This guide is presented in memory of Rochelle Shoretz, z”l, founder of Sharsheret, an organization supported by both Slingshot and the Jewish Women’s Foundation of New York.

We continue to celebrate Rochelle as a visionary and a leader. She set the bar high for all of us in both work and life.

May her memory be for a blessing.
We are proud to present the third and final edition of the *Slingshot Supplement on Women and Girls*. This year we highlight 19 Jewish organizations working to positively impact the lives of women and girls. These organizations are empowering women to take care of themselves and their families, addressing financial security, health, domestic abuse, spirituality, ritual, connection and social justice. And each of them does so in an innovative and groundbreaking way. It is a pleasure to bring your attention to their work. Through the pages of this guide, we are inspired by the strength of this slice of Jewish life and the opportunities that a culture of innovation has opened up for addressing women’s issues.

This book is the product of a wonderful partnership between Slingshot and the Jewish Women’s Foundation of New York. As we look at the growing field of Jewish innovation, the opportunity and benefit of finding strategic and collaborative partnerships is vast. We hope that this series serves as one more example of the power of collaboration. While the expression of our work together will shift, we hope our partnership will continue in creative ways moving forward. The work of bringing women to the table and addressing their unique opportunities and challenges with innovative solutions strengthens Jewish life for all of us.

So, whether your interest in the women and girls’ guide stems from an existing connection to the issues or a desire to learn about them, we welcome you to explore the groundbreaking work found within its pages. It is our hope that you will
find exciting ways to connect with and fund the organizations that resonate with you. Through this series, you may even discover a connection to something new, finding novel ways to promote social change for women and girls in the Jewish community and beyond.

We are grateful for the support of the Jewish Women’s Foundation of New York as we continue the legacy of this Slingshot supplement, and we invite you to read JWFNY Executive Director Joy Sisisky’s letter on the following page to learn more about the increasing potential for innovation in this field.

Thank you for reading, and we look forward to hearing your feedback about this third and final Slingshot Supplement on Women and Girls. And stay tuned! We are planning to continue to highlight this work in new ways in the future. We hope you will join us.

Stefanie Rhodes
Executive Director, Slingshot

Questions about the process?
Visit www.slingshotfund.org/methodology
The Jewish Women’s Foundation of New York is once again honored to partner with Slingshot to present the third edition of the *Slingshot Supplement on Women and Girls*. This three-part series has been a labor of love for our organization, which is deeply rooted in innovation and the advancement of new ideas to transform the lives of women and girls. What a privilege it has been to work with the Slingshot Fund for so many years to help advance our shared work in the Jewish community. JWFNY is proud to be both a funder and collaborative partner in this endeavor. We look forward to the next steps that will grow our spheres of influence through new, exciting projects together that will continue to engage the next generation of funders on issues affecting women and girls.

In 2016, JWFNY celebrates our 20th anniversary and nearly $5 million in grantmaking to 175 cutting-edge and pilot programs for women and girls in the Jewish community in New York, Israel and around the world. We are proud that many of them are highlighted in the supplement and even more encouraged by the number of new organizations added to this prestigious listing and the many others who applied and are thinking about these needs in creative ways.

You might wonder about the urgency of such a list. Consider for a moment that around the world, women and girls continue to face basic violations of their human rights, discrimination, violence and lack of agency, including in the Jewish community. Innovation will be a critical and determining factor in advancing the status of women and girls in this
From sexual assault on college campuses to human trafficking to matters of marriage and divorce and equal pay, we cannot afford to turn a blind eye.

The organizations you will learn about on the following pages address these issues in a variety of groundbreaking ways that might even surprise you! Also noteworthy, many of them are founded and led by incredibly inspiring and powerful Jewish women leaders who are at the forefront of the social change movement. Their pioneering, innovation-driven work is changing the face of the Jewish community, and we are proud to support them in those efforts.

The Jewish Women’s Foundation of New York is a public foundation with a grantmaking agenda focused in four main areas: economic security, leadership advancement, health and well-being, and social entrepreneurship. We have a high tolerance for risk and a willingness to challenge our very own personal and communal assumptions about the status of women and girls in our community.

We are driven by the expertise and generosity of our members and supporters, who are active decision-makers in our work. We need your help! And I hope that as we put forth the final in this three-part series, Slingshot Supplement on Women and Girls, it gives you the tools to learn more, be inspired and join us to do something about it. The Jewish Women’s Foundation of New York imagines a world in which all women and girls in the Jewish community have equal opportunity for economic, religious, social and political achievement. We all have a stake in the success of women and girls in our community, for, as the famous poet and activist Emma Lazarus said, “Until we are all free, we are none of us free.”

With gratitude,

Joy Sisisky
JWFNY Executive Director
Slingshot ’16
WOMEN & GIRLS SUPPLEMENT
ORGANIZATIONS BY REGION

Includes organizations that primarily engage with their audiences virtually or that operate exclusively on a national level.

