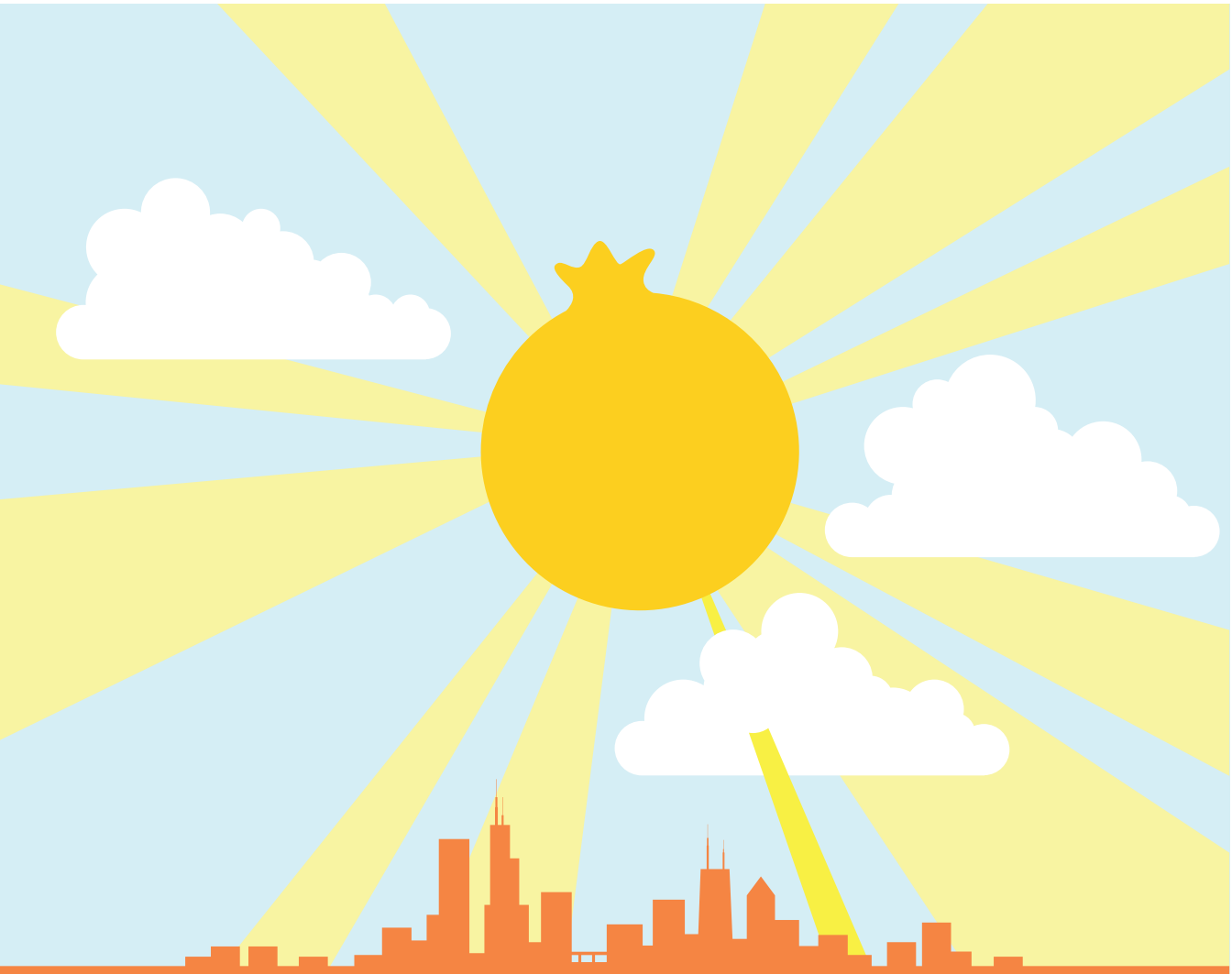


state of the mishkan

TISHREI 5777 • OCTOBER 2016

To engage, educate, empower & inspire the next generation in Chicago and beyond through dynamic experiences of Jewish prayer, learning, music, social activism and community building.



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



The first Mishkan email, sent in September of 2011, began with the audacious question, "What might happen if...."

