

MISHKAN

STATE OF THE

Leading people toward purpose, connection and inspiration

5/8/4

Welcome to Mishkan. We're glad you're here.

We're on a mission to lead people toward more purposeful, connected, and inspired lives. We are excited to share all of the ways that we have created spaces of belonging, learning, and transformation in the past year, and will continue to in the year ahead. Since our founding in 2011, we have prided ourselves on iterating and refining our programs as the needs of our community evolve. In this year's State of the Mishkan you'll see how we're growing, what we're learning, and how you might plug in.

We believe that when people of different backgrounds and stories join together in purposeful community, we discover the best in ourselves and breathe new life into Judaism. Whomever you are, wherever you are, Mishkan is here to walk with you on your journey, and help you find your people.

L'shannah tovah u'metukah – here's to a sweet and healthy new year!

2023



Find Your People

Over the last year, Mishkan's Small Groups have taken off, thanks to the leadership and enthusiasm of our community – you!

Small Groups are opportunities for Mishkanites to own their journeys by designing lay-led experiences for folks with shared interests or in a common life stage. With the support of dedicated Mishkan staff, our small groups have become a popular and powerful way to build relationships outside of our services and classes.

Thank you to the many Builders who stepped up to host the following small groups this year, which met both online and in person:

- LGBTQIA+
- Weekly Torah Study
- Disability and Chronic Illness
- 20s and 30s
- Mussar Book Club
- Empty Nesters Brunch Club
- Wise Guys (retired men's group)
- Rosh Chodesh women's circles
- Mensch Academy grade meetups
- And more!

If you are looking to join an existing small group or create your own, please be in touch with us at engagement@mishkanchicago.org!

THIS YEAR BY THE NUMBERS

17 FULL-TIME
STAFF

11 PART-TIME
STAFF

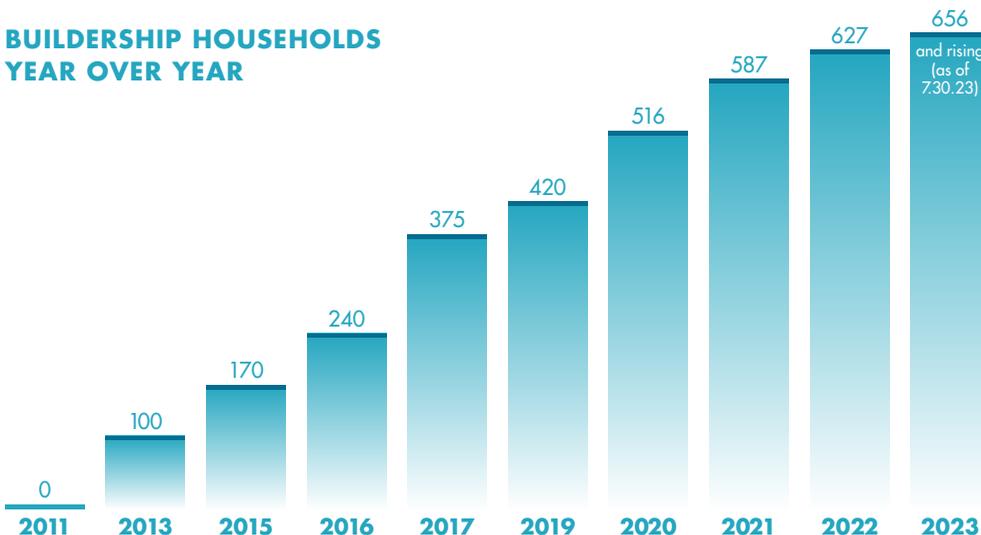
155
KIDS
LEARNING FROM
PRE-K TO
GRADE 7

55
SMALL
GROUP
EVENTS

4500+
ATTENDEES
SERVED IN 5783

73 HOUSEHOLDS
OUT-OF-STATE
BUILDERS

BUILDERSHIP HOUSEHOLDS YEAR OVER YEAR



Growing Our Family Programs

The last several years have seen tremendous growth of families at Mishkan, and as our community of young Mishkanites has grown, so has our commitment to serving them (and of course their grown-ups, too)!