NATIONAL/VIRTUAL
5
Organizations are counted based on location of their work and impact, and may be counted more than once if their work occurs in multiple locations.
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Over the past 18 years, more than 700 young adults committed to helping the most vulnerable Americans have participated in AVODAH’s Jewish service corps program, working with local antipoverty organizations in Chicago, New York City, Washington, D.C., and New Orleans. Fully 80 percent of these volunteers are women, and they’re addressing pressing problems such as hunger and domestic violence, building leadership skills that have led them into more than 60 Jewish organizations across the country. AVODAH is particularly committed to helping women become leaders: In 2014, it launched AVODAH Women Leading Together, a seven-month leadership development program for midcareer AVODAH alumnae to hone their ability to create change and lead others through one-on-one mentoring, coaching and virtual meetings. The new venture is necessary because, although women emerge from AVODAH programs full of conviction, knowledge and networks to repair the world, the majority will still confront institutional barriers as they try to advance in their careers.

AVODAH wants to change that, and it walks the walk: Seventy-eight percent of AVODAH staff is female, 74 percent of the board is female, and AVODAH’s executive director, deputy director and board chair are all women. Together, they steer AVODAH’s unique, yearlong service program, in which adults ages 21 to 26 live communally while working to fight poverty and receiving leadership training. With its emphasis on developing Jewish thought leaders who then go on to reach thousands with their editorials, speaking engagements and teaching platforms, AVODAH makes a significant difference: To date, its alumni have added more than $14.7 million in muscle to antipoverty organizations and helped nearly 600,000 people in need. In the process, AVODAH—and AWLT—is cultivating a new generation of Jewish women leaders committed to real social change, justice and, ultimately, helping to put an end to poverty.
Created Equal:

Created Equal: A Research and Educational Project on Men, Women and the Ethics of Shared Leadership is the newest undertaking of the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America, a preeminent Jewish think tank that is taking the lead on pressing controversial issues of the day. It aims to do nothing less than initiate a vibrant conversation and develop a curriculum about gender equity and Jewish leadership. In doing so, Created Equal is striving to bring about a transformation in how the Jewish community operates around this often thorny issue. Through its partnership with Advancing Women Professionals, Created Equal is developing a curriculum based on deep research and study, one that will help address the gender gap in Jewish leadership by advancing new ways of thinking about power and authority. The ultimate goal is to help address concerns about leadership and succession that threaten the health of the Jewish community as a whole.

In its initial stages, Created Equal is studying how to make questions of gender equity a more central thread in Jewish life and leadership, and will use this research to create a series of programs that will be made available to rabbis, educators, Jewish leaders and people engaged in the process of becoming Jewish leaders. Rather than merely advocating, Created Equal targets community decision-makers who have the power to bring about bona fide change. Past Shalom Hartman Institute initiatives include iEngage, a video-based curriculum on Israel now used in more than 400 synagogues, and the Campus Fellowship program, which educates Hillel leaders on college campuses across the country. Created Equal promises to follow their successful lead, using serious scholarship that engages Jewish agents of change to update thinking about gender, Jewishness and authority for a more modern age.

Working to understand how gender influences the broader narrative of Jewish life and seeking to transform the way that the Jewish community operates on these issues.

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founded
2014

board chair(s)
Angelica Berrie

2015 expenses
$160,000

project of
Shalom Hartman Institute of North America

parent org founded
2010
Education and b’nai mitzvah have always been central tenets of Judaism—except when it comes to children with special needs. With one in every five children diagnosed with a learning issue, too many parents have heard, “Sorry, we can’t help your child,” when they try to arrange instruction for a bar or bat mitzvah. Gateways: Access to Jewish Education is changing that paradigm in the Greater Boston area and providing a road map for Jewish educators across the country who want to give all kids the chance to participate—with a particular focus on girls with learning issues.

Specifically, Gateways develops girl-centric programming in partnership with a number of organizations (including Jewish Women’s Archive and Moving Traditions), adapting their materials so that Gateways’ girls are able to learn about the ritual through a female lens. The organization is now in the process of creating a girl-focused tool kit based on its research. As one parent put it: “Seeing all the different ways the staff modify the curriculum and make accommodations to each student’s needs is... amazing.” And, as awareness and concern about special-needs kids grow nationally, Gateways is working to expand its scope beyond the bounds of Boston, teaming with Yeshiva University to create a model and materials for other communities. In doing so, it's holding out a net for families that might otherwise fall through the cracks, providing services in 10 Boston-area day schools, as well as through independent programs like Mitzvah Mensches, a youth group for teens that fosters social action while helping kids improve their social skills, and Sunday classes for kids ages 5 to 18. Clearly, the idea of making Jewish education—and Jewish life, including the ability to have a bat mitzvah—available to all is an idea whose time has come.
In 2011, the Hebrew Free Loan Society began offering basic business training courses for women in Brooklyn’s ultra-Orthodox (largely Hasidic) communities who want to launch or grow small businesses as a means to support their families. Understanding that poor Haredi households make up the largest group of poor people in the Jewish community, the Haredi Women's Course seeks to empower women to be part of the solution by providing comprehensive entrepreneurship training.

