risk to send 18 to 26 year-olds to Israel for free, birthright is celebrating its 100,000th participant. Truly a labor of love, the project has evolved into a coordinated effort where support is matched two-to-one by Jewish foundations and federations, and the government of Israel.

While it costs families money to join synagogues, JCCs, and to partake in other forms of Jewish life, birthright offers young Jews a once-in-a-lifetime gift: an opportunity to experience their birthright to travel for the first time to Israel. Tremendously catalyzed by their ten-day experience, participants return home with a revitalized sense of Jewish identity, a first-hand encounter with their Israeli counterparts and a willingness to participate in post-birthright programming and other aspects of their local Jewish lives.

While this is certainly the largest organizational budget in the book, there are still thousands of people applying for the experience who are left on the waiting list. To find out how to become involved, visit [www.birthrightisrael.com](http://www.birthrightisrael.com).



**CONGREGATION BETH SIMCHAT TORAH**



**Congregation Beth Simchat Torah**

**57 Bethune Street  
New York, NY 10114**

**contact: Ilene Sameth  
phone: 212.929.9498  
email: [isameth@cbst.org](mailto:isameth@cbst.org)  
website: [www.cbst.org](http://www.cbst.org)**

**board chair: Eric Rosenbaum  
budget: \$1,400,000  
inception: 1973**

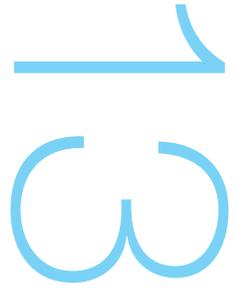
Congregation Beth Simchat Torah (CBST) is the leading synagogue for the 200,000 gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Jews in New York City and is home to 800 regular members, rising to 3,000 on High Holidays. Founded in 1973 during the modern gay rights movement, CBST has become the largest gay synagogue in the world and a leading voice on civil rights for all GLBT people. "Too often GLBT people of faith are forced to choose between their spiritual tradition and being true to themselves. CBST provides a spiritual home where people can integrate and celebrate their faith, sexuality and gender identity."

This year, CBST's well-known Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum is also serving as North American Chair of WorldPride 2006, a 10-day global arts and community event in Jerusalem, and CBST is organizing an interfaith conference for that event. A recently adopted strategic plan—focusing on services, building community within its walls, leadership development and the acquisition of a physical space—helps the congregation ensure its depth in addition to its breadth.

As the multifaceted Jewish identity proliferates, CBST sets an example for the entire Jewish community when it says "*ma'asu habonim haitah l'rosh pinah*," the stone that the builders rejected has indeed become the cornerstone.



**COUNCIL OF JEWISH ÉMIGRÉ  
COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS**



**Council of Jewish Émigré Community  
Organizations**

**100 Church Street  
Suite 1608  
New York, NY 10007**

**contact: Roman Shmulenson  
phone: 212.566.2120  
email: [info@cojeco.org](mailto:info@cojeco.org)  
website: [www.cojeco.org](http://www.cojeco.org)**

**board chair: Feliks Frenkel  
budget: \$560,000  
inception: 2000**

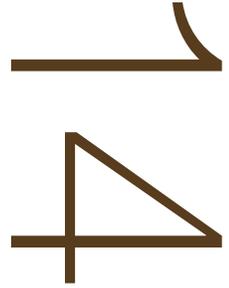
The Council of Jewish Émigré Community Organizations (COJECO) cheekily describes itself as “a vehicle for reuniting Rabonowitz and Cohen from New York with Rabinovich and Cogan from Moscow and Kiev after hundreds of years of separation. Our roots trace back to the same shetl, only your grandfather decided to leave, and my grandfather decided to stay.” Founded in 2000, COJECO is an umbrella organization for numerous Russian-speaking grassroots organizations that have emerged to meet the social, cultural, economic, professional and educational needs of Former Soviet Union émigré populations in New York.

Under one banner, COJECO can represent and advocate for the needs of the Russian-speaking community as well as introduce that diverse group to American life and the larger Jewish community. While frequently unfamiliar with Jewish life in their home countries, COJECO is helping young Russian-speaking Jews, in particular, become aware of their identities and heritage as well as become involved in the institutions of New York’s Jewish community. In this way, COJECO is serving as a bridge between the mainstream and émigré Jewish communities.

To learn more about COJECO in New York or to learn how to set up a similar coalition in your city, email [info@cojeco.org](mailto:info@cojeco.org).



**THE CURRICULUM INITIATIVE**



**The Curriculum Initiative**

**305 Madison Avenue  
Suite 514  
New York, NY 10165**

**contact: Jennifer Goldstone  
phone: 646.230.1630 x 202  
email: [info@thecurriculum.org](mailto:info@thecurriculum.org)  
website: [www.thecurriculum.org](http://www.thecurriculum.org)**

**board chair: Dana Raucher  
budget: \$922,000  
inception: 1996**

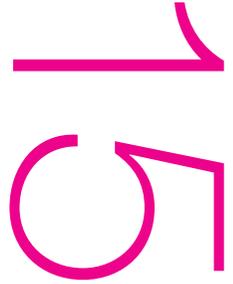
Among other factors, intense academic pressures, a plethora of extra-curricular activities and diverse social circles limit Jewish high school students' participation in Jewish youth groups. The Curriculum Initiative (TCI) was founded in 1996 to offer programming for youth in independent schools from "strongly connected to unconnected and unaware" Jewish backgrounds during these formative high school years.

Based on experience, TCI has also adjusted its programming to conduct "parallel strategies" after finding that Jewish youth want to experience Jewish life with their Jewish *and* non-Jewish peers. TCI operates in New York, New England and the San Francisco Bay Area, reaching 2,200 students in more than 50 schools, and takes a dual approach to serving Jewish students and educating the general student body about Jewish life.

TCI is also learning to be responsive to student's interests, especially in working with unengaged students. "Key to our work is embracing students at whatever form their Jewish identity takes." This year, that identity has taken form as a community service project in New Orleans. We will continue to look to TCI for other student-driven Jewish activities as they emerge.



**DRISHA INSTITUTE OF JEWISH EDUCATION**



**Drisha Institute for Jewish Education**

**37 W. 65th Street  
5th Floor  
New York, NY 10023**

**contact: Judith Tenzer  
phone: 212.595.0307  
email: [inquiry@drisha.org](mailto:inquiry@drisha.org)  
website: [www.drisha.org](http://www.drisha.org)**

**board chair: Belda Lindenbaum  
budget: \$2,300,000  
inception: 1979**

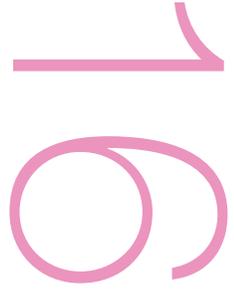
Drisha was founded in 1979 as the world's first center for women's advanced study of classical Jewish texts. Comments made this year by founder Rabbi David Silber demonstrate Drisha's commitment not just to innovation in Jewish education but also to innovation in the Jewish community as a whole: "The role of an institution is to figure out what a community needs, and pave the way.... It's not enough to give women equal access to the texts. We want them to have leadership opportunities equal to men, and jobs where they can fully maximize their God-given talents."

Drish has a full- and part-time education curricula, and has added summer high school along with Bat Mitzvah programs and classes for families at different life stages. It is experimenting with webcasts and other interactive classes on the Internet. A quick read through the frequently asked questions section of its website also confirms that classes are taught on multiple levels, for those who know Hebrew or not, for people from wide-ranging religious and lifestyle backgrounds, and its classes are even open to men!

True to founder Silber's words, Drisha is an institution continuously asking what the Jewish community needs and willingly taking risks to meet those needs with the highest of integrity and quality.



# EL CENTRO DE ESTUDIOS JUDÍOS



**El Centro de Estudios Judíos**

**311 Central Park Avenue  
Yonkers, NY 10704**

**contact: Rabbi Rogoberto  
Emmanuel Vinas**

**phone: 914.965.7119**

**email: [rabbi@lpjc.org](mailto:rabbi@lpjc.org)**

**website: [www.centrojudio.org](http://www.centrojudio.org)**

**board chair: Carmen Esther Rodriguez**

**budget: \$55,000**

**inception: 2000**

While 70% of American Jews can trace their backgrounds to Ashkenazi descent, there are an increasing number of Sephardic and Crypto Jews in the United States as well. Immigration to the U.S. of Jews from Colombia, Venezuela and Argentina alone has tripled in the last ten years. And an increasing number of Crypto-Jews or “Marranos,” who were forced to convert from Judaism to Catholicism during the Spanish and Portuguese Inquisitions, are returning to learn about their heritage. In response to these growing populations and a desire among Latino Jews for a place to congregate, socialize and pray that reflects their cultural and linguistic backgrounds, El Centro de Estudios Judíos was formed.