What if we approach Judaism with the same creativity and experimental attitude that we'd bring to a start-up organization? What if we marry post-modern irreverence and traditional devotion in the same service, and push even wider the boundaries of our intellectual and ideological tents? What if we create a sacred space that models radical inclusivity, meeting people where they are – financially, locationally, socially, spiritually– and empowering them to grow? What if organized Jewish prayer were actually as satisfying as a good yoga class, as uplifting as a good rock show, and as subversive and smart as a page of Talmud?

We wanted to find out. At our first service we were 65 people in a Lincoln Park living room, all volunteer-run, with borrowed prayer books and a hunch that we might be onto something. Five years later, we've touched thousands of people between services, classes, workshops, partnerships, online music, and live festivals. The fact that over 1,500 people will walk through our doors to pray, sing, dream, dance, learn, eat, fast, reflect and celebrate, this year for High Holidays is truly mind blowing.

On a personal level, what keeps me excited is that the magic, anticipation, intellectual quest, and spiritual energy that filled the room that first night, still buzzes through our community and continues to grow every day. Whoever you are, wherever you've come from and whatever your background, we're so glad you're here and we welcome you to this holy experiment in community building called Mishkan.

L'shannah tovah and many blessings,
Rabbi Lizzi Heydemann



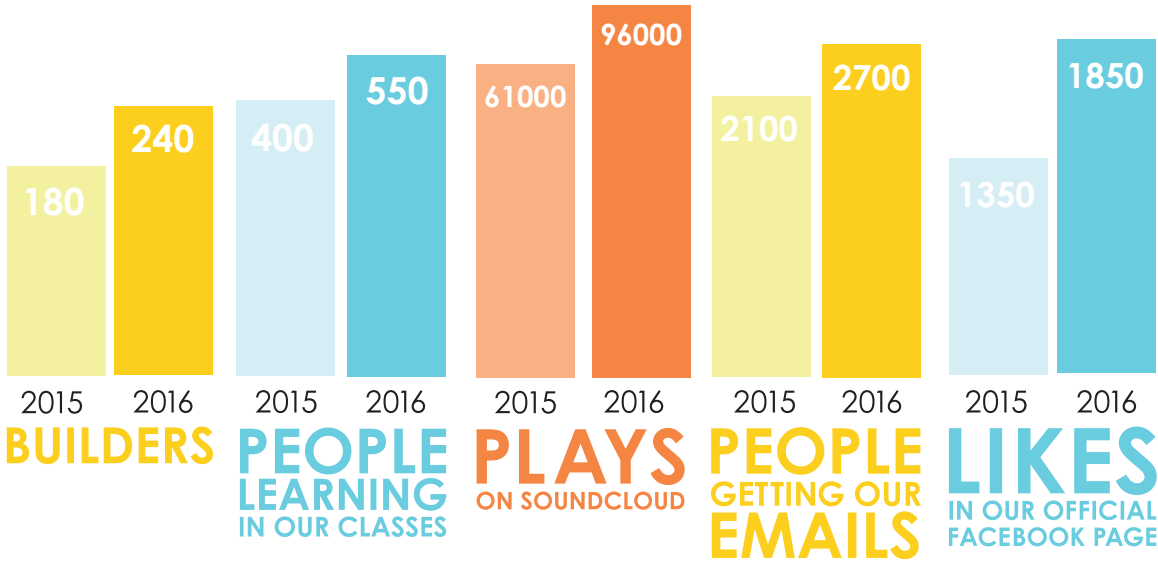
Radically inclusive.

Mishkan creates a community as colorful and diverse as Jews are in the 21st century. Mishkan brings together young adults (look around, you'll notice a few), folks who identify as LGBTQ, Jews-by-choice, interfaith couples and families, and spiritual seekers of all ages and backgrounds, creating safe space to be 'out' about what makes us who we are. The common thread is a shared vision of community built around authentic and deep prayer, intellectually honest and high-level learning, and down-to-earth Jewish spirituality that motivates activism in our own lives and in the world to create more light, more healing, more justice and more joy.



Growing broad...

Mishkan has seen incredible growth this year. By the numbers...



Going deep.

Our mission is to engage, educate, empower and inspire people in Chicago and beyond through dynamic experiences of Jewish prayer, learning, social activism and community building.

