

## Celebration of Life and Legacy

Robert Israel Lappin *(z"l)*and the **50th** Anniversary
of Youth to Israel Adventure





## In loving memory of Robert Israel Lappin (1922-2020)

HERO, VISIONARY, COMMUNITY LEADER, AND PHILANTHROPIST

Thank you for Youth to Israel Adventure (Y2I), your lasting legacy.

Your generosity changed the lives of thousands of Jewish teens and instilled in them love for Israel and for our Jewish Family.



#### Letter to the Community



he words in this tribute book are heartfelt and inspiring. The memories and expressions of gratitude give us an opportunity to reflect on the indelible mark and lasting impact Robert (Bob) Israel Lappin left on our community and in our lives.

As meaningful as the words are, so are the names — your names — names of individuals who support the mission and work that Bob Lappin set in motion.

The Celebration of Life and Legacy honoring Bob Lappin and the 50th Anniversary of Youth to Israel Adventure (Y2I), his legacy, was a bright spot in an otherwise dark and challenging year. The event, which was the kick-off to our 2021 Annual Campaign, was a resounding success. My thanks to the Y2I 50th Committee, chaired by Stacey Comito, for planning a meaningful and memorable celebration.

Our second fundraiser, Shmooze with Shulem Shtisel, featuring Dov Glickman, patriarch of the Israeli hit TV show Shtisel, was a hit! In addition to being a fundraiser, it was a friendraiser. Many thanks to the Program Committee for your extraordinary outreach, giving Lappin Foundation the opportunity to make new friends and gain new supporters.

The Jewish community benefits immeasurably from Bob Lappin's vision, generosity and thoughtful planning. With your ongoing support, Lappin Foundation and Y2I are poised for another incredible 50 years and beyond.

With gratitude,

**Deborah L. Coltin** 

President and Executive Director dcoltin@lappinfoundation.org 978-740-4428

Deborah L. Coltin



#### Mission Statement

## LAPPIN FOUNDATION'S MISSION IS ENHANCING JEWISH IDENTITY ACROSS GENERATIONS.

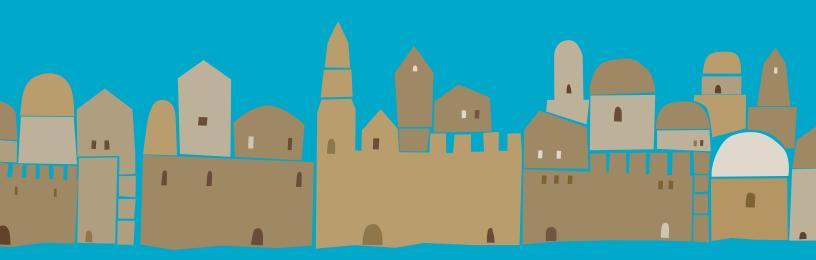
#### We accomplish our mission by:

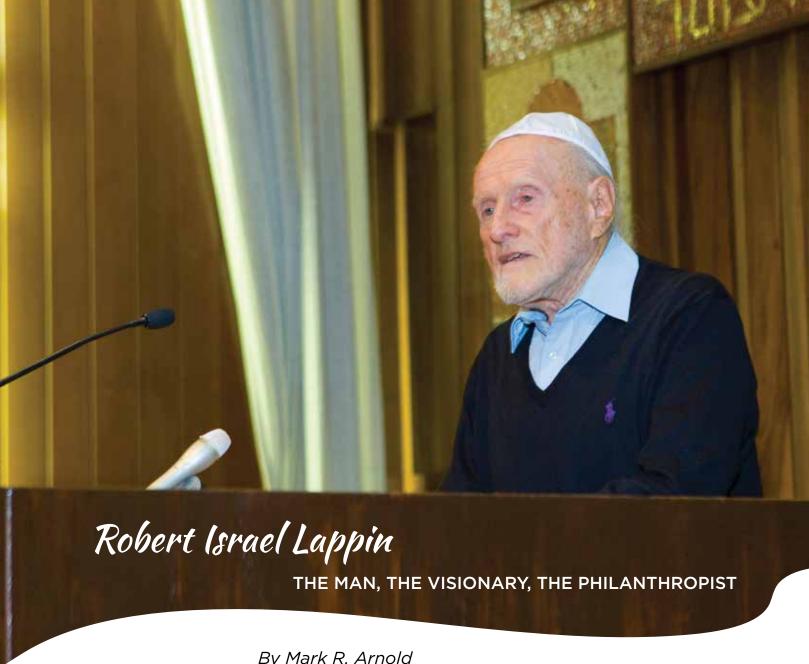
- Funding exciting Jewish programs for children, teens and adults that spark an interest in Jewish living and learning
- Building Jewish pride
- Developing a connection to and love for Israel
- Instilling a feeling of belonging to the Jewish Family
- Imbuing young people with the desire to stay Jewish and raise their own children Jewish
- Warmly welcoming interfaith families and individuals of all faiths, abilities and identities to our programs

Lappin Foundation removes cost as a barrier to participation whenever possible, making our programs free and accessible to all who want to participate. Our areas of programming include:

- Youth to Israel
- Teens & Tweens
- Interfaith Outreach
- Programs for Families with Young Children
- Professional Development for Educators in Jewish Schools
- Programs for Adults
- Resource Center for the Community

Visit **LappinFoundation.org** for up-to-date information about our programs.





#### By Mark R. Arnold



n a school journal on whose cardboard cover the owner had glued the picture of a telescope, a 14-year-old boy in Salem, Massachusetts, kept the essays and book reports he wrote for his English class - essays on Thoreau, Emerson, the Elizabethan theater, Edgar Allen Poe, and ruminations about his intended profession: Astronomy. Also, his thoughts about how to lead a successful life:

"My idea of success," wrote Robert Israel Lappin in 1936, "is to earn an honest living, be a respected citizen in the community and most of all live happily." Then, he added: "There is, however, one point which I have failed to mention and which I believe is an absolute necessity in securing real success. This is to be of service to my fellow man."

What appeared to be an afterthought later became the central focus of Bob Lappin's life: being of service to his fellow man, more specifically, to the cause of Jewish continuity and community.

Until three months before his death, at 98, on April 3, 2020, Bob Lappin was a surprisingly sprightly optimist, fighting back from a stroke he had suffered in December 2018. He was a man who prided himself on turning adversity to advantage, beginning with an incident when he was five years old that helped forge his Jewish identity and set him on the path to becoming a philanthropist and benefactor to thousands of American Jewish youth from the North Shore of Massachusetts and beyond over the past 50 years. As he explained it:

"When I was five, a group of parochial schoolboys cornered me coming home from school, called me a dirty Jew and beat me up. It happened more than once. I used to cry and ask my parents, 'Why do I have to be Jewish?' Then one day when they started to beat me, I fought back. They didn't expect it. They stopped, and the ringleader asked if I'd like to play with them. They never picked on me again."



Dan Rea, talk-show host, accepts the Friend of Israel Award

My idea of success is to earn an honest living, be a respected citizen in the community and most of all live happily. There is, however, one point which I have failed to mention and which I believe is an absolute necessity in securing real success. This is to be of service to my fellow man.

Bob Lappin said he learned three things from that experience: "Be physically fit, be mentally strong, and learn to turn the darkest moments into the greatest opportunities."

Those three lessons guided his life from that day forward.

Today Mr. Lappin is best known for creating Youth to Israel Adventure (Y2I), a fully subsidized program that sends 100 or more Jewish high school sophomores and juniors from more than 40 communities on the North Shore of Massachusetts and Greater Boston to Israel for two weeks in July in an effort to strengthen their Jewish identity, commitment, and, above all, Jewish pride.

In two long, wide-ranging interviews at his home in Swampscott, several weeks before his death, Mr. Lappin distilled the lessons of his life and frankly discussed his health, his current activities and his goals for the future.

A thin, wiry man who swept his white hair straight back in a ponytail – unusual for someone of his generation – Bob Lappin was a shy, humble philanthropist, with a burning commitment to Jewish continuity and Jewish pride. As we spoke, he was sitting in his den dressed in gray sweatpants, thick blue socks, and a gray sweatshirt customized with UMP, a gift from three of his six grandchildren – the children of his oldest son Andy. He talked hesitantly, choosing his words carefully, struggling to overcome the lingering effects of the stroke, which paralyzed the right side of his body.

"The secret to keeping children Jewish," he said, "is instilling Jewish pride. Lappin Foundation programs instill Jewish pride through positive Jewish experiences. By doing so, the odds of their staying Jewish, marrying Jewish and bringing up their children Jewish move in our favor." He continued:

"Teenagers need to be comfortable in their Jewish identity and knowledgeable about Israel before they start college in order to combat the negative attitudes they will encounter toward Israel and Jews."





From his father he learned compassion, fairness and negotiation.

In his last years, Mr. Lappin sought to convince leaders of the much larger international Birthright Israel program to replicate Y2I's success by reducing its minimum age of eligibility from 18 currently to 16, the same as Y2I's. That way, he reasoned, Jewish teens could go to Israel en masse and gain valuable Jewish and Israel advocacy skills before they go to college. This will prepare them to more confidently and effectively deal with the rise in campus antisemitism and anti-Israel activities and sentiments that have become a worrisome feature of academic life in the 2020s.

His immigrant father, John Ralph Lappin, was born in Belarus, Russia but grew up in Jerusalem. He studied in a Yeshiva there before coming to Boston at the age of 20. Here he met and married Boston-born Frances Mary Palais, whose father was a carpenter. The couple settled in south Salem, where they raised their two sons: Stanley and, born six years later, Robert.

Adapting quickly to American life, like many Jewish immigrants of his generation, John Lappin started out as a peddler, selling dry goods door-to-door, first on foot, later with a horse and buggy. Saving money whenever he could, John also invested in small apartment buildings and commercial real estate in the Salem area, setting an example later followed by his son Bob.

Though his mother was raised Orthodox and his father was a Talmudic scholar, the Lappin household did not keep Kosher and was not particularly observant. The boys attended *cheder* (Hebrew School) at Salem's Sons of Jacob congregation, where they had their bar mitzvahs. The family attended religious services principally on the High Holidays. Frances changed dishes for Passover but didn't light candles and say the traditional Jewish blessings on Friday nights.







