



Lorraine & Jack N.
Friedman
Commission
for Jewish
Education
2017-2018



This has been a year of firsts for our beloved CJE.

This year we led the way in integrating technology into Jewish education by piloting the **ShalomLearning** program in our community. In just a few short months we have seen firsthand how we are changing the way local students engage with Judaism. This digital tool, in combination with the guidance of CJE's educators, is enhancing experiences in the classroom and creating an environment where children relate to Judaic material in the way they are most comfortable – digitally.

In October, you helped us make history and meet another critical need in the Palm Beaches during our inaugural **Day of Awareness: Educating and Supporting Students with Disabilities**. For the conference, we gathered nearly 200 community members, families, educators and dozens of experts in the fields of special needs education, early intervention and therapies. The event was an important step toward making the Palm Beaches more inclusive for students with disabilities and their families.

The third major initiative this year was our inaugural **Champions of Jewish Education** event, which was held in March. This was our opportunity to recognize CJE board member and philanthropist, Irwin Shipper, for his three decades of devotion to enriching Jewish education in the Palm Beaches. It was an exciting evening highlighting the important role volunteer involvement plays in the success of CJE.

We are fortunate to live in a community that values Jewish education and supports the efforts of the committed professionals and volunteer leaders who make up the Friedman Commission for Jewish Education.

Please review our annual report and consider joining and participating in our Jewish journey.

Thank you,

Alan L. Shulman
CJE Board Chair

Empowering Families to Connect with Jewish Life and Learning

Friedman CJE's **Jewish Family Life** department connects families with children in the Palm Beaches to a variety of opportunities for Jewish life and learning. Through our consultation and collaboration with local community partners, we create innovative and meaningful community-wide family engagement programs, teacher curriculum enhancements and events utilizing **PJ Library®** and **PJ Our Way™** materials and resources.

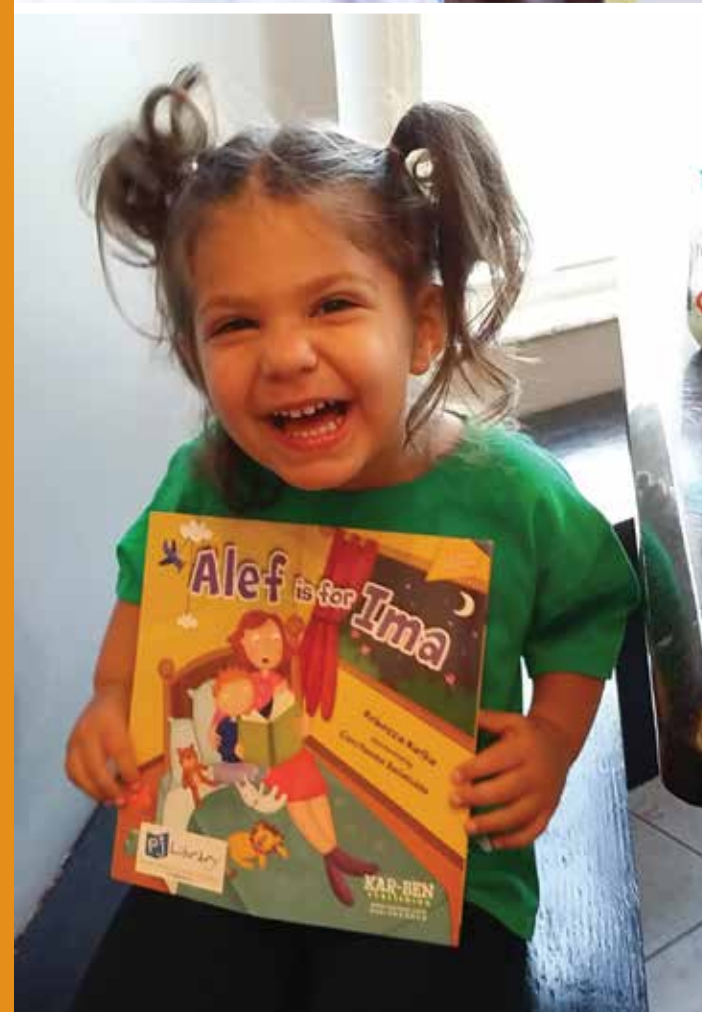
How We Empower Jewish Family Life:

- 2,000 children receive PJ Library® and PJ Our Way™ books in the Palm Beaches each month
- 97% of families say PJ Library® has increased their confidence to engage with their children regarding Jewish traditions, values and/or customs
- 77% of families involved with CJE are interested in getting more connected to local Jewish organizations, activities and/or people

Connect. Learn. Grow.