ENGAGE Meet our staff, Leadership Fellows, Board, Neighborhood Captains or volunteers for a 1:1 conversation over a drink. Talk to us about your spiritual journey or your next big idea that we can help make happen.



EDUCATE We offer a variety of learning opportunities that are simultaneously sophisticated and open to all levels— regardless of previous study or knowledge. Classes this past year included: High Holiday Bootcamp, The S&M Bet Midrash— intensive all-levels Talmud study (with our partner in crime SVARA: A Traditionally Radical Yeshiva), Do-It-Yourself Judaism— a partnership with Orot: Center for New Jewish Learning, and other discussion groups and workshops. We are excited to add the Chicago Social Justice Bet Midrash— in partnership with Jewish Council on Urban Affairs and AVODAH: The Jewish Service Corps, as well as Mensch Academy for kids & families.

EMPOWER We take leadership seriously and empower young adults to take roles as service leaders and teachers, cultivating the next generation of Jewish leadership for Chicago and beyond. This year our popular Neighborhood Captains/LOCALS program grew and we deepened leadership opportunities in the community through our Love Team, Davening Team, Social Justice Team and the 40s+ Social Team.



INSPIRE Our signature Shabbat services are what put us on the map and continue to inspire hundreds each month. Join us on the 2nd and last Fridays of the month and the 1st Saturday of the month to get a taste of the good stuff— inspired, down-to-earth Jewish spirituality served up with harmony, rhythm, intentionality, spiritual seriousness, intellectual curiosity, fabulous people, great food, and more than a little fun, including Mini-Mishkan, Jewish spirituality for little and baby Jews, and family Friday night dinners.

Headlines of 5776.



SLINGSHOT '15-'16 (again!) Featured as one of the few organizations in Chicago to be named in the National Slingshot Guide for Jewish innovation.



THE JEWISH EMERGENT NETWORK Mishkan Chicago is one of seven path-breaking Jewish communities, launching a two year rabbinic fellowship to train the next generation of entrepreneurial rabbis (more on page 9).



NEW WEBSITE We did it! We transformed our little web 2.0 presence into Mishkan's modern digital home! Massive thank you to the Harvey L. Miller Foundation for helping us make our presence on the web as exciting and colorful as the community we create on the ground.



MENSCH ACADEMY & FAMILY PROGRAMS The little Jews and baby Jews get their dose of inspired, down-to-earth Judaism every Shabbat morning. Mishkan meets with mini-mishkan, family Friday night dinners before services, greatest hits musical experiences and Sunday holiday & service programs— not to mention Mensch Academy launching this fall (more on page 7)!



WE GREW, BIG TIME Get Higher 5773: 600 people; 5774: 900 people; 5775: 1200 people; 5776: 1450 people, this year: 1600 Holy Moly!



PARTNERSHIPS Who doesn't love text with multiple partners? Seriously, this has been a year of collaborating, optimizing space, talent and bringing the best of spiritual and intellectual Chicago to you. This year we partnered with Anshe Emet Synagogue (Conservative), Anshe Sholom (Orthodox), AVODAH: The Jewish Service Corp, Moishe House, Orot: Center for New Jewish Learning, SVARA: A Traditionally Radical Yeshiva, JCC 20s & 30s, Upstart, Jewish Council on Urban Affairs, Catalyst Ranch, The Self Help Home & more!



WE GREW OUR OWN TEAM to seven full-time staff members (more on page 8).

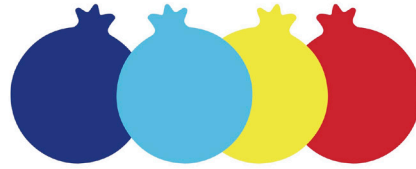


EXPANDED MISHKAN'S SPACE We expanded our Ravenswood space to a 1600 square-foot industrial loft space, perfect for working during the day and workshoping, learning and mingling at night. The new and improved Mishkan space has been hopping virtually every night of the week all summer with classes and events. Come visit!



MISHKAMP! With a grant from Moishe House, Mishkan ran our first immersive experience— Adult Jewish Summer Camp (especially designed for people who never went to Jewish camp) at Beber Camp, in Wisconsin.

THE MENSCH ACADEMY



mensch • men(t)SH/

Noun: 1. a person of integrity and honor. 2. The kind of person you want your kid to be.

