



jewish life network /steinhardt foundation
ten year inaugural report 1994-2004

t r a n s f o r m i n g j e w i s h l i f e i n a m e r i c a

ten year inaugural report

september 1, 1994–august 31, 2004

t r a n s f o r m i n g j e w i s h l i f e i n a m e r i c a

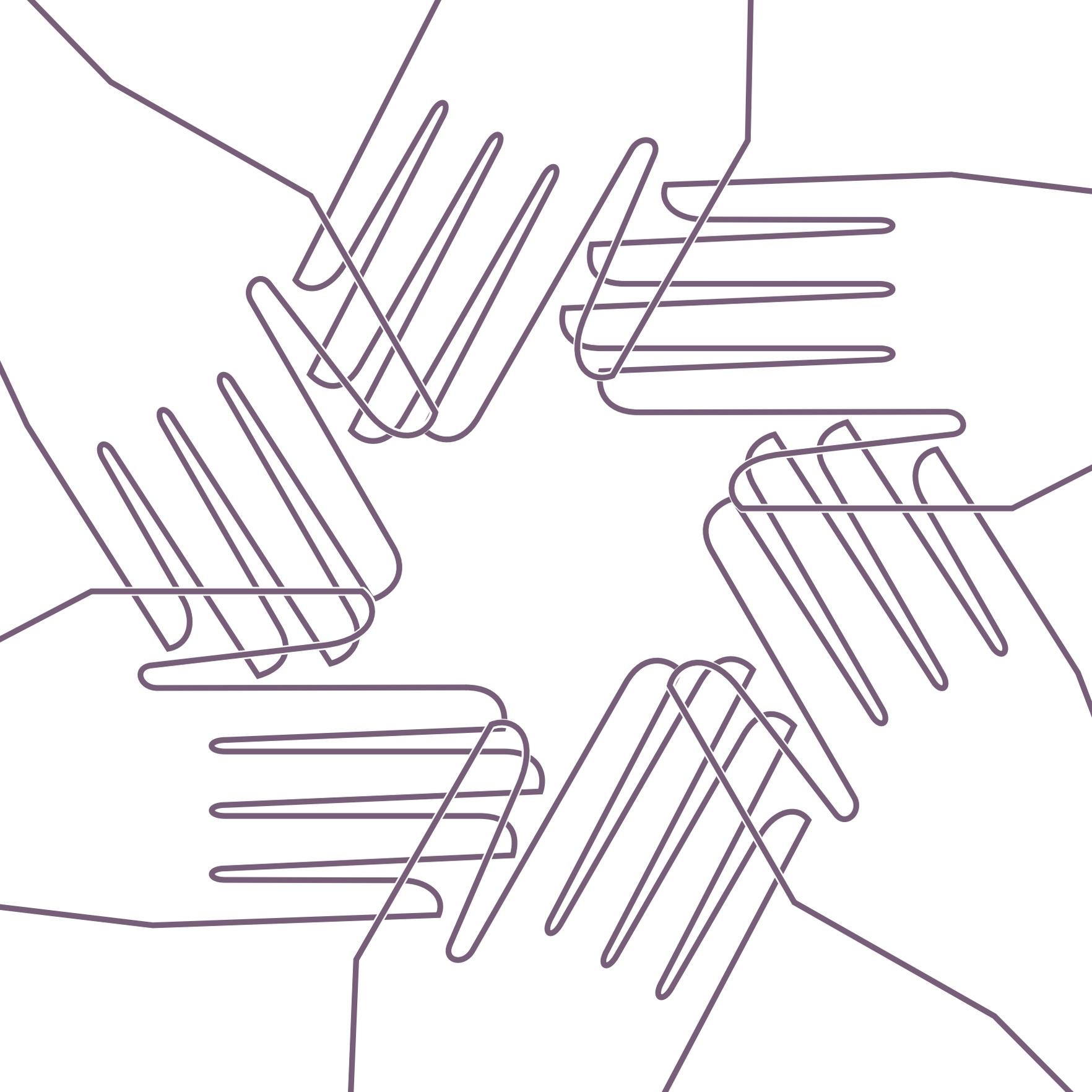
Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation

was founded in 1994 by Michael Steinhardt to strengthen and transform American Jewish life so that it may flourish in a fully integrated, free society.

Our philanthropy seeks to revitalize Jewish identity through educational, religious and cultural initiatives that reach out to all Jews, with an emphasis on those who are on the margins of Jewish life.

The long-term goal of **Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation** is the emergence of a thriving, dynamic and creative Jewish community whose contributions to American culture are informed and inspired by distinctive Jewish values that are fully compatible with life in the open society.

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to strengthen and transform American Jewish life so that it may flourish in a fully integrated, free society • to revitalize Jewish identity through educational, religious and cultural initiatives that reach out to all Jews



jewish life network/steinhardt foundation

I used to take my Judaism for granted. Growing up in Brooklyn in the 1950s, it was easy to do so. We were immersed in Jewish culture: the sound of Yiddish echoed on every stoop; the aroma of Jewish cooking suffused the air; and immigrants, many with numbers on their arms, walked the streets. Whether or not we actually went inside, we would pass bustling *shtetls* on every other block. On Friday at sundown, the neighborhood rushed home to prepare for Shabbat—even those who did not observe Jewish ritual. Throughout my formative years, the immigrant experience on the one hand, and the specter of anti-Semitism on the other, served to unite the community. Everything we did was defined by a uniquely Jewish sensibility.

I would not be here today were it not for the core Jewish values I absorbed as a child—the emphasis on education, achievement, family and community. It was this sense of community, of a living Judaism that affected all aspects of one's being, that would later inspire me as I worked to revitalize American Jewish life.

When I consider what is the essence of my being, everything fades, save my Jewish sensibility. It is my Jewish spark—my *neshamah*, if you will—that inspired me toward each of my accomplishments. To be sure, my relationship to Judaism has not been without conflict. My background sometimes seemed more of a burden than a blessing. I could not relate to the rituals, and I could not understand the animosity many non-Jews held toward Jews.

And yet, at the most important stages of my life, I was made aware that I was part of something far greater than myself. I used to accompany my close friend, Marty Taubman, to a tiny *shtetl* tucked inside a Bensonhurst tenement where his grandfather used to pray. We were surrounded by elderly men, many of them refugees, wearing long prayer shawls, *shuckling* back and forth. Whereas services in the opulent neighborhood synagogue were rote and somnolent, the small *shtetl* struck a nerve with its humble warmth. I would get in arguments with the rabbi's son, the only other child there aside from Marty and me. Ever the contrarian, I'd try my best to shake this boy's faith, challenging him on the existence of God and the relevance of ritual. He never gave an inch. Although I was not attracted to religious observance, there was something about the atmosphere of the small *shtetl* that called to me in a familiar voice.

Before entering the army, I visited Israel for the first time and my spiritual connections deepened. In two weeks of traveling, my eyes opened to the miracle of Jewish rebirth in our time. Israel was a tiny country struggling for survival, but offered a new way of feeling Jewish. No longer would we be the world's persecuted

people. Coming so quickly after the Holocaust, Israel rewrote Jewish destiny and promised a future of pride and preservation of identity.

I came to realize that Jewish values—whether or not they evolved out of Divine fiat—are compelling enough not only to have sustained our people, but to have allowed us to make vital contributions to disparate civilizations. The Jewish attribute I cherish most highly is my sense of peoplehood. I have a love for Jews that transcends logic itself—I love good Jews, bad Jews, educated Jews, uneducated Jews. I feel a distinct emotional attachment without rational justification. Perhaps this love that I feel is akin to faith itself. It makes me feel deeply Jewish even though I do not observe most religious tradition.

As I have gotten older, however, I have realized that I can no longer take Judaism for granted. Without an exertion of energy and will, the great trajectory of Jewish history and culture is at risk of coming to an end. The reasons are myriad and complex. The same American blessings that allowed us to become the most successful community in Jewish history have also engendered the most attenuated Jewish connections. It has become a truism that openness, freedom and tolerance—the secret to our success—pose an unprecedented danger to our survival. The result is that Judaism has ceased to be a natural extension of our lives and identities. At the same time, we have seen a gradual disappearance of the immigrant generation, and with it our first-hand connection to *Yiddishkeit*. The Holocaust and the Rebirth of Israel—two earth-shattering events experienced first-hand by my generation—are no longer today's news, but rather chapters out of the past. We are becoming alienated from our history.

The truth is that the majority of Jews are no longer interested in living, not to mention perpetuating, their culture. Judaism is in danger of becoming obsolete.

When I first came to this realization, I expected to find a community galvanized to stem the crisis of waning education, identity and commitment. But I found little to reassure me. Instead of devoting resources to stemming the tide of assimilation, American Jewish institutions have spent disproportionate energies on yesterday's battles and on programs that fail to meet the needs of contemporary Jews. The decay is so systemic that we need major changes in our philanthropy and community structures.

In the 1990s, I began to seek outlets for sides of my personality beyond material goods and the daily fluctuations of the stock market. I became involved in art collecting and in various political activities. I was intrigued by the world of ideas. However, something was missing. I kept returning to the wellspring of cul-

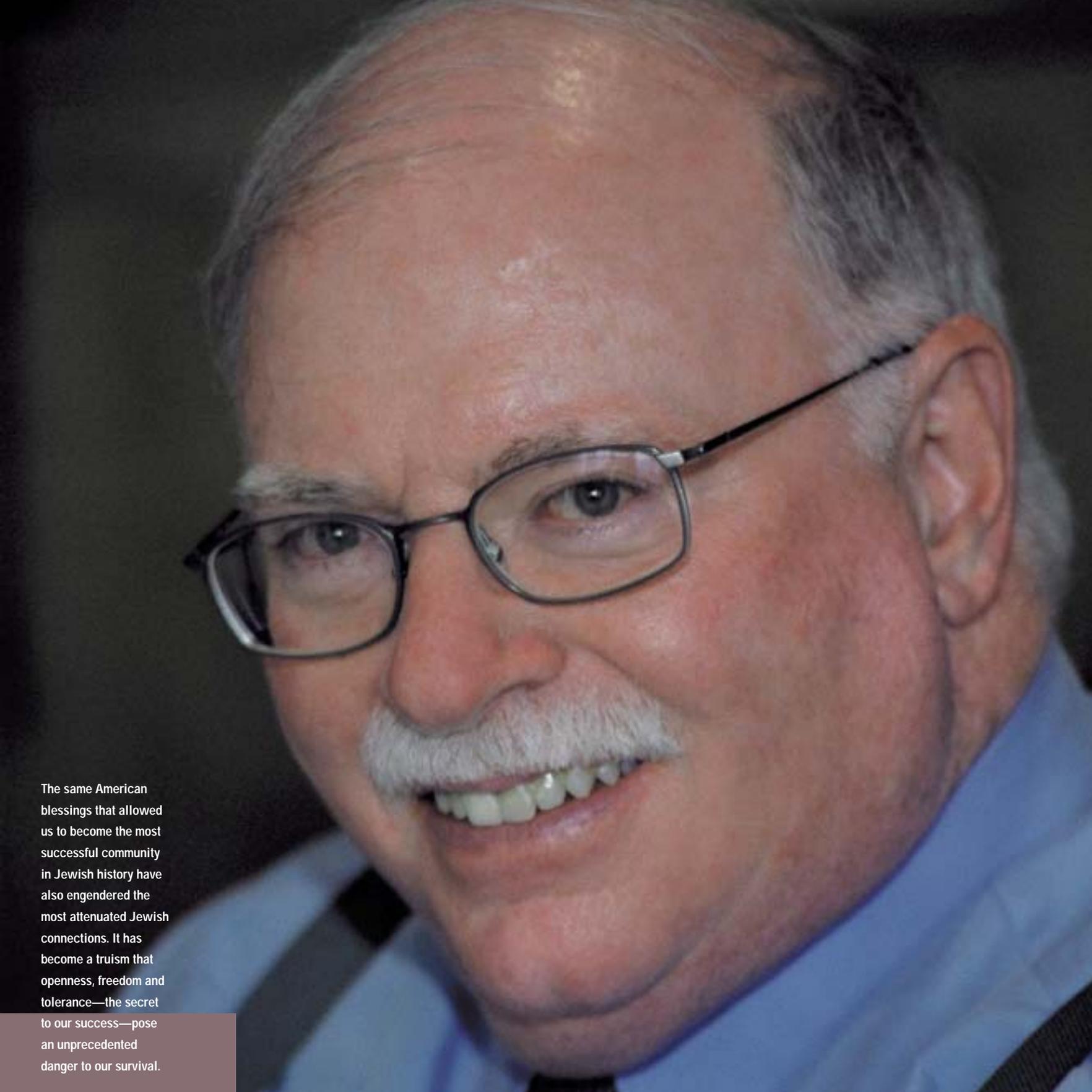
ture and spirituality, the conflictual world that I knew as Judaism. Although I still had no interest in the performance of ritual, I wanted to find meaning in Jewish experience. Never one to make half-steps, I decided to change my life and enter this full-throttle: I would devote myself to strengthening Jewish life.