Bob Lappin receives an honorary doctorate from Salem State University

As a youth, he had heard stories about how, eight years before his birth, his father lost all his savings in the great Salem Fire of 1914. But his dad rebuilt his savings and more by buying apartment buildings and collecting rents from tenants. In fact, beginning at the age of 13, Bob began collecting weekly rents whenever his father was too ill to do it himself. According to a profile of Bob Lappin in the *Boston Globe* in 2009:

"Since this was the Depression, it was often an excruciating task, with tenants apologetically informing the boy that they had no money to give him. From his father he learned compassion, fairness and negotiation. If they couldn't pay the full amount, could they pay half? Would they be able to pay next week? As far as he knows, his father never evicted a single tenant."

His father had a most unusual talent. "He was known as a man with strange healing powers. He could lay his hands on someone and they'd recover from what they were suffering." It worked on Bob himself: "When I was very young, one time I had an earache. He held his hands over my ear and suddenly I felt better." Both parents worried about antisemitism. So did their younger son. "I myself have felt antisemitism around me all my life," he explained. "My parents wanted my brother and me to be successful in a non-Jewish world but not to forget we were Jewish. After my experience with the bullies, not only did I remember, but in school I became the protector of my Jewish classmates. It's not that I was so strong, just that I wasn't afraid to stand up for them."

Serious about his studies and possessed of a strong will to succeed, Bob was a straight "A" student at Salem High School, from which he graduated

in 1939. During his youth, he read all the classics and memorized Shakespeare sonnets, some of which he could still recite in his final months. When it was time to apply to college, he submitted only one application: to Dartmouth College, where Stanley had gone. "I wrote them I wasn't applying anywhere else. I wanted to go there so much that I said if they didn't admit me, I would work for a year and apply again. They had a strict Jewish quota, no more than 10 percent of the freshman class. Luckily they took me."

"I was always reminded I was Jewish. For instance, there was only one fraternity I could join, the Jewish fraternity. I joined it. I wasn't a 'rah-rah' kind of guy. In fact, I fashioned myself a Communist for a time. When they were initiating me, I told them if they tried to paddle me, I'd punch them in the face." With a wry smile, he added: "They paddled other kids, but they didn't try to paddle me."

Bob majored in chemistry with a view to becoming a doctor, but two events intervened. The first was World War II. After graduating from Dartmouth in 1943, he entered the Navy, serving four years as an officer on the USS Cecil, a relief communication ship that saw action in the battles of Iowa Jima and Okinawa in the South Pacific. His ship was part of the armada that accepted Japan's defeat in Tokyo Bay in 1945.

The second event was longer lasting: while on leave, he went to the Preston Beach Hotel in Marblehead, Massachusetts where he met a beautiful, bubbly young woman from Swampscott, Massachusetts, Marion (Mimi) Zaiger. "It was love at first sight," remembered Bob fondly. Their first date was so promising that the very next day, Mimi called Bob up to ask a question she'd been too embarrassed to ask when they met: Was he Jewish? He added: "She actually got her answer before my dad turned the phone over to me. His Jewish accent told her what she wanted to know."

Bob was mustered out of the Navy in early June 1946. On June 15, he and Mimi were married, and they went to live with her parents for two years in Swampscott, Massachusetts. They bought a

modest house in Marblehead. They later settled in the Little's Point section of Swampscott, where they raised their three children: Andrew, Peter, and Nancy. Bob and Mimi remained a devoted couple, married almost 72 years, until Mimi's death in 2018.





Presenting the Friend of Israel Award to Bill and Joyce Cummings

Abandoning his plan to become a physician after his marriage, Bob joined his father-in-law's business, Signal Manufacturing Co., in Lynn, MA. The company manufactured automobile accessories such as fender flaps, windshield wipers, and car-window defrosters. Following his dad's example, he also began acquiring real estate on the side. When he was 24, he bought property with his brother Stanley, and later his own in Salem and Andover, Massachusetts, South Bend, Indiana, Chicago and Canada. Over the next 20 years, Bob Lappin acquired 12.5 million square feet of industrial and commercial space. He became a multi-millionaire.



Mark Gelfand, philanthropist, accepts the Youth to Israel Leadership Award

At work, Bob learned that nothing he had learned at Dartmouth or in the Navy prepared him for life on the factory floor. "They didn't know what to do with me," he remembered with a chuckle. "They thought they'd make me a tool and die maker, but that wasn't for me. Gradually I took over Purchasing, then learned other aspects of the business."

In 1949, the company re-tooled to make a major new product: an electric car wax polisher. With more and more people owning cars and trucks, and a do-it-yourself mentality encouraging people to reduce reliance on others to do jobs they could save money by doing themselves, this looked like a major growth

opportunity. It was not to be, however. As Bob explained it, "The week before we were set to go to market, self-polishing wax came out. Our plans were ruined. Suddenly, no one needed our product."

Reaching back to the lesson he remembered from fighting off childhood bullies – "Learn to turn the darkest moments into the greatest opportunities" – he asked himself how to turn this disaster to advantage. "Putting my thinking cap on," Bob recalled, "I came up with the idea of making the electric car polisher an electric floor polisher instead. All we had to do was extend the handle and change the packaging. When we did so, we moved into the housewares business."

Bob hit the road recruiting manufacturers' agents all over the country to sell to department stores and discount houses. The floor polisher produced by Shetland Manufacturing, the company he founded and ran, became almost an immediate success. He took a "darkest moment" and turned it into a "greatest opportunity." Follow on products included vacuum cleaners, blenders and other small appliances.

By the time he sold the business to SCM Corporation in 1968 for \$6 million, Shetland had 1,100 employees in Salem and 50 in Canada. While retaining voting rights himself, Bob began divesting his real estate empire at age 35, giving his properties to his three children over time.

Yet perhaps because he was brought up on stories of life's painful reversals, Bob Lappin became known for practicing personal frugality. For more than 20 years he drove a 1988 Mercedes – it replaced a 1978 Mercedes. Rather than drink bottled water, he kept a pitcher of tap water under his desk, and he usually brought brown-bag sandwiches to the office for lunch. He dressed modestly, sought to avoid the spotlight and spent money on worthwhile causes rather than on himself.



Yet perhaps because he was brought up on stories of life's painful reversals, Bob Lappin became known for practicing personal frugality.





As a rising young businessman, in the late 1940's Bob became increasingly drawn into the world of Jewish community service. In 1948 he swelled with pride when Israel became a recognized state, a homeland for the Jews. When he was asked by the Jewish Federation of the North Shore, the fund-raising arm for local Jewish social service agencies, to raise funds for the fledgling Jewish nation, he eagerly agreed. "I started at the bottom, with a bunch of cards with names of people to ask for money. I never liked asking people for money, still don't. But it's something that has to be done, so when I finished with the first bunch, I took more cards."



Young leaders Trevor Brown and Andrew Jacobson

What made the deepest impression on me were the old people coming to this land of freedom, a land that wanted them even if they couldn't take care of themselves.

As the years went by, Bob became increasingly active in the local Federation, rising in its volunteer ranks to become Federation president from 1967 to 1972. Three years earlier, in 1964, he made his first visit to Israel, under the auspices of United Jewish Appeal, and there he had a profound awakening. As he described the experience in 2014:

"I watched Jewish people come down the gangway when their ship docked in Haifa. They got down on their hands and knees to kiss the ground. There were young people with children, people of all ages. What made the deepest impression on me were the old people coming to this land of freedom, a land that wanted them even if they couldn't take care of themselves... Three days later I went to the Western Wall. It shook me up... The trip was a life-changing experience for me, and I came to the conclusion that this was a great little country worthy of my full support."

During his years as Federation president, Bob became increasingly concerned about the toll assimilation and intermarriage were taking on Jewish identity and continuity, nationally and locally. How, he asked, could our Jewish community, and later others, turn back the tide of disappearing Jewish identity, especially in young people? A plan started to form in his mind, one that would give teenagers an introduction to the promise and reality of Israel. He wrote a letter to the Federation board, outlining his idea and asking the group to share the cost, which they agreed to do. By 1970 he and other Federation leaders were ready to go public.

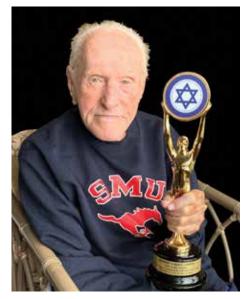
The plan: to give a summer experience in Israel to every North Shore Jewish high school student who wants to go. Bob would subsidize the trip, initially paying \$300 per teen, with the balance of \$500 the responsibility of each family. Among the early enrollees was Deborah Coltin, then a student at Peabody High School, now President and Executive Director of the Lappin Foundation, the umbrella organization that Bob set up as the principal vehicle for his philanthropy.

The trip was successful from the start, with most youths returning from the Jewish homeland thrilled with memories of their Israel experience and proud to be Jewish. While there, they traveled the country, visited ancient biblical sites and kibbutzim, and socialized with Israeli teens, with whom they explored what it means to be Jewish in their country and in the United States. Bob recalled with great satisfaction: "Almost all of them return home with a strong and positive Jewish identity, whereas when they left on their trips there was hardly any Jewish identity at all."

But the effort has been so successful — and Bob Lappin was so committed to using it to promote Jewish continuity and build Jewish pride — that in 1996 he began fully subsidizing the trip, thus removing cost as an obstacle to participation.

The length of the Y2I trip has shortened over the decades from seven weeks to two weeks because today's young people have other summer activities now competing for their time. The total cost of the program, including the trip and pre and post-trip programming, has escalated from \$800 in 1971 to \$6,500 in 2020. But the effort has been so successful – and Bob Lappin was so committed to using it to promote Jewish continuity and build Jewish pride – that in 1996 he began fully subsidizing the trip, thus removing cost as an obstacle to participation.

Since that time, enrollment has soared, from an average of 25 North Shore youth with partial subsidies to 100 or more with



Emet Award presented by Christians and Jews United for Israel

full subsidies, every summer. He also provided subsidies to 15 other Jewish communities around the country so they could pilot Y2I in their communities.

Bob Lappin's encounter with bullies at age five was the first crisis of his life. The second was when he had to re-engineer a promising new product a week before going to market. In both those situations, Mr. Lappin devised a way to turn life's darkest moments into its greatest opportunities.