This New York community of Latino Jews found Rabbi Rogoberto Emmanuel Vinas, a Miami-born Jew of Cuban descent, while he was restoring “the Honduran Torah” after Hurricane Mitch hit Honduras. With initial support from Rabbi Avi Weiss of the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, a Joshua Venture fellowship, and a grant from UJA-Federation of New York, El Centro gained traction. Now, a flourishing multi-racial, multi-ethnic, multi-lingual community extends out of Lincoln Park Jewish Center. Its quarterly, national, Spanish language Jewish newspaper, *Torah Tropical*, reaches 15,000 readers throughout the U.S. and Mexico, and El Centro cannot keep up with the increased demand for its services.

To participate in this hub of activity or to learn more about this dynamic “unorthodox Orthodox” leader in the diversity movement, do not hesitate to be in touch with humble yet charismatic Rabbi Manny Vinas.



**FOOTSTEPS**



**Footsteps**

**111 8th Avenue  
11th Floor  
New York, NY 10011**

**contact: Malkie Schwartz  
phone: 212.284.6775  
email: [mschwartz@footsteps.org](mailto:mschwartz@footsteps.org)  
website: [www.footsteps.org](http://www.footsteps.org)**

**board chair: Peter Cherneff  
budget: \$110,000  
inception: 2003**

In 2000, Malkie Schwartz transitioned from the ultra-orthodox and religious upbringing that her parents had chosen, to the “outside” world with the help of one of her grandmothers. After realizing the emotional and psychological journey this required, plus the education and skills she would need to participate in mainstream society, Malkie founded Footsteps to help other young adults like her make similar choices.

Footsteps’ mission is “to provide education and vocational, social and emotional support services to those seeking to enter or explore the world beyond the insular ultra-orthodox communities in which they were raised.” Two full-time program coordinators help their clients who, “like immigrants,” need job counseling, GED or college accreditation, language skills, housing, and exposure to mainstream cultural references and marketable skills. Additionally, a team consisting of a part-time psychiatrist, psychologist and social worker runs support groups, offers counseling, and addresses the stress, drug and alcohol abuse and other emotional manifestations of the trauma these young adults have undergone while leaving their home communities.

While relatively new as a non-profit, in its first two years, Footsteps has already begun to help 300 people, demonstrating a strong need for this important and bold organization.



**FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CAMPING**



**Foundation for Jewish Camping**

**6 E. 39th Street  
10th Floor  
New York, NY 10016**

**contact: Rina Goldberg  
phone: 212.792.6222  
email: [questions@jewishcamping.org](mailto:questions@jewishcamping.org)  
website: [www.jewishcamping.com](http://www.jewishcamping.com)**

**board chairs: Rob Bildner,  
Elisa Spungen Bildner**

**budget: \$4,700,000  
inception: 1998**

Many research studies show that Jewish children who attend summer camp have increased Jewish identity, leadership, practice, affiliation and generosity. To that end, the Foundation for Jewish Camping (FJC) has championed the Jewish overnight camp movement, reaching more than 130 Jewish summer camps, 61,000 campers and 12,000 counselors in North America. Now its goal is to double the number of young campers attending Jewish overnight summer camps.

Thanks to entrepreneurs and founders Rob Bildner and Elisa Spungen Bildner, the Foundation for Jewish Camping is not just interested in achieving scale but is also focused on quality. This year, FJC is launching its Executive Leadership Institute, a management program for camp directors, integrating best practices in camping from the public and private sectors with Jewish values, ethics and education.

If you too agree that “no experience is more powerful, thrilling or transformative than Jewish overnight summer camp,” visit [www.jewishcamping.org](http://www.jewishcamping.org).



**GOLDRING/WOLDENBERG  
INSTITUTE OF SOUTHERN JEWISH LIFE**



**Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of  
Southern Jewish Life**

**P.O. Box 16528  
Jackson, MS 39236**

**contact: Nonnie Campbell  
phone: 601.362.6357  
email: [information@isjl.org](mailto:information@isjl.org)  
website: [www.isjl.org](http://www.isjl.org)**

**board chair: Jay Tanenbaum  
budget: \$1,500,000  
inception: 1999**

Jews have lived in the South since the late 17th century, and for a time, South Carolina had more Jews than New York City. However, as generations of Jews retired and moved to metropolitan areas, Southern Jewish populations and congregations began to dwindle. In 1999, the Institute of Southern Jewish Life (ISJL) was founded to preserve and document the culture and legacy of Judaism in the South. It also began to preserve synagogues, cemeteries and Judaica, as well as the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience, which it now operates.

As it has evolved, the Goldring/Woldenberg ISJL has grown to provide a variety of services to the next generation of Jews still living in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia. A circuit-riding rabbi travels the region to serve the isolated congregations that exist in those states. ISJL is also piloting a regional education program where a weekly lesson plan is sent to 28 congregations in four states. Additionally, “big city” cultural programs, like the Jewish Cinema South film festival, are also organized by ISJL.

To further explore the history and vibrancy of Southern Judaism, visit [www.isjl.org](http://www.isjl.org).



**HAZON**



**Hazon**

**829 3rd Avenue  
3rd Floor  
New York, NY 10022**

**contact: Nigel Savage  
phone: 212.644.2332  
email: [info@hazon.org](mailto:info@hazon.org)  
website: [www.hazon.org](http://www.hazon.org)**

**board chair: Richard Dale  
budget: \$800,000  
inception: 2000**

The advertising slogan “Jews on bikes” succinctly describes members of Hazon, the much-loved organization best known for its Jewish Environmental Bike Rides. More than 250 people trained for and participated in its 2006 New York Ride; 120 cycled for eight days on the Israel Ride conducted in partnership with Arava Institute; and this year, its Manhattan to Coney Island Bike to the Beach attracted more than 200 participants. Not only physically but spiritually intense, Hazon’s bike rides have even inspired an adult Bat Mitzvah, a conversion to Judaism and many multi-generational Jewish experiences as families ride together.

In recent years, Hazon, meaning “vision” in Hebrew, also launched the first-ever Jewish Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) project in the United States, where congregants from partnering synagogues help maintain their own organic and communal gardens. Jewish CSAs are now cropping up from New Jersey to Texas as Hazon works to grow deeply-rooted Jewish communities across the country.

Whether it’s through bike rides or CSAs, Hazon works tirelessly to inspire new ideas for Jewish communal experiences.



**HEEB**



**Heeb**

**P.O. Box 687  
New York, NY 10012**

**contact: Joshua Neuman  
phone: 212.352.3007 x 145  
email: [josh@heebmagazine.com](mailto:josh@heebmagazine.com)  
website: [www.heebmagazine.com](http://www.heebmagazine.com)**

**fiscal sponsor: Project of the National  
Foundation for Jewish Culture  
budget: \$328,700  
inception: 2001**

What started as an irreverent magazine has blossomed into a national community of 20-something Jews rallying around a cultural icon and brand that many love for its irony and humor. Since its founding, the largely volunteer *Heeb* team of writers and artists has published ten issues of four-color, 80-page magazines that have reached approximately 150,000 readers.

Beyond the print publication, the *Heeb* team has also organized storytellings, book readings and other cultural events in Atlanta, Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami, New York and San Francisco, which thousands of hipsters have attended. In partnership with Miramax, *Heeb* screened *Keeping Up with the Steins* this year, demonstrating its success at being a “catalyst of discussion” among its next generation audience.

While not for everyone, those who care about engaging young Jews should give *Heeb* another look, because when asked, “How long do you save your copy of *Heeb*?” readers answered, “Forever.”



**HINEINI**



**Hineini**

**284 Amory Street  
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130**

**contact: Idit Klein  
phone: 617.524.9227  
email: [idit@boston-keshet.org](mailto:idit@boston-keshet.org)  
website: [www.boston-keshet.org](http://www.boston-keshet.org)**

**board chairs: Karen Doryoseph,  
David Levy  
budget: \$312,000  
inception: 1996**

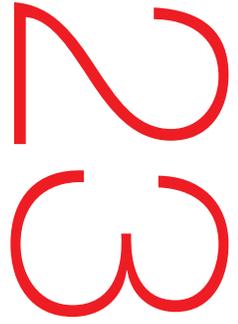
Sandi Dubowski's documentary, *Trembling Before G-d*, taught us how an effective film can educate individuals and transform a community around a particular issue. This year, *Hineini* is poised to repeat that and advance the conversation that Sandi began five years ago. The film focuses on the story of Shulamit Izen, a courageous teen-age student who established a Gay-Straight Alliance at the New Jewish High School (now Gann Academy). In doing so, she transformed herself, her family and everyone involved.

Similar to issues highlighted elsewhere in *Slingshot '06*, Jews are struggling to create more welcoming spaces for gay Jews in Jewish life. While the film focuses on one school in particular, it also highlights Keshet, the organization that supported Shulamit in her journey. Keshet, based in Boston, assembled a curriculum and discussion guide to accompany the film and provides it to Jewish day schools, Hebrew schools and youth groups interested in using the educational package as a catalyst for discussion and training.