It was neither feasible nor desirable to recreate the conditions of the ghetto. We had found freedom in the open society, and therefore we had to find a way to thrive within it. The central question of our time, then, is: how can we foster the development of a natural, holistic and integrated Jewish culture that is wholly compatible with the open society? I established **Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation** in order to answer this question.

The purpose of our Foundation is to equip American Jews with sufficient education and experiences so that once again Judaism becomes a natural extension of their lives and identities. This means transforming individuals as well as institutions, so that Judaism is relevant and indeed compelling in a culture of freedom. It also means transforming the community so that it is equipped to flourish in American society. Ultimately, we must also transform our very way of relating to Jewish life, so that more than anything, we associate it with joy, Jewish joy, as never before.

From the start, the mandate of our Foundation was simple: innovation, creative thinking and broad-based solutions based on the principle of entrepreneurial philanthropy and built on the structure of partnerships. We would concentrate on programs that emphasize positive Jewish experiences rather than persecution. Finally, we would focus our activities toward the majority of American Jews not actively involved in Jewish life—and therefore most at risk of Jewish oblivion.

This Report chronicles the first ten years of our efforts. The programs are diverse in scope, yet they share a determination to make Jewish experiences available to all, and to infuse Jewish education, culture and ritual with celebratory joy and credible secular values. History will judge the extent of our success. I am by nature a pessimist, a trait that served me well in the stock market but that makes me uncomfortable touting my accomplishments. Nonetheless, I like to think that this Report charts the first stages of a movement to revitalize our community. With continued support and the passionate devotion of professionals throughout the country, we hope to bring the joys of Judaism to all American Jews, so that future generations accept Judaism's power as a source of inspiration and sustenance. When that happens, we will have achieved the most captivating promise of American society: a Renaissance of Jewish life.



The same American blessings that allowed us to become the most successful community in Jewish history have also engendered the most attenuated Jewish connections. It has become a truism that openness, freedom and tolerance—the secret to our success—pose an unprecedented danger to our survival.



Clockwise
from upper left:
Rabbi Irving
Greenberg,
Rabbi David
Gedzelman,
and Michael
Steinhardt

RABBI IRVING GREENBERG

Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation embodies the vision and generosity of one man: Michael Steinhardt. Yet, from the beginning, we determined that **JLN** would be based on principles that reflected but transcended the individual. The goal was not to aggrandize one person but to transform the institutions and culture of a community. This would only happen if the principles rang true with the public and the model stimulated new levels of generosity throughout Jewry.

The founding assumption was that American Jews were fortunate to be living in the freest society in history. Jews excelled in this blessed land of opportunity; their achievements were strengthened by Jewish culture and values and enabled by an unprecedented level of acceptance. Given the level of integration and adaptation, there was no turning back. Yet the same openness led to one of the highest assimilation rates in Jewish history—in which the most integrated, highest achieving Jews were the most at risk of Jewish oblivion. That waning of Jewish values and loyalty soon translated into a demographic crisis (low birthrate, high intermarriage) which drove Michael Steinhardt's urgent mission. This is why **Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation** concentrates special efforts on Jews who are unaffiliated and assimilated.

A shared sense of crisis drove me (and JJ Greenberg, *zichrono livrachá*) to put aside every other cause to work with Michael on the central question of **JLN's** history: How can we equip the community to persist in the culture of freedom? If we could meet that challenge, this crisis could turn into one of the greatest moments of rebirth in Jewish history. This led to Principle #1, a commitment to **distinctive integration** in order to flourish in freedom. **JLN** supports no programs based on the withdrawal or cultural isolation of Jewry.

Since the Jewish community was losing ground, **JLN** was dedicated to changing the status quo through innovation and transformation. Thus **JLN** committed itself to Principle #2, **entrepreneurial philanthropy**, as opposed to maintenance philanthropy. The entrepreneur succeeds by moving beyond conventional wisdom to change the state of the art. The entrepreneur takes a position large enough to assure the outcome and invests himself or herself as well as whatever resources are needed. Like the entrepreneur, **JLN** would risk failure for the sake of greater achievement.

Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation's third and balancing Principle was **partnership**. Transforming the community requires resources that dwarf those of any individual, no

matter how generous. In creating new, sometimes unprecedented projects, no individual could have a monopoly of wisdom; therefore, the judgment and leadership of others was sought. Since major givers were known for their individualism and freedom of action, accepting the discipline of partnership was a statement of deference to the greater cause of Jewish renaissance. Cooperation out of recognition of the urgency of the crisis was a signal that the time for unprecedented giving and creativity had arrived. To achieve the goal, the amount and the parameters of giving had to be substantially increased. Michael Steinhardt called on his peer philanthropists to raise their sights and model the needed increased levels of giving.

Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation set out to shift the priorities of communal resources from defense to education. To this day, the goal is to communicate Jewish memory and joy rather than Jewish victimization. **JLN** focuses on experiences along the life cycle which substantially raise the probability of a person choosing to become a committed Jew. Several major pillars of Jewish identity formation provide these experiences: day schools, Jewish camping, youth groups and college movements, Israel travel and study, intensive adult learning and retreats, and service. **JLN** seeks to energize the community to create an **infrastructure of freedom** whereby all Jews will have full access to each of the pillars of identity formation. Thus individuals will achieve much higher levels of knowledge and direct experience with the joy and fulfillment of Jewish living.

Finally, **JLN** is committed to seek out and articulate a powerful Jewish message that can speak to Jews of every background and across all denominational lines. All of **JLN's** programs are open to *clal Yisrael*. The programs offer and embody ideas that unite us as a people in common cause and vital experiences. In the end, institutional revitalization alone cannot sustain a people. Compelling ideas and values for living must energize Jewish life and its communal structures.

In the open society, Jews will elect to be Jewish not out of simple inheritance, but out of choice and free will. **JLN** seeks to recruit a new generation of Jewish professionals (civil servants, educators and rabbis) who together with a new cohort of philanthropists can share and realize the dream of a community united in its diversity, joyously embracing the opportunity for Jewry to thrive in dignity and freedom. At that time, Jewish culture and behavior will serve as a light unto the nations. **Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation** is driven by the belief that, collectively, our people can rise to historic greatness and achieve a new birth in freedom.

RABBI DAVID GEDZELMAN

The projects **Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation** has both encouraged and developed represent a commitment to give American Jews choices for Jewish connection in the context of American freedom along the entire life cycle. **JLN's** projects also reflect Michael Steinhardt's challenge to the organized Jewish community to look past narrow parameters and to count the vast majority of American Jews as its constituency. In our first ten years of project development, we chose to concentrate mainly on three major age cohorts: school age children and teens, the college years, and post-college young professionals. In doing so, we sought to give young people educational opportunities by which they can freely choose Jewish life on the basis of Jewish knowledge and pride.

For example, **JLN's** work in the area of day school education, in helping to found **PEJE**, reflects a commitment to giving heretofore less involved Jewish families the option of a total immersion Jewish education for their children in school settings that affirm the best in both Jewish and American secular education. Our work with **Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life** and the creation of Hillel's *Steinhardt Jewish Campus Service Corps* sought to strengthen Hillel's capacity for reaching college students where they are, namely in the midst of American campus life and not necessarily within the confines of a comfortable Hillel house. Our founding role in **birthright israel** highlights our commitment to give all Jewish young people, especially those previously not reached, opportunities for intense Jewish immersion experiences from which they can return transformed to the American context. **Makor** represents our commitment to create contexts for Jewish exploration and connection that do not ask young people to leave the artistic and cultural tastes of the open society behind, but include the world of American entertainment and artistic expression under the same roof as Jewish learning and celebration.

This ten-year Inaugural Report seeks to be a portrait of Michael Steinhardt's overall philanthropic strategy of inspiring and prodding the American Jewish community to transform itself so that Jewish life can be relevant to the lives of American Jews at every juncture. Because this is also a portrait of an individual, we include projects Michael has supported through other avenues besides **JLN**, including the **Steinhardt Family Foundation in Israel**. The Israel philanthropy in particular reflects a compassionate concern for the underprivileged. The philanthropy described in this report is diverse, but the overarching goal is the same. Each of these programs reveals a love of the entire Jewish people and a determination to revitalize and transform Jewish life to enable all Jews, regardless of background or affiliation, to become active participants in the Jewish future.

ten years of jewish life network/steinhardt foundation

The origin of **Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation** illustrates how a crisis can be a catalyst for positive transformation. By the early 1990s, renowned hedge fund manager Michael H. Steinhardt was concerned that a demographic crisis and weak transmission of identity was threatening the future of the Jewish community. Because the decline was occurring in slow motion, the community was still relatively complacent. However, Michael believed that unless drastic and comprehensive steps were taken to reverse the trend, the future was lost. The *1990 National Jewish Population Survey*, with its dramatic revelation of a 52 percent intermarriage rate, confirmed these concerns.

Michael recruited Rabbi Irving "Yitz" Greenberg, founding President of CLAL, The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership, who had spent his career trying to educate the community to the central challenge of living in freedom and the free marketplace of ideas. Yitz, too, was frustrated by the community's unwillingness to take the broad gauge steps necessary to effect transformation. Michael presented a challenge: Could Yitz develop outreach programs that would inspire a potentially lost gen-

eration of Jews towards renewed Jewish interest and commitment?

As a preliminary project, they enlisted JJ Greenberg z"l, Yitz's son and former Executive Director of the Jewish Youth Movement (JYM), to investigate the most effective and innovative methods of Jewish outreach.

JJ identified over 120 organizations across the country with a reputation for above average work in outreach and sent out questionnaires to them. Yitz and JJ then conducted in-depth interviews with approximately 60 directors of organizations. One of the questions was, "If there were to be a major infusion of new resources in the field, what would you do with it?" The responses were devastating. There was widespread malaise, a feeling that by and large, results of outreach programs were disappointing. One respondent said he would use the resources not to create another outreach organization, but to create an organization that would offer therapy and support to outreach workers.