Human rights activist and international Jewish leader Natan Sharansky

A third, even bigger, crisis confronted him in December 2008, when he received the shattering news that much of his personal fortune, his foundation's assets, and the retirement funds of his current and former employees had evaporated in investment manager Bernie Madoff's Ponzi scheme. Madoff had been managing \$83 million for Bob Lappin, including \$8 million from his foundations. It was all gone. Included in the vanished funds were the entire 401(k) holdings of 60 or more current and former employees of his company and foundation.

This gave Bob Lappin two options: He could express sympathy with the out-of-luck workers and tell them there was nothing he could do about it. Or he could find a creative way to make the employees and ex-employees as whole as possible. To the surprise of no one who knew Bob Lappin, he pledged to do right by his people by restoring as much of their retirement funds as he could.



First, though, there was a period of crushing disappointment and uncertainty. Unable to meet payroll, Lappin Foundation officially closed its doors. But staff members began showing up for work anyway to keep its programs running. Remembers Executive Director Coltin: "To me this was never a job, it was a mission." So, she kept working, as did some other staffers.

Within two days of closing the Foundation, canceling the 2009 Y2I trip and ceasing operations, an anonymous donor made an incentive gift of \$100,000, and the Lappin Foundation turned to fundraising to remain operational. After six months of paperwork and accounting, the Lappins – Bob, Mimi and their three grown children – put money back into the retirement accounts of the employees.

"The Madoff fraud had the capacity to destroy me," he told an interviewer in 2017.

"However, I looked at it as a test of my character.

Because I passed the test, I am blessed with enormous inner satisfaction."

Workers and retirees didn't get as much as Madoff's phony statements had promised, but they received an amount equal to all their contributions and company matches over the years, plus industry average gains as calculated by the Lipper Balanced Fund Index. Making good on this promise cost the Lappins more than \$5,000,000. And it reduced Bob Lappin's personal net worth to about \$2,000,000, one-tenth of what it had been before the scandal broke.

In 2021, the cost to run programs of the Lappin Foundation totals \$1,200,000. The Foundation's annual campaign raises about \$500,000 for direct program expenses, leaving the balance of expenses – including personnel, overhead and other program expenses – to be paid by the Robert I. Lappin Charitable Foundation.

"I worked hard every day to recover from Madoff," Bob remembered. He even got into a new business, starting what he called "the largest self-storage business in Massachusetts and maybe New England." He also set up an investment arm, employing six people, to manage his holdings.

"The Madoff fraud had the capacity to destroy me," he told an interviewer in 2017. "However, I looked at it as a test of my character. Because I passed the test, I am blessed with enormous inner satisfaction."

For the third time, Bob Lappin found a way to turn the darkest moments into the greatest opportunities.

Since its inception in 1970, more than 3,000 teens have participated in Y2I, which has been the central focus of Bob Lappin's philanthropy. It's money well spent, in his view. In a letter to Jewish leaders, Y2I graduates, rabbis and academics, Bob Lappin wrote:

"I believe the teen Israel experience is key to Jewish continuity and the most effective way to prepare college-bound Jewish students to effectively deal with anti-Semitism and anti-Israel activities and sentiments, which have infected academia."

A study of the impact of the trip indicates that more than 70 percent of Y2I alumni marry Jewish mates and that 90 percent of those are raising their children Jewish.

Besides its sponsorship of Y2I, Lappin Foundation funds a range of Jewish living, learning and interfaith outreach programs, all free of charge.

In addition to activities promoting Jewish continuity and community, for more than 40 years Mr. Lappin spearheaded efforts to promote Jewish-Christian dialogue. As part of this effort, he sponsored a trip of Evangelical pastors to Israel and Lebanon in 1982. His roommate and dear friend from that time is Professor Marvin Wilson, an Evangelical Biblical scholar at Gordon College in Wenham, MA until his retirement in 2018. Reflecting on his friend in January 2020, Professor Wilson observed:

"Bob Lappin has a Biblical middle name, 'Israel," in Hebrew 'Yisrael.' It means 'one who wrestles with God.' Bob is one of the very few people in this world who truly live up to their Biblical names. He is a person of deep conviction, integrity, and tenacity who is willing to struggle through great obstacles like the Madoff scam to achieve his vision. He never gives up. He's never satisfied with the status quo, constantly working for something greater, no matter how hard it is to obtain it. He's constantly asking: 'How can we build a stronger Jewish community for tomorrow."



Bob Lappin receives an honorary doctorate from Gordon College





Mr. Lappin received widespread recognition for his accomplishments. For keeping his retirement commitment to employees, *The Boston Globe* named him one of its "Bostonians of the Year" (2009), and *Reader's Digest* included him in its "Best of America" personalities (2010). The Boston-area Jewish newspaper, the *Jewish Journal*, named him an "Honorable Menschion" (2017), and he was awarded honorary doctorate degrees by Salem State University (2010) and Gordon College (2017). At the age of 97, he was given the Emmet Award by Christians and Jews United for Israel (2019).



At the end of his life, Mr. Lappin had two overriding goals: The first was to raise "just a little more money" – estimated at \$250,000 to \$300,000 a year more – to make Y2I self-sustaining in perpetuity. The second was to persuade the leaders of Birthright Israel to reduce their age for eligibility to 16, from 18, so more of their young recruits, like the Y2I teens, will have forged strong, proud Jewish identities before they arrive at college.

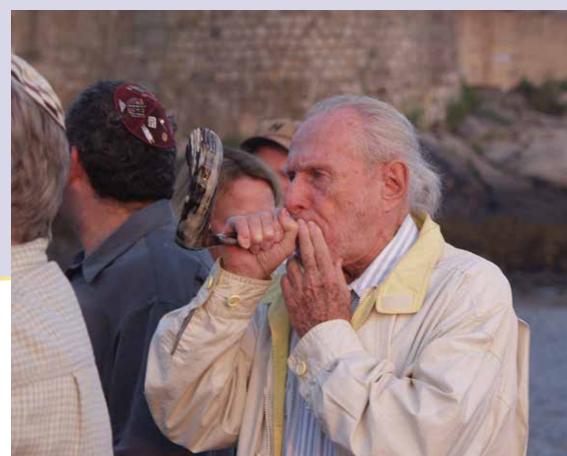
Bob Lappin devoted his life to promoting Jewish continuity and community - by instilling pride in Jewish children. That is his legacy. He explained it this way to a teenage interviewer a few years ago:

"Children seldom hear how awesome it is to be Jewish and how wonderful it is to be part of a family that is thousands of years old. He continued:

"Jewish people have contributed to every field of human endeavor and continue to do so, making the world a better place for humankind. Every Jewish child is a link in the chain of tradition. When children no longer identify as Jewish, our chain weakens, leaving us vulnerable. Being Jewish is something to be proud of, and I am doing my best to impart this message to Jewish children. Our future as a family depends on it."

"Being Jewish is something to be proud of, and I am doing my best to impart this message to Jewish children.

Our future as a family depends on it."







Ump, missing you more than ever,
We love you,

Diane, Andy, Lauren, Danielle and Alex



#### In loving remembrance of Bob Lappin:

Father, Grandfather, Leader, and Friend to the Jewish people.

We miss you, Pops, but your strength, integrity, compassion and love continue to inspire our family.

It is our honor and commitment to keep your mission and legacy to the Jewish people alive and well.

## With great admiration and love, Peter, Jackie and Matt Lappin





## L'dor Vador, from one generation to another, Bob Lappin ''' has enriched and inspired so many with his love of Judaism and Israel!

We are honored to celebrate the life and legacy of our friend Bob Lappin ז״ל. His devotion to impact our Jewish community is nothing less than legendary, and he dedicated his life through activism and philanthropy to enhance Jewish Identity across Generations. We know that Bob's memory will live on in the hearts of all the people that he touched during his life.

We wish the Lappin Foundation and the Y2I program continued success in the coming years!



## Jody Kipnis and Todd Ruderman

**Co-founding Directors, Holocaust Legacy Foundation** 







### Mazel Tov on Y2I's 50th Anniversary

It was a game-changing experience for my son.

May you go from strength to strength

Sarah Ovadia

# In Memory of Bob Lappin, zt"l

Friend, Philanthropic Partner, Mensch

"As my forefathers planted for me, so I too plant for my children"

Babylonian Talmud, Ta'anit, page 23a.

With gratitude to Bob Lappin for his vision and all he planted for Jewish families on the North Shore.

Thank you to the Lappin family and the Lappin Foundation board and staff, especially Deborah Coltin for your partnership in PJ Library.

Harold Grinspoon, Diane Troderman and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation - PJ Library







In Memory of Robert I. Lappin

We will remember Bob and his expansive view of Judaism.

## Sharon and Howard Rich

Thank you, Robert Israel Lappin, for your outstanding leadership in the North Shore Jewish Community for over 50 years.

Thank you for instilling your love of Judaism in today's generation and future generations.

## Bryna Litchman and Arthur J. Epstein





#### **COMBINED JEWISH PHILANTHROPIES**

celebrates

#### **Lappin Foundation**

and joins them in honoring

**Robert Lappin** (z"/)

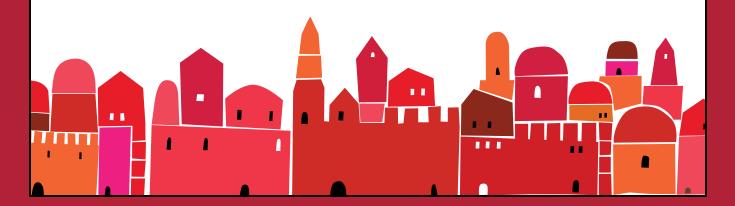
Bob Lappin was a visionary whose legacy – brought to life by the Lappin Foundation – will be felt on the North Shore and throughout our community for years to come.

His passion for the Jewish People and deep commitments to strengthening Jewish identity and connection to Israel in our next generation were truly inspiring.

We salute the Lappin Foundation for their Youth to Israel program, which inspires the next generation to love and connect to Israel.

Thank you for all you do.

#### MAY YOU GO FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH



#### In Loving Memory of

### Robert Israel Lappin

1922-2020

Bob Lappin — hard-working and successful business man, proud American veteran, visionary, community leader, philanthropist and *mensch* — are just a few words to describe who Bob was and what he valued. His love for the Jewish People, for our *Family*, and for Israel, our *Home*, is the force that fueled his philanthropy.

