

Jewish Education Innovation Grants 2018-19:

As a result of the Jewish Education Task Force, the Milwaukee Jewish Federation generously allocated \$20,000 for Jewish Education Innovation Grants. A committee was formed and designed a process in which any local Jewish non-profit could apply. This year, four grants were awarded. CJL plans to see this exciting program continue into the future. Read descriptions of the grants below and keep an eye out for them in the community this year.



B'Yachad Staff Inclusion Training Program (Congregation Beth Israel Ner Tamid)

B'Yachad ("Together") is a yearlong three-tiered staff training program providing support for students with disabilities. *B'Yachad* creates a professional learning community, a common language, and practices for teaching teams to best serve the needs of children requiring a personalized approach to Jewish education. In an effort to collaborate across the Jewish community, staff members from the Steve and Shari Sadek Family Camp Interlaken JCC and the Harry & Rose Samson Family JCC Project S.T.A.R.S. have been invited to participate. Three cohorts are delineated: Teachers, Special Education College Interns, and Teen Inclusion *Madrichim* (teaching assistants). Teachers and interns will participate in eight hours of training led by an outside consultant. *Madrichim* will participate in the Matan Institute for Teens. The groups will gather twice a year to study collaboratively. Training continues as students' learning needs evolve.

The Golden Key: A New Approach to Hebrew Education (Congregation Shalom)



Chaim Nachman Bialik said, "The golden key to Jewish education is the Hebrew language." The time has come to change the way that we approach Hebrew instruction at Congregation Shalom.

The Goals:

- 1) To develop Hebrew knowledge as part of our students' Jewish cultural capital development, including a basic foundation of Modern Hebrew and American Jewish vocabulary.
- 2) To prepare our students for the ceremony in which they become *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*.
- 3) To instill a desire within our students to continue their Hebrew education.

The Methods:

- 1) Integrating Hebrew into Religious School, starting in K4, with the "Hebrew Through Movement" Curriculum.
- 2) Incorporating prayer into every session of Religious and Hebrew School.
- 3) Engaging Alisa Shapiro Rosenberg, who has developed the "Comprehensible Input Method," to help us become a school that employs what we know about foreign language instructing.

It is our belief that changing the way that we teach Hebrew has the potential to not only change the level of Hebrew literacy for our students; but also the way that they feel about Jewish education and Jewish living.

JUDA - Judaism through the Arts (Chabad of Waukesha-Brookfield)



In Waukesha, Jefferson, and Walworth counties there are many unaffiliated young Jewish families. Judaism through the Arts aims to involve children in Jewish experiences through the universal language of the arts, where the children can use artistic expression to form a relationship with Judaism. All of the art that the children create will be high quality and long lasting, so it will carry with it an authentic Jewish experience they can individualize for their family. JUDA will incorporate an element of Judaic art in each session accompanied with a hands-on activity, game, story, and lesson on the specific topic. We believe this is innovative since its hands-on and artistic approach opens Jewish study and observance to families that currently aren't observing many Jewish holidays or traditions, but are interested in giving their children a familiarity with Judaism, as well as those that want to incorporate Judaism in their homes in a less formal fashion.



Public Space Judaism: Educating Jewish Families through Holiday Celebration and Environmental Exploration (Harry & Rose Samson Family JCC, Milwaukee Jewish Day School, Jewish National Fund)

Working in partnership, the Harry & Rose Samson Family JCC, Milwaukee Jewish Day School, and Jewish National Fund will create a large-scale, community-wide educational celebration surrounding the Jewish holiday of *Tu B'Shvat*. This free event will target families with children ages two through ten – with extra effort placed on drawing families who are less engaged in Jewish life and education in our community. The event will include fun, hands-on activities, a variety of Jewish foods that include those associated with the holiday, arts and cultural offerings, and many opportunities for learning. We will also weave education on Israel into each event. The program will include an ecological component, teaching the idea of *Shomrei Adamah*, (being guardians of the land). We three agencies will work together to market and promote this event outside of our own constituencies.

School Census

Every year, the Coalition for Jewish Learning gathers census information from our local Jewish schools to provide information to our Jewish community. The 2017-18 Census shows that the total preschool population has gone up by 20 students from last year, the total day school population has remained about the same, and the total religious school population has declined again, for the ninth year in a row. This year, for the first time, we included in our census students who are being educated individually, outside the school setting. This is the first year that CJL has begun tracking those numbers.

| Preschools | |
|---|-------------|
| Jewish Beginnings | 126 |
| JCC Gan Ami (Whitefish Bay) | 234 |
| JCC Gan Ami (Mequon) | 39 |
| Mequon Jewish Preschool | 38 |
| Subtotals Preschool Students: | 437 |
| Day Schools | |
| Bader Hillel Academy | 127 |
| Bader Hillel High School | 37 |
| Milwaukee Jewish Day School (MJDS) | 130 |
| Torah Academy Milwaukee (TAM) | 29 |
| Wisconsin Institute for Torah Study (WITS) | 62 |
| Yeshiva Elementary School (YES) | 215 |
| Subtotals Day School Students: | 600 |
| Religious Schools | |
| Congregation Beth El (Sheboygan) | 7 |
| Congregation Beth Israel Ner Tamid School of Jewish Studies | 47 |
| Congregation Emanu-El B'ne Jeshurun | 100 |
| Congregation Emanu-El of Waukesha | 25 |
| Milwaukee Community Hebrew School (The Shul) | 19 |
| Peltz Hebrew School/Congregation Agudas Achim Chabad | 60 |
| Congregation Shalom | 218 |
| Congregation Sinai | 74 |
| Subtotals Religious School Students: | 550 |
| Individualized Education (i.e. tutoring) | 24 |
| GRAND TOTAL | 1611 |