Michael decided to broaden the range of policies and initiatives that he would consider funding. Richard Joel, President and International Director of **Hillel: The Foundation for**

Jewish Campus Life, proposed a new method of campus outreach that could be integrated into **Hillel's** larger work. This idea blossomed into *Hillel's Steinhardt Jewish Campus Service Corps*, in which graduating college students spend a year as outreach workers, operating beyond the Hillel House on campus. By 2004, *JCSC* had grown into a cohort of 92 fellows and senior fellows stationed throughout North America. Meanwhile, Yitz and JJ conducted scores of additional interviews, discussions and focus groups with analysts, experts and national Jewish leaders. In the end, they identified thirteen key areas that promised maximum impact on Jewish identity and commitment. Michael, Yitz and JJ then organized a day-long critique and rating of the choices with a panel of experts consisting of Steven M. Cohen, Sylvia Barack Fishman, Joel L. Fleishman, Bernard Reisman, John Ruskay, Steven Shaw, Jack Ukeles and Sally Weber. The group recommended four major areas of concentration: key cohorts at moments of receptivity (including 20s and 30s and new families); the college campus; a retreat center; and an articulation of Jewish message and values. To these, Michael added a fifth area: Israel programming, which eventually paved the way to **birthright israel**.

Never one to do things halfway, Michael closed his Wall Street firm, then at the peak of its success, to dedicate himself full-time to the philanthropic transformation of Jewish life. The name **Jewish Life Network** is an English version of *Chaverim Kol Yisrael* (all Jews are friends/fellows), a name derived from the liturgy and used repeatedly throughout Jewish history by groups seeking to upgrade Jewish life. The mission of **JLN** was to create new institutions that would strengthen the connection to Jewish community in a cutting-edge way that could then be leveraged to strengthen successful institutions and transform the rest of the community.

The goal of innovative programming and community transformation was evident in the Foundation's first two programs—the **Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education (PEJE)** and **Makor**. In the case of **PEJE**, formed in 1997, **JLN** recognized the unparalleled Jewish educational potential of day schools. **Makor**, whose development began in 1995 with the hiring of Rabbi David Gedzelman, was intended to connect to Jews in their 20s



From left: Gary Ross, JJ Greenberg, z"l, Rabbi Irving Greenberg, Rabbi David Gedzelman.



Judy and Michael Steinhardt

and 30s who were not coming to Jewish institutions. Although the two programs shared a commitment to innovation and excellence, there were key differences.

Makor was an effort to create a new institutional framework. **PEJE**, by contrast, took an institution that had already been proven a success, and sought to increase its penetration in the non-Orthodox world. Both programs reflected the Foundation's commitment to work outside as well as in tandem with the community to galvanize transformation.

The **PEJE** experience confirmed that partnership projects would more likely be accepted as community institutions and would achieve broader support and participation from the community. The **PEJE** partnership model therefore became the operating norm at **JLN**.

The next major initiative of **Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation** grew out of Michael Steinhardt's attachment to Israel and his fascination with MK Yossi Beilin's proposal to give all young Jews in the world a free airplane ticket to Israel. Yitz and JJ's contribution was the concept of providing a group educational trip. Their preliminary work developed the possibility of expanding the funding partnership to include Federations and the government of Israel. Charles R. Bronfman then brought his experienced leadership (and Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies) into the planning and founding partnership, contributing also his Israel Experience record, his clout with Federations

and the concept of a free market in trip providers. Launched in 1999, **birthright israel** has been a revolutionary program that has brought more than 70,000 young Jewish adults to Israel for educational experiences. In five years, **birthright israel** has revealed the vast potential of retreats and immersion experiences and transformed the way we think about young people and Jewish identity. The unique level of built-in evaluation and measurement, carried out by the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University, confirmed the overwhelmingly positive impact of the trip on the participants—an impact that shows no sign of falling off three years out.

Over the course of the next several years, **Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation** continued partnering with other Foundations in the creation and support of innovative initiatives to revitalize Jewish life. **JLN** joined **STAR (Synagogue Transformation and Renewal)**, initiated by Charles z"l and Lynn Schusterman, and helped initiate **spark: Partnership for Service**, while supporting a range of programs designed to bring innovation and excellence to the field of Jewish identity formation. In ten years, Michael Steinhardt has personally given over \$105 million to Jewish causes aimed at transforming and strengthening Jewish life. The Foundation's wide-ranging efforts have established its leadership role in the movement for revitalization and, indeed, renaissance of Jewish life in America.

- 1993 — Michael H. Steinhardt is spurred to action for the future of the Jewish community.
Rabbi Yitz Greenberg is recruited to create Jewish Life Network and develop outreach programs to inspire a renewed interest and commitment to Judaism.
JJ Greenberg z"l is recruited to research the most effective and innovative methods of Jewish outreach.
- 1994 — Yitz and JJ conduct in-depth interviews with 60 directors of Jewish organizations
Day-long consultation is held with a panel of experts to critique and rate choices for program areas.
Hillel's Steinhardt Jewish Campus Service Corps is created
- 1995 — Rabbi David Gedzelman is recruited to launch a new initiative that results in the creation of Makor.
Michael Steinhardt closes his Wall Street firm to dedicate his energies to Jewish philanthropy.
- 1997 — Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education (PEJE) is formed.
- 1998 — First issue of CONTACT: The Journal of Jewish Life Network is published.
- 1999 — Makor opens its doors.
STAR (Synagogues: Transformation and Renewal) is created.
- 2000 — First birthright israel group leaves for Israel.
- 2001 — spark: Partnership for Service is initiated.
- 2002 — Michael Steinhardt gives naming gift to New York University, creating the Steinhardt School of Education.
- 2003 — Rabbi David Gedzelman is named Executive Director of Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation following the untimely death of JJ Greenberg z"l.
Steinhardt Hall, home of Hillel at the University of Pennsylvania, opens.
At the General Assembly, Michael Steinhardt challenges the Jewish Community to raise a mega-fund for Jewish education called the Fund for Our Jewish Future.
Professional Leaders Project is initiated.
- 2004 — Planning moves forward for the Jewish Early Childhood Education and Newborn Gift initiatives.



primary programs (\$23,156,362)*

The goal of **Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation** is not only to support innovative initiatives, but also to take a leading role in transforming and revitalizing Jewish communal life. Our Primary Programs reflect the Foundation's vision of using entrepreneurial philanthropy and partnerships to pioneer new areas of Jewish identity enrichment. **Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation** has taken an active, often founding role in these programs in order to change the state of the art of American Jewish philanthropy.

*Many of the organizations listed in this report receive funds from the Judy and Michael Steinhardt Philanthropic Fund of the Jewish Communal Fund.







birthright israel



Photographer: Michael Kusle

In 1999, in order to enhance Jewish identity and to restore the centrality of Israel to the lives of young Diaspora Jews, Michael Steinhardt and Charles R. Bronfman joined with twelve other philanthropists to create **birthright israel**.

birthright israel profoundly affirms the unity of *clal Yisrael*: for the first time in history, every Jew in the world between the ages of 18 to 26 has a birthright to a free, round-trip ticket and ten days of intensive Jewish living and educational experiences in Israel.

birthright israel's goal is to change the framework of Jewish life so that travel and study in Israel ranks with the Bar/Bat Mitz-

vah as a universal life-passage experience for young Jews. Over 70,000 young adults have traveled to Israel for the first time on **birthright israel** trips. These trips to Israel have become one of the transformative milestones of modern Jewish identity. They also spark a passion for Jewish life and Jewish education while strengthening the sense of solidarity between Israeli youth and Jewish communities around the world.

Funded by leading Jewish philanthropists, the government of Israel and the Federations of Jewish communities worldwide, **birthright israel** reflects **Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation's** commitment to creating

philanthropic partnerships. This alliance between the State of Israel and the Diaspora affirms the essential Jewish teaching that all Jews are bound to one another. Through personal relationships, the program reinforces the interconnectedness and mutual responsibility inherent in the concept of *clal Yisrael*.

Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation understands that the **birthright israel** experience should not end when the trip is over. We hope to create a continuum where the trip itself is part of a broad, comprehensive framework of Jewish identity formation.

Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation is committed to **Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life** as the most effective organization of Jewish outreach, engagement and identity enrichment on the college campus.

Hillel, the largest Jewish campus organization in the world, actively seeks to engage uninvolved Jewish students on their own terms, providing meaningful and personally appealing opportunities to “do Jewish.” Students are empowered to take responsibility for their Jewish identity through community service projects, social events, artistic expression, informal Jewish learning and religious services. **Hillel** is committed to a pluralistic vision of Judaism that embraces all movements, and no membership is required.

Hillel's Steinhardt Jewish Campus Service Corps (JCSC) creates a culture of awareness and action in the effort to connect under-affiliated Jewish students to Jewish life on their campuses. As recent college graduates, **JCSC** Fellows spend one to two years in full-time service,

employed by local Hillels to develop innovative programs that speak to college students who are not naturally drawn to Jewish activities on campus. In the past ten years, the **JCSC** program has not only succeeded in connecting students from various Jewish experiences to Jewish life, but has also been significant in affecting the culture of engagement throughout **Hillel's** work. In a typical year, between 80 and 90 **JCSC** Fellows serve on **Hillel** campuses. Over the life of the program, more than 800 young people have been **JCSC** Fellows.

In 1998, to broaden the influence and scope of the **JCSC** program, to strengthen **Hillel** and to encourage college graduates to consider careers in the Jewish community, **Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation** created the *Steinhardt Scholars Program*. This program supports **JCSC** alumni who pursue graduate degrees related to Jewish life in exchange for their commitment to work for **Hillel** for two years after graduation. The program also provides scholars with customized professional skills.



Photographer: Maria Radacsi



Makor



First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and Rabbi David Gedzelman at Makor in 2000.

Early on, **Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation** identified the post-college years as posing a significant challenge in the continuum of Jewish connection and involvement. The period of one's 20s and 30s represents a time when individuals make major decisions of career, marriage and family. For the most part, American Jews in their 20s and 30s are completely unconnected to organized Jewish life. In the mid-1990s, **JLN** also observed that the organized Jewish world was doing very little to reach out to this population. **JLN** began planning what would become **Makor** through extensive research of this target population. We sought to understand both the predilections of this mostly under-involved cohort, and ways to structure outreach, engagement and programming that would break through the perceptions and stereo-

types that keep young people from exploring possibilities of Jewish life and meaning.

Makor has been **JLN's** bold demonstration that Jewish life should be embraced in a context that includes the best artistic and intellectual pursuits of the open society. Opened in October 1999, the facility-based programming of **Makor**, located on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, creates an environment that is culturally authoritative for this population in the terms of their overall peer society. The emphasis on arts and entertainment programming lends vibrance to the wide range of Jewish content offerings available in the building. Young artists, from musicians to filmmakers, from playwrights to painters, find opportunities for collaborative innovation as well as possibilities for discovering a Jewish, spiritual voice in their work. Community and cele-

bration pervade **Makor's** program offerings as post-college Jewish New Yorkers meet each other and connect in a myriad of ways.

Makor's arts and educational spaces—a live music café and bar, a film screening room, an art gallery, lecture hall and seminar rooms—continue to draw enthusiastic audiences who value its pluralistic and nonjudgmental atmosphere. Approximately 20,000 distinct individuals visit **Makor** annually, with about 1,500 participating weekly.

In June 2001, **Makor** merged with New York's 92nd Street Y, establishing the **Makor/Steinhardt Center** of the 92nd Street Y. This partnership provides a solid institutional base to sustain **Makor's** vision and mandate and brings new vitality to a long-established fixture of Jewish cultural life in New York.



