

2022 Annual Report



*Enhancing Jewish Identity
across Generations*



LappinFoundation.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thank You to Our Donors



Dear Friends,

2022 was a milestone year for Lappin Foundation.

Here are some highlights:

- Our **offices relocated to the Cummings Center** in Beverly, Massachusetts to accommodate our growing staff and increased volume of programs
- **The Board of Directors welcomed Joshua Chmara (2009 Y2I) and Jay Goldberg (1996 Y2I)**, both of whom bring great passion and expertise to our work
- As our innovative programs grab the attention of influential funders and community leaders, **we are building an Honorary Board of Advisors**, who serve as ambassadors of our work
- Lappin Foundation staff **worked diligently throughout the year to deliver more than 260 programs, classes, services, and events** that support our mission of *enhancing Jewish identity across generations*
- Our **service area expanded to include Greater Boston and Merrimack Valley**
- Lappin Foundation was **unanimously voted in as a member of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston**
- Cummings Foundation awarded us a **\$100,000 grant to expand our Holocaust Symposium for High School Students**
- More than **2,000 students, teachers, community leaders and other individuals** participated in one of our **Holocaust education programs**
- **Expanded and deepened partnerships** to include organizations and individuals of different faiths, backgrounds and ideas
- **Most exciting in 2022 was resuming our life-changing educational Youth to Israel Adventure (Y2I)** after a two-year pause due to the pandemic. **2022 Y2I included 81 teens from 31 different communities and 44 different high schools.** Well into its fifth decade, Y2I is more important than ever as a life-changing, immersive experience that builds Jewish pride and connects teens to Israel. This is the power of Y2I.

To our donors, we are deeply grateful for your valuable support, which made it possible to achieve all that we have accomplished. You inspire us to keep the momentum going and to work with even greater passion as we bring more creative ideas to fruition. **Together, we will positively impact the Jewish community and beyond, now and well into the future.**

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Deborah L. Coltin".

Deborah L. Coltin

President and Executive Director

Our Mission

LAPPIN FOUNDATION'S MISSION IS ENHANCING JEWISH IDENTITY ACROSS GENERATIONS



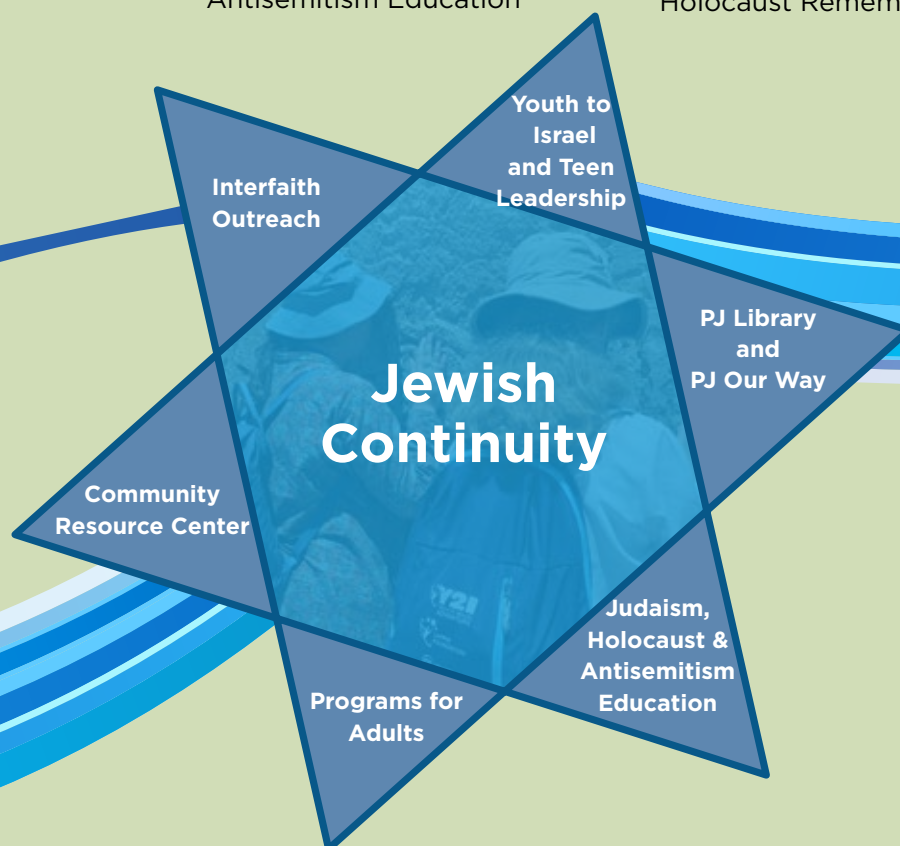
We accomplish our mission by:

- Funding dynamic 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
- Serving as an educational resource center to the community for programs about Judaism, the Holocaust and antisemitism
- Fostering positive relationships through education with individuals of all faiths
- Imbuing young Jewish people with the desire to stay Jewish and raise their own children Jewish

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 (Y2I)
- Teens & Tweens
- Interfaith Outreach
- Families with Young Children
- Judaism, Holocaust & Antisemitism Education
- Professional Development
- Adults
- Resource Center for the Community
- Honoring Jewish Veterans
- Commemorating International Holocaust Remembrance Day



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



2023 Board of Directors

Lappin Foundation's Board of Directors serves an active role in the Foundation's ongoing success.

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President and Executive Director

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Stacey Comito

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2023 Honorary Board of Advisors (in formation)

Lappin Foundation's Honorary Board of Advisors are leaders, who believe in the work of Lappin Foundation and who serve as ambassadors of our work.