Over the past five years, HFLS has run almost a dozen such entrepreneurship courses in Williamsburg and Borough Park, providing more than 200 Haredi women with the skills required to launch and run successful businesses. Women learn not only hard business skills such as projecting cash flow, but also the soft skills especially critical for women in conservative, patriarchal societies. This includes the self-confidence and assertiveness to demand a fair price or negotiate a deal and how to cope with the disapproval of family members. The course also addresses the challenges of running a business while raising a large family. Although HFLS is still evaluating the impact of its course on family income, anecdotal evidence suggests the majority of women have gone on to run businesses, shifting the role and perception of women in their families and increasing their family's financial health.
ImmerseNYC is not your Orthodox grandmother’s mikveh. Actually, it’s not even a mikveh. Yet. Rather, it’s a program designed to carry, support and nurture women through meaningful life transitions that most face, endure and often suffer in isolation. Inspired by Boston’s Mayyim Hayyim community mikveh, ImmerseNYC offers deep ritual experiences led by mikveh guides to usher women through their immersions, which take place at existing Orthodox mikvehs in and around New York City. Whereas the traditional mikveh existed for Orthodox Jewish women to cleanse and purify themselves after their monthly periods, the modern mikveh encounter that ImmerseNYC provides is pluralistic and emotionally relevant to significant passages in a secular woman’s life, including conversion, pregnancy loss, abortion, healing from illness or trauma, mourning, divorce and even menopause.

Under the leadership of Rabbi Sara Luria, ImmerseNYC addresses a pressing need: providing a space for women to process their transitions through a nurturing Jewish lens. ImmerseNYC also offers living room–based “salons,” peer-facilitated discussions related to the life events that can lead modern women to the mikveh in the first place. Like most cultures, American society doesn’t provide room to mourn pregnancy loss or the dashed dreams wrought by infertility. ImmerseNYC creates that space. Although the hope is that ImmerseNYC will one day have its own mikveh in Brooklyn, for now, it’s providing Jewish women with a sense of spirituality that they may have sought elsewhere—in yoga, meditation, Buddhism or support groups. Now they can also find it in Judaism.
The Jewish Council for the Aging helps older adults in the Greater Washington, D.C., region maintain their independence, dignity, vitality and self-respect through a myriad of community-based programs. One wonderful example is the Career Gateway program, which helps women over 50 who find themselves back in the job market because of an unexpected loss or financial difficulties. These women desperately want and need to take care of themselves financially, and JCA’s Career Gateway program provides the skills and support they need to build capacity and confidence.

At Career Gateway, the emphasis is on the individual. Participants learn job-seeking skills and social-networking savvy. Women are schooled in financial literacy and participate in a women’s job club. Each woman also receives ongoing career coaching from a trained mentor. Participants emerge with greater self-esteem, feeling supported, and with an effective plan for her future. JCA also runs Employment Expos, where thousands of midlife and older job seekers network with area employers and community resource organizations. By the time a woman emerges from the program, she’s prepared to face the road ahead.

Building bridges across generations and cultures through volunteering, mentoring, tutoring and other programs to promote improved communication, understanding and quality of life for older adults and youth.

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2010

board chair(s)
Shel Grosberg

2015 expenses
$136,500

project of
Jewish Council for the Aging

parent org founded
1973
Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse is the only Jewish organization in the Greater Washington area providing direct services to victims of domestic and dating abuse. With a team of professionals who volunteer their time and expertise in order to offer pro bono counseling, financial planning and alternative therapies, JCADA offers a holistic approach that integrates clinical support, community education and prevention efforts. JCADA also provides direct services to victims’ families, working with women, men and teens to tailor services to address the cultural and religious barriers that are common to Jewish victims.

Having developed a specialty in understanding cultural nuances, JCADA has seen its impact extend beyond the Jewish community, drawing non-Jewish clients who are attracted to its sensitive handling of cultural-specific issues. In fact, JCADA created a network of services in partnership with other nonprofit and government organizations, providing JCADA clinicians in some of its partner locations and serving as the Jewish community’s voice in regional networks focused on domestic abuse. Demand for JCADA services has grown 10 to 20 percent each year for the past few years, while the number of prevention and outreach programs has doubled in the past year alone. And it continues to find and fill the needs of abuse victims. In 2015, JCADA invested in the development of the Legal Access program in response to data that showed lack of access to legal services is the primary barrier to choosing to leave an abusive partner. The increase in demand is actually not based on an increase in domestic abuse—that has stayed constant. Rather, it’s indicative of the tremendous impact JCADA is having on the community.
The Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance works to transform gender dynamics in Orthodoxy in the spiritual, ritual, intellectual and political arenas, all within the framework of Jewish law. Through a broad range of activities and programs, JOFA advocates for meaningful participation and equity for women in family life, synagogues, houses of learning and Jewish communal organizations to the fullest extent possible within Jewish law.

JOFA has had direct impact on many issues, including women’s leadership, promoting women’s scholarship, women’s and girls’ ritual inclusion, gender awareness in Jewish education, gender equity in communal structures and more. JOFA takes a systemic, strategic and collaborative approach to social change, working with communal organizations, synagogues, rabbinic leaders, educational institutions and other advocacy groups to advance these issues. And it is continuing to push the envelope. JOFA recently launched three new programs: the Committee to Advance Women Clergy, which serves women across the spectrum of Centrist/Modern/Open Orthodox communities; an unconference on ritual innovation; and The Joy of Text podcast, which explores the intersection of sexuality and halacha (Jewish law). In addition, this past year, the board voted to include men on the board of directors, signaling a seismic shift for the organization and recognizing men as essential partners and allies in realizing its vision. And finally, JOFA is beginning to expand—bringing local chapters to cities such as Cleveland, Chicago and Atlanta.