Rock icon Perry Farrell hosts Makor's Purim Party in 2001.

Day schools are a cornerstone of **Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation's** efforts to revitalize American Jewish life. With their rigorous transmission of Jewish knowledge, identity and experience in total-immersion environments, day schools are arguably the community's most valuable resource in inspiring Jewish literacy and life-long Jewish commitment.

To help advance the development of a flourishing day school movement, Michael Steinhardt founded the **Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education (PEJE)**. A collaborative initiative of philanthropic partners committed to strengthening Jewish day school education in North America, the founding principle was: no community capable of sustaining a day school should be without one. **PEJE** makes grants to enable the start of new schools and therefore provides expertise and advocacy to strengthen individual schools. It also promotes excellence in the field at large, increases awareness and support of day schools in the

broader Jewish community, and makes a day school education an attractive option for those who may not have previously considered it. **PEJE** schools are committed to transmitting Jewish identity and values to the next generation and to achieving a level of academic excellence that equals that of the best private schools in the nation.

In its first six years of operation, **PEJE** established more than 60 new schools, provided ongoing support grants to 54 schools, engaged over 400 schools in a new joint purchasing initiative, and brought its expertise to over 1,000 professional leaders and funders through its national and regional conferences. During its second six-year period, **PEJE** is continuing its pioneering work by assisting schools in developing educational excellence, enhancing financial and volunteer resources, and deepening communal connections in order to increase the number of children receiving the treasured gift of a day school education.





The Affiliated Programs of **Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation** are often smaller in scale than our Primary Programs, yet they share our vision of transforming and revitalizing the Jewish community. **Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation** takes an active programmatic role in these initiatives.

B'nai B'rith Youth Organization (BBYO)

The years between Bar/Bat Mitzvah and college present an enormous opportunity for Jewish growth and enrichment. This is the period when teens make their first adult decisions and begin to carve out unique, independent identities. **B'nai B'rith Youth Organization (BBYO)** enables Jewish youth to develop leadership potential, encourages service and *tzedakka* as salient Jewish values, and nurtures a commitment to the State of Israel and *clal Yisrael*. Currently, 20,000 North American teens participate in small, democratically functioning groups under the guidance of **BBYO** adult advisors and professional staff. In 2001, Michael Steinhardt joined Lynn Schusterman, who led the renewal, along with Edgar Bronfman and Newton Becker to help strengthen **BBYO** as a new, independent organization.

DeLeT

Day school education can become the engine of Jewish renaissance for future generations if our teachers embody the highest levels of professional excellence. **Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation** joined eleven other sponsors to support **DeLeT**, a thirteen-month, full-time fellowship program, initiated by Laura Lauder, to increase the number of Jewish professional day school teachers. **DeLeT**, Hebrew for door, opens a doorway onto a career in day school education. Following intensive study at Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles or Brandeis University in Boston, **DeLeT** Fellows continue as mentored teachers in Jewish day schools while pursuing advanced professional studies.

DeLeT prepares day school teachers who are committed to careers as Jewish educators, who think deeply about Jewish education and who will be life-long learners.





spark: Partnership for Service

Community service and service learning can inspire and engage Jews who might not otherwise be affiliated with the Jewish community. **Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation** co-founded **spark: Partnership for Service** to reinstate service as a guiding value in the Jewish community.

spark is a collaborative partnership of several philanthropic foundations. Its mission is to inspire commitment to service as an ongoing part of each person's life and as a vibrant expression of Jewish identity. In partnerships with Federations, organizations, synagogues and schools, **spark** develops programs, Jewish learning materials, workshops and training seminars for Jewish organizations to create new service and learning programs and to enhance existing programs.

HeartAction, **spark**'s flagship initiative, focuses on intergenerational service to the elderly and/or the ill. Collaborating with other Jewish organizations to replicate *HeartAction*, **spark** provides learning resources, training, financial support and ongoing coaching and consultation. **spark** also partners with other organizations to develop innovative Jewish service programs, such as BBYO's Nitzotz summer service program and Tzedek Hillel's National Alternative Spring Break, in which students go to poverty-stricken communities to work and assist local residents while living and learning together as Jews.

STAR (Synagogues: Transformation and Renewal)

Among today's non-Orthodox Jews, the synagogue has largely relinquished its once central role in community life. **Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation** is committed to revitalizing the synagogue, making it relevant and resonant to Jews today.

Under the leadership of the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation and with the Samuel Bronfman Foundation, **Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation** helped create **STAR (Synagogues: Transformation and Renewal)** to transform and strengthen synagogue life. **STAR**'s *Synaplex Initiative* assists congregations in creating educational, social and cultural experiences on Shabbat in an innovative programmatic cluster of activities. *PEER: Professional Education for Excellence in Rabbis* focuses on spiritual vision and communication and practical skills among recently ordained rabbis to develop their nonprofit management skills.

Grinspoon/Steinhardt Awards for Excellence in Jewish Education

In an effort to celebrate excellence among teachers, Michael Steinhardt joined Harold Grinspoon, the founder of the awards, in funding the annual **Grinspoon/Steinhardt Awards for Excellence in Jewish Education**. The awards recognize, honor and support outstanding Jewish educators in day schools and other formal Jewish educational settings. The awards have been presented to 139 professionals in 36 communities across the United States and Canada. In 2003, the award was given to 46 teachers from 27 communities, and recipients were honored at the first Jewish Education Leadership Summit in February 2004.

The **Grinspoon/Steinhardt Awards** are a partnership of the Jewish Education Service of North America, the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and **Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation**.

Professional Leaders Project

The **Professional Leaders Project** is a national initiative to improve the field of Jewish professional life. Its goal is to recruit and nurture a new generation of Jewish leaders—rabbis and cantors, educators and Jewish communal professionals—who will be inspired by a sense of the meaning and value of their roles and who will take responsibility for reaching out to the entire Jewish people.

The **Professional Leaders Project** was created as a partnership among the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, William M. Davidson, Eugene and Marcia Appelbaum and **Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation**.





Dedication of
Steinhardt Hall,
the home of Hillel
at the University
of Pennsylvania.



Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education (CAJE)

Jewish Early Childhood Education Partnership (JECEP)

Recognizing that superlative education begins early and lasts a lifetime, **Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation** is committed to improving the quality of Jewish early childhood education in North America. With this in mind, **Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation** supports the *Early Childhood Education Department* of the **Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education (CAJE)**. The program grew out of the **Jewish Early Childhood Education Partnership (JECEP)**, an eighteen-month, fixed-term effort among six philanthropic foundations to advocate for and educate about the importance of Jewish early childhood education. The *Early Childhood Department* at CAJE serves as the central clearinghouse for all professionals working with children from birth through six years of age who are enrolled in synagogue-based, JCC, independent and day-school early childhood programs in North America.

Duke University Jewish Learning Experience

Complementing and supplementing Hillel Foundation campus activities at Duke University, the **Jewish Learning Experience** outreach program offered a mix of opportunities designed to promote Jewish knowledge and identity among students, faculty and members of the local community by exploring values that embody dynamic Jewish life in an open society.

Jewish Funders Network

Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation believes the community must upgrade its levels of philanthropic giving and engage in philanthropic partnerships in order to strengthen Jewish life. To facilitate partnerships, synergy and optimum funding practices, **Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation** has supported **Jewish Funders Network (JFN)**. **JFN** provides leadership, programs and services to help grantmakers be more effective and strategic in their philanthropy by exploring personal and family relations and the responsibilities of business to philanthropy.

Lights in Action

Profound changes in communications technology during the past two decades encouraged a network of North American Jewish college students to explore ways in which new media could transmit Jewish ideas and commitment. Engaging a diverse and pluralist cadre of students to create media projects that examined their spiritual quests within Jewish traditions, **Lights in Action** experimented with developing new tools of outreach for their creators and their audiences.

Steinhardt/Neubauer Jewish Heritage Programs (JHP)

Steinhardt/Neubauer Jewish Heritage Programs (JHP) is a unique campus outreach program that seeks to form and strengthen social networks between Jewish college students. By training and working with a network of student leaders, the program develops peer-based Jewish identity programming geared towards unaffiliated students. **JHP** programming is designed to inspire students to celebrate their heritage and instill a sense of identity and pride in Judaism. **JHP** offers leadership training and mentoring opportunities with Jewish professionals from a variety of fields. Other activities include Shabbat dinners, historical programs and holiday celebrations. The program also offers a number of retreats and trips, including an annual Israel excursion.

Hillel at the University of Pennsylvania

Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation supports various programs to strengthen and enhance Jewish life at the University of Pennsylvania.

Penn Hillel's Center for Jewish Engagement involves Jewish college students through a variety of outlets within the context of campus life. Programs are implemented in campus facilities such as dormitories, fraternities and sororities, as well as through the dorm-based Jewish Activities Center. The *Center for Jewish Engagement* at Penn is emerging as a premier venue for training Hillel professionals nationwide in the work of engagement.

In order to support and augment Penn's burgeoning Jewish culture, Judy and Michael Steinhardt gave the naming gift for **Penn Hillel's Steinhardt Hall**. Opened in October 2003, *Steinhardt Hall* is a 36,000 square-foot facility, housing a large auditorium, kosher dining facilities, places of worship, lounges and meeting rooms. It is designed to be the nexus of Jewish life at Penn.





supported programs (\$1,911,500)

**Jewish Life Network/
Steinhardt Foundation** has provided programmatic support to a wide variety of Jewish organizations whose programs reflect the Foundation's philosophy. These programs also receive financial support from Michael Steinhardt.

**Alliance for Educational
Programs in Israel**

Shalom Hartman Institute

Avodah—The Jewish Service Corps

**Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM)
Jewish Heritage Month**

**Cohen Center for Modern Jewish
Studies, Brandeis University**

**Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute
of Religion, Steinhardt Fellowship**

**Jewish Educational Ventures—
Moment Magazine**

**The Jewish Institute of Pastoral Care
of The Healthcare Chaplaincy**

MyJewishLearning.com

The Shalem Center

The Steinhardt Family Foundation in Israel (\$9,468,790)

The Steinhardt Family Foundation in Israel was created in 1996 to support projects that aid the weaker segments of Israeli society. The Foundation focuses on children at risk, many of whom have endured severe neglect and abuse – physical, emotional and sexual – as well as children in need, many of whom suffer from disadvantage and deprivation. The projects are intended to help give these children tools and opportunities to overcome the ordeals they have experienced and to meet the challenges of life on a more equal footing with their peers.

The Foundation also funds parent-child projects to guide and inspire better parenting in order to prevent abuse. The Foundation supports programs for teenagers who are on the fringe of society to help them surmount their feelings of alienation and instill in them a belief in themselves. It also supports programs for teenagers who have completely dropped out, in an effort

to convince them that there is a viable alternative to life on the streets.

The Steinhardt Family Foundation in Israel supports projects all over Israel and in every population sector, including Jews from over 100 countries, both new immigrants and veteran residents, as well as Arabs, Bedouins and Druze.

The Foundation supports programs that show promise in their innovative approach as well as those that have already demonstrated success and require continued funding. The Foundation works in partnership with other foundations as well as with government and municipal agencies, all of whom share the same concerns. The Chairman of **The Steinhardt Family Foundation in Israel** is Michael Steinhardt, and its Executive Director is Shulamith Navon. The Board of Directors consists of Yael Elon, David Heyd, Avraham Infeld, Sara Lahat and Rivka Weisberg.

Shulamith Navon, Executive Director,
The Steinhardt Family Foundation in Israel





In addition to programs in which **Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation** assumes a programmatic role, Michael Steinhardt also supports initiatives that are related to **JLN's** programs and vision.