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Teen Antisemitism Task Force

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Toby Kumin

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Arielle Mogolesko
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Teen Antisemitism Task Force

Todd Ruderman

Harold Tubman

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dcoltin@lappinfoundation.org
(978) 740-4428

Jane Dzierzanowski
Administrative Assistant
Jane@lappinfoundation.org
(978) 414-7699

Susan Feinstein
Operations Manager
sfeinstein@lappinfoundation.org
(978) 740-4431

Lynne Krasker Schultz
PJ Library Program Manager
lynne@lappinfoundation.org

Rachel Lefebvre
PJ Library Program Associate
RachelL@lappinfoundation.org

Sarah Ovidia
Development Director
sovidia@lappinfoundation.org
(978) 740-4404

Rachel Scheinhaus
PJ Library Program Associate
RachelS@lappinfoundation.org

Sharon Wyner
Program Manager
swyner@lappinfoundation.org
(978) 565-4450

2022 Financials

INCOME & EXPENSE STATEMENT

Revenue

Donations and Grants	1,427,901
Program Fees	30,750
Misc Interest & Gains	4,101

Total Revenue **\$1,462,752**

Expenses

Administration	133,750
Communication	3,126
Conference Fees	8,012
Consulting Fee	28,522
Fundraising	19,676
Health Insurance	18,738
Insurance Liability & Workers Comp	16,764
Moving, Furniture & Equipment	18,616
Payroll Personnel	597,311
Payroll Taxes, Fees & 401k Costs	72,357
Programs	683,869
PR Services	21,400
Rent	27,622
Utilities	14,160
Website & Computer Support	11,189

Total Expenses **\$1,675,112**

Net Income **-\$212,360**

BALANCE SHEET

Current Assets

Cash	86,468
Pledges Receivable	100,000
Money Market Account	503,199
Fidelity Stock Donations	4,807

Total Current Assets **\$694,474**

Other Assets **\$26,369**

Total Assets **\$720,843**

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	8,518
Accrued Payroll	32,872

Total Current Liabilities **\$41,390**

Capital

Retained Earnings	877,895
Feffer Scholarship	13,918
Net Income	-212,360

Total Capital **\$679,453**

Total Liabilities and Capital **\$720,843**



Program Partners

Working together makes our community stronger. Together with our program partners, we warmly welcomed thousands of individuals of all ages to engage in meaningful programs.

ADL New England	Congregation Sons of Israel	Jewish Journal	Teen Antisemitism Task Force
AJC New England	Congregation Tifereth Israel, Sephardic	Jewish National Fund – USA/, Alexander Muss High School in Israel	Temple Ahavat Achim
Alliance for Constructive Ethnic Studies	Consulate General of Israel to New England	Jewish Teen Initiative Boston	Temple B'nai Abraham
AMCHA	Danvers High School	Jewish War Veterans	Temple Emanu-El Marblehead
America-Israel Friendship League	Dr. David M. Milch Foundation	Kerem Shalom	Temple Emanu-El Haverhill
American Jewish Committee	Duxbury High School	Mamaleh's	Temple Emanuel in Andover
Americans for Ben Gurion University	Duxbury Middle School	Merrimack Valley Jewish Federation	Temple Emanuel Newton
Andover Bookstore	Duxbury Student Union	Metro West Jewish Day School	Temple Emunah
B'nai Torah	Epstein Hillel School	New England Friends of the March of the Living	Temple Isaiah
Boston 3G	Foundation to Combat Anti-Semitism	Newton North High School	Temple Israel of Natick
Brooksby Village Jewish Community	Hadassah Lynn Swampscott Marblehead Chapter	Newton South High School	Temple Israel of Sharon
CAMERA	Hadassah Northeast	North Suburban Jewish Community Center	Temple Ner Tamid of the North Shore
CAMERA's Partnership with Christians & Jews	Harold Grinspoon Foundation	North Shore Rabbis and Cantors Association	Temple Shalom Emeth
Canadians for Israel's Legal Rights	Haverhill Public Library	Peabody Clergy and Ministerial Association	Temple Sinai
Cantors Assembly	Holocaust Legacy Foundation	Peabody Public Schools	Temple Tiferet Shalom
Cape Ann Museum	Holten Richmond Middle School Danvers	Reform UNRWA	Terezin Music Foundation
Chabad Lubavitch of the North Shore	IM TIRTZU	Rhode Island Coalition for Israel	Terezin: Children of the Holocaust
Chabad of Peabody	Israel Advocacy Alliance	Salem Public Schools	Tewksbury Public Library
Christians and Jews United for Israel	Israeli American Council	Salem State University Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies	The Deborah Project
City of Peabody	Israeli Cultural Connection @ the Oshman JCC	Saugus Public Library	The Jewish Education Project
Club Z	J.V. Fletcher Library	Shalom Hadassah	The Mattathias Project
Combat Antisemitism Movement	Janet & David Polak Foundation	Solomon Schechter Day School	Together Beat Hate
Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP)	Jewish Arts Collaborative	SPUR	Tribe Talk
Congregation Ahavas Achim	JCC of Greater Boston	StandWithUs New England	Tyngsborough Public Library
Congregation Ahavat Olam	Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters	Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies	USY of Worcester MA
Congregation Beth Jacob	Jewish Community Center of the North Shore	Swampscott Public Library	Vermont Holocaust Memorial
Congregation Or Atid	Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston	Synagogue Council of MA	Village School, Marblehead
Congregation Shalom of Chelmsford	Jewish Family & Children's Service		Wakefield Public Library
Congregation Shirat Hayam			Walnut Street Synagogue
			Worcester JCC
			Wynn Middle School, Tewksbury

Donor Spotlight: Todd Ruderman

Todd Ruderman, of Needham, has a history of connection to Lappin Foundation and is proud of his new role as member of its Honorary Board of Advisors. **“My goal is to help the Foundation ensure long-term growth of our Jewish teens’ love for their heritage and to protect against indignant acts that threaten it,”** he said. **“I will closely follow Lappin Foundation’s many programs and act as a sounding board and supporter.”**



The devoted parent of three children and philanthropist is Founder and CEO of Value Store It Self Storage, and Value Store It Management. He is a committed sponsor of Autism research and support programs.