This past summer, we welcomed Rabbi Ari Moffic as the Director of Youth and Teen Experience, and Rachel Mylan as the Director of Early and Elementary Life. Rabbi Ari will focus on the experience of youth ages 12–18 including BMitzvah and teen programs, and Rachel, who has served as our beloved family Shabbat song leader, will expand her role to oversee Shabbat and holiday programs for kids ages 0–11, as well as parent support groups. Rabbi Ari and Rachel, alongside our Mensch Academy staff and rabbis, will focus on supporting families throughout their Jewish journeys, including:

- **Shabbat!** We'll build on the success of Rise and Shine and Mah Tov on Shabbat mornings (serving kids 0–8), adding grade-level Friday nights and havdalah programs;
- More **kid-and-teen-friendly Holiday and High Holiday** programs;
- Another **Young Families retreat**, in partnership with the JFAM and OSRUI;
- Launching a new **6th grade Fundamentals** program that focuses on building confidence in Hebrew, Torah study, the prayer service, public speaking, as well as modern Jewish values and issues;
- Deepening our partnership with the now two dozen families going through the **BMitzvah** process at Mishkan each year;
- Building a **robust teen program for post-BMitzvah** engagement including leadership opportunities, retreats, a social justice trip with the Jewish Emergent Network, and a trip to Israel



We are grateful for this community that continues to give us new opportunities to lead people toward more purposeful, more connected, and more inspired lives through Jewish learning, community and practice – at every life stage.

Looking Back at 5783



TOGETHER AGAIN

In 5783, we focused on renewing and rebuilding our in-person Shabbat experience. Whether outside or inside at Parker, North Center Town Square, Wilson Abbey, Second Unitarian or in our office – we welcomed the Shabbos bride with as much gusto as before the pandemic...but now with in-house professional live streaming!

PARTNERS IN HEALING

We have built a relationship of substance, honesty and healing with Lawndale Christian Community Church. Last year, we gathered for three programs: a joint service on Tisha B'Av, a commemoration of MLK Day, and a Juneteenth justice event on bail reform. This fall, we will build a sukkah together, establishing a permanent memorial garden at Lawndale Christian Legal Center.



BUILDERS IN SERVICE

We launched our new Builders in Service program, partnering for our first year with JUF's Uptown Cafe. We also showed up to volunteer at the Beth Emet Food Kitchen. Kudos to our community who are fulfilling one of our core values – tikkun, or healing what's broken.



GROWING JEWS, GROWING JEWISH LEARNING

We grew our adult learning programs, bringing hundreds of people together to explore Jewish wisdom on topics that shape our lives, and connecting with folks around shared identities. We offered a learning series about antisemitism and two Exploring Judaism cohorts, online and in person, guiding over 50 students through Jewish journeys and conversions. We will offer even more opportunities for adults to learn in the year ahead.

MAGGIE'S PLACE AWARDED JUF MENTAL HEALTH GRANT

We are proud to have received a JUF Mental Health Initiative Award for Maggie's Place, supporting our community's mental health through groups staffed by clinicians, as well as expanding our referral network of therapists. This year, we offered support groups for bereavement, LGBTQ+ kids and parents, expectant and new parents, and caregivers of neurodiverse children. This grant also helped us to increase classroom aide hours to support neurodiverse kids at Mensch Academy.



Looking Ahead to 5784

WE WILL:

- **Launch Blueprint: Building a Jewish Life**, a choose-your-own-adventure learning program for those who want to explore foundational topics of Judaism in an approachable and accessible way, open to all adult learners with a special track for those considering conversion.
- **Elevate the remote experience** with our Shabbat livestream and virtual program offerings including our weekly podcast release of minyan and sermons on “Contact Chai.”
- **Expand Hebrew at Mensch Academy** with a new Hebrew Exploration class as well as consistent Hebrew integration across all Mensch Academy programming and beyond.
- **Give Rabbi Lizzi her first-ever sabbatical!** As part of building a positive staff culture, our new policy grants a sabbatical to all our staff after seven years of dedicated service. After 13 years building this spiritual community, Rabbi Lizzi will take time for rest, renewal and reflection (and ice skating!). Her sabbatical will begin in November 2023 and will last three months.



Planning for the Future

This past year we launched a strategic planning process with the goal of learning how Mishkan can level up our ability to bring a stronger sense of purpose, deeper connections within community, and meaningful Jewish inspiration to keep you nourished and growing. More than 70 community members participated in focus groups centered around three main topics:

- **Balancing growth of family programming** to better understand how we serve families, children, and teens while still valuing and prioritizing intellectually rigorous and spiritually uplifting prayer and learning experiences for adults;
- **Evaluating our conversion program and adult education** to better understand our community’s appetite for adult education programs at Mishkan, and the impact of their growth;
- **Exploring our community’s interest and demand for physical space** for Shabbat, Mensch Academy, and our programs.