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founded
1997

board chair(s)
Dr. Bat Sheva Marcus

2015 expenses
$612,279
The Jewish Woman Entrepreneur helps Jewish women launch and grow successful businesses. Founded in 2011 as a mentorship program, JWE immediately drew attention from the Orthodox community, where women who were lacking a secular education needed professional flexibility and were attracted to entrepreneurial ventures. More than 300 women attended the group’s first national business conference for observant women entrepreneurs in 2013, a number that grew to 500 the following year. Since then, JWE has expanded to provide services and programming via its 12 local city chapters and now currently supports 1,100 women across the U.S.

JWE is known for its local collaborative support networks, business education and mentorship. And it gets results—bolstering business longevity and fostering financial independence for women and their families. Those who participate go on to create impactful, successful businesses, the effects rippling across the wider Jewish community as they gain financial independence and hire new employees. In this way, JWE continues the virtuous cycle of empowerment and growth. As more families graduate from their low-income status, the burdens carried by the greater community are lessened, making this program not only innovative but a true model of change.

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founded
2011

board chair(s)
Ariela Balk
Chaya Appel Fishman

2015 expenses
$250,000
Before 2012, six tiny congregations in the remote rural communities of Northern Michigan and Ottawa were isolated and struggling, the only Jewish presences for hundreds of miles, separated from one another and from the strength that comes from being part of a vibrant community. Enter L’Dor v’Dor, created from seed money received by Temple B’nai Israel of Petoskey, Michigan, and charged with the mission of building bridges of Jewish support for themselves and their communities. Four years later—and joined by a seventh congregation—this consortium has nurtured and joined disparate Jewish families with twice-yearly women’s retreats and intergenerational gatherings, and raised awareness of the Jewish presence in the region with vibrant cultural events, creating a sense of Jewish identity in the young people of the Upper Peninsula.

Specific initiatives include a series of klezmer concerts, Jewish-themed lectures and the formation of a temple youth group, a member of which went on to become vice president of the local arm of a national Jewish youth organization. And, of course, the empowerment of women. “We are Jewish women trying to lead Jewish lives and raise families in small towns and remote areas…without the benefit of a larger Jewish community…for hundreds of miles,” says a founding member. Indeed, L’Dor v’Dor takes mentoring the next generation—the daughters of these leaders—very seriously. All together, the power of women is being used to enhance the quality of Jewish life in a geographically isolated but now spiritually rich part of the country.
In Jewish tradition, water is part of our sacred narrative, marking major life transitions (from slavery to freedom through the parting of the Red Sea, for instance). Today, the ritual of mikveh—immersion in a pool of water to mark transitions such as marriage, the monthly cycle of menstruation and conversion to Judaism—is not something that many Jews have experienced. Many consider it a relic of a sexist, exclusionary past. Mayyim Hayyim, which opened its doors in Newton, Massachusetts, in 2004, is changing this attitude, one immersion at a time, by reinventing the tradition of mikveh. The organization is re-creating the tradition, giving it a thoroughly modern—but meaningful—spin and making it relevant for Jews of all stripes in 2016.

And it’s succeeding. Since its inception, Mayyim Hayyim has seen more than 14,000 immersions, created 110 educational programs and has fostered a rich and vibrant web and social media presence. More important, it has provided a safe, welcoming place for Jews in the greater Boston area who want to partake in this tradition in a modern way, in an atmosphere of acceptance. Mayyim Hayyim strives to make every member of the Jewish community (gay and straight, young and old, tattooed and pierced, Asian and black) feel welcome and able to experience this ritual, through its educational programs, volunteer training and engagement with the arts. (The Mayyim Hayyim website features four original documentary films, among other things.) Through blogging, webinars and conferences, Mayyim Hayyim offers the spiritual experience of mikveh to a diverse audience, an audience who once would have been excluded from this mitzvah.
Every middle and high schooler could use a little help these days, a mentor who can guide them as they navigate ever more intense academic pressure, Facebook bullies, gender confusion—all the issues that can force them to grow up too fast and send them in the wrong direction. Moving Traditions offers that help through its signature mentor-led youth programs that have provided a sense of community and promoted self-discovery, self-esteem and independence in more than 15,000 Jewish teens since 2005. Each year, Moving Traditions trains more than 100 mentors, working with a small-group model where these adults get to know teens in a holistic way that lasts for years, creating a Jewish connection and sense of identity in these kids that stretches well beyond the bar or bat mitzvah.

Moving Traditions was founded by women—the chair and executive director are both women—and its Rosh Hodesh program for girls is particularly strong, as an independent 2015 evaluation of the program makes clear: Eighty-one percent of girls said Rosh Hodesh had helped them strengthen or acquire leadership skills, 93 percent said it increased their connection with Jewish girls and women, and 89 percent said the program has helped them think about how they treat other girls. And the boys’ program, Shevet Achim, now in its fourth year, is reaping similar results: As one participant wrote: “Shevet Achim is the best thing my mother ever forced me to do.” There are other youth programs for Jewish teens, to be sure, but none follow an ongoing mentorship model that engages teens to look at and explore the tough issues that define their lives now, including gender identity (programs and curricula for LGBT youth are in progress), peer pressure, gender equity and work-life balance. With the help of Moving Traditions, more teens are growing into adulthood with confidence, a sense of community and an enduring commitment to being a part of the Jewish community, however they identify themselves.
Nishmah: The St. Louis Jewish Women’s Project

Nishmah: The St. Louis Jewish Women’s Project inspires, engages and supports girls and women through educational, spiritual and social programming that creates meaningful leadership opportunities. Bringing Jewish women and girls of St. Louis together in similar-age cohorts for intergenerational opportunities, Nishmah fosters deeper connections with Jewish tradition and community, leadership skills and personal relationships.