When he and Jody Kipnis started and funded Holocaust Legacy Fellows, a program of their Holocaust Legacy Foundation, they relied heavily on the Lappin Foundation and the expertise of President and Executive Director Deborah Coltin. The fellowship is a youth leadership program designed to educate Jewish teens about the Holocaust as a watershed event in Jewish history and in the history of humanity.

“Without Debbie’s reputation and excellent teaching skills, Holocaust Legacy Fellows never would have gotten the attention it deserved. Few teens or their parents would have been quick to sign on if they didn’t have the trust in Debbie because of their experiences with Y2I (Youth to Israel Adventure).”

Todd’s support of Y2I extends to subsidizing students with social/emotional needs to ensure they have the same positive experience their fellow travelers do. He is also a “big supporter” of the antisemitism programs the Foundation offers to

schools and organizations, whether affiliated with Judaism, other faiths or non-denominational. **“Lappin Foundation is a spokesperson for any act of antisemitism in our region,”** he said.

Although Todd didn’t go on Y2I (“I wish I did”), his son Jack had that opportunity in 2022. In addition to experiencing the wonders of Israel, such as visiting the Kotel (Western Wall) on Shabbat, Jack was surprised by the number of connections he was able to make. **“I struggle with social interactions in other settings, such as school, but I was really happy with how friendly and supportive everyone was, including the counselors,”** he said.

Since returning, Jack has been involved with the Teen Antisemitism Task Force. **“This problem not only affects Jewish people; it affects the whole world,”** he said.

Todd couldn’t be more pleased. **“I feel the Y2I program is an important way for students to immerse themselves in Judaism by exploring and uncovering Israel and their Jewish connections. Lappin Foundation trains our teens to be upstanders and not let antisemitism go unchecked,”** he said.

Donors

\$100,000+

Combined Jewish
Philanthropies
Cummings Foundation

\$25,000 - \$49,999

Sarah Ovadia
Jody Kipnis and
Todd Ruderman
Morton and Lillian
Waldfogel Charitable
Foundation: Maureen
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\$18,000 - \$24,999

Harold Grinspoon
Foundation
Sharon and Howard Rich
Marcia Ruderman

\$10,000

Deborah and Gary Coltin
Dr. David M. Milch
Foundation
Epstein Hillel School
Mark Gelfand
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Ruth and George Rooks

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\$7,000

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\$1,000 to \$2,499

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\$118 to \$499

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Michelle and David Baer	
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Judith Bennett and Family	
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Lisa Conviser Berger, Larry Berger and Zachary Berger	
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Donors

Up to \$115

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We apologize for any error.



LEARNING FROM THE LESSONS OF THE HOLOCAUST

Holocaust Symposium for Teens



What's been so great about the Lappin Foundation's Holocaust Symposium is that it has given a group of kids an intensive time period to think about and talk about the Holocaust without being rushed by other things happening in the curriculum. They build a connection between the Holocaust, antisemitism and other kinds of hate in the world and instill in the students the importance of taking action.

Gregory Drake, Social Studies Department Head at Newton North High School

The Holocaust Symposium was created in response to antisemitism, swastikas, and racist graffiti showing up more frequently in community settings, including schools. The symposium consists of curated materials, primary sources, films, survivor testimony, a book read and discussion, a session about antisemitism, and a final session about the lessons of the Holocaust. **"Education is our best hope," said Deborah Coltin, who is Lappin Foundation's Executive Director and who also runs the symposium.**

The Holocaust Symposium was created in response to antisemitism, swastikas and racist graffiti showing up more frequently in community settings. Danvers was one of six symposiums (the others were at New England Academy, Duxbury, Salem High School, and Newton North and South High Schools) and the first to be open to adults in the community.

In recent years, after Danvers suffered a rash of antisemitic, racist and homophobic events, Danvers Public Schools and Lappin Foundation partnered to host a six-week Intergenerational Holocaust Symposium on Zoom in January and February 2022.

The symposium drew 39 students and 34 adults, including municipal and school leaders, community members, parents and teens. "We need to work on ensuring our school has a safe and respectful climate and empower all community members to call out and fight against biased and hateful language and actions," Danvers High School Principal Adam Federico said.

At the beginning of the first session, Coltin instructed participants to ask themselves, **"Why am I here? What does the Holocaust have to do with me?"**

"I wanted to be rebooted in my attitudes," one Danvers student said. Danvers Chief of Police, James Lovell, said he believed the program could serve as a framework for additional, admittedly difficult conversations that would help Danvers grow as a community. Parent Mike Hass, whose daughter also attended, said he wanted to help raise the bar on what is acceptable behavior. **"I want Norah to see and experience that speaking up and taking an active role in society is critical to shaping the world around her,"** he added.

Over the course of six weeks, participants learned about the history of the Holocaust and why its lessons are so important to heed during this time of rising antisemitism. Listening to and interacting with survivors Rita Kaplan and Dr. Hans Fisher, and watching the film, *The Path to Nazi Genocide*, left the deepest impact on most participants.



