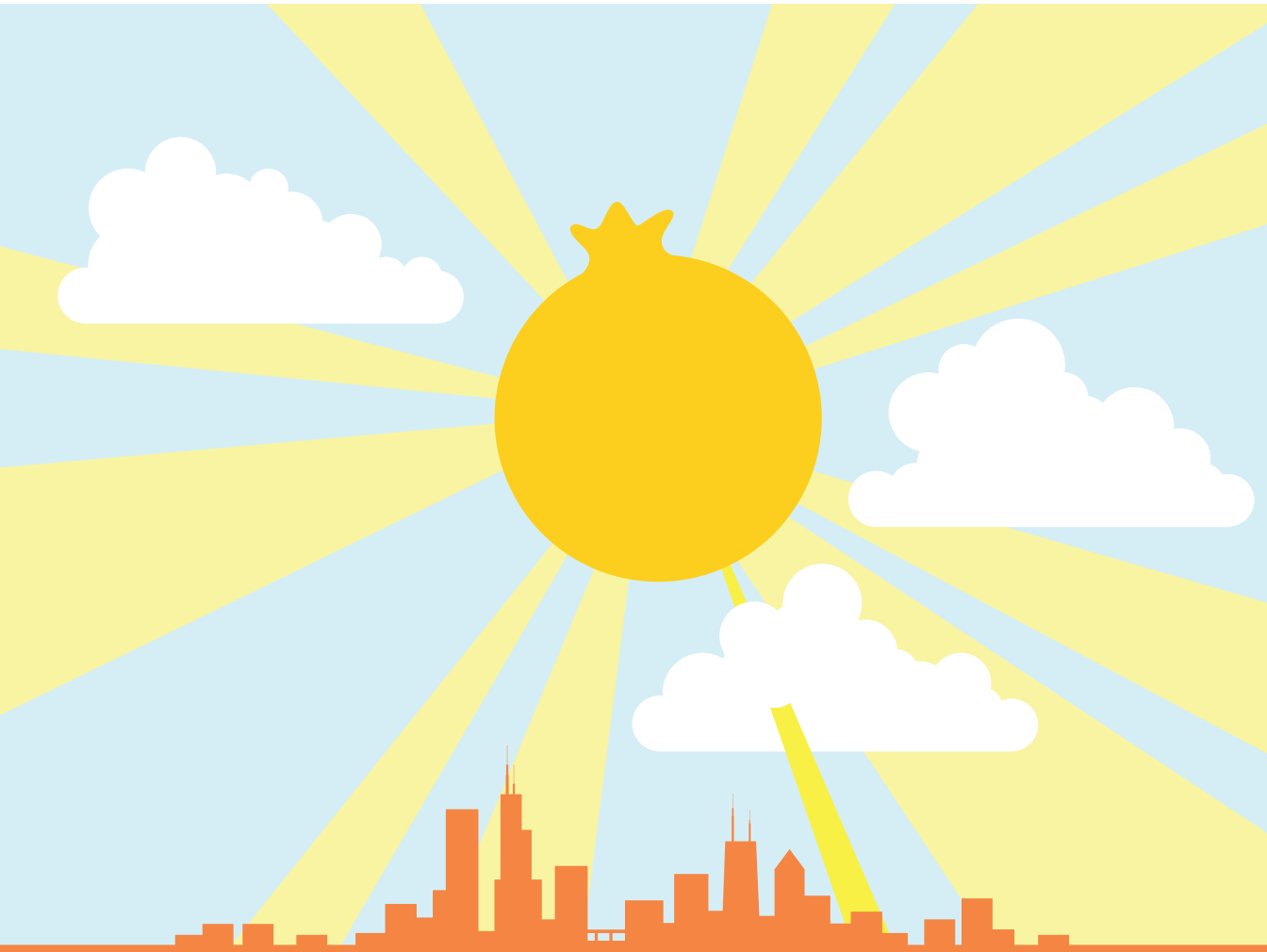


state of the mishkan

TISHREI 5779 • SEPTEMBER 2018

Leading people toward purpose, connection, and inspiration.



pwnmishkan
CHICAGO
inspired, down-to-earth Judaism



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

Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook said that the task of the modern Jew is to make the old new, and the new holy. In 2011, when Mishkan began hosting services in peoples' living rooms, everything felt new, like the sizzling freshness of a brand new relationship or job, when, amid the adrenaline rush you say to yourself, "This is so great... I hope this thing lasts!"