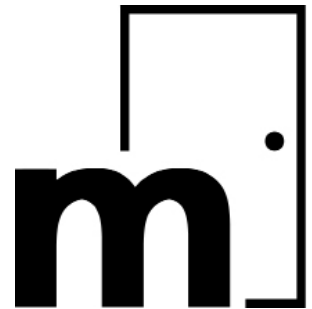
The Mensch Academy is inspired, down-to-earth Judaism for kids and families. At Mensch Academy, kids build character, confidence, curiosity and a sense of who they are as Jews in the world through engaging in serious Jewish learning, prayer and exploration. Respecting each person's mind and spirit, Mensch Academy is a space where kids feel loved enough and safe enough to take risks and experiment with Jewish tradition, making it their own and becoming the best versions of themselves.

After an intense year of research and development, not to mention a 6-month-long pilot cohort, Mensch Academy is launching THIS FALL for 3rd-7th graders and their families. For more information contact Vision Director, Ilana Gleicher-Bloom: ilana@mishkanchicago.org or visit our website.

MAGGIE'S PLACE

Launching in January 2017, Maggie's Place will be a center based out of Mishkan Chicago's Ravenswood office, established in Maggie Miretzky's memory by the Miretzky Family. Maggie's Place will allow us to expand our programs that support the overall health and wellness – mental, emotional, spiritual – of young adults and others through workshops, classes, access to organizational and professional resources, and the support of a community. Maggie's Place will be run by Mishkan's own Ellie Spitz, MSW, in her new role as Director of Community Engagement and Wellness. Interested in learning more or getting involved?

Email Ellie at ellie@mishkanchicago.org.



COMING IN 5777

- More online learning, music and prayer
- Jewish meditation at the Space
- Developing our justice partnerships, including the new Social Justice Beit Midrash
- More immersive weekend experiences
- So. Much. More.

Shout out: Leadership

STAFF

We may be small but we are mighty. From our home-grown, local Rabbi and founder, to our staff of 6 and growing, Mishkan's staff has (collective) decades of experience envisioning, creating, growing, sustaining and organizing community.



Rabbi Lizzi Heydemann, Rabbi & Founder

Rabbi Lauren Henderson, JEN Rabbinic Fellow

Rachel Cort, Managing Director

Ellie Spitz, Director of Community Engagement and Wellness

Ilan Gleicher-Bloom, Vision Director of the Mensch Academy & Family Programs

Rachel Gray Alexander, Marketing & Communications Manager

Natalie Dibo, Rabbinic, Executive & Administrative Assistant

TEAMS

Shout out to the literally hundreds of people who make things happen: Christy Cook, James Evans and the entire Love Team, the 5777 High Holidays Volunteer Squad: James Evans, Breezi Plack, Hillary Gimpel, Tamara Rushovich, and Benna Kessler, the Davening Team, the Development Team, our Neighborhood Captains/LOCALS, the 40s+ Social Team, and the Social Justice Team. Want to get involved? Email: ellie@mishkanchicago.com.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mishkan's rocking Board of Directors is leading our organization as we grow and realize our vision and fulfill our mission. They keep us motivated and grounded as we continue to pioneer new entryways into Jewish life. **James Edward Johnson** (Board President), **Susan Horowitz** (Secretary), **Avi Levine** (departing Treasurer– we'll miss you!), **Jane Charney**, **Rabbi Lizzi Heydemann**, **Scott Issen**, **Jacob Kaufman** & **Daniel Riff**. We're excited to welcome to the board this fall: **Lisa Portnoy** (Treasurer), **Mark Achler** & **Stephanie Goldfarb**.

LEADERSHIP FELLOWS

We're so proud of our leadership fellows, young adults who over the past four years have grown their Jewish spiritual leadership skills. Check out what they're up to now!

Grace Gleason (current): Grace is part of the full time program at SVARA and working as the sho'et *umeishivah/bet midrash* assistant for the first year students.

