

MISHKAN 5782



YEARS
**OF PURPOSE, CONNECTION,
AND INSPIRATION**

Ten years ago, we founded Mishkan Chicago with a vision for Judaism that would speak to the next generation: spiritually exciting, socially diverse, musically uplifting, intellectually rigorous, and radically inclusive. I still remember our first Shabbat service in September 2011. It was 65 strangers brought together by an email that promised a night of meaningful prayer, learning and dinner. By the end of the evening, our singing, conversation and laughter could be heard down the block... and a community was born. A decade later, our venues may be larger than the average living room, but creating Jewish spiritual space

where you can **bring your whole self and be part of something larger than yourself** – remains our essence.



The last ten years have been as much about innovation and community-building as they have been about developing the technical and human infrastructure to support it – to support you. Because of you (and you and you and you) our team has grown to a full-time staff of 14, facilitating hundreds of programs every year to help you find a rekindled sense of your own purpose, a deeper sense of connection with others, and authentically-rooted Jewish inspiration. As always, we want to create Jewish spaces where all Jews see themselves and find home – atheists, agnostics and believers, LGBTQ+ folks, interfaith couples and families, people of color, people with disabilities, seekers and scholars, Jewish camp alums and people who never went to camp, Jewish-adjacent people, and “just Jewish” folks. The Mishkan in the Torah was radically inclusive – that’s our aim, too.

The High Holidays are always an invitation for reflection and recommitment to the places, people and issues that matter most in our lives, and this past year has had no shortage of major world and local events to process. This Rosh Hashanah marks the start of a *shmitah* year – a “year of release” or sabbatical year, the time on the Jewish calendar every seven years that asks us to reconsider our relationships with each other and the earth. With that in mind, we plan to spend this year asking big questions that will help us better serve our growing community. In this next chapter, how can we meet you where you are – both in person and virtually – and bring you into more meaningful, inspiring and transformational Jewish experiences?

I am beyond proud that this is our Mishkan. This year more than ever before – we are so glad you are here.

May you be inscribed for a year of health, hope, and inspiration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rabbi Lizzi Heydemann". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R".

Rabbi Lizzi Heydemann

Mission and Vision: Our Why

Mishkan Chicago is a Jewish spiritual community that leads people toward more purposeful, more connected, and more inspired lives. We create Jewish spaces to bring your whole self, and to be part of something larger than yourself. When we do that, we reimagine and breathe new life into Judaism, and we change the world.

Our Non-Negotiables

We are radically inclusive. We welcome everyone and strive to be accessible on multiple levels, creating space that is both safe and brave. We assume positive intent and learn from moments of friction.

We heal the world. Racial justice and social equity are values in our work at Mishkan, and in our lives. Our practice of Judaism calls us to transform and heal our world.

We engage people. We take active steps to help people feel that they belong – if on the outside to come in, if on the inside, to form deeper connections.

We educate people. We build Jewish tradition and learning into everything we do.

We empower people to lead. We give people the space, tools and encouragement to help others find purpose, connection and inspiration.

We encourage self expression. Judaism is not a spectator sport, it's an active spiritual practice. We need to bring our whole selves and co-create our Jewish experience for it to change our lives.