24,000 free Jewish books were delivered to local young children this year through PJ Library®.



“Without CJE, there would be a void. They've made it easy for my husband and me to **bond with our daughter** about Jewish lessons, and when we attend a community event that CJE has told us about and helped plan then I know my daughter is walking out with a life lesson learned.”

- Julie Marsh, Lake Worth

Providing Adults with Powerful Jewish Learning Experiences

CJE's **Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning** brings adults in our community a sophisticated and interactive course developed by an international team of experts at Hebrew University's Melton Centre for Jewish Education. The series offers an accessible, pluralistic course of Jewish study without exams or homework, where a student's only requirement is his or her passion for learning.

To explore women's issues, Friedman CJE's ***Conversations with Jewish Women Writers*** series brings a whole new component to adult learning in the Palm Beaches. Through a partnership with Hadassah-Brandeis Institute, ***Conversations*** creates opportunities for women to meet female Jewish authors and discuss Jewish and gender issues in an intimate setting.

How We Provide Adult Jewish Learning Experiences:

- 105 adults attended weekly classes with the Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning
- Explored topics including Jewish history, ethics and interfaith studies
- Expanded Melton program to meet increased demand
- 32 dynamic authors of new books featured in *Conversations with Jewish Women Writers* series

Connect. Learn. Grow.

250 adults participated in CJE's adult educational experiences this year.



“ **This program gives me a sense of community.** The process we use for reviewing the books really creates an environment for active and interesting dialogue. ”

– Carla Schwartz
Conversations participant
and member of book
selection committee



Connecting Students with Special Needs to Jewish Learning

CJE is committed to providing Jewish educational opportunities for the approximately 1 in 6 children with a developmental disability. Through our **J.N. Somers Yad Hebrew School for Children with Special Needs**, we are bringing the richness of Jewish heritage to students with autism spectrum disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, Down Syndrome and other developmental disorders. Classes offer a 1:1 ratio of teachers and volunteers to students.

This past year, in collaboration with our local partners, we launched the community-wide **Day of Awareness** conference, providing special needs education training and resources to educators, and practical steps for inclusion of disabled students to synagogues and schools.

How We Meet the Needs of Students with Disabilities:

- Provided students with disabilities in Israel with shared learning opportunities
- Connected people with special needs to larger community at Purim Carnival
- 80 teachers trained in special education techniques
- Taught students with disabilities Jewish heritage, prayer and Hebrew language

Connect. Learn. Grow.



80 local teachers were trained this year in special education techniques.



“**He’s learning about his Jewish heritage,** certain holidays and prayers, and it brings a lot of joy to his life. It’s been a great blessing for us to have this program because he would not have been able to participate in a traditional program.”

– Rachel Freitag
son Joshua attends
CJE’s Yad classes

Equipping Educators to Transform Children's Lives

A strong Jewish education in our community begins with strong educators. Through our **Professional Development & School Services** department, CJE ensures that educators at synagogues, preschools and day schools have the tools, methods and strategies to meet the needs of their students in ways that will transform the students' lives. We provide consultation, classes, workshops, conferences and curriculum designed for teachers and school directors throughout the year.

How We Equip Educators:

- 100 students at 5 synagogue schools piloted **ShalomLearning**, a nationally recognized, technology and values-based Judaic education program
- 175 educators, volunteers, professionals and community members attended CJE's inaugural **Day of Awareness: Educating and Supporting Students with Disabilities** conference
- \$22,000 awarded to 9 local schools for Jewish service learning projects
- 10 local classes communicated with their partners in Israel through **School Twinning** projects
- 3 Special Education Coordinators worked in 7 synagogue schools to provide training and resources for students with disabilities impacting a total of 900 students

Connect. Learn. Grow.