“Hearing survivors recount where they were during the Holocaust and how it affected their life is so different from reading about it,” said tenth grader Isha Patel. **“Their first hand stories really helped me sympathize with all the victims during that horrific time.”**

The Path to Nazi Genocide uses rare footage to examine the rise and consolidation of power in Germany, highlighting the role ordinary citizens played. **“The visuals are so important to understanding the impact of the Holocaust,”** said Mary Wermers, assistant superintendent of Teaching and Learning at Danvers Public Schools. Tess Wallerstein, a Jewish 11th grader, was struck by how ordinary German society at that time seemed. **“How could such a horrible situation occur in a normal society and how do we prevent history from repeating itself,”** she asked.

By the last session, not one participant was untouched by their experience. All expressed both hopes for their community and a personal action plan to make that happen.

“It’s Important to teach our children what the swastika means. I don’t believe they really understand. If they did, I don’t think they would be doing what they’re doing,” said community member Carla King.

Tenth grader Norah Hass plans to act as a representative for her Jewish community at Danvers High School, especially because there are so few Jewish students there. **“I want to tell them they are not alone in this fight,”** she said. Principal Federico plans to expand experiences like the symposium to the greater community, with the high school leading the way for more understanding and kindness.

Assistant Superintendent Wermers said the symposium helped participating administrators examine their approach to teaching the Holocaust. They are planning activities for the week of January 27th (Holocaust Remembrance Day) and have begun discussions about a Holocaust curriculum across elementary, middle and high school levels.



The Holocaust Symposium for Teens is funded with a grant from the Cummings Foundation.



ANTISEMITISM SUMMIT ENGAGED MORE THAN 160 MUNICIPAL LEADERS

Combating Antisemitism

Antisemitic incidents in Massachusetts reached an all-time high in 2021. In direct and immediate response, Lappin Foundation organized “Two Steps Forward against Antisemitism Summit for Massachusetts Mayors and Town Officials.” The virtual event took place on March 28, 2022 and drew 168 municipal leaders representing more than 100 localities.



The summit's goal was to educate attendees about two tools available to help their communities fight against antisemitism: adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) non-legally binding, working definition of antisemitism; and local enactment of a proclamation to commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day annually on January 27, as do communities around the world.

Speakers included: **Deborah Coltin**, Lappin Foundation President and Executive Director; **Mayor Ted Bettencourt**, Peabody, Honorary Chair; **Dr. Hans Fisher**, Holocaust Survivor; **Josh Kraft**, President of Kraft Family Philanthropies; **Robert Trestan**, ADL New England Regional Director; **Robert Leikind**, Regional Director, American Jewish Committee New England; **Jody Kipnis**, President of Holocaust Legacy Foundation; **Lucy New** and **Sofia Vatnik**, Teen Co-chairs of the Teen Antisemitism Task Force, and **Robert Soffer**, Community Activist from Sharon, the first Massachusetts community to adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism.

“In the absence of a clear understanding of the definition, you can’t create policies to deal with it. You can’t fight what you don’t recognize,” said Robert Leikind. Since the summit, many municipalities have been working on taking these two action steps, and several have already adopted the definition of antisemitism.

Mobilizing the Community

Lappin Foundation led the way with the Town of Danvers to take back the bridge from antisemitic messages previously displayed by white supremacists.



EMPOWERING TEENS TO SPEAK UP AGAINST ANTISEMITISM

Interfaith Teen Antisemitism Task Force

During the summer in 2020, vandals defaced Preston Beach in Swampscott with antisemitic graffiti. A few weeks later, a Zoom-bomber infiltrated a Lappin Foundation online event, dispatching frightening messages of Jew hatred. Marblehead High School entering juniors Lucy New and Sofia Vatrik were witnesses.



Ed Zuker (center) with teen leaders

In 2021, with those events still fresh in their minds, they attended several Lappin Foundation programs on teen leadership development, antisemitism and Holocaust education, and Israel advocacy.

At their conclusion,

Lucy wanted to continue the work on antisemitism and brought forward to Lappin Foundation the idea of creating a task force to focus on education and activism.

Lappin Foundation, which remains committed to its mission of combatting antisemitism, quickly responded by forming the Teen Antisemitism Task Force, with Lucy and Sofia as co-chairs.

Antisemitic rhetoric and violence escalated in 2022 and shows no indication of slowing down. **“The greatest challenge in combatting antisemitism is urging others to see this issue as a detrimental form of hate,”** Sofia said. **“By embracing our Judaism, we counteract antisemitism,”** Lucy added.

The Teen Antisemitism Task Force made gallant strides in tackling local and broader antisemitism in 2022. They lobbied local government officials to recognize January 27 as International Holocaust Remembrance Day and January as Holocaust Education Month; set up monthly strategic meetings for its members, and mobilized additional projects in response to situations as they arose.

Incoming co-chairs Teddy Friedman and Arielle Mogolesko are anxious to take the baton in 2023. **“Sofia and Lucy laid such a great foundation. My goal is to continue to grow the task force by getting more teens of all faiths and religions involved,”**

Teddy said. He also hopes to connect to the broader Jewish community more. **“I think there**

is a disconnect between teens on the North Shore and the Metro West and Greater Boston. We can build a strong connection across Massachusetts by engaging more Boston teens,” Teddy said.

While studying at Alexander Muss High School in Israel in Fall 2021, Arielle developed a passion for eliminating all hate — especially antisemitism. She has served as a JTI Peer Leadership Fellow and StandWithUs high school intern, and aims to encourage and promote teen involvement in the Jewish community. **“I know from firsthand experience living in Israel how important it is that we protect the Jewish people and our homeland,”** she said. **“The first step is getting involved and educating yourself and others. Most commonly, hate is a result of misinformation and/or lack of information.”**

Through her leadership role in the Teen Antisemitism Task Force, Arielle hopes to increase membership and inspire teens to use the task force as a resource to help them create educational programming for their communities. **“The task force is a starting point, not a solution. The tools we provide will better equip teens to combat antisemitism, and thus, hopefully, lead to some improvement during this uptick of expressions of hate,”** she said.