American Friends of Livnot U'Lehibanot

American Friends of Melitz

Bard College secular Jewish high school project

Bat Ayin Yeshiva

Bi-Cultural Day School, Stamford, CT

The Brandeis-Bardin Institute

The Brown Hillel Foundation

The Center for Jewish History

CLAL—The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership

Duke University Hillel

Edah

Elul

Friends of University of Michigan Hillel

Gann Academy: New Jewish High School

Hannah Senesh Community Day School, Brooklyn, NY

Hebrew High School of New England, West Hartford, CT

Hillel of Greater Washington

Hineni Heritage Center

Halakhic Organ Donor Society (HOD)

Institute for Jewish & Community Research

Jerusalem Education Fund of the Mandel Supporting Foundations

Jewish Community Day School (JCDS), Watertown, MA

Jewish Community Day School of Durham-Chapel Hill

Jewish Community Relations Council of New York

Jewish Education Service of North America (JESNA)

Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance (JOFA)

Kivunim: Israel Summer Institute for Teachers in Jewish Day Schools

Lenox Hill Bikur Cholim

Meimad North America

National Jewish Outreach Program

New Community Jewish High School

New York Board of Rabbis

North American Board of Rabbis

North American Jewish Students Appeal

Ohr Torah Stone Colleges and Graduate Programs

Park East Day School, New York, NY

Shorashim

Shvil Hazahav

Solomon Schechter Day School

Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Boston

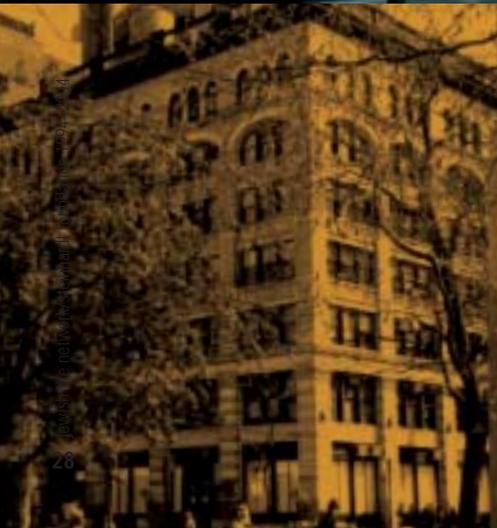
Solomon Schechter High School of New York

Solomon Schechter School of Manhattan

Succat Shalom

Tel Aviv University Hillel

Yeshivat Chovevei Torah Rabbinical School



Makor/Steinhardt Center of the 92nd Street Y

Makor is a stellar example of **Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation's** desire to reach and inspire Jews on their own terms, through programming that competes with the most sophisticated cultural, artistic and intellectual offerings of the open society.

After exploring methods of weaving Jewish content into a cultural venue in order to educate, inspire and entertain young Jews, we opened **Makor** in 1999 as an arts, cultural and educational center that reaches out to Jewish New Yorkers in their 20s and 30s.

The **Makor** capital project represented a \$12 million material investment in alternative methodologies of engaging an elusive population in possibilities of Jewish connection. This double-width, classic 1904 terra-cotta Manhattan townhouse was significantly renovated with the tastes and sensibilities of a sophisticated, urban population in mind. The 22,000 square-foot, five-story facility, located at 35 West 67th Street, includes a live-music café and bar, state-of-the-art film center, lecture hall, art gallery, seminar rooms and more. Synergies between popular culture, Jewish meaning and artistic expression afforded by **Makor** enable thousands to find opportunities for spiritual growth, intellectual edification, community service, and social and entertainment possibilities. Since merging with the 92nd Street Y in June of 2001, **Makor** has been the signature program of the **Makor/Steinhardt Center** of the 92nd Street Y.

Steinhardt School of Education at New York University

Michael Steinhardt believes that Jewish renaissance will not be possible without educators trained in a variety of skills and disciplines. With this in mind, he gave a naming gift to New York University, dedicating the **Steinhardt School of Education**. As part of that gift, the **Steinhardt School of Education** and the Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies have created a joint Ph.D. program in Education and Jewish Studies, and a two-year seminar on issues in Jewish education. A competitive fellowship is available to selected students, providing up to three years of full-time tuition support and a living stipend. A leader in upgrading urban education, the school comprises approximately 7,000 graduate and undergraduate students and 1,042 full-time and part-time faculty members.

Abraham Joshua Heschel School

Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation seeks to cultivate an *infrastructure of freedom* that will enable all Jews to grow enriched by Jewish values and a commitment to life in the open society. The **Abraham Joshua Heschel School**, founded in 1983, shares this vision. It has endeavored diligently to educate Jewish children with the preeminent Jewish ideals of study, justice, shared humanity and mutual respect.

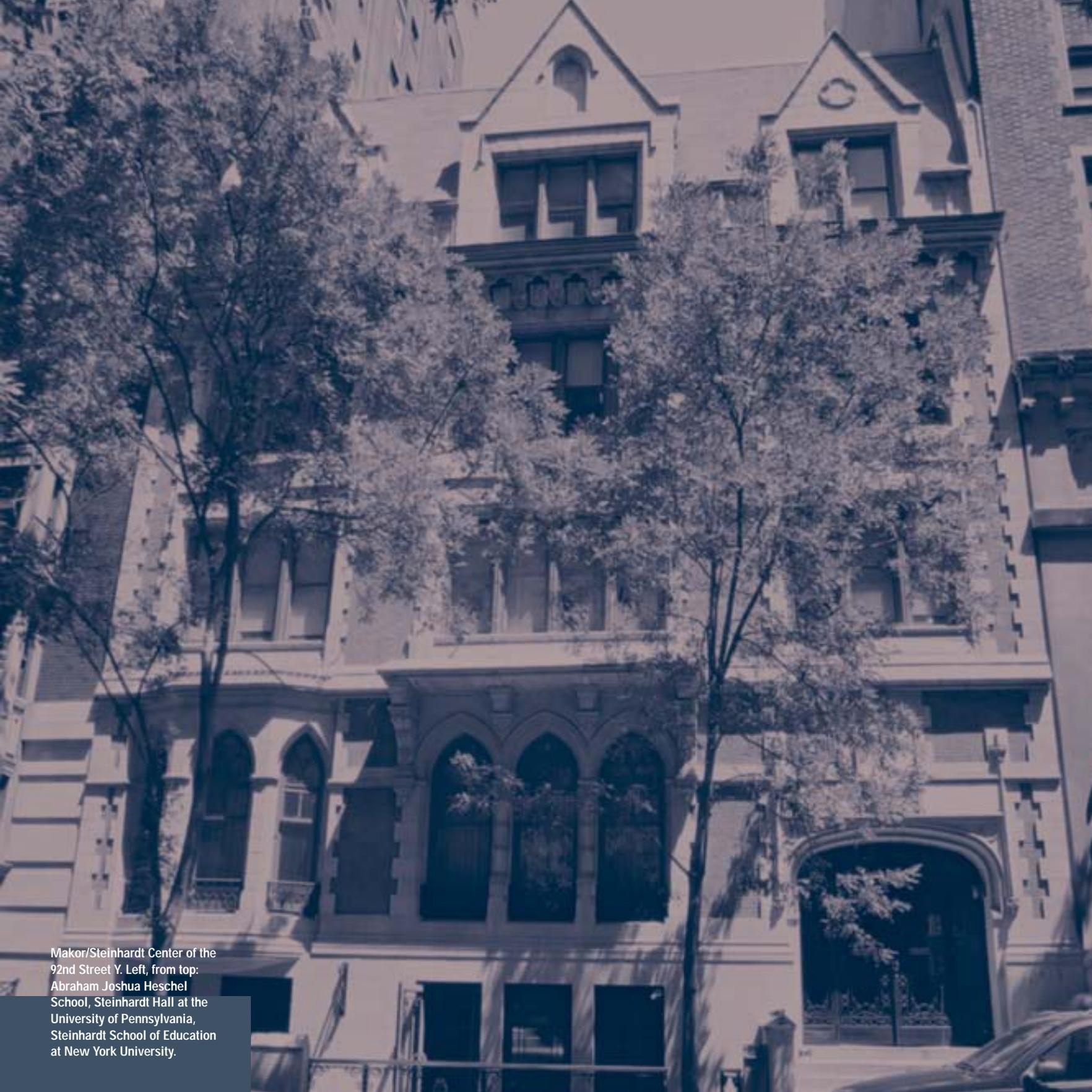
Understanding the need to expand the opportunity for a pluralistic Jewish education into the high school years, Michael and Judy Steinhardt joined other friends of the school to found the **Abraham Joshua Heschel High School**. The high school, located in a new building on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, opened its doors to its first class in September 2002.

Penn Hillel's Steinhardt Hall

In order to support and augment Penn's burgeoning Jewish culture, Judy and Michael Steinhardt gave the naming gift for **Steinhardt Hall**, home of **Hillel at the University of Pennsylvania**. Opened in October 2003, **Steinhardt Hall** is a 36,000 square-foot facility that includes a large auditorium, kosher dining facilities, places of worship, lounges and meeting rooms. It is designed to be the nexus of Jewish life at Penn.

Salanter Akiba Riverdale (SAR) Academy High School, Dedicated to the Memory of JJ Greenberg

Salanter Akiba Riverdale (SAR) Academy High School is dedicated to the memory of JJ Greenberg z"l, Founding Director of **Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation**. Recognized in 1992 by the U.S. Department of Education as a School of Excellence, **SAR**, located in Riverdale, N.Y., provides students an integrated curriculum of Judaic and general studies that inspires respect for democratic institutions in theory and practice.



Makor/Steinhardt Center of the
92nd Street Y. Left, from top:
Abraham Joshua Heschel
School, Steinhardt Hall at the
University of Pennsylvania,
Steinhardt School of Education
at New York University.

additional giving in the jewish community (\$15,473,665)