Boasting a biannual Women’s Seder, a salon series and a women’s interdenominational, interfaith Shabbat retreat, Nishmah also provides opportunities for young women. Through Banot Buddies, beginning in second grade, girls are able to look at girlhood issues through a Jewish lens with their teen mentors, who hail from a wide range of Jewish backgrounds. Nishmah also partners with national organizations to bring Moving Traditions opportunities to young girls, Sharsheret support to women with breast cancer and Shalom Bayit assistance to victims of domestic violence. Through original programming and strategic partnerships, Nishmah has become the place in the community that people seek out for guidance and expertise in the area of Jewish women and girls.

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founded
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board chair(s)
Jenny Woikowitz

2015 expenses
$130,000

project of
Jewish Community Center
St. Louis

parent org founded
1880
Founded by a group of Yeshiva University students, the Organization for the Resolution of Agunot empowers women who are denied a Jewish divorce (get in Hebrew) to obtain one unconditionally and in a timely fashion. According to traditional Jewish law, a husband must give his wife a get in order to finalize their religious divorce so that she can move on with her life. When a husband refuses, it can lead to an abusive cycle, keeping a woman trapped in a difficult situation. ORA resolves current cases of get refusal by way of advocacy and prevents future cases by promoting the universal adoption of the halachic (“following Jewish law”) prenuptial agreement. Since its founding in 2002, ORA has succeeded in assisting more than 230 women attain their long-sought freedom.

ORA has grown into an international nonprofit recognized as one of the most prominent voices in agunah advocacy. (An agunah is a woman whose husband refuses to issue her a get.) Providing comprehensive assistance to Orthodox women in the midst of contentious divorces, it offers legal aid, counseling, shelter, safety planning and financial assistance. Whether navigating the court systems or applying social, financial and communal pressure on the resistant husband, ORA works with each woman to develop a plan for resolution. ORA also runs an Agunah Prevention Initiative to educate high school students, college students and community members about agunot and the option of a Jewish prenuptial agreement. Both the Rabbinical Council of America and the International Rabbinic Fellowship have adopted resolutions in recent years addressing the agunah crisis and seeking to universalize the use of the Jewish prenuptial agreement, demonstrating ORA’s incredible influence on this issue.

Supporting women seeking a get and changing attitudes about get refusal and domestic abuse in the Jewish community.

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2002
board chair(s)
Michelle Greenberg-Kobrin, Esq.
2015 expenses
$525,000
Shalom Bayit

Shalom Bayit—meaning “peace in the home”—works to transform the Jewish community’s response to domestic violence. Founded by a collaborative of Jewish feminists and battered women’s advocates, it seeks to foster the social change and community response necessary to eradicate domestic violence, which affects 20 to 30 percent of Jewish families. Shalom Bayit’s innovative programs and unique cultural and spiritual approaches have led to a national movement.

Shalom Bayit provides spiritual healing support groups, congregational protocols on abuse prevention and the nation’s first youth-led Jewish teen-dating violence-prevention curriculum, Love Shouldn’t Hurt. Its cutting-edge programs combine transformative community education and training with crisis intervention services, to create a comprehensive prevention and intervention response to domestic violence. By promoting communal strategies to reduce and prevent abuse in our midst, teaching Jewish youth skills for healthy relationships and empowering Jewish battered women and their children to seek safety, Shalom Bayit ensures the full participation of women and girls in Jewish life.
Besides excellent medical care, one thing a young woman who is diagnosed with breast cancer needs is unwavering support. Sharsheret—Hebrew for chain—provides that support and much more. Founded by Rochelle Shoretz, z”l, in November 2001, four months after she was diagnosed with breast cancer at age 28, and run by her until she passed away in May 2015, Sharsheret is a national organization designed to accompany young Jewish women at risk for or diagnosed with breast and ovarian cancer through all phases of the cancer journey, raising awareness; offering peer counseling; educating patients and families about genetic testing, treatment options and trials; and, most significant, addressing the unique concerns of young Jewish women.

Breast cancer does discriminate: One in 40 Ashkenazi Jews carries a breast cancer gene mutation, compared with 1 in 345 in the general population. Although thousands of young Jewish women are at risk, few are aware of their family medical history, the best ways to safeguard their health or where to turn for emotional support if they or a loved one is diagnosed. Through technology, social media, a vibrant website, widespread awareness campaigns and 12 on-the-ground outreach programs, Sharsheret has offered a virtual lifeline to more than 50,000 families since its inception more than a decade ago. Its impact has reached well beyond the Jewish world: In 2014, the organization was selected for a prestigious partnership with the Centers for Disease Control, a testimony to the effectiveness of its on-site support teams, culturally relevant resources, customized online navigation tools and information about health-care providers, clinical trials and everything else a young Jewish woman with a diagnosis of breast or ovarian cancer needs to know. As one survivor and young mother who suffered a recurrence put it: “Cancer changed my whole world. I thought I could do it alone. I was wrong. I needed help, and I got it from Sharsheret.”
The Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom provides the resources and programs to build trust, respect and relationships between Jewish and Muslim women in the U.S. It began as a single group coming together with the understanding that ignorance is a major cause of hatred and prejudice. By creating an opportunity for women of different backgrounds to learn about each other, SOSS focuses on issues of common interest and aims to combat negative attitudes and biases. The first domestic network of Muslim and Jewish women committed to developing relationships with each other based on trust, respect and harmony, it aims to do nothing less lofty than to stop anti-Muslim and anti-Jewish sentiment, hate and prejudice.