To learn how to bring *Hineini* to your school or to learn about other workshops and resources that Keshet provides, visit [www.boston-keshet.org](http://www.boston-keshet.org).



**IKAR**



**IKAR**

**5870 W. Olympic Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90036**

**contact: Stephanie Avedon  
phone: 323.634.1870  
email: [director@ikar-la.org](mailto:director@ikar-la.org)  
website: [www.ikar-la.org](http://www.ikar-la.org)**

**board chair: Melissa Balaban  
budget: \$510,000  
inception: 2004**

Founded by powerhouse Rabbi Sharon Brous and a group of 20 and 30-something peers, IKAR “emerged in response to a deep sense of alienation that many disaffected Jews feel from established Jewish institutions. The very idea of a ‘synagogue’ was neither enticing nor fulfilling for many young Jews.” In turn, IKAR became a “spiritual community” that, like its name, strives to get to the “root, essence and the core” of Judaism.

IKAR is at the forefront of new models of spiritual communities, experimenting with rituals, study and social justice. “The Grey Area,” for example, is a monthly gathering where participants explore, debate and discuss meaningful Jewish and contemporary issues to complement the text study and Shabbat services that happen weekly.

While IKAR has all of the traditional elements of prayer, study and *tikkun olam*, Rabbi Brous’ “commitment to social justice is infectious” and the spiritual experience “feels like Tzfat.” To get a taste of IKAR, check out the testimonials online that describe a spirit of Judaism and a Jewish community that the writers have never found elsewhere.



**INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH SPIRITUALITY**



**Institute for Jewish Spirituality**

**330 7th Avenue  
Suite 1401  
New York, NY 10001**

**contact: Rabbi Rachel Cowan  
phone: 212.774.3608  
email: [rachel@ijs-online.org](mailto:rachel@ijs-online.org)  
website: [www.ijs-online.org](http://www.ijs-online.org)**

**board chair: Larry Schwartz  
budget: \$970,000  
inception: 1999**

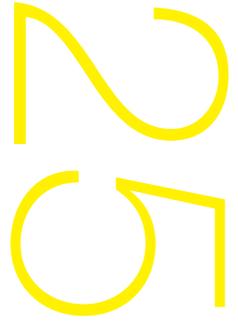
Founded around a Rabbinic Leadership Program, the Institute for Jewish Spirituality (IJS) has worked with 70 prominent rabbis from across denominations and the United States. Over the course of a year and a half, IJS has helped participating clergy renew themselves spiritually. This work has reached tens of thousands of congregants where rabbinic and lay leadership has been transformed.

These “Jewish pioneers in the field of clergy renewal” are now bringing an expertise in spiritual nourishment to educators, lay leaders, activists and Jews of all generations. Through meditation and yoga as well as text study and prayer, IJS is centering and rejuvenating the lives of busy Americans who too often forget to make time for contemplation or who have lost the meaning behind their Jewish observance.

While those brave at heart are encouraged to check out IJS’s kayaking and meditation program in Alaska, others will find a range of less adventurous offerings that start at home.



**INTERFAITHFAMILY.COM**



**InterfaithFamily.com**

**90 Oak Street  
P.O. Box 9129  
Newton, MA 02464**

**contact: Heather Martin  
phone: 617.581.6843  
email: [network@interfaithfamily.com](mailto:network@interfaithfamily.com)  
website: [www.interfaithfamily.com](http://www.interfaithfamily.com)**

**board chair: Ginny Wise  
budget: \$550,000  
inception: 2001**

InterfaithFamily.com believes that “more interfaith families would make Jewish choices if they could comfortably learn about Jewish life without embarrassment or feeling judged.” Therefore, since its founding five years ago, its staff and grassroots membership have worked to build a networked community with resources and tools for members, as well as to encourage the Jewish community of professionals and institutions to welcome them.

InterfaithFamily.com has 7,500 subscribers to its biweekly e-newsletter and thousands more who read its web magazine. Content includes topics that educate and support its readers, such as adoptions from Asia, and how children from interfaith families have experienced Jewish life in day schools and on birthright israel trips. New features this year include resources entitled *Wedding Ceremony Ideas for Intermarried Couples* and *Connections In Your Area*, which helps people connect with local Jewish institutions, two experiences that often present challenges for intermarried couples.

Hillel is developing guidelines for campus outreach directors who are approaching the 45% of college students who identify as Jewish and come from intermarried families. If interested, Jewish organizations like Hillel can now hire InterfaithFamily.com to be “resource specialists” too.



**ISABELLA FREEDMAN  
JEWISH RETREAT CENTER**



**Isabella Freedman  
Jewish Retreat Center**

**116 Johnson Road  
Falls Village, CT 06031**

**contact: Adam Berman  
phone: 860.824.5991  
email: [info@isabellafreedman.org](mailto:info@isabellafreedman.org)  
website: [www.isabellafreedman.org](http://www.isabellafreedman.org)**

**board chair: Laura Rothschild  
budget: \$1,800,000  
inception: 1893**

Founded in 1893 as the Jewish Working Women's Vacation Society, Isabella Freedman's original mission was to provide free summer vacations for Jewish women who worked in the sweatshops in New York City. Equipped with the dynamism needed to evolve over the years, in the early 1990s the Center changed its mission. It now works to be "a model of a spiritually vibrant, socially progressive, multigenerational Jewish community, and to inspire all who participate in our programs to live these values."

Today, Isabella Freedman is still a retreat center for the Jewish community with a kosher facility, organic garden, summer camp and environmental fellowships. Most recently, Isabella Freedman merged with the much admired Elat Chayyim Center for Jewish Spirituality. Located at the foot of the Catskills and Shawangunk mountain ranges of New York, Elat Chayyim enhances Isabella Freedman's offerings with a variety of weekend, week-long and professional development workshops from "Embodying Spirit" to "Holy Drumming" to "Advanced Hebrew through Bibliodrama."

To plan your next Board retreat, spend a summer as an intern, or partake in a plethora of Jewish learning possibilities, visit [www.isabellafreedman.org](http://www.isabellafreedman.org).



**JDUB RECORDS**



**JDub Records**

**7 E. 10th Street  
3rd Floor  
New York, NY 10003**

**contact: Aaron Bisman**

**phone: 212.998.4112**

**email: [aaron@jdubrecords.org](mailto:aaron@jdubrecords.org)**

**website: [www.jdubrecords.com](http://www.jdubrecords.com)**

**board chair: Rabbi Andy Bachman**

**budget: \$650,000**

**inception: 2002**

“If I had told you that the Shema would be heard on MTV and that a six-foot tall Hasid would sing his way into the hearts, souls and iPods of unaffiliated Jews the world over, you would have laughed me out of your office.” But to his credit, co-founder Aaron Bisman has not only built a non-profit record label and events company, JDub Records has also reached nearly one million Jews in the first three years of operation.

Best known for launching Mattisyahu, who this year unexpectedly departed from the JDub fold, the organization continues to promote a proud, authentic Jewish voice in popular culture with new artists including Balkan Beat Box, Golem, and SoCalled. JDub was built on the belief that young Jews are interested in Judaism but look for high quality, positive and often singular meaningful Jewish experiences, and therefore, it produces music and events that are “points of connection with no strings attached.” Not to be underestimated for Jewish content, JDub’s Hip-Hop Seder combines traditional Passover melodies with Negro spirituals such as “Let My People Go,” and a Klezmer Cruise through the Ukraine this spring will feature SoCalled.

One of the most thoughtful and successful organizations in the book, there is a reason JDub has become an icon of Jewish innovation. If you still can’t imagine how old world music meets edgy, explore JDub’s compilation CDs.



**JEWISH COALITION FOR SERVICE**



**Jewish Coalition for Service**

**475 Riverside Drive  
Suite 1367  
New York, NY 10115**

**contact: Simha Rosenberg  
phone: 212.870.2450  
email: [info@jewishservice.org](mailto:info@jewishservice.org)  
website: [www.jewishservice.org](http://www.jewishservice.org)**

**board chair: Arthur Shapiro  
budget: \$485,000  
inception: 2001**

The Jewish Coalition for Service is fast becoming the central resource for information about full-time, hands-on volunteer service programs in the Jewish world. Tens of thousands of Jews are already alumni of service programs. The Coalition envisions that one day, there will be hundreds of thousands of alumni claiming the same and that around the world, people will have an awareness that Jewish volunteers demonstrate solidarity and offer help to communities in need.

Many Jews search for secular service programs, unaware of the 50 service providers under the Coalition's umbrella. Through its web presence as well as staff in Boston, Chicago, New York and Washington, D.C., the Coalition links interested parties to on-going service opportunities in North America, Israel, Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union and other global sites. In addition, the Coalition responds to emerging service possibilities such as J-Serve, a national day of service for Jewish teens co-hosted for the first time last year with PANIM (featured in *Slingshot '05*), and the North American Alliance for Jewish Youth.