92nd Street Y	American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee	Friends of the Israel Antiquities Authority	Jewish Federation of Delaware	Reconstructionist Rabbinical College
The Abraham Fund	American Jewish World Service	Gesher Foundation	Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit	Reuth-Women's Social Service
Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Yeshiva University	Americans for Peace Now	Hadassah—New York Chapter	Jewish Guild for the Blind	Riverdale Jewish Center
Aleh Foundation	Anti-Defamation League	Harry G. Friedman Society	Jewish Literacy Institute	Rochester Jewish Federation
Aleph Society	Auschwitz Jewish Center Foundation	Hebrew Academy of Morris County, NJ	The Jewish Museum	The Ronald S. Lauder Foundation
Alyn Hospital	Beth Medrash Govoha	Hebrew Home for the Aged at Riverdale	Jewish National Fund	Sephardic Educational Center
America-Israel Environmental Council	Berkshire Institute for Music & Arts	Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Zimmerman Scholarship Fund	Jewish Publication Society	Shalva: The Center for Mentally and Physically Challenged Children
American Associates of Ben-Gurion University	Brandeis University	Herbert Mark Newman Theatre of the Richard G. Rosenthal JCC	Jewish Student Press Service	Shorefront YM-YWHA of Brighton-Manhattan Beach
American Committee for the Tel Aviv Foundation	Camp B'nai B'rith	Institute for Christian & Jewish Studies, National Jewish Scholars Project	Jewish Telegraphic Agency	Simon Wiesenthal Center
American Committee for the Weizmann Institute of Science	Camp Ramah/Ramah Darom	Institute for the Advancement of Education in Jaffa	Jewish Theological Seminary of America	Society for the Advancement of Judaism
American Forum for New Immigrants in Israel	Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania	Institute of Jewish Affairs	Judaism and Democracy Action Alliance	Stern College for Women, Yeshiva University
American Friends of Beilinson Medical Center	Central Synagogue	International Coalition for the Revival of Jews of Yemen	Kehilath Aish Kodesh	Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation
American Friends of Beth Hatefutsoth	Chabad House of Ithaca	International Federation of Secular Humanistic Jews	Kemp Mill Synagogue	Temple Emanu-El, New York, NY
American Friends of Keshet Eilon	Chabad of Cambridge	International Sephardic Education Foundation	Leo Baeck Institute	Temple Israel of Scranton
American Friends of Rabin Medical Center	Chabad of Southern Nevada	International Society for Jewish Art	Likrat Shiduch	Torah Academy of Greater Philadelphia
American Friends of Shalva	Children of Chernobyl	Israel Anti-Drug Abuse Foundation	Lower East Side Tenement Museum	Torah U'Mesorah
American Friends of South African Jewish Education	Commentary Fund	Israel Cancer Research Fund	Maccabi USA	UJA-Federation of New York
American Friends of Tel Aviv University	Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations	Israel Sport Center for the Disabled	Metropolitan Conference of the National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods	United Jewish Centers of MetroWest
American Friends of the Bibleland Museum	Congregation B'nai Isaac	Israel Tribute Committee	Metropolitan New York Coordinating Council on Jewish Poverty	United Jewish Communities
American Friends of The Hebrew University	Congregation B'nai Jeshurun	Israel Youth Village	Mid-Peninsula Jewish Community Day School, Palo Alto, CA	United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford
American Friends of The Israel Museum	Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun	Jack Weprin Foundation	Mount Kisco Hebrew Congregation	University of Haifa Foundation
American Friends of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra	Congregation Orach Chaim	The Jerusalem Foundation	National Committee for the Furtherance of Jewish Education	Washington Institute for Near East Policy
American Friends of the Jaffa Institute	Congregation Shearith Israel	Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services	National Foundation for Jewish Culture	World Conference of Jewish Communal Service
American Friends of the L'Chaim Society	DOROT	Jewish Book Council	New Community Jewish High School	World Jewish Congress, Argentina Fund
American Friends of Tel Aviv Museum of Art	ELEM: Youth in Distress in Israel	Jewish Children's Learning Lab	New Israel Fund	World Reform Appeal (UAHC)
American Friends of Yeshivat Sha'alvim	The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity	Jewish Community Center in Manhattan	Ohr Somayach International	Women's American ORT
American Israel Friendship League	Ezrat Israel	Jewish Community House of Bensonhurst	One Family Fund	World Jewish Congress
American Jewish Committee	Federation of the Jewish Communities of the CIS	Jewish Community of Sedona	OROT, Auerbach Central Agency for Jewish Education of Greater Philadelphia	Woodstock Jewish Congregation
American Jewish Historical Society	FJC	Jewish Community of the North Peninsula, Foster City, CA	Outreach Judaism	Yad Avraham Institute
	Folksbiene Playhouse	Jewish Deaf Congress	Panda Fund, Jewish Child Care Association	Yeshiva Ateres Yisroel
	Foundation for the Defense of Democracies		PEF Israel Endowment Funds	Yeshiva Ketana of Manhattan
	Friends of Bezalel Academy of Arts & Design		Politz Hebrew Academy, Philadelphia, PA	Yeshiva University
	Friends of Initiatives in Jewish Education			YIVO Institute for Jewish Research
	Friends of the Israel Defense Forces			





giving in the general community (\$10,565,404)

Michael Steinhart's support of organizations in the general community is not included in his \$105 million total Jewish giving.

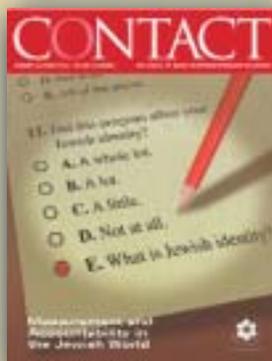
12th Street Academy-Friends of IS 370
 Abyssinian Development Corporation
 Ackerman Institute for the Family
 Alzheimer's Association
 American Cancer Society
 American Craft Museum
 American Council for Cultural Policy
 American Federation of Arts
 American Folk Art Museum
 American Friends of Covent Garden
 American Friends of the British Museum
 American Museum of Natural History
 American Symphony Orchestra
 Anguilla Progressive Association of New York
 Anguilla Tennis Academy
 Artists for Breast Cancer Survival
 Asia Society
 Association for the Help of Retarded Children
 Avon Breast Cancer 3 Day Walk
 The Bachmann-Strauss Dystonia & Parkinson Foundation
 Bank Street College of Education
 Banyan School
 Bard Graduate Center for Studies in the Decorative Arts
 Barnard College Center for Toddler Development
 Bedford Hills Fire Department
 Beginning with Children Foundation
 BLD Foundation
 Boys and Girls Club of Northern Westchester
 Breast Cancer Research Foundation
 Brooklyn Botanic Garden
 Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College
 Brooklyn Museum of Art
 Brooklyn Public Library
 The Burden Center for the Aging
 C-Media
 Caramoor
 The Carnegie Hall Society
 Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Winnick Family Clinical Research Center
 Center for Educational Innovation-Public Education Association
 The Center for the Study of Corruption and the Rule of Law
 Centurion Ministries
 Child Development Charitable Trust
 Children's Defense Fund
 Children's Hearing Institute
 Children's Museum of Manhattan
 Children's Oncology Society (Ronald McDonald House)
 Citizens Budget Commission
 City Harvest
 Citymeals-on-Wheels
 City Parks Foundation
 Columbia Business School, Columbia University
 Columbia University
 Columbia University, Division of Molecular Genetics
 Craftsman Farms Foundation
 Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
 The Dalton School
 Dance Theater Foundation
 Days End Farm Horse Rescue
 Dr. Howard R. Rappaport Education Fund—Pediatrics
 Downtown Arts Development
 Duke University
 Elaine Kaufman Cultural Center
 Elan Gardens
 Ethics and Public Policy Center
 The Family Center
 Federal Law Enforcement Foundation
 Florida Firefighters Fund
 Foundation Fighting Blindness
 Friends of Asian Arts
 The Friends of Green Chimneys
 Friends of Japan Society Gallery
 From the Heart
 Fund for the Aged
 Fund for NYC Public Education
 Fund for the City of New York
 The G & P Foundation for Cancer Research
 The Garden Conservancy
 The George School, Michael Sherrin Scholarship Fund
 Good Omen
 Graduate Center Foundation, Great Music for a Great City Series
 Guiding Eyes for the Blind
 Harry S. Truman Library Institute
 Harvard University Law School
 HHT Foundation International
 Hospital for Special Surgery
 Human Rights Watch
 The Institute for Policy Studies
 Intracoastal Health Foundation
 International Anti-Drug Abuse Foundation
 International Center of Photography
 International Crane Foundation
 International Rescue Committee
 Ithaca College, Howard Alper College Fund
 Jacob Perlow Hospice, Beth Israel Medical Center
 The Juilliard School
 Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation
 Katonah Museum of Art
 Kidney and Urology Foundation of America
 Kimpatorin Aid
 KIPP Academy New York
 Lafayette High School Alumni Association
 Lawyers Committee for Human Rights
 LD Access Foundation
 Legal Services for Children
 The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
 The Library of America
 Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts
 The Little Orchestra Society
 Livingston Ripley Waterfowl Sanctuary
 Lymphoma Research Foundation
 The Manhattan Guild
 Manhattan Institute for Public Policy Research
 Medical Development
 Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
 The Merit Music Program
 The Metropolitan Museum of Art
 Metropolitan Opera Association
 Michael C. Carlos Museum, Emory University
 Morgan Library
 Mount Kisco Day Care Center
 Mount Kisco Volunteer Ambulance Corps
 The Mount Sinai Medical Center
 National Actors Theatre
 National Association for Public Interest Law
 National Breast Cancer Coalition Fund
 National Incontinence Pigmenti Foundation
 National Institute for People with Disabilities Network
 National Kidney Foundation of NY/NJ
 Navajo Sheep Project
 Neue Galerie New York
 New Haven Academy
 New Visions for Public Schools
 New York Association for New Americans
 New York Botanical Garden
 New York Chamber Symphony
 New York City Opera
 New York Detectives and Patrolmen's Foundation
 New York Foundation for the Arts
 New York Landmarks Conservancy
 New York Police Officers Association
 New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center
 New York Special Olympics
 New York University
 New York University Child Study Center
 New York University, Institute of Fine Arts
 New York University Medical Center
 New York University, Yeronisos Island Expedition
 Nine Circles Chamber Theatre
 North Carolina Zoological Society
 Northern Westchester Hospital Center
 Nutritional Research Institute
 Operation Understanding of the District of Columbia
 Opportunity, Inc.
 Palmer R. Chitester Fund, In the Classroom Media
 Parents Place, Inc.
 Partnership for New York City
 Partnership for Public Service
 PEN American Center
 Penn State Press
 The Perlman Music Program
 Planned Parenthood of New York City
 Playwrights Horizons
 Police Athletic League
 Prep for Prep
 Princeton University Art Museum
 The Progressive Foundation
 Project Open
 Reach Out and Read
 Revlon Run/Walk for Women
 Rockefeller University
 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum
 Ronald McDonald House of New York City
 St. Jude's Children Research Hospital
 Samuel Waxman Cancer Research Foundation
 San Diego Natural History Museum
 SCAN-NY Volunteer Parent-Aides Association
 The School at Columbia University
 The Shakespeare Society
 Society for the Advancement of Gifted Education
 Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation
 The South Bronx Educational Foundation
 South Salem Library Association
 Southern Poverty Law Center
 Stand for Children
 Stanley M. Isaacs Neighborhood Center
 The Steppingstone Foundation
 Strang Cancer Prevention Center
 Strawberry Banke Museum
 Take the Field
 Teach for America
 Teatown Lake Reservation
 Theatre for a New Audience
 T.I.M.E./Scottsdale Memorial Health Foundation
 University of Pennsylvania
 Video/Action Fund
 Washingtonville Housing Alliance
 Westchester Land Trust
 Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania
 Whitney Museum of American Art
 Wildlife Conservation Society
 WNET, Educational Broadcasting Corporation WNYC
 Women in Need
 The Writers Room
 Young Concert Artists

CONTACT is the quarterly journal of **Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation**.

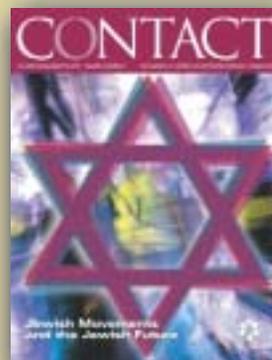
Each issue of CONTACT explores vital issues affecting the American Jewish community and the philanthropic vision of **Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation**.

From early childhood education to professional development programs, from Jewish marketing to Jewish movements, it is the goal of CONTACT to stimulate discussion throughout the community on the most effective programs, issues and ideas that will help to revitalize American Jewish life.