Now, with 15 active chapters on the West Coast, Midwest and East Coast, SOSS has founded an annual Muslim Jewish Women’s Leadership Conference, which attracts more than 100 participants. Another project is the annual Building Bridges trip, which takes groups of women to communities around the world. But whether in the U.S. or abroad, the SOSS sees every interaction between Muslim and Jewish women as an opportunity to understand each other and to appreciate our shared values and practices and to work together toward limiting acts of anti-Muslim and anti-Jewish sentiment.
Bringing a rabbinic voice to human rights causes in North America and Israel—that’s the mission of T’ruah, now a national network of 1,800 rabbis of all denominations. T’ruah trains bold, new leaders who speak to the crucial issues of the moment—many of them involving women and the pandemic violation of their human rights—with an underlying religious, moral subtext. Through its rabbinical programs in the U.S. and Israel, T’ruah teaches current and future clergy—150 since the organization’s inception—to be powerful and effective human rights leaders. Wading in where others fear to tread, T’ruah brought 23 rabbis to Ferguson, Missouri, for a clergy day of action, and continues to address the hot-button topics of our time: Palestinian rights, a one-state solution, post-9/11 civil liberties, torture and mass incarceration. T’ruah leads other Jewish organizations in its advocacy of women who have been exploited due to labor and sex trafficking, are in prison and support their families on welfare. By engaging rabbis directly in these campaigns, T’ruah amplifies their voices as moral leaders.

T’ruah runs two training programs for rabbinical students, who spend a year in Israel learning from Palestinians, African asylum seekers and Israeli human rights leaders, and develop the skills required to address what is happening in Israel today (and in the future) in a nuanced, complex manner. In T’ruah’s Summer Fellowship in Human Rights program, a select group of students spend eight weeks working for a human rights organization while learning the texts and skills to become leaders in this area. T’ruah is the only organization that mobilizes rabbis of all denominations to bring Jewish wisdom to bear on the issues that typically drive Jews apart, engaging Jewish communities that might not otherwise dabble in social justice. That’s because T’ruah speaks an authentic Jewish language that is nevertheless redefining what it means to be a rabbi—and a Jew.
Yeshivat Maharat is the first and only yeshiva in North America to ordain women as Orthodox clergy. Through a rigorous four-year curriculum of Jewish law, pastoral counseling, leadership development and internship experiences, graduates emerge as trained rabbinic authorities and voices of authority prepared to address varied issues affecting not only Orthodox Jews, but global Jewry. In addition, Yeshivat Maharat trains women to transform their knowledge into service, to be able to stand together with male counterparts as spiritual leaders of our community. Once a woman graduates from Yeshivat Maharat, she has the credentials to build and lead rich, diverse communities, impacting countless individuals on university campuses, in synagogues and in Jewish organizations.

By redefining gender roles in Jewish life, this yeshiva is changing what it means to be a leader in the community, as well. Graduates are creating a pipeline of Jewish communal leaders who will be poised to inspire and lead Jewish communities around the world. They are also serving as role models for young Orthodox girls who see a new world of possibility as they imagine their collective future. As the demand for female clergy increases, Yeshivat Maharat will be there to prepare them for a vast new world of options.

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phone
718-796-0590
website
www.yeshivatmaharat.org
twitter
@yeshivatmaharat
address
3700 Henry Hudson Parkway
Riverdale, NY 10463
founded
2009
board chair(s)
Ariel Groveman Weiner
2015 expenses
$1,056,756
Program Areas

Advocacy
Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance

Aging
JCA Career Gateways Program

Children
Gateways: Access to Jewish Education’s Special Path to Bat Mitzvah
JCA Career Gateways Program

Community Building
ImmerseNYC
L’Dor v’Dor Northern Michigan Jewish Women’s Rural Leadership Consortium
Sharsheret
Yeshivat Maharat

Disabilities
Gateways: Access to Jewish Education’s Special Path to Bat Mitzvah

Domestic Violence
The Organization for the Resolution of Agunot
Shalom Bayit

Economic Security
Hebrew Free Loan Society’s Haredi Women’s Course
The Jewish Woman Entrepreneur
Truah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights

Gender
Created Equal
Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance
Moving Traditions

Health
Sharsheret

Jewish Education
Created Equal
Gateways: Access to Jewish Education’s Special Path to Bat Mitzvah
Mayyim Hayyim Living Waters Community
Mikveh and Education Center
Moving Traditions

Leadership Development
AVODAH
Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance
L’Dor v’Dor Northern Michigan Jewish Women’s Rural Leadership Consortium
Nishmah: The St. Louis Jewish Women’s Project
Yeshivat Maharat

Outreach & Engagement
Mayyim Hayyim Living Waters Community
Mikveh and Education Center

Poverty
Hebrew Free Loan Society’s Haredi Women’s Course
Truah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights

Professional Development
Created Equal
The Jewish Woman Entrepreneur
Moving Traditions

Ritual
ImmerseNYC
Mayyim Hayyim Living Waters Community Mikveh and Education Center

Service & Volunteerism
AVODAH
JCA Career Gateways Program

Social Justice
AVODAH
The Organization for the Resolution of Agunot
Shalom Bayit

Spirituality
ImmerseNYC
Nishmah: The St. Louis Jewish Women’s Project
### Population Served

#### 20s & 30s
- AVODAH
- Yeshivat Maharat

#### Adults
- AVODAH
- Created Equal
- Hebrew Free Loan Society’s Haredi Women’s Course
- ImmerseNYC
- Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance
- L’Dor v’Dor Northern Michigan Jewish Women’s Rural Leadership Consortium
- Mayyim Hayyim Living Waters Community
- Mikveh and Education Center
- Truah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights

#### Baby Boomers
- The Jewish Woman Entrepreneur

#### Children
- Gateways: Access to Jewish Education’s Special Path to Bat Mitzvah
- ImmerseNYC
- JCA Career Gateways Program
- Mayyim Hayyim Living Waters Community
- Mikveh and Education Center

#### Disabilities
- Gateways: Access to Jewish Education’s Special Path to Bat Mitzvah

#### Educators
- Created Equal
- Gateways: Access to Jewish Education’s Special Path to Bat Mitzvah
- Moving Traditions

#### Elderly
- JCA Career Gateways Program

#### Families
- Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance
- L’Dor v’Dor Northern Michigan Jewish Women’s Rural Leadership Consortium
- The Organization for the Resolution of Agunot
- Yeshivat Maharat

#### Interfaith
- Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom

#### Jewish Professionals
- Created Equal
- The Jewish Woman Entrepreneur
- Sharsheret

#### Teens
- JCA Career Gateways Program
- Moving Traditions
- Nishmah: The St. Louis Jewish Women’s Project
- The Organization for the Resolution of Agunot
- Shalom Bayit

#### Ultra-Orthodox/Haredi
- Hebrew Free Loan Society’s Haredi Women’s Course
- Truah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights
Annual Expenses

< $100,000
Hebrew Free Loan Society’s Haredi Women’s Course
L’Dor v’Dor Northern Michigan Jewish Women’s Rural Leadership Consortium
Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom
Truah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights

$100,001 — $200,000
Created Equal
ImmerseNYC
Nishmah: The St. Louis Jewish Women’s Project

$200,001 — $500,000
JCA Career Gateways Program
Shalom Bayit
The Jewish Woman Entrepreneur

$500,001 — $1,000,000
Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance
Mayyim Hayyim Living Waters Community
Mikveh and Education Center
The Organization for the Resolution of Agunot

$1,000,001 — $3,000,000
AVODAH
Gateways: Access to Jewish Education’s Special Path to Bat Mitzvah
Moving Traditions
Sharsheret
Yeshivat Maharat
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization or Project</th>
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<tr>
<td>AVODAH: The Jewish Service Corps’s AVODAH Women Leading Together</td>
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<td>Career Gateway, The</td>
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<td>Greater Washington Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hebrew Free Loan Society: Entrepreneurship Training for Haredi Women</td>
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<td>ImmerseNYC</td>
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<td>JCA’s Career Gateways Program</td>
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Special thanks to the 19 organizations profiled in this guide and to the hundreds of exciting projects that applied for inclusion in *Slingshot ’16*. We are privileged to consider you our colleagues and are inspired by your devotion to ensuring that the North American Jewish community continues to thrive. Thank you to the next-generation members of the Slingshot Fund, who spent many months engaged in a collective giving process to support innovative Jewish organizations. These members have provided the original inspiration for this guide and continually drive its production. Our gratitude also goes to the panel of professional evaluators that select the organizations featured in *Slingshot*. Without them, this guide would not exist. Thank you to all of our funders, families and friends who help to make *Slingshot* possible.

Thank you to the team at the Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies and 21/64, including Charles Bronfman, Jeff Solomon, John Hoover, Sharna Goldseker and Barbara Taylor for their ongoing in-kind support of Slingshot. Thank you to the team who has helped build the guide, including Hilary Schumer, Becca Flyer, writers Jennifer Wolff and Paula Derrow, editor Lynn Messina, graphic designer Laurie Fink and printer Scott Kaiser at Vanguard Direct. Thank you to our auditors, Mark Charendoff, Deena Fuchs, Coby Lerner and Rebecca Richards for assuring the transparency of our process.

**Leadership**

Slingshot is guided by a board of directors of next-generation Slingshot Fund investors, without whom *Slingshot ’16*, the Slingshot Fund and our annual community gathering, Slingshot Day, would not be possible. Their commitment to supporting innovation in Jewish life provides great hope for our collective future.

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Daniel Raiffe – Executive Committee  
Bethany Shiner – Executive Committee  
Philip Silverman – Executive Committee  
Aaron Bisman  
Jonathan Horowitz  
Coby Lerner  
Jonathan Raiffe  
Ariella Lis Raviv  
Rebecca Richards  
Lana Volftsun  
Jenna Weinberg  
Rachel Zamoiski
Investors
Slingshot would like to thank the following investors, whose commitment to the next generation of Jewish life is expressed through support of Slingshot and the Slingshot Fund. We are grateful to each of you for your vision and support during the past 11 years.