2021 Mishkan by the Numbers

33%
LIVESTREAMING
VIEWERSHIP IS
OUT-OF-STATE

60 HOUSEHOLDS
OUT-OF-STATE
BUILDERS

120
KIDS
LEARNING IN
MENSCH
ACADEMY

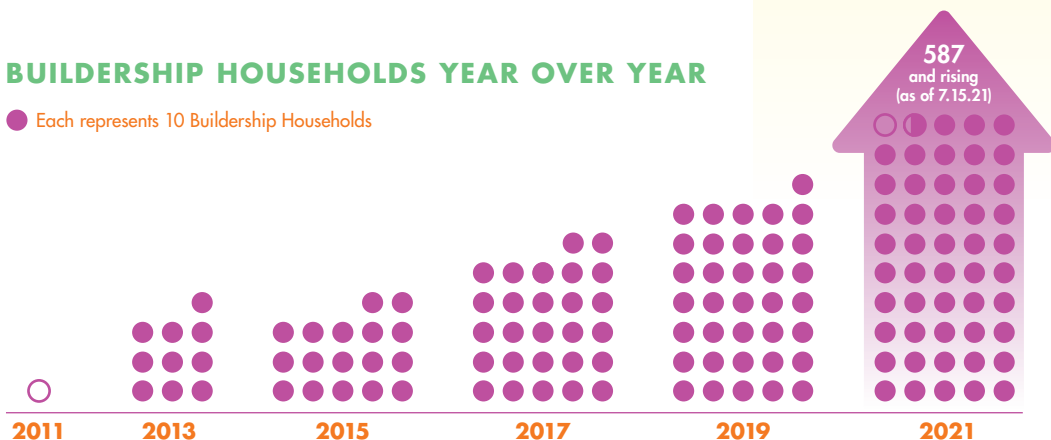
14 FULL-TIME
STAFF

4500+
ATTENDEES
SERVED IN 5781

16,459
PODCAST LISTENS

BUILDERSHIP HOUSEHOLDS YEAR OVER YEAR

● Each represents 10 Buildership Households



A Decade of Inspiration



RAISING MENSCHES

Mensch Academy started as a pilot project of 15 students in 2014 and has now grown into an innovative and award-winning program serving students from ages 3–13. This fall, we will welcome 100 students including 13 teens who will become BMitzvah. New this year, we're launching Mensch University, a teen leadership program for our Mensch alumni.



OUR GROWING STAFF

Mishkan's early days began with zero paid staff and has grown to include fourteen full-time and six part-time employees that help us serve our diverse and growing community.

From family programs to adult learning to justice work to Shabbat to the High Holidays and everything in between, our rockstar staff serves more than 4,500 people annually.



HIGHER HOLIDAYS, MORE INSPIRATION

We held our first High Holidays in 2012 at the Bodhi Spiritual Center (may its memory be a blessing) and as we grew, so did our venues. After three years at Bodhi, we moved to the Preston Bradley Center in Uptown, the Vic Theatre in Lakeview, and last year, virtually, where more than 2,700 of you tuned in for High

Holiday inspiration. This year, we're gathering for four incredible days of fresh air, music, and prayer at the Chicago History Museum.



GOOD SHABBOS, WEEKLY

Back in 2011, Mishkan held two services a month and books were couriered from location to location via Rabbi Lizzi's 2003 Honda Civic Hybrid. Fast forward to today, and our Shabbat services see more than 200 people in locations across Chicago with hundreds more tuning in to the live-stream each week. In the year ahead, we'll offer weekly Shabbat services led by Rabbis Lizzi, Deena, Steven, and our Davening Team.



A RABBINIC TRAINING GROUND

It turns out that inspired, down-to-earth Judaism also creates inspired, down-to-earth rabbis. Over the last decade, through our Leadership Fellowship, the Jewish Emergent Network Rabbinic Fellowship, and simply by encouraging young talent, we have seen thirteen community members (that we know of!) go on to Rabbinic School and serve as Rabbis out in the world (not to mention the ones who come back!).



2020

MAKING OUR MARK

Our SoundCloud featuring music by the Davening Team has seen over 200,000 listens, our two podcasts, Contact Chai and The Morning Scroll, have received over 16,000 listens, and more than one-third of our live-stream viewership tunes in from out-of-state. Mishkan has not only grown in size but in reputation, and our staff regularly provides guidance and mentorship to Jewish communities all over the world.



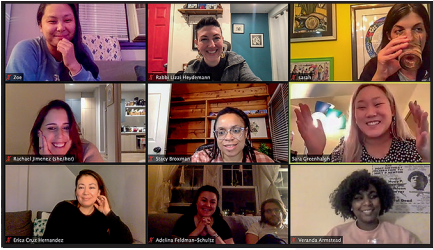
Our Impact

We believe that a budget is an expression of values. At Mishkan, we invest in talented people, meaningful programs and spaces to gather – and that's it! Our budget, and all the money raised to meet it, directly supports Mishkan's work engaging, educating and inspiring our community.

In 2021, our budget is \$2,000,000, which we raise through a combination of ticketing, Buildership, tuition, foundation grants, and donations large and small. Just as in the ancient Mishkan, every contribution counts, and no one is turned away for lack of funds.

This year, in addition to **weekly Shabbat services in person and online, the full Jewish calendar of holidays, lifecycle events, child and adult learning, staff-supported small groups and classes**, and more programs than ever, our budget and resources will support:

- You! We subsidize more than \$80,000 annually in Buildership fees, programs, and tuition for our community members.
- High-quality virtual access to High Holidays, Shabbat and programs throughout the year
- This year's High Holy Fest: four days of fresh air, music, prayer, and high holy inspiration at the Chicago History Museum.
- Investment in our staff. This year four new full-time staff members join our team including two full-time family educators and a third rabbi.
- A renewed commitment to anti-racism and to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, through training and resources for our staff and community. We will continue to aspire toward transparent, equitable, and explicitly anti-racist hiring and compensation practices with a commitment to bringing multi-talented and diverse voices to our team.