Bob Lappin grew up in a world with no Israel, no land of refuge nor safe haven for our People when we needed it the most.

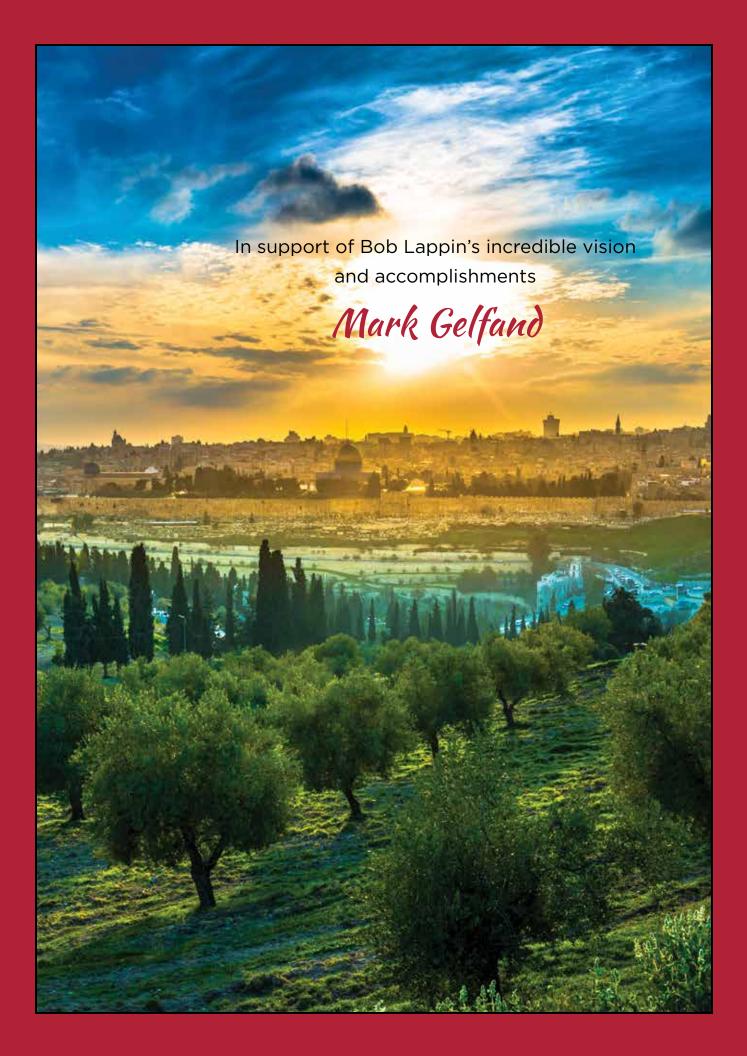
What we learned from Bob was not to take Israel for granted.

Without our home, our very existence is a fragile one.

Bob Lappin's life is an inspiration to us to work hard, stand up, and be heard.

We are grateful for all Bob Lappin did for our community, for Israel, and for the Jewish People.







Honoring the extraordinary life and legacy of Bob Lappin, z"I whose work helped to shape the Jewish identity of thousands of North Shore youth and families.

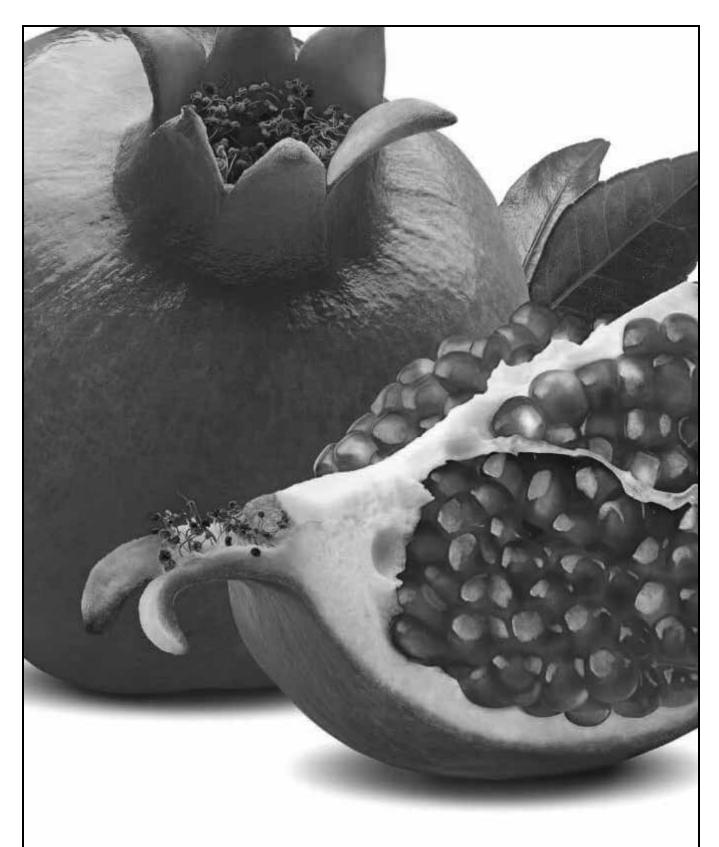


50 Years of Y2I!



## Morton and Lillian Waldfogel Charitable Foundation Peter and Maureen Waldfogel

proudly support the Lappin Foundation's Interfaith Outreach Programs



Karen and David Rosenberg



Bill Sapers

It is humbling to honor a man of unparalleled character, integrity, passion, brilliance and perseverance.

A true visionary whose impact will forever be imprinted on the fabric of our Jewish Community locally, in Israel and around the world.

A giant among men.

A compassionate leader and dear friend.

We are grateful for your life and the legacy you leave behind.

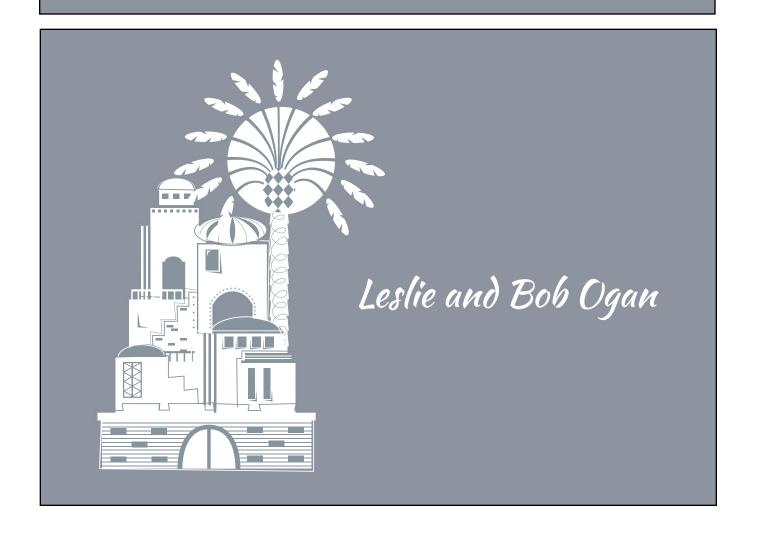
The Cooper Family





In honor of Robert Lappin's dedication and tremendous influence on our youth, and his lasting legacy for years to come.

## Fara and Jay Goldberg





Bob Lappin was a fierce, independent thinker and at the same time a leader who cherished community.

He witnessed the greatest cruelty to our people and he also lived to experience the redemption of our people.

His creativity and generosity was ubiquitous and without boundaries.

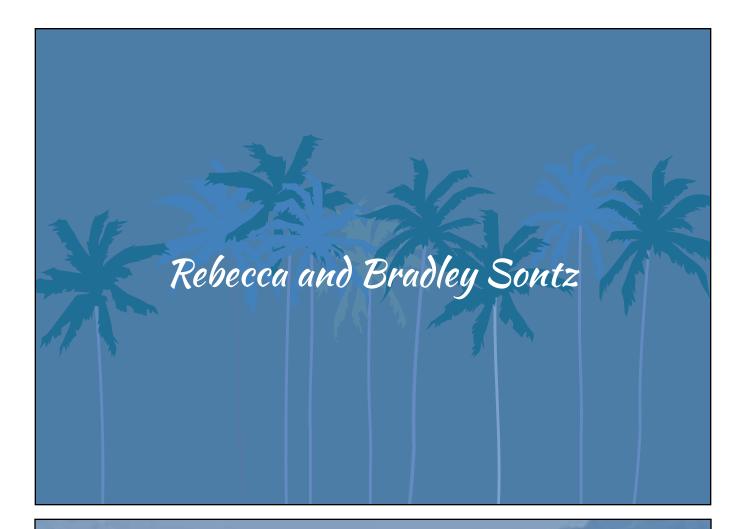
We are honored to have had him as a mentor and as a friend.

May his memory be a blessing for all.

Dorothy and Richard Tatelman











In memory of Mr. Lappin and my grandmother Ellen Chmara

## Joshua Chmara



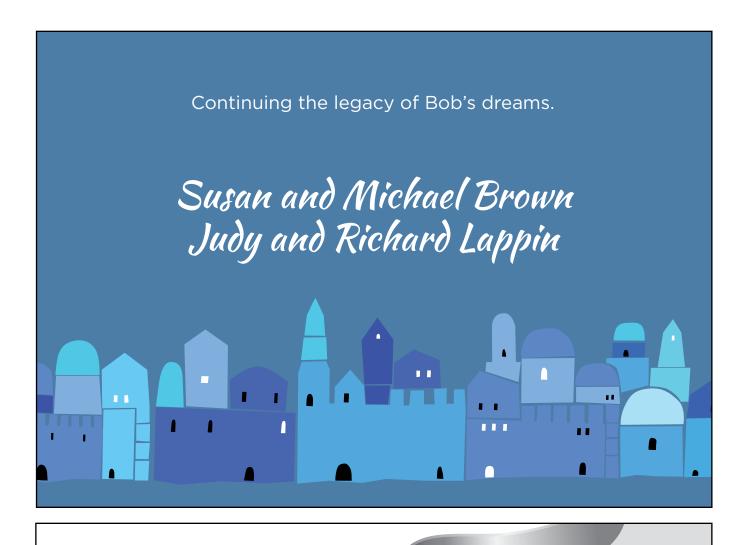
Eastern Bank is committed to recognizing the good in our communities and celebrating the work of the

#### LAPPIN FOUNDATION

We proudly support the celebration of the Life and Legacy of Robert Israel Lappin and congratulations on 50 Years of Y2I



Member FDIC



In memory of a man dedicated to his heritage.