There are lots of good reasons to have doubted our longevity. More synagogues and churches across the country are closing their doors than ever before, and demographic studies all point to young adults being absent in the religious institutions of our parents and grandparents. But...

Seven years later, Mishkan has grown to represent a spiritual revival. Contrary to the studies, our fastest growing demographic is young adults and families, and over half of our members (we call them Builders) are under 40. With our staff of nine, we impact the lives of more than 3,500 unique people across Chicago annually through our services, Jewish learning and conversion classes, wellness workshops, collaborative music making, and thousands more across the globe through original videos and music online. This past May, I got a handwritten thank you note from a teenager in Albuquerque saying how listening to our SoundCloud page had given him confidence to participate in and lead services. That kind of inclusive spirit – transcending even geography – is what continues to excite me about our work every day.

But most importantly, people come to Mishkan not out of a stale sense of guilt or obligation, but out of a sense of hope and what's possible. And that sizzling new feeling didn't stop after year one, either. Between our ever-growing portfolio of justice partnerships, kids' and family programs, Jewish learning, and spirituality groups, we thrive on keeping things fresh.

This past year we went through our first-ever strategic planning process to figure out how to hang on to the adrenaline and nimble approach of startup culture, while building a strong foundation for long-term sustainability (***read more about our strategic priorities on page 6***). I probably would have choked on my challah hearing the words "long-term sustainability" seven years ago. Won't planning for the future take the fun out of living in the present? I'm so grateful to have learned from so many of you that if we care about something then we have to think about how to protect it for the future. So if we want to keep kicking tuchas now... we'd better be thinking about how to raise up inspired, down-to-earth generations and keeping our organization strong for the long haul.

Thank you for being part of the movement to reimagine and breathe new life into Judaism. May you be inscribed for a year of revolutionary love, health, hope, and inspiration,

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), LGBTQ folks, 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.

Our mission is to **reimagine** & **breathe new life** into Judaism.



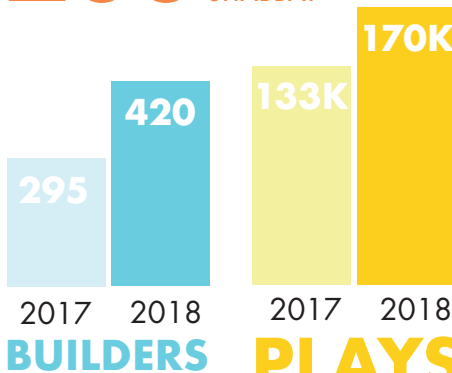
Growth this year, by the numbers...

27K HOURS OF PRAYER

200 PEOPLE AVERAGE FRIDAY NIGHT SHABBAT

50 KIDS LEARNING AT MENSCH ACADEMY IN 5779

22 WEDDINGS IN THE LAST 2 YEARS
6 OF WHOM MET AT MISHKAN



AN ESTIMATED **3,500** UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS SERVED THROUGH THE YEAR

80+ WELLNESS PROGRAMS AT MAGGIE'S PLACE

Headlines of 5778

Mensch-es-in-training

Families come out of Mensch Academy knowing that they are the most important link in the chain of Jewish people and tradition, owning their identity, modeling what it means to be a mensch, and creating an empowered, educated, inspired Jewish future. Last year we enrolled 35 kids, and in 2018, we'll welcome 50 mensch-es-in-training to our program.



Elevating Jewish Learning

Holy Pandemonium! We sang, we danced, we rolled back the Torah and started it anew. Celebrating Jewish learning, the SVARA + Mishkan's Bet Midrash and other Jewish learning events saw more than 600 people in 2017.



Food for the Soul

Maggie's Place first ever annual fundraiser was a massive success. We hosted more than 200 people at the Willis Tower to mingle over meaningful conversation, celebrate the life of Maggie, and ensure Maggie's Place provides support to those who need it most.



Party hard. Stay woke.

We partied hard at Purim 5778 at Dovetail Brewery, joining revelry with resistance. More than 2,500 of you attended our holiday events in 5778.





Inspired Prayer + Music

Musician Josh Warshawsky, in concert with R' Lizzi and the Davening Team, performed for a sold-out crowd at our Havdallah Concert. Expect more of this in 5779!



Space. Spirit. Seder.

It was the perfect recipe for an uplifting and deeply meaningful weekend at our first Pesach Retreat in the woods.



Prayer + Activism

We joined together with progressive Jewish organizations for the Keep Families Together March. Over 300 people getting pumped to stand, with Torah, on the side of the strangers and immigrants in our midst.