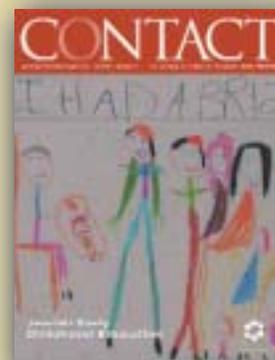
2004



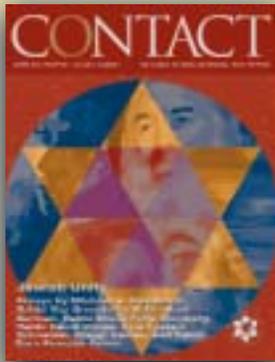
2003



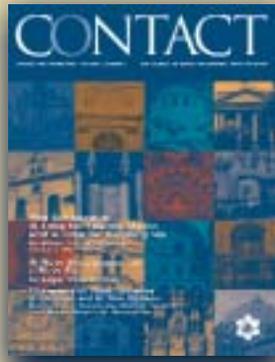
2002



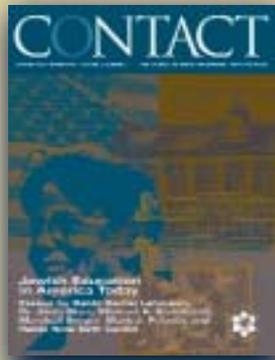
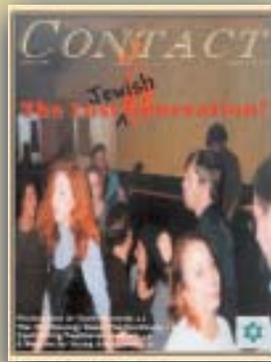
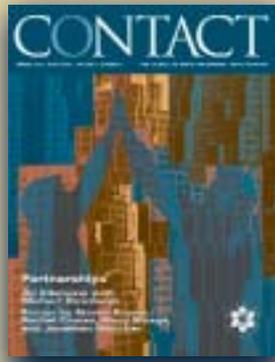
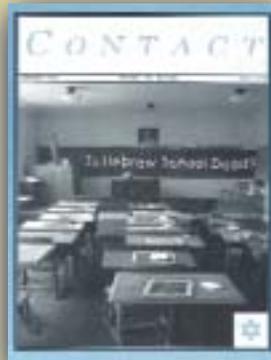
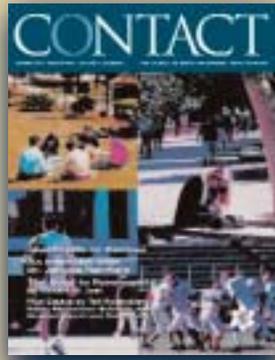
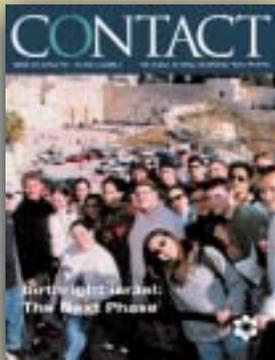
2001



1999-2000



1998-1999



www.jewishlife.org



Our website includes information on the vision and mission of **Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation**, and features descriptions of and links to the programs created and supported by our Foundation. It also includes all past and current issues of CONTACT, as well as our Inaugural Report available for download. Please visit us at www.jewishlife.org.



After ten years, **Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation** has created and supported a diverse assortment of programs to transform and revitalize American Jewish life. Our work, however, is far from finished. As we move forward, we intend to expand our programmatic initiatives to encompass a wider spectrum of the Jewish life cycle. We are also beginning plans to expand our institutional work in order to reach Jews in areas that are currently not receiving sufficient attention by the community. Each of our initiatives and partnerships reflects our continuing mission of strengthening and transforming American Jewish life so that it may flourish in a fully integrated, free society.

For example, we have recently turned our attention to a powerfully transformative, yet often overlooked, period in a person's life: new parenthood. While there has been a great deal of investment in Jewish identity building programs for adolescents and young adults, scant attention has been paid to families with young children as a vital entry point into Jewish learning and living.

In an emerging partnership with several other philanthropic organizations, we are developing the new **Jewish Early Childhood Education Initiative (JECEI)**. This program aims to transform Jewish preschools into centers of Jewish educational excellence. The centers will offer superb opportunities for education and celebration for both children and parents. Through focused improvement of schools and intensive marketing, the initiative will aim to make high-quality Jewish early childhood education the preferred option of all Jewish families. In so doing, it will help them to experience the full breadth and richness of Jewish family life.

Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation is also actively seeking ways to lower the barriers posed to the parents of young children by the high costs of organizational Jewish life. One way of making Jewish journeys accessible to the entire community is the creation of a **Newborn Gift**. The **Newborn Gift** will include a voucher offered by local federations to parents upon the birth or adoption of a child. The gift will help reduce the cost of Jewish early childhood education, as well as offer a full range

of connections to programming for young families, thereby increasing the likelihood that parents from all segments of the community will avail themselves of this invaluable vehicle of Jewish identity enrichment.

As we look toward the future, **JLN** will continue to seek new partnerships that reach beyond institutional walls to engage the common Jew in uncommon ways. Together, we will continue our work in constructing an infrastructure of freedom that transcends denominational and organizational boundaries and builds a vibrant Judaism equipped to flourish in the open society. Realizing this vision will require the cultivation of new institutions as well as new ideas. In particular, **JLN** seeks to nurture a new generation of professional and philanthropic leaders while forging a set of shared Jewish ideals for the twenty-first century that will inspire and sustain our efforts.

The **Professional Leaders Project (PLP)** is a new partnership of William M. Davidson, Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, Eugene and Marcia Appelbaum and **JLN**. **PLP** aims to recruit and nurture the next generation of highly talented and Jewishly-knowledgeable leaders from across the Jewish spectrum—rabbis, cantors, educators and communal professionals—who are motivated by shared ideals and a common purpose of reaching out to the entire Jewish people. This network of young Jewish professionals will work together to build cultures of excellence that cross organizational boundaries and weave communities together, exemplifying the ideals of collaboration, creativity, critical reflection and common destiny in their work with each other and with the community.

In order to ensure that our programs are as superlative as our personnel, **JLN** is also seeking ways to revitalize and transform Jewish institutional life. With this in mind, at the 2003 General Assembly of the United Jewish Communities, Michael Steinhardt presented the community with a challenge to raise \$100 million for a collective fund earmarked for stellar and transformative Jewish educational initiatives. The **Fund for Our Jewish Future (FOJF)** will engage philanthropic leadership across North America with the aim of bringing transformational change to local communities in accordance

with common Jewish values and the best educational and organizational practices.

At the same time, we are seeking partnerships to build a national **Jewish Retreat Center** that will serve as a nerve center for transformation and renewal. We envision The Retreat Center to be the locus point for a visionary group of rabbis, educators, philanthropists and lay professionals prepared to take responsibility for the Jewish future. This space will become a place for spiritual reflection, intellectual conversation, ethical investigation and artistic celebration for the entire North American Jewish community. As a total environment for intensive Jewish learning and exploration, the **Jewish Retreat Center** will serve as a new link in the chain of life experiences that inspire people to choose Jewish living. It will also be the meeting ground from which Jewish leaders across all lines conceive and plan new methods of engaging and inspiring American Jews.

As we seek to construct a physical common ground that will serve all Jews, we also seek to articulate a common ground of Jewish ideas and values that arises from a positive embrace of the amazing freedom and opportunities found in America. **JLN** believes that the Jewish people will be galvanized in unity, inspiration and renaissance once we rekindle the fire of ancient ideas that have the potential to burn with power and relevance in the open society. We are therefore forming collaborative efforts aimed at developing a common Judaism. This common Judaism will consist of core Jewish values and universally accessible Jewish practices that can provide spiritual and cultural sustenance not just for professionals and lay leaders, but for the entire Jewish community in North America.

Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation is also concerned with significantly increasing the community's ability to research and assess the state of contemporary American Jewish life. For too long, much of the research into American Jewish demographics and life journeys has been undertaken in a vacuum, with diverse and often competing methodologies, samples and contexts. There has not been a central address for the study and evaluation of the American Jewish population and the various enterprises

aimed at preserving, transmitting, reinvigorating and renewing Jewish life in America. In an effort to nurture the development of a national Jewish clearinghouse for the results and coordination of research on Jewish demographics, identity and life, **JLN** will make research and evaluation a central emphasis of its philanthropic agenda going forward. To this end, the newly founded **Steinhardt Social Research Institute** at Brandeis University will begin its work in 2005.

We understand that this vision cannot be realized overnight. There are many obstacles to overcome in order to create a viable *infrastructure of freedom* that will galvanize American Jews in renaissance. Most importantly, we recognize the unequalled power of partnerships in realizing our philanthropic vision. The Jewish people will not achieve renaissance without active collaboration between and among professionals, lay leaders and foundations. Partnerships are not only a practical method of effecting greater change than any individual foundation can realize on its own. In a larger sense, partnerships reflect the interwoven destiny of *clal Yisrael*. Renaissance can only be realized when we group together and place the future vitality of the Jewish people above our individual agendas.

It is also essential that we continue to forge partnerships with future leaders and philanthropists. We believe that American Jews who are in a position to financially secure the Jewish future must be awakened to the meaning and power of doing so. As part of a broad new movement in American Jewish life, **JLN** will partner with others to inspire and engage the next generation of philanthropists to secure the Jewish future.

Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation is driven by the goal of seeing the entire Jewish people engaged in joyous celebrations of Jewish life, culture and spirit in the new century. It is our hope that the *infrastructure of freedom* may catalyze the beginnings of a new movement in Judaism—a movement that embraces the ideals of freedom, equality, democracy, pluralism and personal responsibility that are the hallmarks of American society. In so doing, the movement will affirm our continued partnership in the historical covenant of the Jewish people to repair the world.

One of the most vital components in the philanthropic vision of **Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation** is the value of Partnership. We would like to acknowledge a circle of philanthropic partners whose vision, passion and commitment have been integral to the task of revitalizing American Jewish life:

S. Daniel Abraham
 The (Leonard and Madlyn) Abramson Family Foundation
 Andrew Albstein
 Eugene and Marcia Appelbaum
 Lisa Applebaum
 The AVI CHAI Foundation
 The Morris and Beverly Baker Foundation
 Sandy Baklor and Arlene Kaufman
 Newton Becker
 Harvey and Jayne Beker
 Len and Alex Blavatnik
 The Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies
 Edgar M. Bronfman/The Samuel Bronfman Foundation
 Stephen R. Bronfman
 Leon Cooperman
 The Covenant Foundation
 The Crown Family Foundation
 William M. Davidson
 Helen Diller Family Foundation
 Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund
 The Goldring Family Foundation
 The Gottesman Fund
 Government of the State of Israel
 Martin and Perry Granoff
 Alex Greenberg
 The Harold Grinspoon Foundation
 Martin Gruss
 Hadassah–The Women's Zionist Organization of America
 The Jesselson Family
 The Jewish Agency for Israel
 The Jim Joseph Foundation
 Keren Hayesod/United Israel Appeal
 Temma and Alfred Kingsley
 Robert and Arlene Kogod
 Barbara and Richard Lane
 Evelyn and Leonard Lauder
 Laura and Gary Lauder
 Ronald S. Lauder

Bobby and Fran Lent
 Lev Leviev
 Morton Mandel
 The Marcus Foundation–Bernie Marcus
 Joseph and Harvey Meyerhoff Family Charitable Funds
 Children of Harvey and Lyn Meyerhoff Philanthropic Fund
 Larry and Carol Mizel
 Stephen Muss
 North American Jewish Federations through the United Jewish Communities
 Joseph and Jeanette Lerman Neubauer
 The Bernard Osher Jewish Philanthropies Foundation of the Jewish Community Endowment Fund
 Martin Peretz
 Carol and Joseph Reich
 The Rich Foundation
 Righteous Persons Foundation
 Ben and Esther Rosenbloom Foundation
 The Samberg Family Foundation
 James and Wendy Schreiber
 Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation
 Howard and Leslie Schultz Family Foundation
 Janet and Al Schultz
 Sheila Schwartz and Family
 Lorin Silverman
 The Stern Family Foundation
 Jeffrey and Deborah Swartz
 UJA-Federation of New York
 The Wasserman Foundation
 Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation
 The Jack Weprin Foundation
 Leslie and Abigail Wexner
 The Winnick Family Foundation
 The Woldenberg Foundation