Barbara and Bertil Wolf

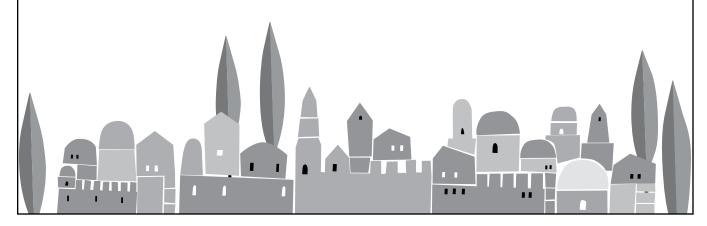
"We make a living by what we get.

We make a life by what we give."

~ WINSTON CHURCHILL

Todah Rabah Mr. Lappin (z"l) for all you have given!

# Diane and Eddie Knopf











In tribute to Robert Lappin whose foresight, philanthropy and dedication of purpose changed the community in such a profound way. He inspired us all. His life's work demonstrates what one individual is capable of achieving to benefit society. May he rest in peace. His life is a testimony to a job well done and a life impactful and well lived.



# Elaine and Herb Siegel







Yasher Koach to the Lappin Foundation and all of the positive change you've made in this world.

Robert Lappin's memory is a blessing.

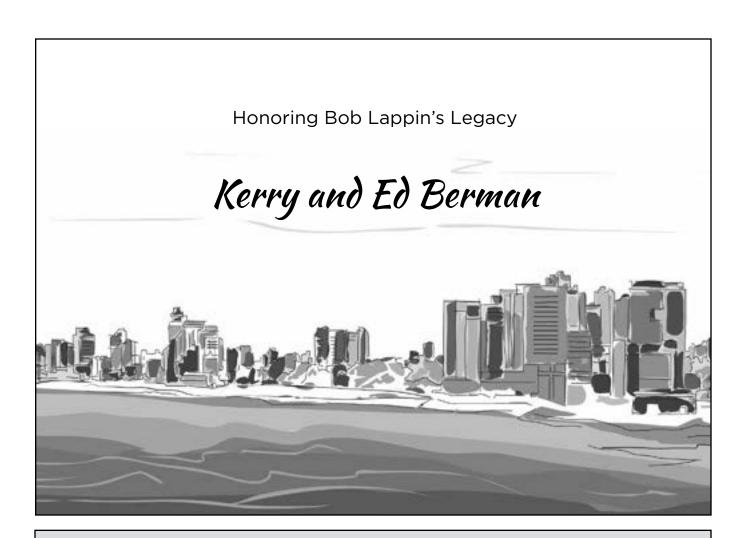
With Love, The Quinteros

It is our honor to observe the Yahrzeit of Bob Lappin *z"l,* our friend and mentor, and to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Y2I, Bob's signature program.

We will fondly remember Bob for all he has done for our community and for Jews everywhere.

# Judy and Shep Remis







Our world is a better place because of Bob Lappin ז"ל.

# Linda and Dan Magalnick

# In Memory of Robert Lappin

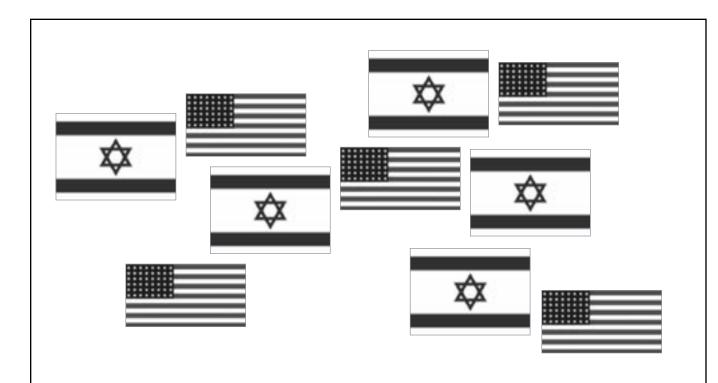
His memory will live on forever for those who benefited from his generosity, and to the future beneficiaries of his kindness.

L'dor v'dor.

Sandra Rosenbaum and Family

# In Memory of Bob Lappin We have been blessed with his friendship. We will always remember his good works for our family and our community. Zelda and Harold Kaplan

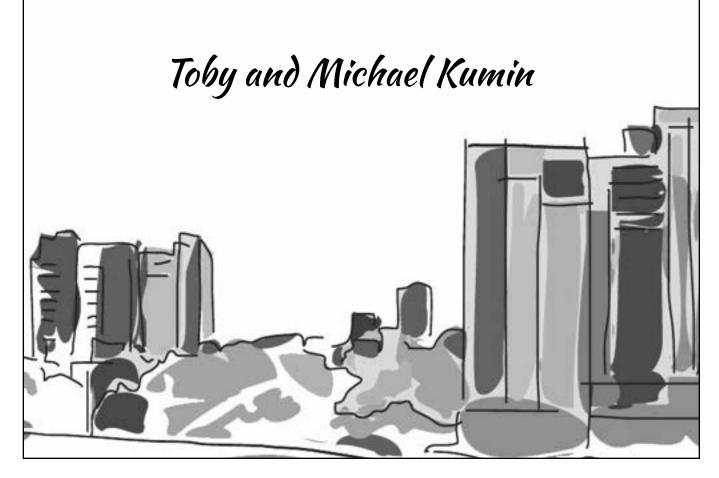




# Dorit and Ron Cohen







#### Thank you Robert Lappin z"l, and the Lappin Foundation

And to all those who work and volunteer for the Lappin Foundation.

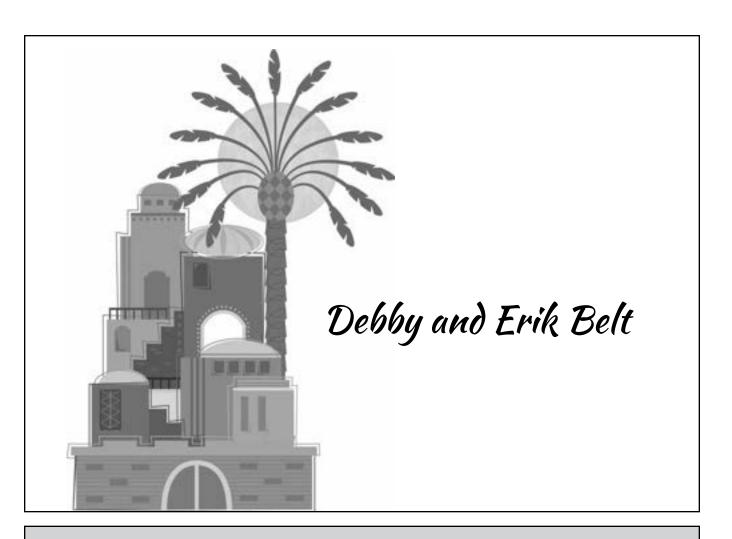
We are so grateful for what you have done for the Jewish community these past 50 years and for what the Lappin Foundation continues to do.

## Anita and Rabbi Bernie Horowitz











Allison and Matthew Swartz

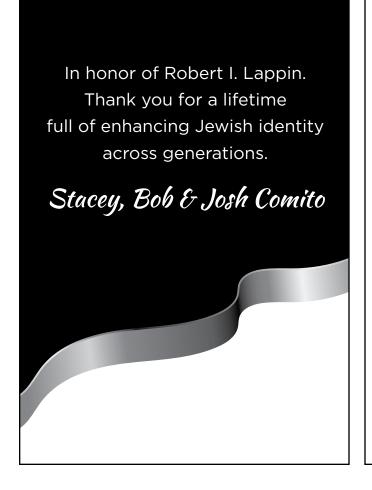
Nutter is pleased to support

Lappin
Foundation

and your important work to enhance Jewish identity across generations.

Nutter
uncommon law nutter.com

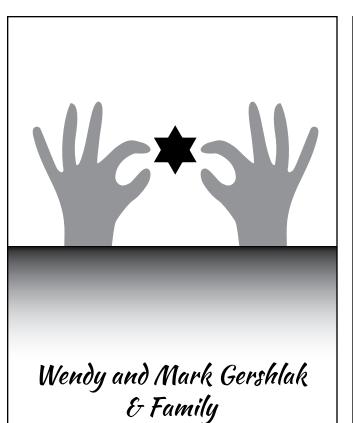


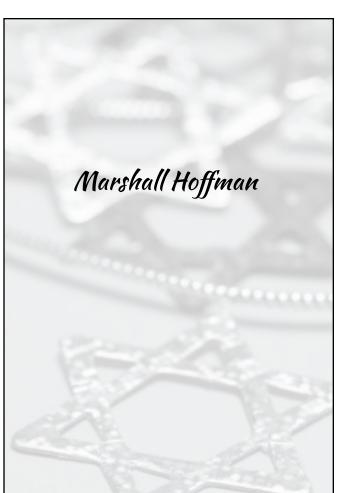


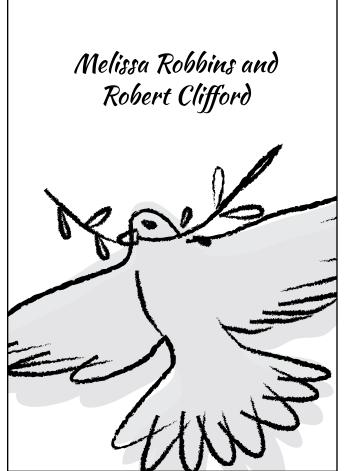


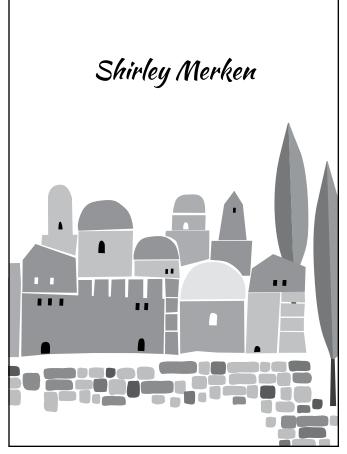
Congratulations on this incredible milestone!!