In the coming months, we are excited to share next steps!

Our Impact

We believe that a budget is an expression of values, and our budget directly supports Mishkan's work engaging, educating and inspiring our community. At Mishkan, we invest in talented people, meaningful programs and spaces to gather – and that's it! In 2023, our budget was \$2,600,000, which we raised through a combination of tickets, Buildership, tuition, foundation grants, and donations large and small.

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 support:

- **Accessibility and Security** at High Holidays, Shabbat and programs throughout the year. In addition to our amazing staff, we invest \$25,000 annually in comprehensive security for our programs. We also offer American Sign Language at our in-person Friday night services and have prioritized accessibility for the visually and hearing impaired at our in-person and virtual experiences. We consistently offer best-in-class livestreaming and invest more than \$60,000 toward these efforts each year;
- **Mensch Academy:** We continue to expand our after-school program and will serve 119 students this school year. With your support, we raised a total of \$86,000 from the community, including \$40,000 in matching funds from two generous Mensch families. This campaign allowed us to offer sliding scale tuition to this year's enrolling families, expand our Hebrew offerings and conduct a formal program assessment around offerings for children with special learning needs;
- **High Holidays:** four days of joyful prayer, music, and high holy inspiration for more than 2,400 people at the Copernicus Center;
- **Our Staff:** Mishkan is powered by our amazing team consisting of 17 full-time staff members and 11 part-time staff members, including 3 full-time clergy;
- **You!** We subsidize more than \$113,000 annually in Buildership fees, programs, and tuition for our community members. Just as in the ancient Mishkan, every contribution counts, and no one is turned away for lack of funds.



Our Givers

Everyone is welcome at Mishkan regardless of ability to pay for Buildership or programs. We are grateful for every dollar of support from every donor at any level, and part of what makes our financially inclusive model possible is the generosity of those who are able to give at higher levels. Thank you for your visionary support.

MACHER COLLECTIVE: \$10,000+

In Yiddish, *macher* means a person who gets things done, literally a “maker.” This group makes this community possible for so many others with their support.



Anonymous (3)

Britta Bolin & Peter Kupferberg

Hannah Bloom-Hirschberg
& Gary Hirschberg

Anita & Stephanie Cohen

Bruce & Lisa Cohen

Margaret & Lee Cohn

Debbi & Aaron Cooper

Melanee Cooper

Terri & Michael Freeman

Sari Gluckin & Lance Friedmann

Kate Grossman & Peter Fidler

Vered Hankin, Jeremy Kaufman
& Family

The Heydemann Family

Vicki & Bruce Heyman

Ali & Jim Hirshorn

Karen & Andy Jacobs

Karen & Larry Kurtzon

Avi Lewittes & Family

Katherine Linzer

Margaret & Paul Lurie

The Morgenstern Wilson Family

Lisa Portnoy

Elizabeth & Ross Posner

Rebecca Richards
& Matthew Kutcher

Susan & Marc Sacks

Joshua Schwartz

Naomi Pollock & David Sneider

Caryn & Larry Straus

Rona Talcott & Owen Deutsch

Ericka & Matt Thacker

Laren Ukman

Andi & Larry Wolfe

THANK YOU

תודה

MISHPUCHA: \$5,000-\$9,999

You are family! And like any strong *mishpucha*, people contribute in different ways to create a warm, vibrant, loving home for themselves and others.

Marcie & Mark Achler
Anonymous (3)
Wendy A. Berger
Kathy & Peter Bresler
Denise Burch & Eric Weinstein
Joan Colmar & Mitchell Sabshon
Rachel Cort & David Frankel
Liz & Gary Fisch
Rabbi Lizzi Heydemann
& Henry Bernstein
Meme & Gary Hopmayer
Sharon Kahan & Alan Miretzky

Abigail Kuchnir & Jacob Levin
Karen & Josh Leavitt
Molly G. Levitt
Karen & Avi Lothan
Dorlee & Jonathan Michaeli
Ann & Stephen Ross
Peggy & Mike Stevens
Joshua Turnbull
Janice Wahnon
Cindy Wolfson
Deb & Jeff Zaluda

FOUNDATIONS:

An Anonymous Family
Foundation
Bruce C. Abrams Foundation
Crown Family Philanthropies
Carylon, Julius and Marcie
Hemmelstein Foundation
Jewish United Fund
Nikoh 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 via your preferred method – check, credit card, Donor Advised Fund, stock, corporate matches and more. For more information, please contact Rhonda Abrams, rhonda@mishkanchicago.org.