As founding co-chairs Lucy and Sofia leave for college, they are confident the Teen Antisemitism Task Force will prosper in the future, continuing to grow in size and impact. **“Antisemitism is an enduring evil that harms the Jewish community and beyond. To tackle this ongoing surge, we must engage the entire community,”** they said.



Teen Antisemitism
Task Force
LAPPIN FOUNDATION

JEWISH TEEN
INITIATIVE
BOSTON

SUPPORTED BY
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WARMLY WELCOMING ADULTS OF OTHER FAITHS TO LEARN ABOUT JUDAISM

Introduction to Judaism

Introduction to Judaism is a 21-week course sponsored by Lappin Foundation that is designed for individuals of faiths other than Judaism who want to explore Judaism or who are considering conversion to Judaism. Since 2009, the tuition-free program, in partnership with the North Shore Rabbis and Cantors Association, has enrolled over 300 individuals.

The program is funded with generous support from the Morton and Lillian Waldfogel Charitable Foundation and Peter and Maureen Waldfogel.

Lappin Foundation fully subsidizes the cost for immersion in the mikvah (ritual bath) for individuals who want to convert to Judaism.

Many participants expressed that the course's free tuition and convenient online access influenced their decision to sign up. The program is open to all who seek connection to the Jewish community. **"Lappin Foundation is meeting an important need to educate and welcome people of all faiths who want to learn about Judaism,"** said President and Executive Director Deborah Coltin.

Rachel Rozavsky is a member of the 2022-2023 class. She grew up in the Lawrence/Andover area and attended Catholic schools through college, but never really bonded with that aspect of her upbringing. Nor did it make sense to her.

Her father's family is Jewish, so she always celebrated Hanukkah and was attracted to what she experienced. **"I felt connected to that Jewish side and wanted to learn more,"** she said from her home in Newburyport. Introduction to Judaism was the perfect way for her to understand more about the religion and decide whether conversion was the right track for her.

She appreciated that the classes featured different rabbis and speakers with individual styles of teaching. Best of all were the frank conversations when her classmates shared their perspectives. **"It's always good to keep an open mind,"** she said.

Drina Santana, of Danvers, also felt disconnected to her religious upbringing. She grew up in South Texas, where her religious life was "very Christian," yet she felt out of place in church. Despite how prevalent Christianity was in every aspect of her family and secular life, she could tell it wasn't the right religion for her. **"But, I didn't feel like I had another choice for my own religious journey,"** she said.

Judaism always interested her, but it wasn't until she moved to Massachusetts in 2018 that she was able to meet any Jews. She remembers the exact moment she knew Judaism was a perfect fit for her. **"I was talking with a close friend who had been raised Jewish, and I came away from that conversation knowing I wanted to convert,"** she said.

She spent the next two years thinking about conversion. After taking the "Preview to An Introduction to Judaism" course in the spring, she was even more convinced of her path. **"I felt in my heart Judaism was something I'd been missing my whole life,"** she said. **"It aligned more with my own values and beliefs than Christianity did."** She found a local rabbi to sponsor her and signed up for Introduction to Judaism class.

Drina encourages anyone who is on the fence to take the class. **"You'll learn more about Judaism, yourself and whether or not it is something you want to pursue,"** she said. **"Everyone's relationship to Judaism is different, but at the end of the day, we are all connected by our desire to learn, to ask questions, and to leave the world a little better than it was when we got here."**

INNOVATIVE, ENTERTAINING, INTELLECTUALLY STIMULATING Programs for Adults

Hundreds of individuals from our community and as far away as California, Israel, Australia and Europe, attend our adult education programs throughout the year. A variety of interesting and timely topics educated and entertained us about Israel, Jewish culture, antisemitism, and a whole lot more throughout the year.

“

As always, Ido has blown it out of the ballpark with this presentation. His deep knowledge of our history as well as his astute observations about the bigger political picture playing out on the global stage is so impressive. And his effective delivery makes it such a pleasure to watch and listen. Thank you for organizing and sharing these amazing Zoom events with all of us!”

Leora Robinson



Ido Aharoni, Israel's former
Consul General to NY

Israel Education

Thanks to a grant from the Dr. David M. Milch Foundation, Lappin Foundation hosted dynamic programs about Israel presented by Ido Aharoni Aronoff, an Israeli diplomat, writer, lecturer, and consultant. Ido's engaging style and extensive knowledge about Israel and Jewish history regularly drew hundreds of individuals to his programs.



Michael Gruenbaum and Sasha

Commemorating International Holocaust Remembrance Day

Michael Gruenbaum, survivor of Terezin concentration camp, shared his experiences in Terezin as an older child at our annual Holocaust commemoration on January 27, 2022. He told us how the teddy bears his mother made by hand for Nazi officers to give as gifts saved his life. Michael's inspirational story and heartfelt call-to-action served as reminders of the lessons of the Holocaust.



Jake Auchincloss

Honoring Jewish Veterans

U.S. Congressman Jake Auchincloss was the featured speaker at our 2022 Annual Jewish Veterans Day Program. Congressman Auchincloss, who served in the Marines, was stationed in Afghanistan and Panama.



Ellen Katz

Celebrating the Fabulous Barbra Streisand!

Edutainer Ellen Katz presented a two-part entertaining and educational series about the legendary Barbra Streisand. We learned about Streisand's multi-faceted roles as singer, actor, producer and philanthropist, highlighting the personal attributes that have led her to stardom.