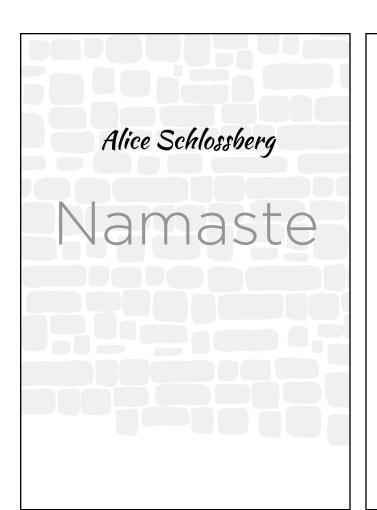
May the many acts of kindness demonstrated by Mr. Lappin be eternally remembered and carried on by those left to honor his memory.









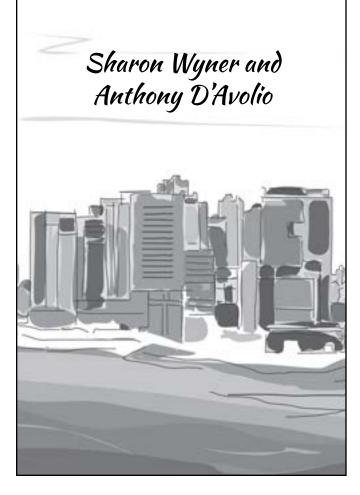




Ivy and Peter Dorflinger







# Newburyport Hebrew Cemetery

8 Toll Road Salisbury, MA







#### Interfaith Section Available

For further information, contact Michael Pearlman at 978-500-4743



כל הכבוד!

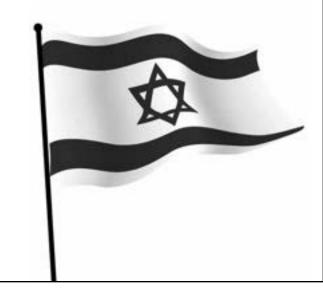
Congratulations to the Lappin Foundation on this Y2I 50th Anniversary milestone.

> May you continue from strength to strength, and may Robert's memory ever endure as a blessing in the world.

From your friends at Temple Emanu-El, Marblehead David J. Meyer, Rabbi Lisa Nagel, President In memory of Robert Lappin, a true hero & "tzadik."

May his memory be a blessing.

#### Carol and Sam Denbo





Bob Lappin - an inspiration to us all.

Marilyn Schlein Kramer and Bobby Kramer



Thank you Robert Lappin *z"l,* and the Lappin Foundation for funding our Israel trips.

It was one of the best experiences of our lives.

Cara Horowitz Kepnes, USY-Italy/Israel 1996, Ma'apilim Group 11

> Cassie Horowitz Bruner, USY-Italy/Israel 1998, Group 10



Mazal Tov to Lappin Foundation and to Y2I!

Jewish Journal



Judith Feffer



In memory of Robert Lappin whose unwavering support of Israel and our community will be sincerely missed.

From:

The Sagan and McGuirk Families In honor of

Robert I. Lappin –

blessed memory –

We celebrate your life's work.

Mitch, Andrew, Daniel, Ben



This is such an important mission.

Thank you for all your hard work.

Norma and Warren Epstein





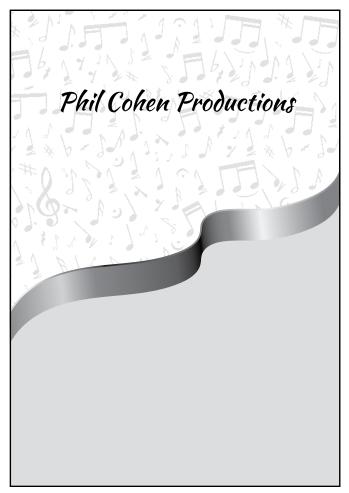
#### In Memory of: Robert Israel Lappin

I was fortunate to have had several conversations with this great man and his memory will not be forgotten. He made a huge impact on myself and my peers by enabling us to experience Israel and form bonds that will last a lifetime.

May his memory forever be a blessing.

With Gratitude,

Carson Shore Y2I 2019 Ava Shore





and honoring a special man.

Thank you for all you have

done for our children

and our community.

Alyse and David Barbash

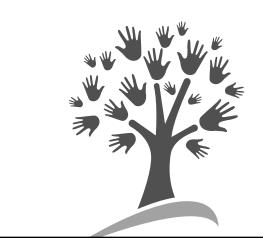
Congratulations to the Lappin Foundation on fifty years of Y2I.

Israel Bonds



We are pleased to celebrate
Bob Lappin's life and legacy
and commend the
Lappin Foundation
for its wonderful work.

Debbie Hilbert and Andy Knapp



Mazel Tov Y2I

© 50

Josene Steinberg

Thank you Bob - for keeping Judaism strong - Dance on!!

Michelle & David Baer



In memory of a wonderful man who devoted his life to our Jewish community!

Marcia Glassman-Jaffe and Mark Jaffe







#### In Tribute to Robert Lappin...

Temple Tiferet Shalom remembers with gratitude all that Robert Lappin has done to sustain Jewish life, encourage love of Israel, and strengthen our community.

May the legacy of his work long endure and be furthered through the Lappin Foundation and the many leaders Robert Lappin encouraged and supported through the years.

Zecher Tzaddik Livracha – May his memory continue to inspire and bring blessings.

# Keep the Legacy Alive

Ruth Budelmann and Sam Silverman

To a wonderful and loving friend. Larry loved you.

Mim Shutzer



Honoring the legacy of Robert I. Lappin who did so much for the Jewish youth of the North Shore.

Paige and Michael Katzenstein



Thank you for all you have done for our community.

North Suburban JCC



#### He Was A Mensch!

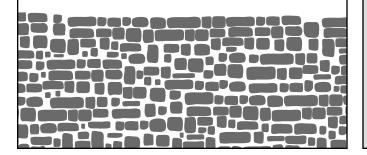
We are grateful for his dedicated commitment to educating our youth to keep them Jewish while loving every minute of it!

May his memory be a blessing!



Keep the legacy alive!

Shelley and Martin Schneer



Thank you for 4 wonderful Y2I adventures!

Traci and Ken Segal

In honor of Robert Israel Lappin z"l, philanthropist, scholar, visionary and mensch.

Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do for our Jewish community.



Susan, Steve, Sam & Sara Feinstein Mimi and Bob will always have a special place in the community and in our family.

Thanks for all you have done!

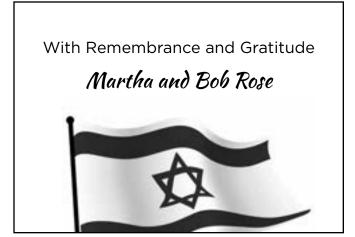
Laura and James New

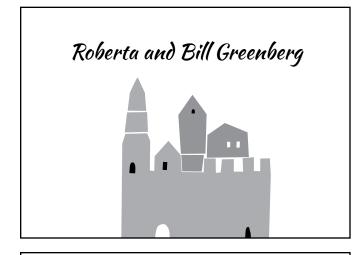


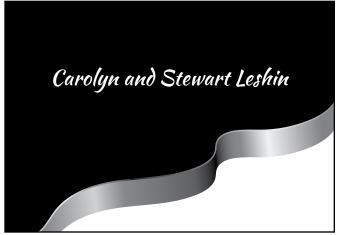
In Memory of Robert Lappin

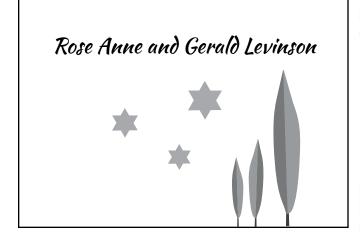
Thank you for all you have done for our community.

Pauline and Vincent Spirito









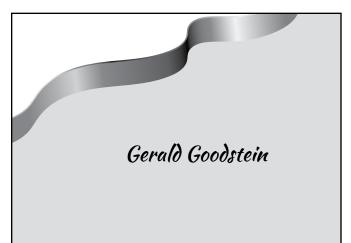
Robert I. Lappin ~ A mensch like no other! Wendy & Conrad Wicks





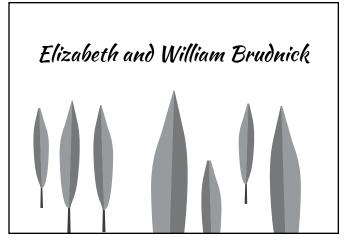














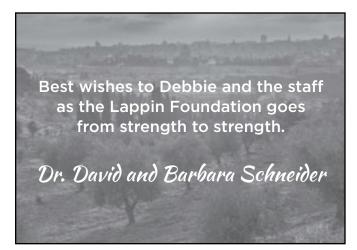
Thank you, Bob Lappin, z"l for your commitment, creativity and generosity in keeping our children – and their children – Jewish.

Shelley A. Sackett

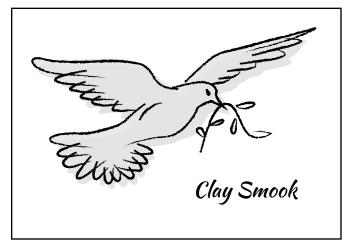
We'll always appreciate
Bob's dedication to keeping Judaism
alive through our children.