To learn more about the Coalition, J-Serve, or other service providers featured in *Slingshot '06*, visit [www.jewishservice.org](http://www.jewishservice.org).



# JEWISH FUNDS FOR JUSTICE



**Jewish FundS for Justice**

**330 7th Avenue  
Suite 1401  
New York, NY 10001**

**contact: Mik Moore  
phone: 212.213.2113  
email: [info@jewishjustice.org](mailto:info@jewishjustice.org)  
website: [www.jewishjustice.org](http://www.jewishjustice.org)**

**board chairs: John Levy,  
Steve Fahrer  
budget: \$3,600,000  
inception: 1984**

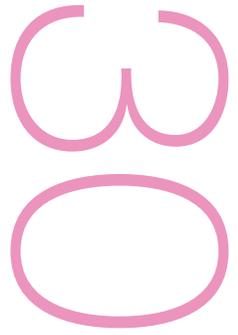
In an era of funders and social entrepreneurs creating new non-profit organizations, Jewish Fund for Justice and The Shefa Fund merged to become Jewish FundS for Justice (JFSJ). This approach, rare in the Jewish world, maximizes impact and efficiency by combining financial, human and institutional resources to combat the root causes of economic and social injustice in the United States.

By supporting domestic workers who are advocating for fair pay, organizing the Jewish communal response to recent immigration debates, or providing micro-loans for Katrina survivors, JFSJ provides American Jews with multiple ways to help eradicate poverty through a Jewish lens. In addition to its grant and loan programs, JFSJ partners with synagogues and rabbinical students and provides education and leadership development opportunities to multiple generations of Jews interested in the values of *tikkun olam* (repair of the world) and *tzedakah* (righteous giving).

To learn about Jewish positions on current socio-economic and political issues, check out JFSJ's blog at [www.jspot.org](http://www.jspot.org).



## JEWISH MILESTONES



**Jewish Milestones**

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Berkeley, CA 94705**

**contact: Rachel Brodie  
phone: 510.579.8202  
email: [rachel@jewishmilestones.org](mailto:rachel@jewishmilestones.org)  
website: [www.jewishmilestones.org](http://www.jewishmilestones.org)**

**fiscal sponsor: Jewish Community  
Center of the East Bay  
budget: \$100,000  
inception: 2003**

Despite having a strong sense of Jewish identity, many Jews have limited Jewish knowledge, few resources to navigate the Jewish world, and “for a whole host of reasons do not want to have their rituals as part of a synagogue-based community.” Founders Rachel Brodie and Julie Batz perceived this phenomenon and created Jewish Milestones, formerly known as The Ritualist, to serve this portion of the Jewish community.

From weddings to baby namings to Bat/r Mitzvahs to funerals, people who do not want to belong to a synagogue frequently do not know where to turn. Questions arise, such as: Who can help me celebrate my Jewish events? How can I ensure that person is credible, trained and the best match for me? Which books and websites are worth using? Can I lead my own rituals?

With the initial support of the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund, Jewish Milestones started to organize a response in the San Francisco Bay Area. Now, a lithe staff is responding to a huge demand for services, including education, referral, training and actual facilitation of rituals. Currently undercapitalized, Jewish Milestones is planning for growth, especially aiming to open offices in other major Jewish population hubs. To bring Jewish Milestones to your city, email [rachel@jewishmilestones.org](mailto:rachel@jewishmilestones.org).



# JEWISH MOSAIC



**Jewish Mosaic**

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Denver, CO 80218**

**contact: Gregg Drinkwater  
phone: 303.691.3562  
email: [info@jewishmosaic.org](mailto:info@jewishmosaic.org)  
website: [www.jewishmosaic.org](http://www.jewishmosaic.org)**

**board chair: Dr. David Shneer  
budget: \$189,000  
inception: 2003**

As Jewish institutions struggle to maintain membership rates, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) Jews are eager to participate in Jewish life, yet have lower affiliation rates than other Jews. “Why would you want to be a member of a club that doesn’t want you?” Often, Jewish professionals do not believe there are LGBT Jews in their communities, or by being blind to differences, institutions claim to include everyone. However, hiding individual differences forces LGBT Jews to “assimilate” in order to participate or “separate” from Jewish communal life altogether.

Three years ago, Jewish Mosaic, the national organization devoted to full inclusion of LGBT Jews in the Jewish communal world, was founded to change that reality. Jewish Mosaic conducts research to let communal institutions know how well they are doing on the inclusion issue, as they did this year in Denver and Boulder, Colorado. It also provides resources, such as Torah Queeries, a creative and inclusive or “queer” take on the weekly Torah portion; diversity trainings in collaboration with the Anti-Defamation League’s A World of Difference Institute; and Yom Keshet, an annual conference to help educators and clergy incorporate LGBT issues into Jewish education.

As local LGBT advocacy groups emerge around the country—such as Boston-based Keshet, found earlier in this book—Jewish Mosaic helps them network in a coordinated way.



**JEWISH ORTHODOX FEMINIST ALLIANCE**



**Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance**

**15 E. 26th Street  
Suite 915  
New York, NY 10010**

**contact: Robin Bodner  
phone: 212.679.8500  
email: [jofa@jofa.org](mailto:jofa@jofa.org)  
website: [www.jofa.org](http://www.jofa.org)**

**board chair: Carol Kaufman Newman  
budget: \$627,000  
inception: 1997**

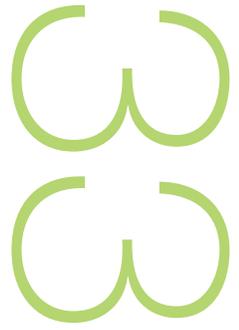
Soon to celebrate its 10th anniversary, the Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance (JOFA) was founded to educate and to advocate for women's increased meaningful participation in Orthodox Jewish life. In striving for this, it remains one of the most innovative and steadfast organizations in this book. JOFA works by conveying what is permissible for Orthodox women within *halakha* (Jewish law) so that women can play full and fulfilling roles in Jewish rituals, organizations and communities.

In addition to its biannual conferences, which draw 1,500 participants, JOFA also organizes regional conferences, conducts outreach to university women, publishes a quarterly newsletter, manages a speaker's bureau, and its scholar participants write articles and *divrei Torah* on the role of women in Torah. Its gender-sensitive curriculum is available to teachers who want to enhance the study of Torah with biblical female characters as well as use a gender lens to teach the text.

JOFA also continues to lead the field on the *agunah* issue, where Orthodox women seeking a divorce are not given a *get* (a document from their husbands to free them from their marriages). JOFA's new listserve, Gettlink, connects *agunah* activists in 15 organizations in 47 countries around the world and offers template resources for adaptation.



**JEWISH OUTREACH  
INSTITUTE**



**Jewish Outreach Institute**

**1270 Broadway  
Suite 609  
New York, NY 10001**

**contact: Kerry M. Olitzky  
phone: 212.760.1440  
email: [info@joi.org](mailto:info@joi.org)  
website: [www.joi.org](http://www.joi.org)**

**board chair: Terrence A. Elkes  
budget: \$1,500,000  
inception: 1998**

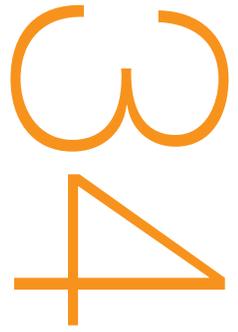
25 years ago when the National Jewish Population Survey decried increasing rates of intermarriage, the American Jewish community thought Jewish continuity had come to an end. However, what we have learned years later is that it is not interfaith marriages but *not raising children to be Jewish* that will end Jewish continuity. Jewish Outreach Institute (JOI) knows this and advocates for inclusion of interfaith families in Jewish life as well as acting as the primary on-the-ground trainer, programmer and provider for interfaith families raising Jewish children.

As a leader in “outreach” approaches, JOI continues to be innovative. While most outreach programs expect people to walk into Jewish institutions despite certain barriers to entry, JOI started *Public Space Judaism* to encourage those institutions to take Judaism to where people are both physically and spiritually. Through its *Community Transformation Initiative*, JOI is now building a community-wide coalition to increase Jewish engagement on the whole, assuming that a high tide of affiliation will raise all boats instead of one institution at a time.

Despite the Jewish community’s fears around intermarriage and continuity, JOI is doing the bulk of its work in an undervalued and underutilized way. To take advantage of JOI’s up-to-the minute research, thinking and resources on engagement, and to help the next generation of interfaith families raise Jewish children, don’t hesitate to be in touch.