MORE THAN 1,000 CHILDREN RECEIVE PJ LIBRARY AND PJ OUR WAY BOOKS EVERY MONTH

PJ Library and PJ Our Way

For more than a decade, Lappin Foundation has served as the local implementing organization for PJ Library, the beloved program that provides newborn through eight-year-old Jewish children with a free Jewish book every month. PJ Our Way continues the journey for children ages 9-12. Free family programs are held around the community throughout the year to enrich the PJ Library experience for families with young children.

Jennifer Adler, who grew up in a Conservative family in Cranston, Rhode Island and now lives in Lynn, loves that PJ Library keeps her family connected to its Jewish culture. **“We aren’t religious people, so it is nice to have programming and books available to raise our daughter to be aware of her culture in a fun and enjoyable way,”** she said.

PJ Library is free and open to Jewish and interfaith families with children (newborns through age 8) who live in or are affiliated with a Jewish organization in Lappin Foundation’s service area. The PJ Library monthly newsletter is sent to families with helpful information about PJ Library books and programs, Jewish holidays, and related arts and crafts activities.

Aurora Carruthers-Grey lives in Ayer with her wife and three children, Remington (5), MacKenzie (3) and Evelyn (6 months). She was raised Catholic and converted to Judaism. She enjoys building a home library for her children with books that reflect their identity as Jews. She also loves the quality of the books. **“I’m a bibliophile, and these are books I can save for my grandkids,”** she said.

PJ Library books are steeped in Jewish values. They spark conversations and serve as precious learning opportunities for interfaith families. In keeping with modern Jewish values of inclusion, they feature diverse characters, inter-cultural friendships, stories about learning from and welcoming others, and respect for differences.

Eva Mintz grew up in Atlanta, Georgia in an observant Jewish modern-Orthodox home. Her father was the rabbi of a large 800-family traditional shul. Her family has lived in Swampscott for more than 12 years and has participated in PJ Library since her oldest

daughter Bella (10) was an infant. Lila (8) and Eli (4) followed in their big sister’s footsteps.

Eva especially likes to use the books as a way to teach her children about Jewish values and traditions. **“Finding Jewish age/developmentally appropriate books can be challenging. PJ Library makes reading Jewish books with your kids fun and accessible,”** she said.

One of the program’s goals is to build community by bringing families with young children together to learn and celebrate. **“PJ Library is a great way to stay connected to other Jewish families and Jewish resources in a stress-free setting,”** Jennifer Adler added.

But, perhaps most of all, PJ Library provides the tools to set aside a time to read as a family. Gabriel Merlin’s sons Eddie (4.5) and Jonny (3) grow excited each month in anticipation of receiving their new books. **“The books usually focus on what is going on in the Jewish calendar,”** he said. **“It brings us together to read about and discuss the fun holidays coming up.”**



BRINGING THE BEAUTY OF SHABBAT HOME

Rekindle Shabbat

For more than 27 years, Rekindle Shabbat has been the spark that ignites the celebration of Shabbat for thousands of families throughout the North Shore and Merrimack Valley. The program has experienced unprecedented growth the past two years, with more than 150 families participating.

Rekindle Shabbat is free and open to Jewish and interfaith families with children (teens and younger) who live in or are affiliated with a Jewish organization in Lappin Foundation's service area.

Families receive a tote bag chockful of all the items to make a meaningful and complete Shabbat experience. Inside the bag are: Shabbat candles and candlesticks, a kiddush cup, kippot, a challah cover, a tzedakah box, and the user-friendly *Five Steps to Rekindle Shabbat* handout. Equally cherished are the sumptuous, fully-cooked, kosher dinners catered by Larry Levine, available four times a year. The Shabbat tote bag and meals enhance families' abilities to enjoy Shabbat and conduct the family-friendly service in a stress-free and fun way.

Aurora Carruthers-Grey, for example, was raised Catholic and her wife had no religious upbringing other than gathering for Christmas and Easter dinners. When they converted to Judaism in 2020, they had an opportunity to develop their own special and personal rituals for their young family.

Because she was raised in a very religious family, Aurora gravitated to the stricter Shabbat observances practiced by more Orthodox congregations. Her wife took a more liberal view. Rekindle Shabbat gave them the tools and structure to bridge the divide between the different ways they imagined themselves celebrating Shabbat.

Bookending Shabbat by lighting Shabbat candles on Friday and observing its end with Havdalah on Saturday have become a staple in their household. Her boys, at three and five-years-old, are "obsessed" with the laminated prayer sheet that came in the Rekindle Shabbat package. **"During the week, they constantly say, 'Mommy, can you read Shabbat for us?'"** she said. She ended up asking for a pdf, so each boy could have his own copy.

By contrast, Eva Mintz grew up in a strict observant Shabbat home, where Shabbat was part of the fabric of her childhood. For her own family, Rekindle Shabbat has been an opportunity to celebrate Shabbat not only with family, but also with close friends. Recently, she reconnected with one of her childhood friends who had just moved to the North Shore. **"By participating in Rekindle Shabbat together, we also rekindled our friendship and our children have become friends as well,"** she said.

Some families use Rekindle Shabbat as a jumping off point to craft their own unique tradition. Aurora replaced the words on the Read Shabbat prayer card **"What are you grateful for" with "What made you happy this week?"** which her preschoolers understand more easily. **"It makes my heart melt to hear my kiddos lay the foundation for learning about Shabbat, and especially for learning about gratitude when we give tzedakah. The memories we are making are precious,"** she said.

Without exception, Rekindle Shabbat participants report that their experience was overwhelmingly positive and that they would encourage others to join the program. **"Whether it is your family's first time celebrating Shabbat or you already observe Shabbat every week, it will definitely add a special and meaningful element to your Shabbat experience,"** Eva Mintz said.