300 educators at 20 local Jewish schools received training, leadership development, resources, and connections to professional networks through CJE this year.



“CJE is a **wonderful resource for education directors** throughout Palm Beach County, and especially for me.”

– Alissa Frankel
Education Director at
Temple Beth Am, Jupiter



Thank You

to the generous donors,
leaders, volunteers and
educators who have
empowered CJE's
work in 2017-2018.

Your commitment to Jewish education
in the Palm Beaches provided so many
powerful opportunities for our community
to connect, learn and grow.

Listing includes donors to CJE's 2018 Annual Campaign
as of April 20, 2018.

Connect. Learn. Grow.

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Thank you to our generous Legacy donors who ensure high-quality Jewish educational experiences in perpetuity.

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Mazal Tov

To our community leaders and educators whom CJE is proud to celebrate and honor with these awards:

Connect. Learn. Grow.



Irwin Shipper
Champion of Jewish Education

More than 100 people gathered to honor philanthropist Irwin Shipper on March 13 at CJE's inaugural **Champions of Jewish Education** event. Irwin has championed Jewish education in the Palm Beaches for three decades in his many leadership roles on the CJE board of directors, the board of Temple Beth David in Palm Beach Gardens, and through his advocacy of Jewish life and learning with several other vital local and national Jewish organizations, including Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County.



Marilyn LeRoy
2018 Grinspoon Award for Excellence in Jewish Education

This award, sponsored by the Friedman CJE and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, recognizes local teachers who make a lasting impact on the lives of Jewish children, and who contribute to excellence in Jewish education. Marilyn, an Academic Resource Specialist at Arthur I. Meyer Jewish Academy in Palm Beach Gardens, was honored for her efforts to reach learners from all aspects and instilling in her students the most important value of *Ahavat Limud* - the love of learning.



Michelle Eisler
2018 *Hiddush* Award for Innovations in Teaching & Learning

This award recognizes a high-impact teacher who initiates positive changes in the learning environment, and who uses innovative curriculum and teaching to transform the classroom and school. Michelle Eisler, an educator at The One School at Temple Beth Am in Jupiter, uses her temple's garden and greenspace to empower children to grow and care for food, to value the wonders of nature, and explore healthy living by interacting with the outdoors.

Mazal Tov

to CJE's Melton
Scholars who
completed the
Melton Core
Curriculum.

Melton Courses:

- Rhythms of Jewish Living
- Purposes of Jewish Living
- Crossroads of Jewish History
- Ethics of Jewish Living

2017-2018

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Paul Azaroff
Peter Eckstein
Rabbi Debra Eisenman

Special thanks to CJE's dedicated partners who make our work possible.

- 3D Learner
- Alana Fichtelberg Speech/Language Therapy and Bend Your Brain Social Learning Groups
- Alpert Jewish Family and Children's Service
- Arthur I. Meyer Jewish Academy
- Autism Speaks
- B3/The Jewish Boomer Platform
- Center for Israel Education, Emory University
- Chabad House of Northern Palm Beach Island
- Connections Education Center of the Palm Beaches
- FAU Center for Autism & Related Disabilities (CARD)
- FAU Department of Exceptional Student Education
- Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning
- Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization
- Gratz College
- Hadassah-Brandeis Institute
- Harold Grinspoon Foundation
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- Inclusion Innovations Consulting
- Jack and Harriet Rosenfeld Foundation Program in Jewish Education at the University of Miami School of Education and Human Development
- Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County
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- Temple Torat Emet
- Unicorn Children's Foundation Clinic,
- Nova Southeastern University
- Wings of Krembo

Media Coverage

Throughout the year, CJE's impact made headlines in several local publications.

Below are some of our proudest examples of media coverage in 2017-2018.

