

# Learning Opportunities for Milwaukee Educators (LOMED)

by Mandy Singh

LOMED helped me take meaningful courses with colleagues which improved my understanding and teaching of Jewish traditions and holidays. LOMED made it accessible for me to take a variety of classes at no cost and in different learning situations, whether it was online through Gratz College or in-person classes with the community.

The classes had time flexibility as well. They were offered during the week or weekend, whichever fit your lifestyle better. The stipend at the end of the nine hours of classes for educators was an added incentive.

I was able to attend these courses with eight of my colleagues. We were able to build community while learning about each other's perspectives. By taking in-person courses, community member input helped create a better understanding of their expectations and values.

I have learned about numerous Jewish traditions and holidays, such as *Shabbat*. Attending the Global Day of Jewish Learning was really engaging and meaningful. I was able to make connections with how to make Shabbat special in the classroom. Concrete examples were so helpful. I was able to apply them to the classroom right away. These included wearing nice clothes for the Shabbat meal, setting a beautiful table, and using special dishes.

This additional knowledge affected my teaching tremendously by giving me a better understanding behind the meaning of the traditions. My deeper understanding helped me create a more meaningful classroom environment to truly encompass Jewish values.

I would highly encourage anyone to take classes offered by LOMED to gain a better understanding of Jewish values and traditions.



Gan Ami teachers who earned LOMED stipends.

## Record Participation in LOMED Classes in 2017-18

- LOMED classes and book clubs: 13 total
- Total number of teachers at events
  - 59 teachers from 12 schools participated in 539 hours of professional development
  - 24 teachers earned stipends (almost triple the number from last year)

## Sharing Stories: CJL Supports Education at Jewish Museum Milwaukee

by Ellie Gettinger



LOMED Chanukah class where teachers practice thinking routines.

In my decade at Jewish Museum Milwaukee, I learned that not everyone loves a museum. People bring in their museum baggage: *Museums are stuffy, I only like multimedia experiences, I don't like standing.*

I work through this baggage to connect visitors with the essence of what we do – we tell stories, important stories, stories that reflect personal experiences, and stories that connect to the world

outside. These narratives provide a starting point for building empathy; this is the center of what I do at JMM.

I was delighted to receive the CJL Grinspoon Jewish Educator of the Year award this year. This was a wonderful affirmation of my work and the mission of JMM, a program of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation. I have been privileged in our ten years to work with phenomenal educators from all parts of the Jewish community. When I started, I relied on seasoned educators in our community to help me navigate this work. As a team, we have been able to develop important ideas about immigration, social justice, and Judaism for Jewish and non-Jewish students throughout Wisconsin.

I love that this place can affirm Jewish belief and practice. Owning your story is important and the museum provides tangible connections to our shared history.

The Coalition for Jewish Learning has been integral to my educational development. Former director Steve Baruch helped create our original, ambitious docent training program, which created a template for our future volunteers. Tziporah Altman-Shafer brought the museum's work to the religious school community. Her creative energy has pushed us to re-envision the role of the museum with these groups.

Through CJL, 80 students from seven supplementary schools came to the museum to explore Shabbat through our special exhibit. We hope to duplicate this effort this year, convening the young of our community to explore their stories in new and dynamic ways.



LOMED mid-winter professional development.

## Scholarships Available for SUMMER FUN

The Jewish Community Foundation of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation is now accepting need-based scholarship applications to help send young people to Jewish summer overnight camps and summer Israel programs.

Learn more at:  
[MilwaukeeJewish.org/Scholarships](http://MilwaukeeJewish.org/Scholarships)  
 or contact Tziporah Altman-Shafer,  
[TziporahA@MilwaukeeJewish.org](mailto:TziporahA@MilwaukeeJewish.org)  
 or (414) 963-2718.

Application deadline: February 15, 2019



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