CELEBRATING JEWISH RITUALS, CREATING JEWISH MEMORIES

Sukkat Shalom

The Festival of Sukkot, so full of blessings and thanksgiving, is a golden opportunity for families to get back to their Jewish roots and experience nature through a Jewish lens.

Sukkot is the festival that celebrates the gathering of the fall harvest and commemorates the miraculous protection God provided for the children of Israel

when they left Egypt. It's tradition during Sukkot to eat meals under the open sky in a sukkah, or hut made up of at least three walls and a roof of natural materials.

In keeping with its mission of enhancing Jewish identity across generations, Lappin Foundation's Sukkat Shalom program provides families with a beautiful, free, easy-to-assemble sukkah,

which shipped directly to a family's home. Parents attend a virtual educational session about Sukkot before their sukkah arrives at their home.

Offered every few years, the program has been a resounding success for over a decade. In 2022, it was available through PJ Library along with coordinated community Sukkot programming that included music, stories, pizza, a hayride and apple picking.

In 2022, 48 families participated in the program. For many, it was the first time they had a sukkah at their home. For others, it evoked sweet childhood memories of their parents and grandparents.

Jennifer Adler and her daughter, Maya, made the same paper ring garland decorations she made as a child while her husband built the sukkah for their Lynn backyard. They dined in it as much as weather permitted, inviting Jewish and non-Jewish friends to join them.

"I'm not a particularly outdoorsy or religious person, but I appreciate dining under the stars, remembering our history as a nomadic people, and welcoming the stranger. Coming together to eat and enjoy as a collective is so positive and affirming," she said.

Growing up in Atlanta, the daughter of a rabbi, Eva Mintz recalls her family's sukkah filled with friends, classmates, family and congregants. This year, she and her husband and three children were able to replicate that experience at their Swampscott home.

"Having a sukkah really helped to bring us together as a family and motivated us to reach out to others in our community. It was so special to share our love of Sukkot with others," she said.

Sukkot has always been one of Aurora Carruthers-Grey's favorite Jewish holidays, but she never had the space or resources to put up a sukkah. She became interested in converting to Judaism about 15 years ago and in September 2020, she, her wife, and their two sons converted together as a family. Their daughter, born right before Sukkot 2022, is their only child to be born Jewish.

Participating in Sukkat Shalom was the perfect way to welcome her to the world and to her Jewish faith.

They built their sukkah at Aurora's parents' home because its backyard is large and because they wanted to create rituals they could share with their non-Jewish family. The first night of Sukkot, they planned a fall-themed dinner with pumpkin ravioli. On Shabbat, they dined by candlelight on pizza.

"It doesn't matter to us that our parents are of different religious backgrounds than us. What does matter is that we were all able to observe this holiday together, as a family," she said. **"It's so special to create our own traditions."**

Jennifer Adler couldn't agree more. **"It is a real gift to receive such a high quality, easy-to-assemble Sukkah. We never would have been able to afford one on our own. We look forward to celebrating Sukkot next year in our amazing Sukkah!"**



YOUTH TO ISRAEL ADVENTURE (Y2I) IS THE EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME FOR JEWISH TEENS!

“

Now I know I have a voice and I'm not scared to use it. I'm not afraid anymore and I will wear my name on my back with pride. Yes, I'm Jewish and there's nothing wrong with that. I'm so proud to be who I am now and Y2I helped me find that.

Rachel Freedman

Because of my amazing Y2I experience, I am now looking for a college with a strong Hillel, want to find ways to support Israel, defeat antisemitism, and return to Israel.

Seth Cushinsky

An important lesson I took from this trip is how important it is to be proud of being Jewish.

Harris Berson

I want to fight for the kids who are scared to be proud to be Jewish. I want to fight for me, a girl who lives in a Jewish community, but still faces so much antisemitism.

Giulia Goldwasser

Before this trip I knew very few Jewish people in my town or at my school, but now I feel that I have a community of Jewish friends that I can always turn to if I ever need to talk to someone about antisemitism in my town or stuff related to being Jewish.

Sofia Colden

What does Israel mean to me? It means family. It means generations of people who are connected to me.

Rose Alvarez-Dobrusin

The core values that I have come to identify with the history of the Jews are those of resilience, courage, determination, and perseverance. To be Jewish means to come from a long line of survivors, thrivers, and heroes who refused to sit down and fade away into the dust.

Jackson Selby

The Y2I trip solidified how special it is to be Jewish, being a part of a tribe that supports each other. I now firmly wish to pass on this religion to my future children and family.

Lily Gerson

Israel showed me that being Jewish was so much more than the suffering we have been through. It showed me how much of a blessing it is to be Jewish.

Naomi Smith

What I have learned has given me a foundation and love for my culture that I did not have before. I now don't think I need an exact "amount" of Jewish to belong.

Bella Takata

For me Y2I enhanced my Jewish identity and my growing connection to the Jewish community. Y2I has made me feel prouder of my Jewish heritage and more comfortable with the biases surrounding Judaism. I am more prepared and knowledgeable about the conflict and am also much more invested in Israeli current events. Overall, I left Y2I as a more confident person, a Zionist, and more connected to my Jewish identity as I have been in a long time.

Ezra Myerson

Being able to spend a couple days with teens who grew up in Israel was one of the best ways to really learn about what living in Israel is truly like.

Silas Foltz

Going on this trip made me feel "normal" by giving me opportunities to have Jewish friends my age which helped strengthen my Jewish identity.

Norah Hass

My trip to Israel was very influential because it made me realize how being Jewish is a gift.

Bobby Leclair

I am proud of how strong, smart and resilient Jews are and that was palpable as I toured throughout Israel.