- *CJE Brings Interfaith Family Education to Forefront*
The Jewish Voice, July 2017
- *Story reader training program develops teens' skills*
The Palm Beach Post, August 3, 2017
- *'Day of Awareness' Conference brought awareness of students with disabilities*
WPTV/NewsChannel 5, October 23, 2017
- *CJE Holds Historic Conference to Address Needs of Students with Disabilities*
The Jewish Voice, November 2017
- *Taking their first Jewish steps: CJE helps families connect their children to Jewish heritage*
Palm Beach Post, December 12, 2017
- *Children with Special Needs Share Joyous Hanukkah with Seniors at MorseLife*
The Jewish Voice, January 2018



CJE Brings Interfaith Family Education to Forefront



Nearly 100 parents of Jewish children gathered for an interfaith event at the University of Miami School of Education and Human Development on July 12, 2017. The event was part of the University's Summer Institute for Jewish Education and was co-sponsored by the University's Center for Israel Education and the University's Center for Autism & Related Disabilities (CARD). The event was held at the University's Center for Israel Education and was co-sponsored by the University's Center for Autism & Related Disabilities (CARD). The event was held at the University's Center for Israel Education and was co-sponsored by the University's Center for Autism & Related Disabilities (CARD).



Children with Special Needs Share Joyous Hanukkah with Seniors at MorseLife



Children with special needs and their families gathered at MorseLife on January 12, 2018, to celebrate Hanukkah. The event was part of the University's Summer Institute for Jewish Education and was co-sponsored by the University's Center for Israel Education and the University's Center for Autism & Related Disabilities (CARD). The event was held at the University's Center for Israel Education and was co-sponsored by the University's Center for Autism & Related Disabilities (CARD).

EDUCATION

Taking their first Jewish steps

CJE helps families connect their children to Jewish heritage.

By Bebe Brodigan
Special to The Palm Beach Post

While most people are receiving holiday cards and gifts each December, hundreds of families raising Jewish children are getting a "Your Jewish First Steps" brochure instead. For people with young children, that's a gift that can be more valuable.

"If you've just relocated to this area you're probably looking for a dry cleaner and a hair dresser, but the No. 1 thing on your mind if you have a young child is 'Where will my child go to school?'" says Amy Bergman, director of Jewish Family Life for the Friedman Commission for Jewish Education (CJE). Since this is preschool enrollment season, that guidance is in high demand at this time of year, and many preschools have waiting lists.

This is the sixth year CJE has distributed the "Your Jewish First Steps" guide to young families, and Bergman modifies it each year based on parent feedback. This year's edition is packed with ideas for building a child's learning plan from playgroups to preschools, and invites families to connect with Bergman or any CJE staffer for more personalized service.

So when Diane and Seth Scherer moved to Palm Beach Gardens a few years ago, they looked to Bergman and CJE for advice on choosing a preschool for their daughter. "We were really interested in both the curriculum and the hours of any school we considered for Caylah, and we wanted to make new friends and create a community like we had in New York before we moved here," says Diane Scherer.

The Scherers started by signing up their daughter to receive PJ Library's books. The free age-appropriate Jewish-themed books delivered to hundreds of families in the Palm Beaches through CJE, helped Scherer connect with Bergman, who is also known as the community's Jewish Family Life "conierge." "Amy really helped us figure out the right

IN FOCUS

Story reader training program develops teens' skills



Project aims to help youths get familiar with life lessons.

When Amy Bergman decided upon a training course to teach young kids at a Boynton Beach Jewish community center, she had one idea in mind: how can she ensure that each child who enters the center, whether they are new to the area or have been attending for years, can connect with their Jewish heritage? The answer, she decided, was to provide a training program for teens that would help them understand the importance of Jewish education and how it can be a source of strength and pride. The program, called "Story Reader Training," was designed to help teens develop the skills needed to become effective story readers. The training was held at the University of Miami School of Education and Human Development on August 3, 2017. The program was co-sponsored by the University's Center for Israel Education and the University's Center for Autism & Related Disabilities (CARD). The program was held at the University's Center for Israel Education and was co-sponsored by the University's Center for Autism & Related Disabilities (CARD).