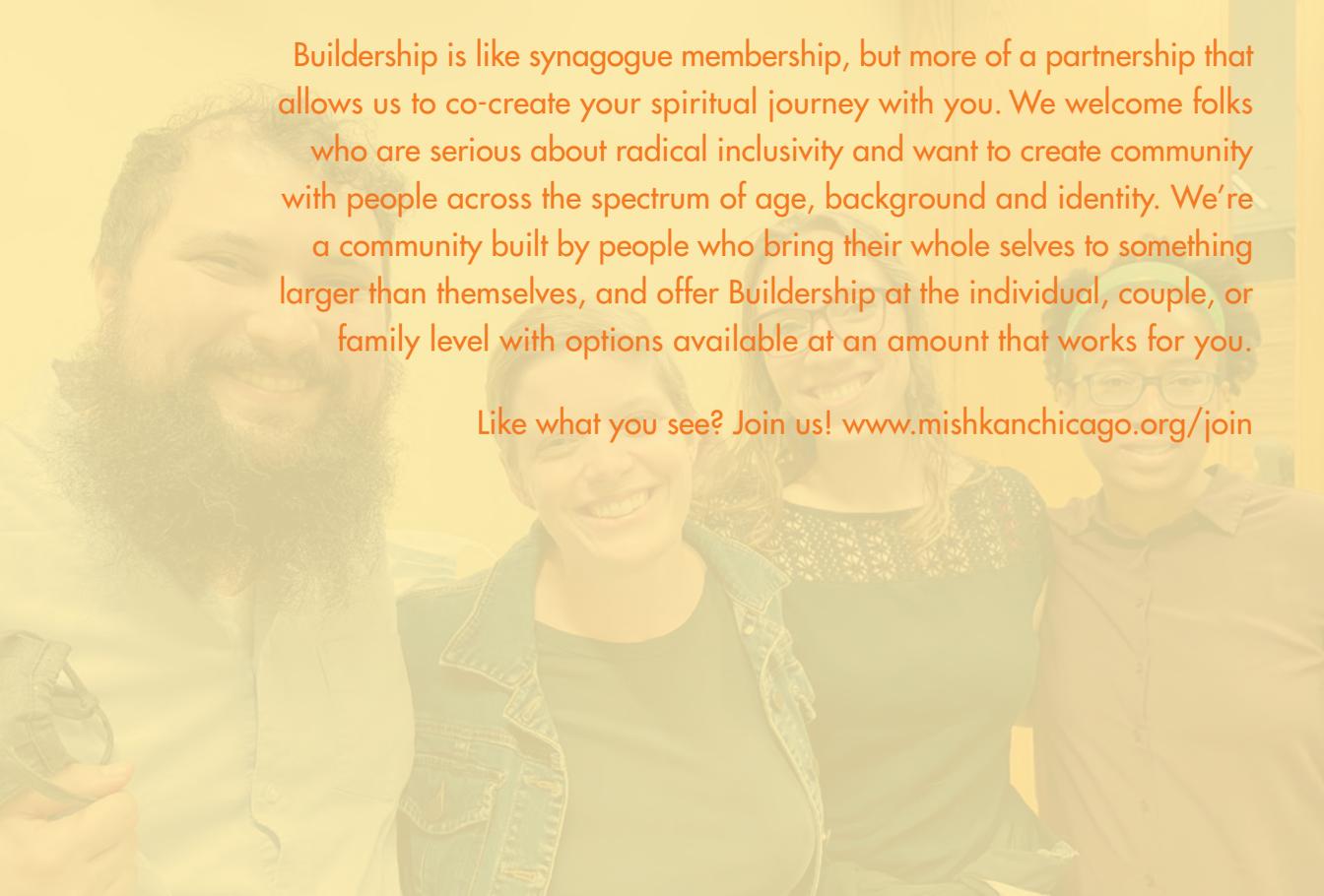
תּוֹדָה

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 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, and 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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