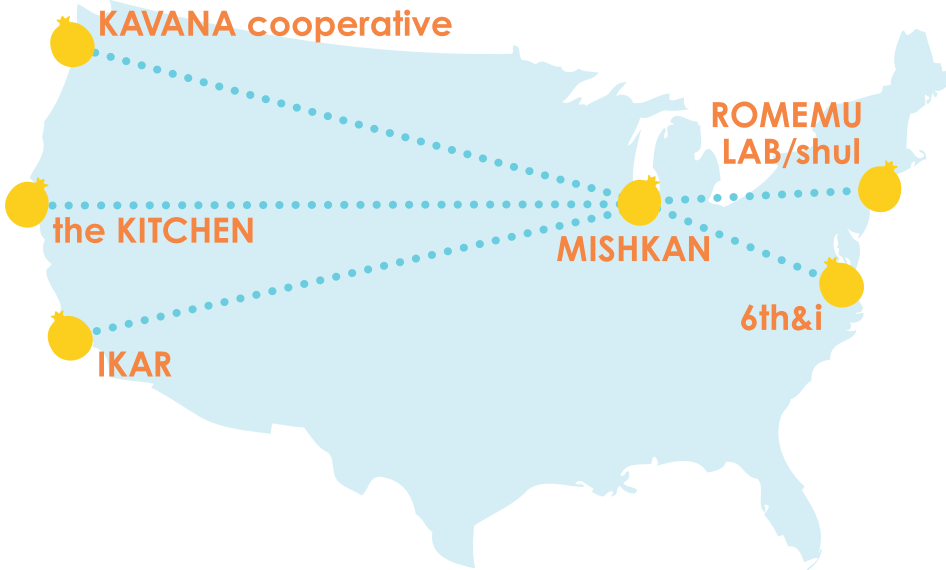
Abi Weber (2012-14): Abi has started rabbinical school at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City.

Miriam Grossman (2012-13): Miriam is a student at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, a Wexner Graduate Fellow and is the Student Rabbi for Kolot Chayeinu in Brooklyn, NY.

Steven Philp (2011-14): Steven is a student (and a Wexner Graduate Fellow) at the Jewish Theological Seminary. This year, he will be the Student Rabbi for Maryland Hillel. He continues to contribute to Mishkan through his work as a graphic designer.

Jewish Emergent Network

The Jewish Emergent Network is a new collaboration of seven path-breaking Jewish communities across America, and our first project is a National Rabbinic Fellowship. Every entrepreneurial venture confronts the question of how to scale beyond a local effort to make an even larger and lasting impact. Our first project is to train the next generation of entrepreneurial rabbis, growing innovative spiritual leaders who will take their training on the road and transform the Jewish future. Our first cohort was highly competitive, and placed one early career rabbi into each of the JEN communities for a two-year period. Rabbi Lauren (our Fellow, read her bio below) will develop her rabbinic vision and skills, and will complete the Fellowship with a national cohort of creative, vision-driven rabbis eager to reanimate North American Jewish life.