21/64
Sara R. Adland
The Adler Family
Matthew Adler
Rachel Adler
The Samuel I. Adler Family Supporting Foundation, Inc.
Spike and Marita Anderson
Erica Roizen Belsky
Scott Belsky
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Dave Moss
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Joe Rosenberg
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Asher Schlusselberg
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Bethany Shiner
Sholk-Kaplan Family Philanthropic Fund
Ben Shuldiner
Philip Silverman
Joya Sonnenfeldt
Mamie Kanfer Stewart and R. Justin Stewart
Ben Swig
Beth and Michael Swirnow
The Alvin and Fanny B. Thalheimer Foundation
Jos Thalheimer
Louis B. Thalheimer and Juliet A. Eurich
Karina Totah
Arielle Vogelstein
Atara Vogelstein
Aviva Vogelstein
Lana Volftsun
Margo Volftsun
Stephanie Volftsun
The Warren Family
Jenna Weinberg
Rachel Zamoiski
Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation
Maxine and Jack Zarrow Family Foundation
Dan Zuckerman

Evaluators
Thank you to our wonderful team of evaluators who have helped to assemble Slingshot ’16. The evaluators who decide which organizations to feature in Slingshot devote at least some professional time to supporting innovative Jewish organizations. These evaluators have lent extraordinary analytical skills, sector expertise, and valuable time to assist in the near impossible task of choosing the most innovative projects in Jewish life. Their commitment ensures that Slingshot features organizations that inspire us all and play an important role in shaping the future of Jewish life.

Sara Adland
Dahlia Ben David
Dottie Bennett
Diane Bennett Eidman
Rebecca Berger
Debbie Berkowitz
Joelle Berman
Aaron Bisman
Caron Blau Rothstein
Joni Blinderman
Stephanie Blumenkranz
Daniel Bonner
Wendy Borodkin
Nir Buchler
Jay Chernikoff
Shelley Christensen
Judy Cohen
Gali Cooks
Beth Cousins
Diane Cutler
Vicki Dansky
Andrea Deck
Adina Dubin Barkinskiy
Mark Edelson
Lisa Farber Miller
Nora Feinstein
What is Slingshot?
The core of the idea that became Slingshot developed organically following a 2003 weekend retreat for a dozen young Jews who were preparing to become involved in their families’ philanthropic efforts. Participants wanted to learn how to navigate the alphabet soup of the Jewish community and sort out which organizations resonated for themselves and their peers. Slingshot: A Resource Guide to Jewish Innovation was launched shortly after as a Zagat-style guidebook to highlight the most innovative nonprofits in North America each year.

What is the Slingshot Fund?
Since 2007, the next-generation funders responsible for Slingshot have taken their concept a step further by supporting innovative Jewish organizations through the Slingshot Fund. In conjunction with their peers, Slingshot Fund members pool their funds, review proposals, conduct site visits and make allocation decisions. Being part of the Slingshot Fund offers members opportunities to connect with peers, explore Jewish interests, find causes that are meaningful to their own identities and experiences, and hone leadership skills.

Why should I join the Slingshot Fund 2016?
The Slingshot Fund offers grant-making training to next-generation funders across the country. Members may join to build relationships with other funders in their 20s and 30s, explore the Jewish not-for-profit world, learn more about grant-making or simply have philanthropic experiences independent of their families. There is no one-size-fits-all reason for joining, but if you are interested in having a peer grant-making experience, leveraging your giving, joining a community of next generation philanthropists, receiving grant-making training or learning about cutting-edge Jewish organizations across North America, the Slingshot Fund may be right for you.

How does the Slingshot Fund work?
All organizations featured in Slingshot in a given year are eligible to apply for a Slingshot Fund grant. Slingshot Fund members pool their donations and spend five months examining proposals, conducting site visits and selecting grantees whose organizations not only fit the criteria, but who also resonate with a next-generation audience.

www.slingshotfund.org
Grand Street
The idea for Slingshot and the Slingshot Fund has evolved through the Grand Street network. Grand Street is a meeting place for young Jews (18 to 28 years old) who are involved or will be involved as leaders in their families’ philanthropic efforts. Beginning in 2002 with 12 people meeting for a weekend to ask their own questions, Grand Street seeks to develop a Jewish philanthropic analysis and capacity for strategic thinking, as well as to create a space where members can pursue personal development and build a network of peers in similar positions of philanthropic responsibility. A new cohort of 12 individuals is added each year.

Some participants are in college or have recently graduated, some have already assumed roles within their families’ foundations, and many others are just becoming aware of those imminent responsibilities. All feel alone in being young and associated with philanthropic wealth. Many struggle with allocating, or planning to allocate, money while also seeking to reconcile their personal passions with their families’ interests, both Jewish and universal.

http://2164.net/we-offer/convening
The Jewish Women's Foundation of New York imagines a world in which all women and girls in the Jewish community are ensured a healthy and supportive environment...a world in which we all have equal opportunity for economic, religious, social and political achievement.

The Jewish Women's Foundation of New York works to make this world a reality by providing education on vital issues, funding innovative programs, engaging in advocacy efforts and encouraging our members to view all philanthropic efforts through a gender lens.

Please visit www.jwfny.org to learn more.