**JEWISH PARTISAN EDUCATIONAL  
FOUNDATION**



**Jewish Partisan Educational Foundation**

**2107 Van Ness Avenue  
Suite 302  
San Francisco, CA 94109**

**contact: Mitch Braff  
phone: 415.563.2244  
email: [info@jewishpartisans.org](mailto:info@jewishpartisans.org)  
website: [www.jewishpartisans.org](http://www.jewishpartisans.org)**

**board chair: Paul Orbuch  
budget: \$514,194  
inception: 2000**

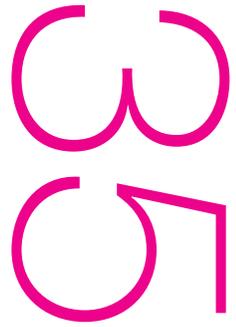
When one thinks of the Holocaust, images of terror, pain and victimization come to mind. Yet among young Jews today who want to build their Jewish identities on feelings of hope, strength and pride, fewer than 15% know of the 20,000 to 30,000 Jewish heroes who fought back against the Nazis during World War II. Therefore, Jewish Partisan Educational Foundation (JPEF) aims to empower Jewish youth by teaching about these Jewish teenage heroes from another era. By revealing stories of Jewish partisans, JPEF is educating young Jews and encouraging their positive attitudes towards Jewish identity formation.

JPEF does this by developing and distributing educational materials to Jewish day schools, synagogue education programs, B'nai Brith youth groups, Jewish summer camps, Hillels and other Jewish education venues. Curricula exist in the form of multimedia study guides, video interviews and other interactive web functions geared towards middle and high school-age students.

Armed with stories of Jewish heroes and savvy resource materials, JPEF plans to increase its outreach to new educational venues in the year ahead.



**JEWISH STUDENT PRESS SERVICE  
& NEW VOICES MAGAZINE**



**Jewish Student Press Service  
& New Voices Magazine**

**114 W. 26th Street  
Suite 1004  
New York, NY 10001**

**contact: Benjamin A. Murane  
phone: 212.675.1168  
email: [director@newvoices.org](mailto:director@newvoices.org)  
website: [www.newvoices.org](http://www.newvoices.org)**

**board chair: Mik R. Moore  
budget: \$200,000  
inception: 1970**

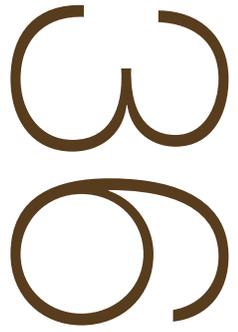
The Jewish Student Press Service (JSPS) has been committed to critical discussion and open debate since its founding in 1970. During its first two decades, JSPS served as an umbrella for the growing field of independent Jewish student publications, providing campus and Israel coverage through its wire service and national conferences for Jewish student journalists. In 1991, as the number of campus publications declined, JSPS initiated its own *New Voices* magazine.

Written, designed, edited and published by recent graduates for their peers, *New Voices* is a free, print and online resource that enters the mailboxes and Hillel houses of more than 26,000 readers across 400 campuses. *New Voices* speaks seamlessly to its audience on a range of topics including immigration, Middle Eastern peace, Jewish music, anti-Semitism and the continuity debate.

While the concept of a magazine is not new, *New Voices'* courageousness to remain an independent and student-run press, and its continued commitment to provide a forum for intelligent and critical debate, keeps JSPS refreshingly innovative.



**JEWISH WOMEN'S ARCHIVE**



**Jewish Women's Archive**

**138 Harvard Street  
Brookline, MA 02446**

**contact: Ellen Kanner  
phone: 617.232.2258  
email: [info@jwa.org](mailto:info@jwa.org)  
website: [www.jwa.org](http://www.jwa.org)**

**board chair: Nicki Newman Tanner  
budget: \$2,200,000  
inception: 1995**

If you Google “Jewish Women” you will see that Jewish Women’s Archive (JWA) comes up on top. After a decade of conducting original research, creating new educational materials and advocating for women’s role in history, JWA has established itself as the resource on the contributions of American Jewish women.

Created to uncover, chronicle and transmit the rich legacy of Jewish women to families, communities and the world, JWA produced the first-ever website that made it possible to learn online about women’s contributions. During 2005 alone, JWA’s site had more than 24,500 unique visitors, an 18% increase from the previous year. 350 organizations link to its site, educators are downloading the new *Making Our Wilderness Bloom* curricula, and tens of thousands of people participate in JWA’s programs and buy its products. This year, JWA also launched a new blog called “Jewesses with Attitude,” for 20- and 30-something Jewish females, which received 3,000 unique visitors in its first month.

In addition to its creative online content, JWA offers a plethora of in-person programming and portable resources as well. To learn more about what JWA has to offer or to discover how you can become involved, email [info@jwa.org](mailto:info@jwa.org).



**JUST VISION**



**Just Vision**

**PMB #226  
123 7th Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11215**

**contact: Ronit Avni  
phone: 866.809.3401  
email: [ronit@justvision.org](mailto:ronit@justvision.org)  
website: [www.justvision.org](http://www.justvision.org)**

**board chair: Julia Pimsleur  
budget: \$263,000  
inception: 2003**

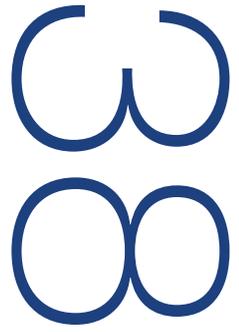
Just Vision's director Ronit Avni sought to move beyond one-sided advocacy campaigns to capture multi-faceted and compassionate stories of Jewish, Christian, Muslim and other civilians conducting peace-building efforts in the Middle East. After recording hundreds of stories, Ronit and the Just Vision team returned to the U.S. and began generating media about joint Israeli-Palestinian collaborations, offering non-partisan options for involvement and building networks of people who want to work for peace instead of violence.

This year, Just Vision and filmmaker Julia Bacha (writer/editor of *Control Room*) released *Encounter Point*, a film about their work. With an appearance on Oprah, a premier at the Tribeca Film Festival and a screening on Capitol Hill, the film immediately revealed to a broad audience the stories of average citizens working for peace in their time. Just Vision plans to bring the film to more college campuses, congregations, online users and TV stations in 2007.

For those seeking other resources, Just Vision has a database of joint peace projects for journalists to utilize, including profiles of 180 peace-builders and their lessons learned. With Columbia University's Teacher's College, it is also developing educational materials in Arabic, Hebrew and English for U.S. classrooms. Founder Ronit Avni's passion, courage and perseverance are "magnetic" and makes Just Vision one to watch.



**KEHILAT HADAR**



**Kehilat Hadar**

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#3-I  
New York, NY 10025**

**contact: Tammy Arnow  
phone: 646.234.2124  
email: [egalminyan@hotmail.com](mailto:egalminyan@hotmail.com)  
website: [www.kehilathadar.org](http://www.kehilathadar.org)**

**board chair: Elie Kaunfer  
budget: \$93,850  
inception: 2001**

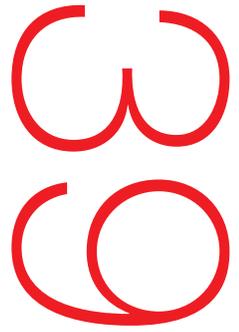
Begun in an apartment on the Upper West Side of New York City, Kehilat Hadar (“Community of Praise”) has become one of the leading spiritual communities in the country. Self-defined as “a spirited traditional prayer service led by men and women equally,” Hadar hosts more than 200 people in their 20s and 30s for Shabbat three times a month, 450 for Jewish education programs, 550 for High Holidays services, and counts 2,700 on its email list.

More than just the numbers, Hadar is creating a growing Jewish community centered around prayer even as the majority of people in this age cohort are leaving synagogues. So what is Hadar doing that works? A team of five *gabbai'im* (leaders) organizes and co-facilitates services to avoid top-down authority, and a Torah discussion has replaced the traditional rabbinic sermon. On a spiritual level, participants find the services so meaningful that Hadar produced a CD of its liturgical melodies that has sold in 25 states. In addition to prayer, Hadar attendees also engage in social justice campaigns, focusing this year on affordable housing and Darfur.

In its fifth year, Hadar continues to innovate as plans for a full-time house of study unfold for summer 2007. A consulting practice is also underway to help communities in other cities like Boston, Denver and Seattle that have recently sought Hadar’s counsel.



**LIMMUD NY**



**Limmud NY**

**111 8th Avenue  
11th Floor  
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**contact: Abigail Dauber Sterne  
phone: 212.284.6968  
email: [abi@limmudny.org](mailto:abi@limmudny.org)  
website: [www.limmudny.org](http://www.limmudny.org)**

**board chair: Karen Radkowsky  
budget: \$620,000  
inception: 2003**

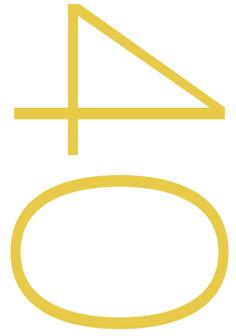
Inspired by the annual Limmud Conference in England, a small team of volunteers developed Limmud NY. Harkening back to the 1950s, this year's Limmud gathering took place over four days at Kutshers Resort in the Catskills Mountains where 750 people of all ages participated in *limmud* or "learning." This "festival celebrating the breadth of Jewish learning and living" was experienced through over 300 sessions of workshops, text-studies, exhibits, performances and discussions.