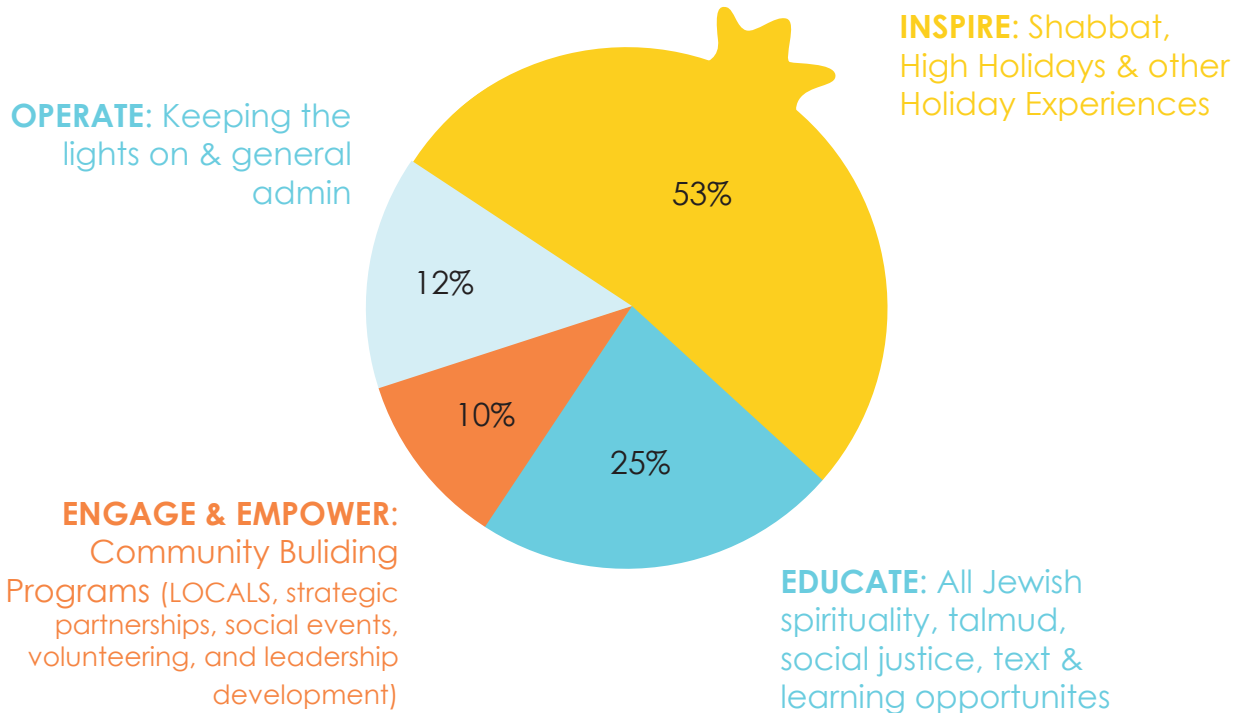


Rabbi Lauren recently finished rabbinical school at the Jewish Theological Seminary, with a masters in Midrash and a certificate in Pastoral Care. She grew up in a small but mighty Jewish community in Spartanburg, South Carolina as part of an interfaith family, went to Rice University in Houston, where she graduated cum laude in Religious Studies and History. She's taught in a wide variety of settings such as IKAR in Los Angeles, the Pelham Jewish Center in New York, Congregation B'nai Jeshurun in Cleveland, and at Camp Ramah in the Rockies. She'll be working with Mensch Academy, as well as developing Jewish mindfulness programs at Mishkan, working with community partners on social justice partnerships, and meeting with anyone to drink coffee, learn Torah, and ponder big, juicy life questions. When she's not doing Jewy things, Lauren loves running, baking, and spontaneous dance parties.

Your impact.

As a nonprofit, Mishkan relies on the support of individuals in the community to help the organization succeed. With no capital (building) expenses, we are able to focus on what really matters – the best staff, the best programs, and smart growth.

Our budget for 2016 is \$875,000, and we expect this budget to grow as Mishkan does. The chart below illustrates a broad overview of how that money is used, with staff salaries distributed into each program area proportional to the needs of that category. If you'd like to know more about our budget, please email rachel@mishkanchicago.org.

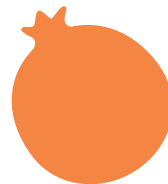


Our budget--and all the money raised to meet it--directly supports Mishkan in achieving its mission to engage, empower, educate and inspire the next generation in Chicago and beyond.

Shout out: Givers

Mishkan is generously supported by:

Crown Family Philanthropies
Harvey L. Miller Family Foundation
Jack & Goldie Wolfe Miller Fund,
Jewish United Fund / Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago
An Anonymous Family Foundation
The Zarrow Family Foundation
The Saffro and Levy Family Fund
Natan Fund



Mark & Marcie Achler
Lynn & Jeff Coe
Bruce & Lisa Cohen
Stephanie & Anita Cohen
Debbi & Aaron Cooper
Lori & Monte Dube
Abel & Judy Friedman
Charlie Hammerslough & Debby Spertus
Sari Gluckin & Lance Friedmann
Jim & Ali Hirshorn
Gary & Meme Hopmayer
Vered & Jeremy Kaufman
Jacob Kaufman
Dr. Ariel & Belle Kerman
Larry and Karen Kurtzon
Avi Lewittes
Beatrice Mayer
Rabbi Ruth Mayer
Mandy & Billy Pekin
The Rivkin Family
Andrea & Alan Solow
Josh Turnbull
Deb & Jeff Zaluda

And YOU!

Thank you.
Seriously, truly, really.
We can't do what we do without you.
YOU create Mishkan.

Find
MEANING
MUSIC
COMMUNITY
TORAH
TRUTH
INSPIRATION
LOVE

Hell, let's just say it,

GOD

Find yourself @

משכן mishkan
CHICAGO

inspired, down-to-earth Judaism