Barbara and Stephen Smidt

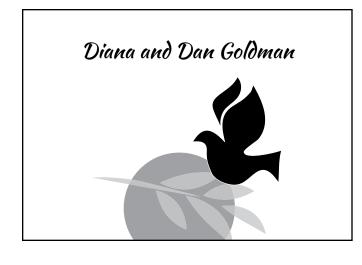








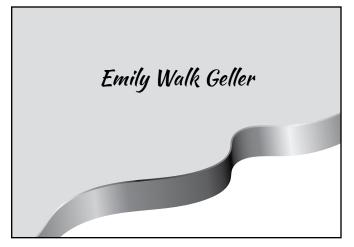












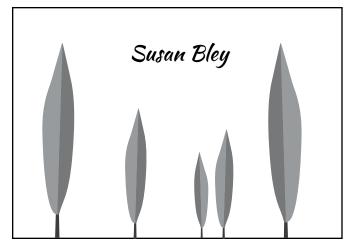


# **Temple Ahavat Achim** joins the community in paying tribute to Robert I. Lappin.

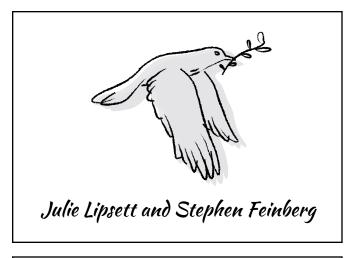


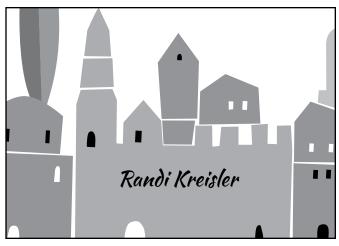
86 Middle St. Gloucester, MA 01930 (978) 281-0739 https://www.taagloucester.org/





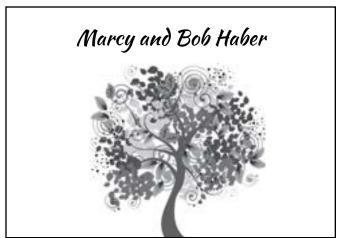


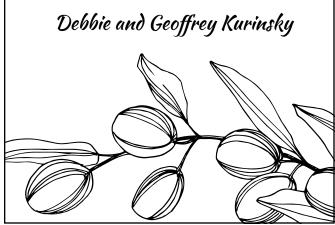


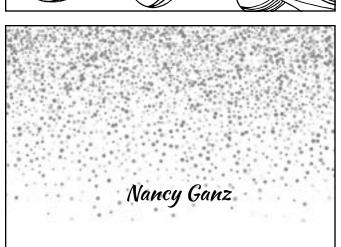


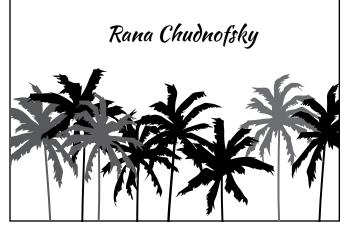


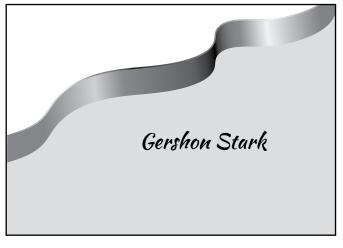
Elizabeth and William Karlyn



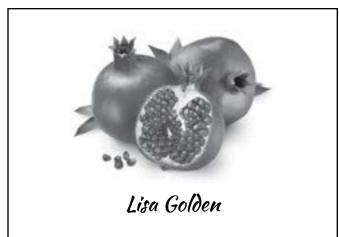








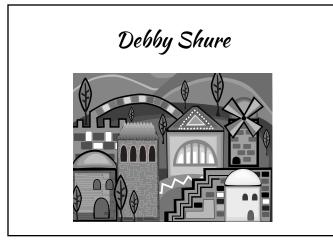
























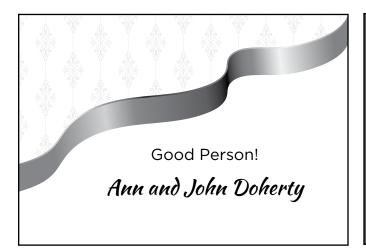




# Congregation Sons of Israel is pleased to be part of the Celebration honoring the Life and Legacy of Robert I. Lappin Thank you to the Lappin Foundation

Thank you to the Lappin Foundation for continued Jewish programming.





Our sincerest thank you to Robert Lappin for your vision and your dedication to the Jewish families of the North Shore – and beyond. All of the Lappin Foundation programs have been remarkable, informative, innovative and enlightening. And congratulations on 50 years of Y2I, sending our kids on an amazing journey in Israel, year after year.

Diane and Harvey Elefson

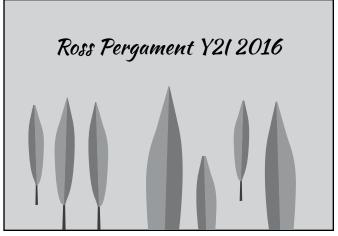












In a memory of a great man. A real Mench who thought and looked for the best of the Jewish community and for the country of Israel.

Dr. Eli and Dina Davidyan

In tribute to Bob Lappin's vision that introduced our children and so many others to Israel.

Izzi and Howie Abrams





May Bob's memory be a blessing and his legacy live on for generations.

Jacqueline and Jordan Glicksman

Mazel Tov on celebrating the 50th anniversary of Y2I.

The New Family Gail, Daniel, Ali, Aidan & Lucy







# Well Wishers

Alyssa and Daniel Elfman



Robin Abel The Fabry Family Dr. Mimi Neuman and Henry Hammond

Anita Adams Angela and Jason Falchuk Haila Darcy Harris

Jane Adolph Amy and Mark Farber Leslie and David Hazlett

Ann Altman Myrna S. Fearer Lisa Giovanetti and Jeffrey Held

Susan Altman Miriam Weinstein and Peter Feinstein Tania Fine Helhoski
Amazon Smile Carol Seitchik and Alan Feldman Margot Helphand
Shoshana Anapolle Michael Finer Alan Hoffman

Debbie Anshan Lynda Fink Beth and Bob Hoffman

Judith and Mark Arnold Jaclyn Firestone Ina and Alan Hoffman

Sherry AsheryAmy and William FlaxerMark HoffmanBeth BackerEthan M. FormanSharon Hoffman

Alma Barozzi Rhonda Forman Marcia and Richard Huttner

Jacob Barth Audrey and Richard Fraser Jennifer and Nicholas Jasilli

Judith BennettAli and George FreedmanDiane JudemPeter BennettRobert FreedmanLisa KantorRuth L. BergSaundra FreedmanEdward Kaplan

Ariel, Carrie, Eliana and Jackson Berger Dr. Jason and Fran Freshman Dr. Eric and Cynthia Kaplan

Arlene Berger Jennifer Fried Amy Kaplow
Harris Berman Lori Friedman Anita and Abe Kaufman

Robin Berman Lauren and Bill Gabovitch Gina Kay

Ellen P. Bick Tatyana Galinsky Leslie Kaye
Suzanne A. Black Lori B. Gans Irv Kempner
Lisa Bleich Dalia Gefen Marla Kenney

Jeffrey Blend Eileen and Rabbi Myron S. Geller Ellen and Ernst Kornmehl

Joyce and Michael BohnenJanice GershlakLori KreidbergMichael BoudoRisa GewurzCecilia Kremer

Rachel Boyar Jordana and Adam Glasgow Rabbi David Kudan and
Ella and Fyodor Bromberg Sharon Glasser Mandi and David Kunen

Dr. Sheldon Brown and Frances Brown Melissa Gold

Kira Cafaro and David Appel Sam Goldberg

Michael Landau

Marc Laufer

Cynthia Canavan

Jane Golder

Diana Caplan

Lital Carmel

Marc Laufer

Vanessa LeFevre

Deborah Leibowitz

David Cera Lana Goltsberg Nancy Lejfer
Laila and Steve Chamuel Susan Goodman Laura Lerner

Caryn and Barry Cohen

Linda and Andy Goodspeed

Randy Levy

Marci and David Cohen

Congregation Tifereth Israel Peabody, MA

Hinda Goodstein

Dubi Gordon

Teri Gorsky

Joan and David Lovins

Adele and Mark Lubarsky

Peabody, MA

Teri Gorsky

Paula Dollin

Silvina Grad

Adele and Mark Lubarsky

Janie and Brett Lubarsky

Judy and Larry DunnMarcy and Russell GrandMaureen LuddyBeth EisenbergSugar A. GrandBetsy MacCarthy

Beth Eisenberg Susan A. Green Betsy MacCarthy
David Eisenberg Joelle Gunther Tracy Matthews

Kathi Hahn Winters

Adrienne and Eliashiv Mazor

Andrew McKenna
Lori McLuskey
Edward Medros
Jaime Ment
Sonya Moroz
Jessica Myers

Yael Neeman-Schubert

Abraham Ogman Ben Ovadia Eve Ovadia Cindy Paisner

James Nahirny

Barbara Ann and Barrie Paster

Ann Pendexter Sarah Perry

Donna and Alan Pierce

Amy and Robert Powell

Gail Prerau Mark Prussian Leslie Pucker Todd Remis

Meryl and Julian Rich Judy and Ken Rosenthal

Marilyn Ross Sheila Roth

Maggie and Ian Rubin Sara Salomon

Addy Sandler

Gail Schechter

Elaine Schreiber Deborah Schwartz Lorin Seidman Lynne Shapiro Margery Shapiro

Sandra Shapiro

Keren Shemesh-Taube

Elaine Shiff Rosalyn Shraiar Lynda Shuman Tara Silberg Judi Simmons

Carol Singer-Bricklin

Linda Skolnik Craig Slater Diane Smallberg

Janet and Emanuel Smikun Faye and Richard Soll Michelle and Larry Soll Lisa and Greg Sonek

Rochelle Spar

Dr. Stuart and Ronda Spitzer

Arlene and Jack Stahl

Evelyn Stein Tom Stein

Adam Steinberg

Sara Stock

Jessie Baker and Joe Stoopack

Judith Sydney

Deb Teperman

TisBest Philanthropy

Ruth and David Titelbaum

Doris Villa Nancy Viner

Elaine and Roger Volk

Jackie Waller Michael Walt Leslie Warshaw Paul Weinberg

Reggie and Lewis Weinstein

Noam Weissman

Annette and Daniel White Polly and Marv Wilson

Heidi Winer Ruthy Wolfson Deanna Wolk

Janice and Elliot Wyner

Jack Zager

Renda and Arnold Zaltas

Debra Zane

Julie and Eric Zieff







Dear Israel,

Thank you for showing me the truth. I was blindsided by the world; its hatred, its persistence, its ignorance. All my life I knew of the importance of Israel, but it never clicked until this trip. Thank you for opening my mind to the possibility of a different reality for teens that are essentially just like me. Thank you for solidifying what Judaism means to me specifically. Thank you for showing me your beauty, our culture, and our history. Most of all, thank you for giving me the opportunity to realize what home truly is.

#### Maya Baranovsky, 2019 Y2I

I had such high expectations, and the trip managed to exceed all of them. As soon as we got back to Boston, I was ready to go back. I returned with new knowledge, pride, memories, friends, and the desire to return back to Israel as soon as possible. I now have knowledge about Jewish history, Israeli culture, and the modern conflicts the country faces. I have more pride about being Jewish and knowing I have such a close knit community with people from all around the globe. I have memories that will last forever, from little moments like buying falafel for lunch at the market to big experiences, like spending Shabbat at the Western Wall. I have new friends, from 5 miles away...or 5000 miles away, that I know I can count on. Lastly, I have the desire to return back, and I cannot wait until that day comes.