A recent Brandeis evaluation discovered that a third of retreat participants are employed professionally in the Jewish world and about a third have attended four or more years of yeshiva or Jewish day school. Despite these extensive backgrounds, the majority say that the learning is of "high-quality" and is "intellectually challenging nonetheless." The program also offers a variety of entry points to attract more people from diverse backgrounds. From traditional study to culture and arts to history and politics to worship services, the program has something inspiring and meaningful for everyone. All the more impressive is that it is predominantly organized by over 80 volunteers in a non-hierarchical process.

To inquire about adapting the Limmud model for your community, email [abi@limmudny.org](mailto:abi@limmudny.org).



**MAYYIM HAYYIM**



**Mayyim Hayyim**

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website: [www.mayyimhayyim.org](http://www.mayyimhayyim.org)**

**board chair: Anita Diamant  
budget: \$550,000  
inception: 2001**

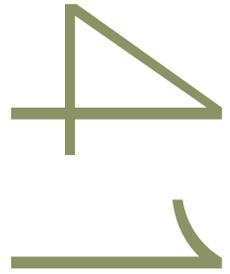
Mayyim Hayyim Living Waters Community Mikveh and Education Center has reclaimed the ancient tradition of ritual immersion and reinvented the mikveh as a center for Jewish spirituality and learning and a contemporary practice for the 21st century Jewish community. With two kosher pools, ritual immersion is available to Jews across the denominational and affiliation spectrum. Since its opening in 2004, Mayyim Hayyim has provided more than 2,250 immersions for women, men, girls, boys and infants transitioning through a variety of stages, such as monthly purity rituals, conversions, adoptions, healing ceremonies and other rites of passage.

Life in the center beyond immersions has also evolved this year. Sixty volunteers greet visitors as well as provide trainings and tours. One-time and ongoing groups meet, including Rosh Hodesh assemblies, healing initiatives with oncology nurses, men's gatherings, congregational education groups and more.

Founded by author Anita Diamant, Mayyim Hayyim is still in the early stages of organizational and capacity development. But from its new art gallery, to *The Mikveh Monologues*, to a national conference on *Reclaiming Mikveh*, Mayyim Hayyim is not only becoming a vibrant community center, it is also a leading innovator in ritual reclamation and community engagement.



**MODIYA**



**MODIYA**

**726 Broadway  
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New York, NY 10012**

**contact: Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett  
phone: 212.998.3759  
email: bk3@nyu.edu  
website: www.modiya.nyu.edu**

**fiscal sponsor: Project of Center for  
Religion and Media, New York University  
budget: \$45,000  
inception: 2003**

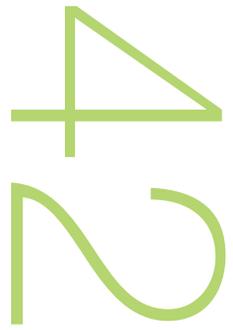
Over time, media has informed Judaism in many ways: it is found in the form of texts used to worship, has animated civil religion during celebrations for the State of Israel, and increasingly, has become the vehicle through which many partake in Judaism today, as people attend Jewish film festivals and Jewish concerts instead of synagogue.

In order to study this phenomenon, a growing Working Group on Jews, Media and Religion created a project called MODIYA. Together, students, teachers and scholars—in an open source and collaborative manner—develop learning modules about religion and media and host the curricula online. Just as Google technology has become both a website and a way of life (“I Googled you”) or people blog and have a blog, similarly, MODIYA is both an online learning environment and a new method of collaborative research and teaching.

With free access to information offered by sites like Google and Wikipedia, MODIYA is increasingly popular for its accessibility but also maintains an academic rigor that makes it interesting to scholars and amateurs alike. As its initial Pew Charitable Trust grant expires this year, MODIYA and its host at the Center for Religion and Media at NYU are in a time of transition. If you are interested in becoming a registered MODIYA user or supporting its curators, be in touch with bkg@nyu.edu.



## MOVING TRADITIONS



**Moving Traditions**

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Fort Washington, PA 19034**

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phone: 215.643.4511 x 101  
email: [dmeyer@movingtraditions.org](mailto:dmeyer@movingtraditions.org)  
website: [www.movingtraditions.org](http://www.movingtraditions.org)**

**board chair: Sally Gottesman  
budget: \$1,201,920  
inception: 2005**

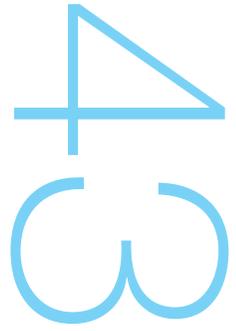
Moving Traditions was founded by Sally Gottesman and Deborah Meyer in 2005 to fill the need for trans-denominational programming around key lifecycle moments and stages that is produced at the “intersection of gender and Judaism.” Soon to offer resources to affiliated and independent Jews across the spectrum—for births, adolescence, marriage, parenting, aging and death—Moving Traditions is serving “Jews in their search for meaning through a variety of traditional and innovative mechanisms.”

Moving Traditions is best known for a program begun at Kolot, *Rosh Hodesh: It's a Girl Thing!*, a contemporary monthly celebration of the ancient New Moon holiday for girls in grades 6 to 12 that builds self-esteem, Jewish identity and leadership skills. Kolot, a center of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, spun off the program to Moving Traditions in 2005. In its fourth year of national replication in 2005-2006, *It's a Girl Thing!* had 155 groups operated for girls by 92 institutions of all affiliations.

Grounded in the successful launch of *Rosh Hodesh: It's A Girl Thing!*, Moving Traditions is now conducting a *Campaign for Jewish Boys* to learn about the needs of adolescent boys, why they drop out of Jewish life after bar mitzvah, and what programs would better inspire their Jewish identities. Thanks to Moving Traditions' long view, our teenage girls, and now boys, are in good hands.



**OUTSIDE THE BOX**



**Outside the Box**

**195 E. 4th Street  
Apartment 3  
New York, NY 10009**

**contact: Lacey A. Schwartz  
phone: 917.645.7765  
email: lacey@post.harvard.edu  
website: www.goldglassproductions.com**

**fiscal sponsor: Women Make Movies  
budget: \$542,157  
inception: 2004**

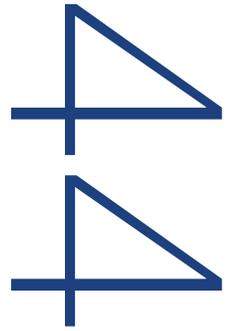
When applying to college, Lacey Schwartz did not know which box to check when asked about her ethnicity. This feature-length documentary follows her story, that of a woman who did not discover her own mixed background until she was 18, and in doing so, Lacey tells the story of other Jews of mixed background who also find themselves *Outside the Box*. The film and filmmaker search for traditions, heroes, heritage, roots and multiple identities of being Black and Jewish and takes viewers on a journey to understand the population of as many as 400,000 Jews of color who live in the United States today.

From her family home in Woodstock, New York to Israel and the Middle East, the film takes the audience to meet other Black American Jews who are struggling to comprehend their identities and their communities. The short list of characters considered for the film include Rueben Greenberg, the Black Jewish police chief of Charleston, South Carolina; Lenny Kravitz, the Los Angeles-based rock star born to a Jewish father and Black mother; and Ahuvah Gray, an American Black Jew living out her identity in Israel.

Through their stories, *Outside the Box* seeks to build community between Blacks and Jews, among Black Jews, and to engage others who are moved by the stories of multiple identities. To participate in the film, view the trailer or host a screening in your community, visit [www.goldglassproductions.com](http://www.goldglassproductions.com).



**PROGRESSIVE JEWISH ALLIANCE**



**Progressive Jewish Alliance**

**5870 W. Olympic Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90036**

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phone: 323.761.8350  
email: [tpressman@pjalliance.org](mailto:tpressman@pjalliance.org)  
website: [www.pjalliance.org](http://www.pjalliance.org)**

**board chair: Joan Patsy Ostroy  
budget: \$720,000  
inception: 1999**

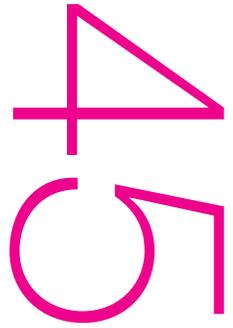
Progressive Jewish Alliance (PJA) pursues justice for all, and in doing so, finds *tikkun olam* to be a meaningful point of entry into Judaism for thousands of young and disconnected individuals. Founded in 1999 by Jewish Angelinos asserting a progressive Jewish presence in the campaigns for social justice in Southern California—with Los Angeles as the second largest Jewish community in the United States—PJA has a growing membership base that enables Jews to work on social issues affecting their city and their lives today.