In addition, the strategic partnerships created over the past ten years by Michael Steinhardt have brought \$185.5 million in matching funds to core projects for Jewish education and life.



total jewish giving by institutional association (\$105,028,220)



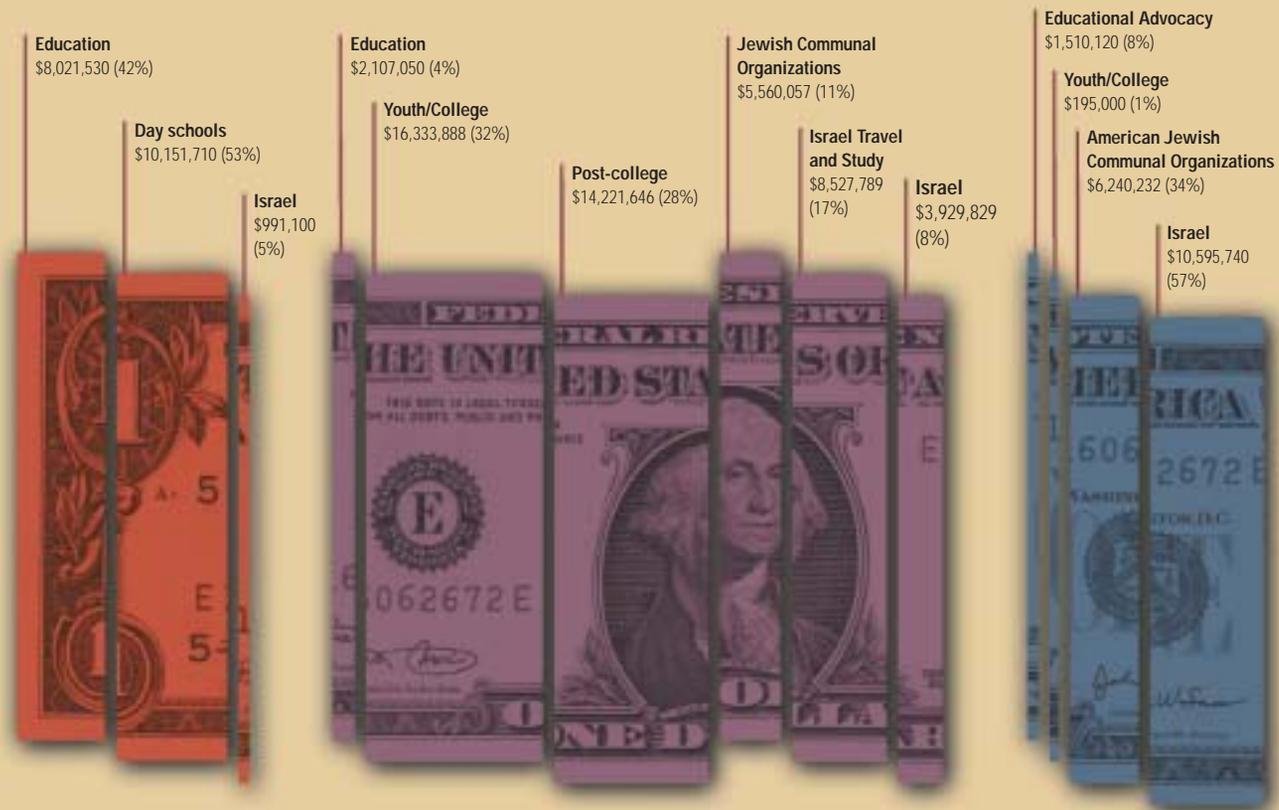
total jewish giving by educational category (\$105,028,220)



formal education

informal education

jewish communal giving





From left: Bill Robinson, Rabbi David Gedzelman, Rabbi Irving Greenberg, Michael Steinhardt, Felicia Herman, Eli Valley, Erica Coleman, Shira Hutt, Stephanie Dilorio, Rachel Levine.



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Executive Assistant to the President

JEWISH LIFE NETWORK/STEINHARDT FOUNDATION 1994–2004 REPORT

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JLN portraits and BBYO event
photography by **Ilille Sawady**.

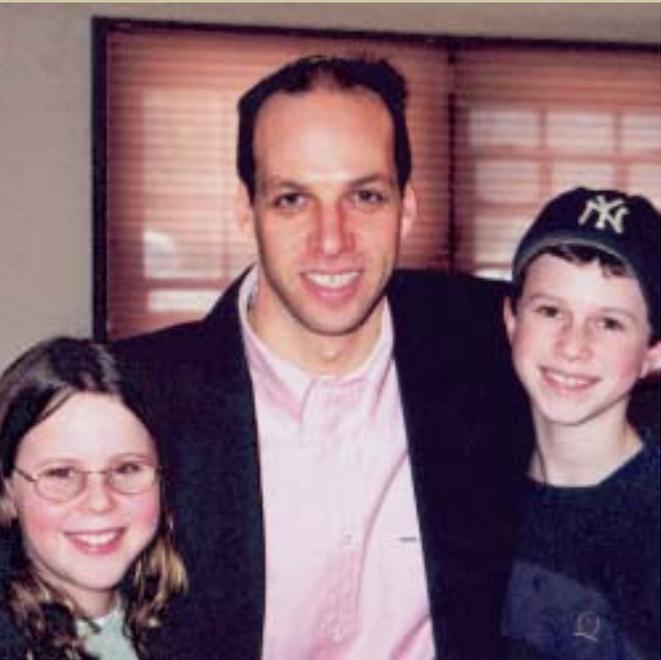
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in memory: jj greenberg, z"l

JJ Greenberg z"l was the Founding Director of **Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation**. JJ's involvement with **JLN** began in 1993, when Michael Steinhardt and Yitz Greenberg recruited him to conduct the research necessary to determine the mission and focus of the Foundation. From 1994 until his untimely death in October 2002, JJ served as **JLN's** Executive Director, shepherding the Foundation through the creation and implementation of such groundbreaking programs as **birthright israel, JCSC, Makor, PEJE** and **spark: Partnership for Service**. His creativity, judgment, energy and leadership significantly impacted these programs.

JJ was devoted to Judaism and the Jewish people, to Israel, and to the mission of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world). He believed in the power of every action to transform the world, whether it was saying a *bracha* (blessing) before eating, rollerblading in the Israel Day Parade, or using every available space on a piece of paper before recycling it. JJ lived according to the principle of treating people as the embodiment of *tzelem Elokim* (the image of God). Wealthy philanthropists and maintenance staff at **JLN** and **Makor**; world-famous Jewish leaders and students in his introductory Hebrew classes; members of his vast network of friends and family and needy strangers on the street—everyone received the same patient, personal attention and the warm JJ smile.

JJ's thoughtfulness, generosity, deep humility and irrepressible sense of humor made him a beloved colleague and friend, as well as a cherished son, brother, grandson, nephew and uncle. **JLN** will always feel a deep gratitude to JJ for the sense of purpose, creative spirit and *joie de vivre* with which he infused his—and our—work. We miss him.

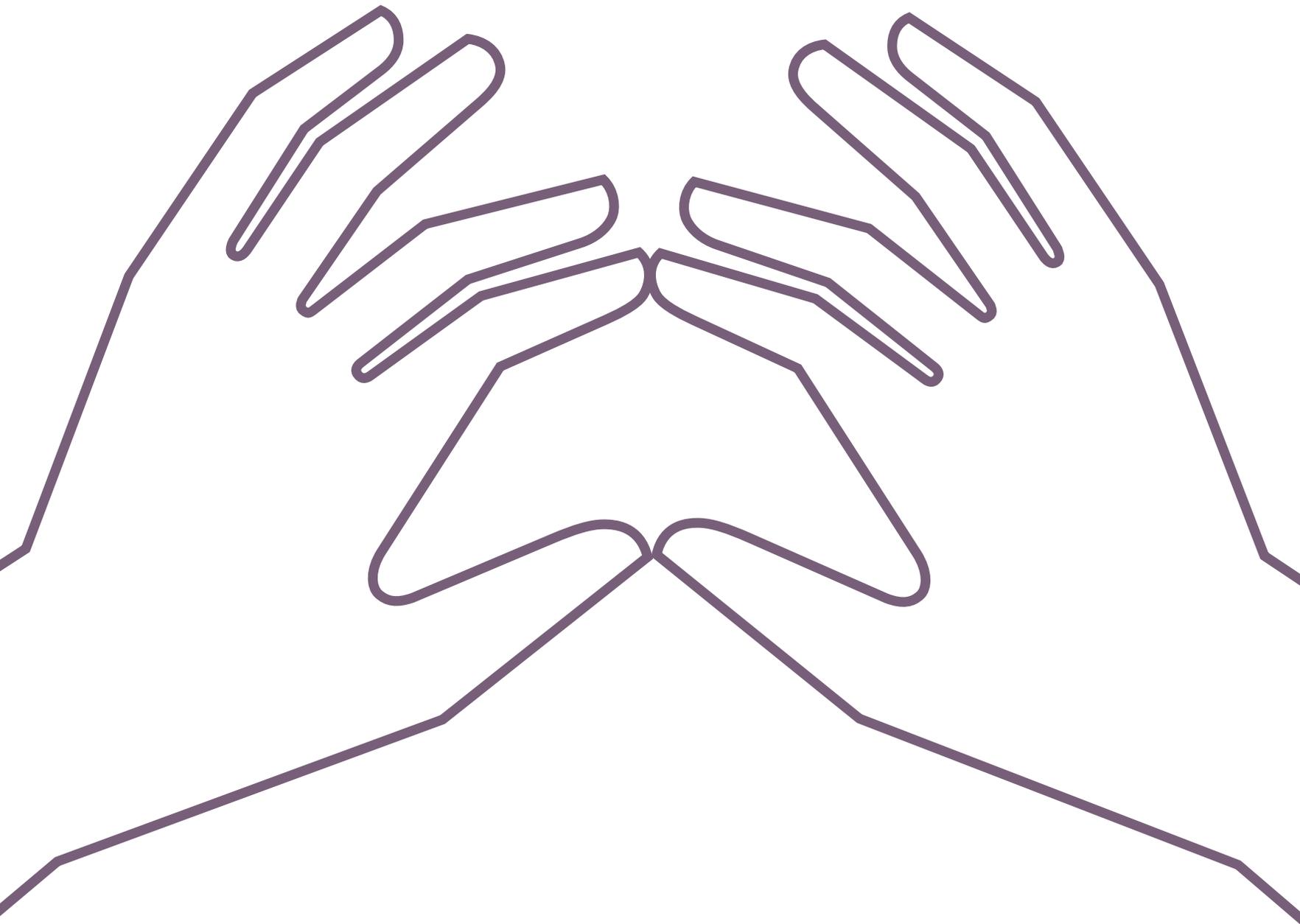


יְבוּרַךְ " וַיִּשְׁמְרֵךְ יְאֵד " פְּנֵי אֱלֹהֵי וַיַּחֲוֹנֵךְ יִשְׂא " פְּנֵי אֱלֹהֵי וַיִּשֶׁם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם

May the Loving God bless you and guard you.

May the Loving God shine the Divine face on you and give you grace.

May the Loving God turn the Divine face to you and grant you shalom.







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