Being a Jew going to Israel, you feel this connection when you are there. The feeling of this connection is indescribable, but there is something there. To me, I felt safe and I felt welcomed. Being a Jew in Israel really made me feel like I was home; it's my home away from home, a place where I can go and feel welcomed by complete strangers. The experience that I, as an individual had, was something that I will cherish for the rest of my life, and it's something that I will tell my kids and their kids so they know how great it is to go to Israel.

#### Max Barbash, 2014 Y2I

Instead of one brilliant "aha" moment like many people write about in these essays, though, I think it was more of a gradual shift for me as the trip progressed. You see, Y2I did not just bring me to Israel. Israel is a captivating place – a beautiful and fascinating land with fascinating people, and a special place as well, due to its religious significance to so many (and not just Jews, of course) – but it is only one piece of Y2I. The spirit of this trip is not just in the land. The spirit is in the people. And not just the Israeli people. Y2I gave me the gift of a week and a half with 100 impossibly friendly teens my age whom I had not yet met.

Melissa Freed, 2014 Y2I





Hannah Lippman, 2019 Y2I





Many aspects of Y2I enhanced my Jewish identity. The connections I felt towards the Israelis, other teens on the trip, and Israel as a whole made me proud to be a Jew. These connections helped me realize that although less than one percent of the world's population is Jewish, there are many Jews all over the world and I am proud to be one of them. Another factor that made me proud to be a Jew is the other teens on the trip. I only knew a handful of people going into the trip but I came home with bonds that could last a lifetime. Everyone on the trip shared the attribute of being Jewish and that brought us together. This was a truly life-changing experience.

#### Joshua Book, 2014 Y2I

My trip to Israel with Y2I was truly life changing. I was raised Jewish before going on the trip, but I didn't really know what being Jewish actually meant. I just did as I was told by my Hebrew school and parents, and I didn't think much of it. After going to Israel and seeing some of the things people can only dream of seeing one day, I now know what being Jewish really means. I have a better understanding of my own heritage and have deeper knowledge about my homeland than I ever had before. I have come to the realization that I am not Jewish, but I am in fact a proud Jew.

Israel made me feel an abundance of different feelings, but mostly I felt like I was home and that I belonged there. First of all, Israel made me feel very safe. Being there also made me feel closer to my religion than I've ever felt before. I felt even more connected to Judaism and made me want to make more of an effort to go to temple and not forget my new love for Hebrew. Now that I'm back, I want to do more for Israel. I want to stand up and defend my new home the best I can.

#### Dayna Levine, 2015 Y2I

Before Y2I I had never put much thought into being Jewish. It felt like it was nothing special. But, once I went on Y2I, everything changed for me. Now I feel like I am proud to be Jewish and most definitely want to raise my kids Jewish. The key moment for me was when we visited the Wall and I started thinking how millions of people have wanted to come to this one place and I am here at age 16. After that day, I realized how important it is for me to be proud to be Jewish and take pride in my family traditions.

#### **Brett Lipsky, 2015 Y2I**





Before embarking on my trip to Israel, I did not feel a strong connection to this rich beautiful country. Before the trip, advocating for Israel was not part of my agenda; however, this trip has truly changed me: I am so attached to the Israeli community, and I feel a tremendous amount of pride to be Jewish that I cannot wait to start advocating for Israel. I plan on joining clubs and organizations such as "Honest Reporting" to educate adolescents about the veracity behind Israel's motives for each military action and/or political decision. Before the trip, raising my children Jewish was not particularly an important aspect of my future; however, I realized that my future is the future of the Jewish people. I now feel an obligation to raise my children Jewish, so that we will be around for future generations. I have made so many memories and friends on this trip, and I now have a new look into my Jewish identity that I never thought was even possible before Y2I.

Jessica Bloom, 2016 Y2I

Israel was truly a life-changing experience for me, as it opened my eyes to what Judaism has gone through. I felt a connection to everyone on the trip as I made new friends. Little did I realize as the trip progressed, these so called "friends" turned into my second family. I never thought in my life that a country so small in comparison to the world could make such a big impact. Not just on me but on the world as a whole. Being Jewish is another opportunity that, as a small population, creates a more special experience. Personally, when learning what Israel has done and continues to do to provide for our future, I thought is far more valuable than any course that I could take in a normal school system.

#### Alex Derkautsan, 2016 Y2I

When I thought about Israel, I imagined all of the things most people probably do; desert, camels, violence, and very religious people roaming the streets. What I thought I knew about Israel was just simply not true. In these short two weeks, I learned more about Israel than I had learned in my whole life. Before I came, I did not realize how severe the problems they face are, and the terrible ways in which the news portrays Israel, giving it an extremely negative and false image. I learned how important it is to advocate for Israel, and to tell people our side of the story. While I was there, I grew such a love for this country. I feel that I not only want to defend it, but I need to. When I hear uneducated people speaking out about Israel in a negative way, I now have the knowledge and feel informed enough to be able to correct their misconceptions and prejudgments. This is a very important tool that I am going to use in order to advocate for this country that now means so much to me.

#### Sydney Faulkner, 2016 Y2I



How did Y2I impact me? It provided me with a living perspective of Judaism that I only read about in books and could not truly connect with. It expanded my Jewish base of friends and my experience as a Jew. It opened my eyes to history and provided me with an in-depth look of who I am, a Jewish teen.

#### Joshua Allen, 2017 Y2I

I really enjoyed my Y2I experience and had a lot of fun, but it also reinforced my belief that I need to raise my children Jewish. I was intending to raise my children Jewish before the Y2I 2017 trip, but the visit to Israel made me prouder to raise my children Jewish. While I already knew of the value of Israel and supported it, this trip gave me a firsthand look at Israel and further convinced me beyond a doubt that Israel is necessary for the survival of the Jewish people and that all Jews have a duty to help and defend Israel, whether in the United States, Russia, England, or Israel itself.

#### Ben Farfel, 2017 Y2I

Dear Israel,

From sand dunes to cities, 60 degrees to 115, super markets to synagogues, you are truly an extravagant place. When you enter your city of Jerusalem to see the Western Wall and get chills down your spine, religion and freedom are everywhere, no matter where you look. You changed me; you made me see just how much more to this world there is. The breathtaking views, the kind people, you are truly a safe haven and a beautiful one at that.

Before even Momo's speech I said to myself, "How could I take this away from my children?" Will I marry Jewish? Who can tell? Love just happens. But my kids will be Jewish and grow up with Jewish customs. Tradition and family will surround their life. So the trip worked. My kids will be Jewish. That was the goal, right? Well, it did more than that. It changed me too. Thank you, Y2I, for truly changing my life. I'll truly never forget it.

#### Cam Lanza, 2018 Y2I





Every place we visited in Israel was unique and beautiful in its own way. Israel is a product of generations and generations of Jews who were searching for a place to call home. Israel doesn't just serve its citizens, it honors those who didn't get a chance to enjoy a Jewish state, or who died from various forms of oppression against the Jewish people. It's a miracle that we have a Jewish state, and now I understand the importance of cherishing Israel and my Jewish identity.

#### Sam Zuckerman, 2018 Y2I

The two most influential parts of Y2I that increased my love for being a part of the Jewish community were Shabbat and our Israeli friends. There was something about these two things that turned on a switch and that switch will never turn back off again. Being submerged in the culture and heart of Shabbat was one of the most amazing experiences... ever. Words cannot begin to describe how beautiful it is that so many different kinds of people gather at the Wall each and every day, but especially on Shabbat.

#### Kimberly Way, 2018 Y2I

During my time in Israel I had a moment of realization. The moment made me realize that being Jewish isn't all about being religious. Judaism is mostly known as a religion, but I learned that it is also a culture and a lifestyle, but you can make it fit however you choose in your life. Overall this trip has brought me memories, experiences, friends and deeper understanding of what it means to be Jewish.

#### Sunny Marcus, 2019 Y2I





# What Teens Say About Y21

#### Because of Y21:

I feel blessed to be Jewish.

I feel more proud and connected to the Jewish people and Israel.

I now know who I am and where my roots come from.

I am more confident in being Jewish.

I feel as though I have a second home.

I am filled with Jewish pride.

I have a sense of pride that wasn't there before.

I met more Jewish teens and the speakers who all made me more proud of being Jewish.

I feel more Jewish.

I have never felt more inspired and proud.

I used to not even go to Temple, but this trip made me so proud to be Jewish I want to continue this feeling.

I found my homeland.

I feel connected to Judaism not just as a religion but also as a culture.

I feel more connected to God!

I feel better as a Jew now.

I feel how special it is to be Jewish.

I found a sense of community and belonging.

I feel more connected to other Jews and I saw other people embracing their identities.

Being Jewish is now about being part of something bigger than me.

I'm inspired to learn how to speak Hebrew fluently besides reading it along with taking more time to pray.

I have a better understanding of who I am and where I come from.

I felt so connected here that I cried during Shabbat at the Western Wall.

I feel a part of a family and this is my home.

I now understand what being Jewish really means.

I am able to defend myself against antisemitic people.

I know if I ever needed to, I have a place to call home.

I know I will stay Jewish!!











### Robert I. Lappin Youth to Israel Adventure (Y21)

#### Y2I is the ADVENTURE OF A LIFETIME!

Thanks to the vision and generosity of Robert Israel Lappin, Y2I has been a life-changing, transformative experience for Jewish teens for 50 years!

Life-enriching benefits for teens who participate in the Y2I adventure:

- Enhanced sense of Jewish pride
- Journey of self-discovery
- Explore your Jewish heritage
- Answers life's big questions: Who am I? Where did I come from?
- Meet new friends and expand social networks
- Learn valuable advocacy skills
- Discover new interests

Y2I includes a fully-subsidized, 12-day teen trip to Israel packed with adventure, fun and new friends.

Pre-trip meetings and post-trip programs enrich the travel experience.

For more information about the 2022 Y2I Adventure, visit Y2I.org or contact Sharon Wyner at (978) 565-4450 or email swyner@lappinfoundation.org.

To make a donation to Y2I, visit LappinFoundation.org/donate or contact Susan Feinstein at (978) 740-4431 or email sfeinstein@lappinfoundation.org.