Its thousands of members draw on Jewish tradition and text to fight for economic justice. For example, “You shall not abuse a needy and destitute laborer, whether a fellow countryman or a stranger...” (Deuteronomy 24:14) informs the work PJA conducts on behalf of service workers seeking a living wage in Los Angeles hotels. Or, by recalling stories of Jewish grandparents toiling in sweatshops under unbearable conditions, PJA’s members mobilize against sweatshops in contemporary L.A.

In 2005, PJA opened a San Francisco chapter—its first expansion thus far—and is adapting its model and catalyzing Jews around social and economic justice issues in the Bay Area. To become involved, receive a copy of *No Shvitz: Your One-Stop Guide to Fighting Sweatshops*, or to sign up for one of PJA’s Jeremiah Fellowships on social action, check out [www.pjalliance.org](http://www.pjalliance.org).



**REBOOT**



**Reboot**

**110 E. 59th Street  
26th Floor  
New York, NY 10022**

**contact: Jane Steinberg  
phone: 212.931.0117  
email: [info@rebooters.net](mailto:info@rebooters.net)  
website: [www.rebooters.net](http://www.rebooters.net)**

**board chair: Erin Potts  
budget: \$1,300,000  
inception: 2001**

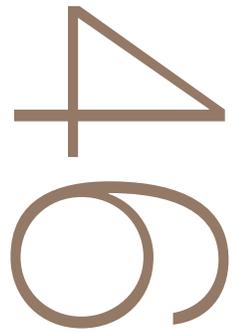
Reboot began as an experiment, a response to the disconnect among the majority of young, North American Jews who were interested in their Jewish identity but not involved in the organized Jewish community. Now a growing network of cultural influentials, Rebooters come from the literary, entertainment, media, technological, political, social action and academic realms. They are all successful in their careers, and all are motivated by an age-old discussion of Jewish meaning.

Reboot provides members—many of whom would not consider themselves likely to participate in anything resembling organized Jewish life—with an open space to question, explore and reclaim identity and community on their own terms. One of the most productive networks in the Jewish community, Reboot fosters collaborations that lead to books, records, films, salons, research and other activities that engage Jewish peers as well as shape the artifacts of Jewish life.

This year alone, Rebooters launched *Reboot Stereophonic*, which recaptures old music and makes it new; *Guilt & Pleasure*, a literary magazine engaging young Jews in a conversation about identity, community and meaning; and a national research arm, which this year published “*Grande Soy Latte with Vanilla No Foam...*” *Jewish Identity and Community in a Time of Unlimited Choices*. To learn how you can bring Reboot products to your community, email [info@rebooters.net](mailto:info@rebooters.net).



**SEEKING COMMON GROUND**



**Seeking Common Ground**

**P.O. Box 101958  
Denver, CO 80250**

**contact: Agatha Skierkowski  
phone: 303.691.2393  
email: [admin@s-c-g.org](mailto:admin@s-c-g.org)  
website: [www.s-c-g.org](http://www.s-c-g.org)**

**board chair: Chuck Jacobs  
budget: \$435,100  
inception: 1993**

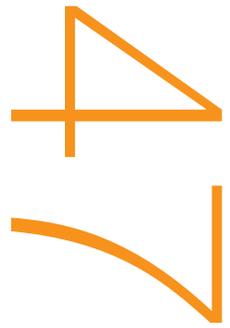
For the past 13 years, Seeking Common Ground (SCG) has helped young women acquire the skills to end conflict and “wage peace.” With a core belief that “prejudice can be transformed into understanding by confronting fear of the unknown and breaking down stereotypes,” SCG’s goal is “to create a new generation of leaders who understand the complexities of inter- and intra-group conflict and who have the tools and confidence to construct sustainable solutions.”

Its flagship program, *Building Bridges for Peace*, has engaged more than 500 young American, Israeli and Palestinian women between the ages of 16 and 19. Administered through an intensive summer program, participants learn communication techniques and develop leadership skills before returning to their communities for a year-long follow-up program. Founder Melodye Feldman intends for young women to learn to recognize, develop and hone their own capacities to effect social change.

In response to the escalating violence in the Middle East, SCG began working with the University of Denver’s Conflict Resolution Institute and the University of Delaware’s Sociology Department to measure the long-term attitudinal and behavioral impact of its programs. We all hope to benefit from what SCG has learned and from the young women in whom it invests.



# SELAH COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



**Selah Collaborative  
Leadership Program**

**330 7th Avenue  
Suite 1401  
New York, NY 10001**

**contact: Stosh Cotler  
phone: 212.213.2113**

**email: [scotler@jewishjustice.org](mailto:scotler@jewishjustice.org)  
website: [www.selahleadership.com](http://www.selahleadership.com)**

**board chair: Chris Desser  
budget: \$1,600,000  
inception: 2000**

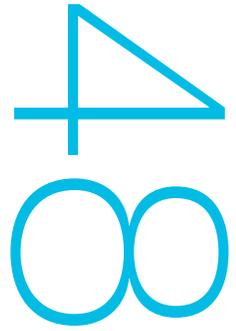
The rapid increase in new Jewish ventures over the past decade has produced a need for a leadership development program for entrepreneurs and young non-profit executives in the Jewish community. Based on the Rockwood Leadership model, Selah, meaning “rock” in Hebrew, is attempting to fill that vacuum by providing fundamental leadership and collaboration training skills to emerging Jewish social-change practitioners.

Since 2004, Selah has trained 150 practitioners who work in one of three venues: a Jewish religious setting, a Jewishly-identified social change organization (like many listed in *Slingshot*), or a secular organization where the practitioner’s Jewishness informs the work. Through weekend retreats, participants learn leadership and management skills necessary to grow high-performing organizations, create effective collaborations and sustain themselves over the long haul.

True to its model, Selah is a collaboration between the Rockwood Leadership Program and Jewish FundS for Justice with seed funding from the Nathan Cummings Foundation. To learn how to bring the Selah leadership method to your organization or to sign up for one of two new cohorts launching in 2007, email [scotler@jewishjustice.org](mailto:scotler@jewishjustice.org).



**SHARSHERET**



**Sharsheret**

**1086 Teaneck Road  
Suite 3A  
Teaneck, NJ 07666**

**contact: Elana Silber  
phone: 866.474.2774  
email: [info@sharsheret.org](mailto:info@sharsheret.org)  
website: [www.sharsheret.org](http://www.sharsheret.org)**

**board chair: Amy Mines Tadelis  
budget: \$603,288  
inception: 2001**

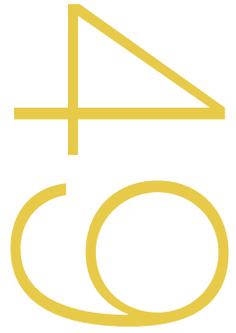
As breast cancer becomes more prevalent, the disease and the affect it has on entire families is being felt by an increasing percentage of the Jewish community. Currently, 1 in 40 Jewish women of Ashkenazi descent is a carrier of a mutation in the BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene, which increases the likelihood that one will develop breast cancer by as much as 50-80%. For pre-menopausal women in particular, breast cancer tends to be more aggressive, fewer research studies have been conducted on this population, and concerns regarding dating, marriage, fertility and parenting arise in ways specific to this stage of life.

Sharsheret, Hebrew for “chain,” enables young women facing breast cancer to connect to others who experience not only their diagnoses but also their life backgrounds. The organization links these young women to one another so that they can discuss the impact cancer has on their lives, childrearing, observance of Jewish rituals and an array of other issues.

The organization, founded and led by Rochelle Shoretz, is now transitioning to new leadership, as she transitions from Executive Director to the Board of Directors. Sharsheret is also more in demand than ever. Having so ably met the needs of its target audience, women of all ages suffering from other cancers want Sharsheret to support their populations as well. We are certain Sharsheret will tackle these new transitions with ease.



**SOL GOLDMAN 14TH STREET YM-YWHA  
OF THE EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE**



**Sol Goldman 14th Street YM-YWHA of  
the Educational Alliance**

**344 E. 14th Street  
New York, NY 10003**

**contact: Margo Bloom  
phone: 212.780.0800 x 222  
email: [margo\\_bloom@14streety.org](mailto:margo_bloom@14streety.org)  
website: [www.14streety.org](http://www.14streety.org)**

**council chair: Marvin Israelow  
budget: \$4,300,000  
inception: 1900**

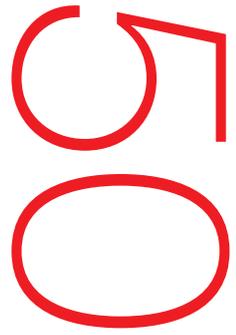
Founded at the turn of the last century, the 14th Street Y has been reincarnated more than once, from its original Enamu-El Brotherhood to the Emanu-El Midtown 14th Street Y, and later becoming part of the Educational Alliance in the early 1990s. Now at its current, refurbished home on East 14th Street, the Y reflects the character and sensibility of its neighborhood, offering the same services that all New Yorkers need but with a downtown point of view.