Shout Out: Givers

Our value of radical inclusivity means we make it possible for anyone who wants to, to be part of our community. Thank you to the following generous donors who make this possible, and supported Mishkan with gifts of \$5,000 or more this year:

Marcie & Mark Achler
Anonymous (4)
Wendy Berger
Hannah Bloom-Hirschberg
& Gary Hirschberg

Kathy & Peter Bresler
Lynn & Jeff Coe
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Lisa & Bruce Cohen
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Debbi & Aaron Cooper
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Susan & David Sherman
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Peter Stock
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Ericka & Matt Thacker
Josh Turnbull
Laren Ukman
Janice Wahnnon
Andrea & Larry Wolfe
Cindy Wolfson

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT OF THESE FOUNDATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS:

An Anonymous Family Foundation
Crown Family Philanthropies
JBaby Chicago
Pathways

The Jack and Goldie Wolfe
Miller Fund
The Jewish Emergent Network
The Nikoh Foundation
Legacy Heritage Foundation

HOW TO GIVE

Your gift, of any amount, will help us continue impacting the lives of thousands in Chicago and beyond, reimagining and breathing new life into Judaism. We gladly accept donations in your preferred method – check, credit card, Donor Advised Fund, stock, corporate matches and more. For more information, please contact Rhonda Abrams, rhonda@mishkanchicago.org.

Current as of July 28, 2021



Daniel Lauren Marcia Marle Amitai Ilene Julie Rob Larry Stacey Phil Andrea Denny Susan Jazmine Jeremy Shoshana Kathleen Mollie Nicole Ryan Jay Lauren Jana Phoebe Kay Annie Molly-Rose Amy Elizabeth Elise Max George Sara Dana Sabrina Michael Natalie Paul Ellyn Nikki Hannah Karyn Rus Reva William Leora Aleen Aliza Ross Julia Stephanie Francesco Katie Chadd Elizabeth Alexander Sara Philip Wendy Marni Seth Caryn Jim Jonathan Mackie Ashley Josh Alexis Henry Jessica Matthew Samuel Shira Liz Scott Theodore Wendy Ben Daniel Hannah Stephanie Tamar Marcia Britta Fay Terry Laura Aryn Olivia Blair Kathy Peter Carol Samuel Susanne Michael Michelle Stacy Kyle Rachel Matthew Rachel Jordan Denise Miriam Dustin Rebecca David Sheila Carolyn Adam Judy Adam Rayden Vanessa Michelle Joel Steven Alison Jane Courtney Annabeth Marston William Abra Shannon Jeffrey Lynn Anita Bruce Ethan F. Bruce Joel Lisa Mary Michael Stephanie Stuart Lee Margaret Robert Eliot Joan Gregory Christine Aaron Debbi Melanee Joshua Glen David Rachel Sarah Susan Abby Janessa Alexandra Sarai Bruce Deena Janis Rebecca Daniel Joshua Chris Gail Linda Hillary Michael Andrew Elizabeth Jane Laura Tony Lori Eddie Zoe Hans Owen Antonieta Rodrigo Carole David Natalie Alyssa Nick Sue Robert Ashley Mike Barbara Brianne David Elizabeth Inna Lori Monte Kenny Joel Julianne Alex Brandon Alexa Bex Matthew Rachel Emily Arthur Daniel Eileen Emma Jeremy Richard Sarah Shalisha Erica Daniel James Ya Robert Anne Daniel Soraya Emily Leah Acasia David Rachel Benji AnnMerle Elizabeth Tyler Gabriel Courtney Peter Ori Jo-Ann Elizabeth Gary Julie Morris Natalie Jamie Cheryl Ali Judy Rebecca Mollie Sarah Rachel David Michael Terri Dave Laura Adrienne Carla Emily Irwin Martin Lance Carla Jeremy Zachary Liza Rachel Ron Antonio Maris Josh Sarah Lili Eileen Michael Christa Andy Adam Aidan Michelle Alex Hillary Amber Thomas Anna Sanford Ilana Sari Daniel David Stephanie Sheila Megan Paige Hanna Evan Kevin Nikki Shellen Denyse Mindy R' Julie

Buildership (membership Mishkan-style)

Buildership is like synagogue membership, but more of a partnership that allows us to co-create your spiritual journey with you. We're looking for people to help us build a community of learning, moral inspiration, and mutual support. We welcome folks who are serious about radical inclusivity and want to create community with people across the spectrum of age, background and identity. We're a community built by people who bring their whole selves to something larger than themselves.