Spencer Berson

I can genuinely say that I came back to America as a better person than when I left.

Benjamin Burdetsky

”



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Y2I TEENS RETURN HOME PROUD, INFORMED AND EMPOWERED

Early in his leadership years at Jewish Federation of the North Shore, Bob Lappin created the Youth to Israel Adventure (Y2I), and it would become the cornerstone of Lappin Foundation. “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 antisemitism and anti-Israel activities and sentiments,” he wrote. Since its inception in 1970, more than 3,000 teens have participated in Y2I.



Bob Lappin would be beaming to hear the comments from the most recent cohort of teen participants.

After a two-year pandemic-driven hiatus, the 12-day, fully subsidized Y2I resumed last summer and the 81 teens from 31 communities and 44 high schools returned on July 8 with reactions that reflected

more somber reality than even COVID-19 related precautions and contingencies.

Against the current backdrop of rising global antisemitism and increased incidents of anti-Israel sentiments and activities on college campuses, the 2022 Y2I cohort was especially receptive to learning

ways to help them face the challenges they may soon confront them as college students.

Although the teens still *kvelled* (expressed joy) over praying at the Kotel (Western Wall) on Shabbat, viewing sunrise from Masada and swimming in the Dead Sea, their post-trip reflections also revealed more sobering concerns about coping with the world in which they live.

By far the experience most mentioned as having had a significant impact were two presentations by StandWithUs senior educator and director of international programs Charlotte Korchak. Speaking passionately and from personal experience, she explained the history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and counseled how to best respond when encountering anti-Israel propaganda and misinformation.

“Building on Y2I’s positive impact of enhancing Jewish identity, building community, and connecting teens to Israel, the teen Israel experience also takes on added importance of educating teens on how to identify and respond to antisemitism in its many forms,” said Lappin Foundation President and Executive Director Deborah L. Coltin, who has





supervised Y2I since 2006. **“The Jewish community has an obligation to do this. If we don’t do this, who will?”**

Ephram Adler, of Wenham, for example, wondered whether Israel might really be the aggressive apartheid regime he read

about before the trip during a perusal of Reddit posts and comments about Israel, Gaza and the West Bank that revealed thousands of people shaming Israel, and only Israel, with thousands more blindly following. Now, armed with historical facts, he better understands how misinformation thrives on such sites and “feeds monsters.”

With antisemitic incidents becoming more commonplace in their own schools and community settings, the teens appreciated the freedom and empowerment they felt being in a land where they were not a minority and where expressing Jewish pride did not pose a risk to their comfort or safety.

“Israel is a place where I do not have to explain myself to anyone. It is such a beautiful thing to see Jewish people walking around, going about their day as a Jew, and wearing their religious attire without fear,” said Naomi Smith of Amesbury.

For many teens, especially those who lack a local Jewish community, the Y2I trip provided an important connection to their homeland and their homes.

“Before this trip, I knew very few Jewish people in my town (Newbury) or at my school, but now I feel a have a community of Jewish friends I can always turn to if I ever need to talk about antisemitism in my town or stuff related to being Jewish,” said Sofia Colden.

Some, like Rachel Freedman, of Peabody, said the sense of belonging she felt in Israel helped her see a whole new side of Judaism, one that makes her want to get more involved. **“Israel felt like home. Now I have a voice and I’m not scared to use it. I’m not afraid anymore. Yes, I’m Jewish and there’s nothing wrong with that. I’m proud to be who I am. Y2I helped me find that,”** she said.

For five teens, the opportunity to enhance their Jewish identity occurred during the trip when they decided to have an informal Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Emma Mair, one of the counselors and a college student at Mt. Holyoke and rabbinic intern at Temple Tiferet Shalom in Peabody, led the (re)commitment to Judaism ceremony.

“This moment gave me the opportunity before I returned home to further connect myself to my Judaism with those I grew so close to over the course of this journey,” said Drew McStay of Danvers, one of the five.

For many, the biggest take away of the trip were the surprising nuances of Israeli culture and customs which opened their eyes to a new way of contemporary life. Sarah Diamond found it interesting and “honestly a relief” to see so many reform teens who supported issues like feminism and gay marriage. **“I felt like I could really relate to these modern-day residents of the Holy Land,”** she said.

Bob Lappin envisioned Y2I as a life-changing adventure that would teach valuable advocacy skills and educate the next generation of Jewish leaders while igniting Jewish teens’ curiosity and fostering self-discovery and independence. Thanks to the generous support from hundreds of donors and CJP, his dream lives on as a reality.



THE HEART AND SOUL OF OUR WORK

Robert I. Lappin Youth to Israel Adventure (Y2I)



ENSURING A STRONG JEWISH FUTURE FOR THOUSANDS OF TEENS

Thanks to generous support from donors and CJP, 85 teens from the North Shore, Greater Boston and the Merrimack Valley will have the opportunity to participate in the 2023 Youth to Israel Adventure.

The value of the teen Israel experience:

- With Israel as our classroom, we build a dynamic learning environment where Jewish living and learning comes to life.
- Teens strengthen their Jewish identity and personal connection to Jewish history, Israeli culture, and the Jewish People. They return home feeling deeply proud to be Jewish and eager to engage in the Jewish community, sharing their passion for Israel and support for the Jewish People.
- Participants form lasting friendships with each other and with Israeli teens they meet through our successful mifgash (encounter) program.
- Y2I fosters the next generation of Jewish leaders.

“The meanings of connection, pride, and courage never before held as powerful a meaning to me as they have after my 2022 Y2I trip to Israel. In just twelve days, I was able to understand the essence of Israel and why it is so vital for it to exist as a haven for Jews from all backgrounds and generations.

Leyad Zavriyev, 2022 Y2I



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