Its East Village programming is diverse and eclectic like its audience, including the *Novel Jews* book club, *Girls on Film: A Night of Shorts by Jewish Women*, and *Dukes of Hanukah*, a Hanukah Hoedown.

Director Margo Bloom is particularly attuned to her audience. She encouraged the Y Board to accept payment plans for people who need help with the cost of participating in Jewish life, and her regular “Meet the Director” sessions keep her accountable to her patrons. Within the next five years, Margo seeks to have transformed the Y into a “third place”—beyond home and work—for local community members. If you are interested in participating in this vision or just checking out the Y, email her at [margo\\_bloom@14streety.org](mailto:margo_bloom@14streety.org).



**STORAHTELLING**



**Storahtelling**

**261 W. 35th Street  
Suite 404  
New York, NY 10001**

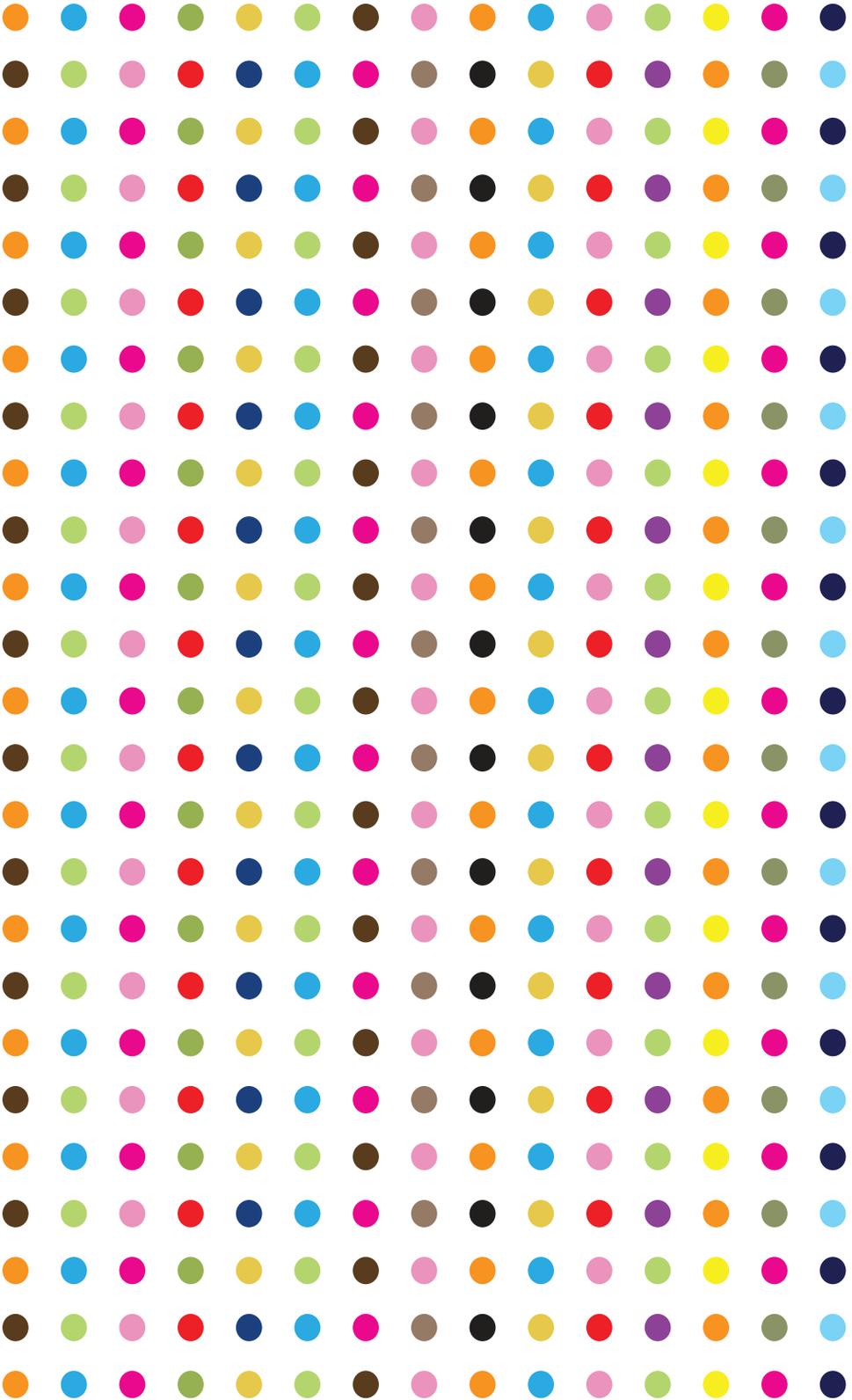
**contact: Sarah Sokolic  
phone: 212.245.8188  
email: [office@storahtelling.org](mailto:office@storahtelling.org)  
website: [www.storahtelling.org](http://www.storahtelling.org)**

**board chair: Marina Pinto-Kaufman  
budget: \$500,000  
inception: 1998**

Throughout the world, until the Middle Ages, translators would translate Torah readings from Hebrew to congregants' local languages and help interpret the meaning of the *parsha* so that the community could understand the significance of the weekly portion. Storahtelling has revived this ancient tradition and become a modern day translator, bringing contemporary translation and meaning to a 5,000 year-old tradition.

During *shultime*, Storahtelling revives the weekly portion in the synagogue, *showtime* offers performances of the Torah portion in nightclubs and theaters, and through *schooltime*, local artists and educators are trained in Storahtelling technique. More than 200 Storahtelling performances have been presented across denominational and cultural boundaries in the United States and around the globe.

Founder Amichai Lau Lavie and his team succeed in promoting and sustaining the relevance of the Torah. To become involved as a modern day translator or to bring Storahtelling to your congregation, visit [www.storahtelling.org](http://www.storahtelling.org).



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### **EVERYONE**

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# SLINGSHOT

PRODUCED BY  
21/64

## **About Grand Street**

The origins of *Slingshot* lie in Grand Street, a network of young Jews ages 18 to 28, who are or will be involved in Jewish life. As it can be intimidating for young people to confront issues of philanthropic responsibility as well as their own Jewish identities within their families, a network of peers can provide a supportive space for independent yet informed exploration.

Grand Street began in 2003 as a gathering of young people who assembled for a weekend to ask their own questions, develop Jewish philanthropic analysis, sharpen their strategic thinking and create a safe space for personal development. With an additional cohort added each year, it became a network now in its fourth year.

We believe Grand Street provides a unique opportunity. If you or your family members are interested in joining, do not hesitate to contact us.

## **Slingshot Fund: Taking the Next Step**

In the wake of last year's guide, a group of younger funders decide to take the book to the next level by assembling resources to support the visions and leadership behind the projects selected for the Slingshot guide each year, and in doing so, build a Jewish community that is vital and relevant for their generation.

If you or your family members are interested in:

- a) setting aside a small percentage of your giving portfolio to augment the Jewish institutional support you currently contribute;
- b) making this Fund your Jewish gift of the year knowing it will support a number of innovative yet vetted options all at once; or,
- c) neither of these reasons motivates you, but you are committed to your children and grandchildren and the Slingshot Fund idea is the first Jewish gift they seem excited about... then email [info@2164.net](mailto:info@2164.net).

21/64 professionals at the Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies will facilitate the fund. And, if you represent an organization featured in *Slingshot '06*, will automatically be invited to submit a proposal to the Slingshot Fund this coming year.

### **Acknowledgements**

We would like to thank those colleagues whose knowledge of the Jewish community and philanthropy helped inform this publication: Mark Charendoff, Lisa Farber Miller, Debbie Findling, Sally Gottesman, Michael Hill, Rachel Levin, Aliza Mazor, Alison McWilliams, Dana Raucher, Jennie Rosenn, Laura Samberg, Erica Schwartz, and Jeff Solomon. There are also many who asked to remain anonymous but whose feedback was critical to our decision-making, so thank you.

Again, while we are grateful to our colleagues for their input in the development of this book, 21/64 takes full responsibility for its contents.

Particular thanks to Barbara Taylor and Jos Thalheimer who gave many hours of tireless attention to producing the book this year. Thanks also to our copy editor Annemieke Farrow and Laurie Fink for her design of the book.

Thanks to FJC for its partnership on 21/64. This book is dedicated to Andy Bronfman z'l who was Grand Street's first supporter, pioneer of the Slingshot Fund, and an inspiration to all of us.

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For more information about Grand Street, the new Slingshot Fund or to receive another copy of *Slingshot '06* to give to a friend, email [info@2164.net](mailto:info@2164.net).







[www.2164.net](http://www.2164.net)