We offer Buildership at the individual, couple, or family level with options available at an amount that works for you. Like what you see? Join us!

www.mishkanchicago.org/join



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Laurie Aaron David Galit Harry Marilyn Ronald Joseph Tim Emily Hannah Kellie Suzanne Michael Stefanie Akiva Elena Marlyn Donna Linda Michelle Ricky Sara Aimee Deborah Charles Samara Ezra Marcie Lauren Andy Leah Carol Anita Stephen Adam Shani Helaine Lizzie Peter Bruce Vicki Rachel BJ Elizabeth Kris Gary Alison James Evan Heather Jennifer Molly Alec Gary Julie Meme Daniel Gideon Marci Max Susan Brian Ezra Rosalind Kiya Lauren Scott Andy Audrey Faye Karen David Nancy Evan Shama Rachael James Daniel Fern Isaac Sharon Elana Robin Jan Richard Debbie Emily Stephen Taly Alan Ellen Daniel Debbie Phil Rachel Shellie Jonathan Robin Jacob Jessica Delia Katie Linda Zachary Abigail Jordan Ariel Belle Brian Wendy Benna Megan Matthew Jennifer Eitan Daniel Johanna Maura Elissa Frank Margarita Peter Stephanie Miriam Danielle Marci Kevin Rosemarie Lisa Michael Melanie Jennifer Elli Bonnie Lauren Adam Marla Lauren Jonathan Amy Jonah Dana Meredith Abigail Peter Karen Larry Matthew Yoni Brooke Alexandra Benay Jack Robin Karen Lee Mark Robin Josh Karen Gary Laura Robert Elizabeth Deanna Debra Morrigan Yaffa Felice Jacob Jeremy Rebecca Anna Allison Ash Jeffrey Jess Josh Sarah Tamar Molly Buffy Stephen Drew Avi Shana Allie Steven Marielle Katherine Marc Bob Bryna Avi Karen Jessica Rob Bonnie Andy Tracey Daniel Margaret Paul Rachel Joshua Bill John Lauren Seth Marina Emily Lindsey Susan Allison Lewis Michael Shira Claire Judith Steven Chelsie Ruth Zeldo Asher Sarah Dylan Brandt Peter Luke Mandie Kelly Patricia Grace Rachel Steven Daniel Cheryl Michael Jennifer Michael Maureen Rebecca Kira Adam Debra Bob Ashley Daniel Dorlee Jonathan Josh Maggie Rachel Robert Catherine Jennifer Jonathan Judith Paul Renita Scott Leora Alan Kathy Scott Steve Julie Jennifer Tracey Susan Dori Kira Sara Zac Deborah Konya Laura Mike David Amy Amy David Samira Jessy Yakov Justin Tehilla Patricia Julie Anne Stephanie Elia Aaron Alicia Cindy Jonathan Sarah Michael Noa Simone Patti Aaron Diane Wendy Allison Hart Michael Max Mandy William Hannah Jonathan Rob Karen Rona Ira Adam Bobbi Clare Michelle Karen Brian Ariane Naomi Carol Mickey Jacob Lisa Elizabeth Jonathan Neil Ross Nicole Dan Dani Shayndi Sylvie Naomi Andy Emily Jaclyn Jake Michelle Miriam Adam Paul Robyn Emily Rebecca Bob Daniel Teme Lilia Roberta Tom Viki Marion Stanley Laura Michelle Jennifer Ilana Jeff Rena Tal Hannah Al Andrea Jim Mark Mary Matthew Natania Beth Jenn Rebecca Betsy Stuart Craig Heidi Jennifer Lisa Michael Scott Sheribel Nancy Natalie Jared Lorra Iris Rachael Joshua Katherine Mitchell Julia Marc Susan Asia Jeffrey Eve Mark Michael Rachel Brian Rachel Felicia Lauren Jill Jenny Jeremy Lincoln Eric Yaniv Samuel Danit Joshua Daniel Mike Yasmin Robyn Jody Kristen Charles Elizabeth Daniel Wendy Stephanie Alexander Aleya Joshua Rachel Amy Nathaniel Rachel Alyssa Paul Betsy David Jeff Jill Phyllis Deborah Tamar Ellen Eve Jacob Joey David Donna Dee Carryl Meg Melinda Alison Briana Mark Ilene Melanie Shana Susan Rebecca Eric Annie Rob Jamie Matthew Rebecca Zack Cameron Chuck Erica Carol David Beth Alex Elesheva Anna Reuven Jonathan Steve Debby Linda Susie Ellie Cara Jeffrey Amy David Sara Stephanie Marta Andy Ross Devi Joshua Marty Michelle Wendy Rebecca Josh Elliot Jane Jeff Traci Adam Celia Rob Nick Dana Hannah Rona Martin Sarah Wendy Erica Sasha Zachary Marc Maria Cassandra Alison Ericka Matt Ronen Seth Jeff Danielle David Faye Omri Joshua Lex Katherine Laren Lesa David Eliana Lydia Naomi Irene Carol Janice Emily Tami Debra Sara Oberon David Jennifer Dinah Alicia Jane Daniel Michelle Sarah Zach Jed Saul Susan Sherry Eric Benjamin Dov Jeffrey Jennifer Noah Sandor Sarah Aria Dan Leah Eric Rachel Doug Rachel Robin Andi Larry Daniel Barbara Cindy Sharon Nicholas Judith Anna Adam Arno DebbJeff Andi Fida Jacob Emily Lenore Alan