CJE Holds Historic Conference to Address Needs of Students with Disabilities



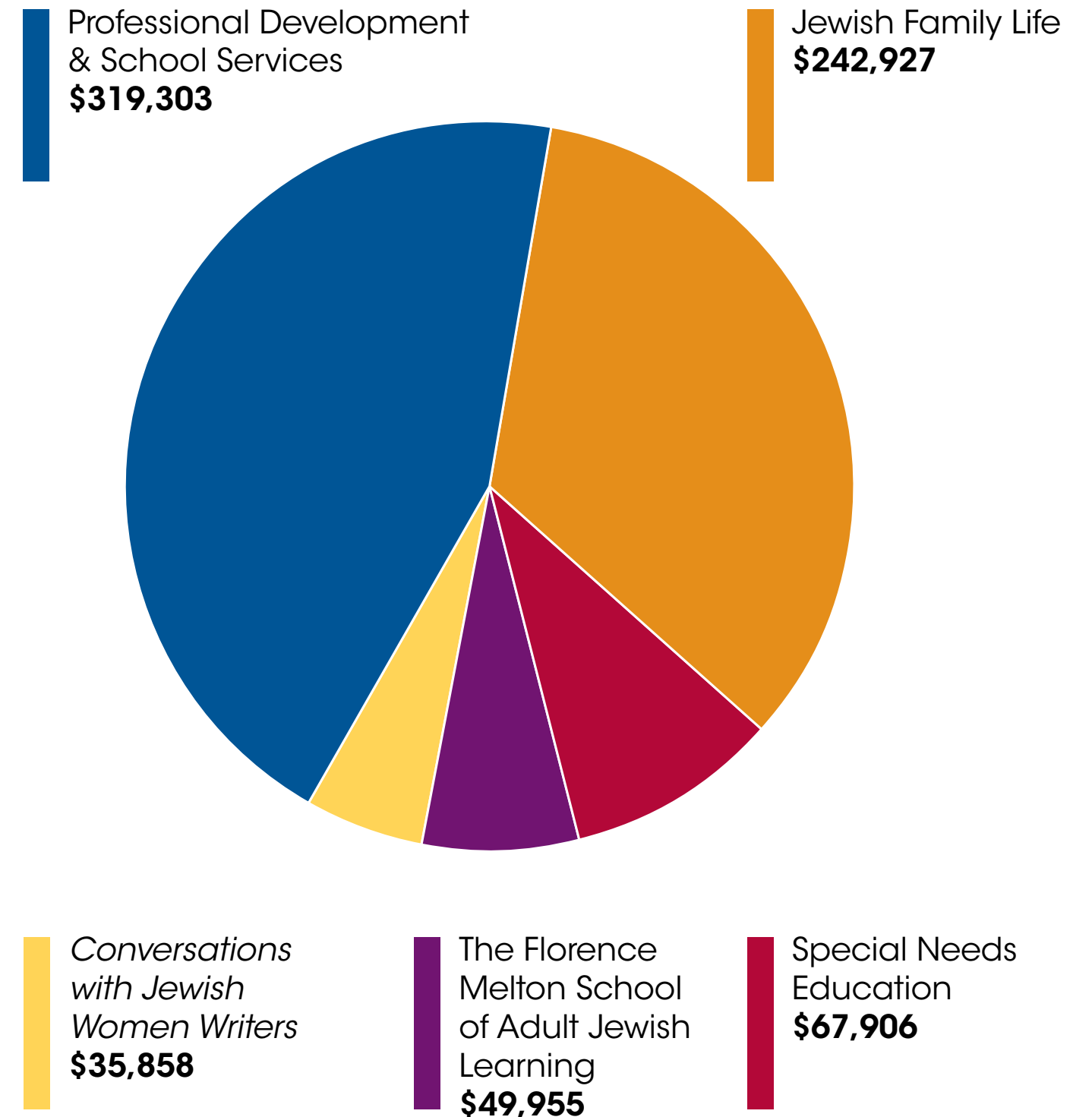
Volunteer Debbie Shapiro and co-chair of training workshop for Jewish Education for students with disabilities, Mandel JCC Camp Station in Boynton Beach.

The historic conference was held at the University of Miami School of Education and Human Development on November 15, 2017. The conference was co-sponsored by the University's Center for Israel Education and the University's Center for Autism & Related Disabilities (CARD). The conference was held at the University's Center for Israel Education and was co-sponsored by the University's Center for Autism & Related Disabilities (CARD).

Financials

In 2017-2018,
CJE invested
\$715,949
to fulfill our
mission in the
community.

Connect. Learn. Grow.



Please note these figures are unaudited.

VISION

CJE envisions a vibrant, engaged community energized by the beauty of Jewish life and learning.

MISSION

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

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