Our 2018-2022 Strategic Priorities

We are committed to focusing on these areas as we take our organization to the next level. If you feel moved to help in one of these areas, let us know. We want you to be involved!



The Mishkan Experience

We will continue to show the world what's possible for inspired, down-to-earth, serious Jewish spiritual practice through maintaining the sense of intimacy, playfulness, inclusivity, and Jewish content that has built Mishkan thus far. Our goal is to do more programs and serve more people while preserving our commitment to quality.



Connection + Commitment

Building a Community of Mutuality means ensuring that Mishkan is a committed, relational community in which people feel connected to one another, inspired to reinvest their energy back into the community, and build a more loving world.



Developing and Empowering Lay Leadership

Growing great Jewish lay leaders and growing the number of people we serve and the depth of their experience, are all the same project. A great and growing community needs great lay leadership, and we are committed to identifying and empowering you.



Financial Sustainability

We aim to achieve the financial sustainability that will provide our organization with the necessary stability to plan for the future, to foster ongoing innovation, and propel strategic growth.



Organizational Excellence

We will maintain and develop the energy, enthusiasm, and professional skills of our talented staff, ensuring the organizational stability that is a critical part of sustaining our work in the long term. Mishkan will be an awesome place to work in and to work with.

Building a stronger community with you.

Social Justice

Channeling the energy we create in our services and leaning into social activism is important, now more than ever. Tikkun, or healing and repairing what's broken, is one of the core values at Mishkan. Working with local community groups, service agencies, and taking inspiration from the many people in our community involved in the work of social change, Mishkan is constantly working toward greater justice in our city.

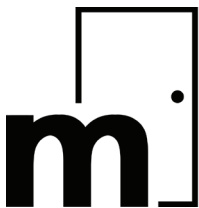
Join us as we welcome refugees to Chicago, combat poverty and racism, fight injustice in our city and nation, and serve our community. Want to get involved? Contact Rabbi Lauren at **rabbilauren@mishkanchicago.org**.

Top: Rabbi Lauren and Mishkanites Abby Citrin (Program Director of AVODAH Corp in Chicago) and Joe Grant, demanding that the State of Illinois fully fund human services.

Bottom: The Refugee Welcome Team celebrates one year in America with the Alhamada Family.



Maggie's Place



Maggie's Place is a holistic wellness center based out of Mishkan Chicago's Office, established in Maggie Miretzky's memory by the Miretzky Family. Since January 2017, Maggie's Place has delivered more than 80 programs to more than 700 unique individuals, supporting the overall health and wellness – mental, emotional, spiritual – of young adults and others through workshops, classes, access to resources, and the support of a community.

A place to drop by, meet new people, get referrals, expand your mind, get support, have a coffee, hear an interesting speaker or build skills at a workshop, come to a game night – a space to be you, in community. Interested in learning more? Email Ellie Spitz, LCSW, Director of Community Engagement and Wellness at **ellie@mishkanchicago.org**.

A place for deep Jewish spirituality for adults AND for kids.



Mini-Mishkan & Family Programs

At **Mini-Mishkan** kids and their families explore Jewish spirituality through music, story-telling, prayer and play. **Sunday Holiday Events** for kids of all ages are a time to celebrate and learn about Jewish traditions and customs together.



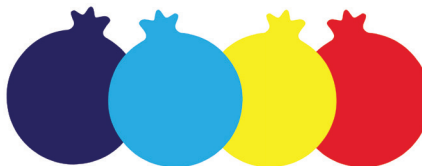
Mensch Academy



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.

Imagine a place where kids feel
loved enough and **safe** enough
to develop their own Jewish ideas.



Shout Out: Leadership



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Teams

Shout out to the literally hundreds of people who make things happen:

Love Team, 5779 High Holidays Volunteers, Mishkan Support, Davening, Development, Neighborhood LOCALS, 40s+ Social, Strategic Planning, and Social Justice. So many teams!

Board of Directors

Mishkan's rocking Board of Directors is leading our organization as we grow and fill our mission, and in particular this year during our strategic planning process. Mark Achler (Board President), Susan Horowitz (Strategic Planning Chair), Lisa Portnoy (Treasurer), Scott Issen (Secretary), Michael Kornick, Stephanie Cohen, James Edward Johnson (Emeritus), Jacob Kaufman (Emeritus), Jane Charney, Stephanie Goldfarb, Al Rosenberg, Avi Lewittes, and Rabbi Lizzi Heydemann.

Your Impact

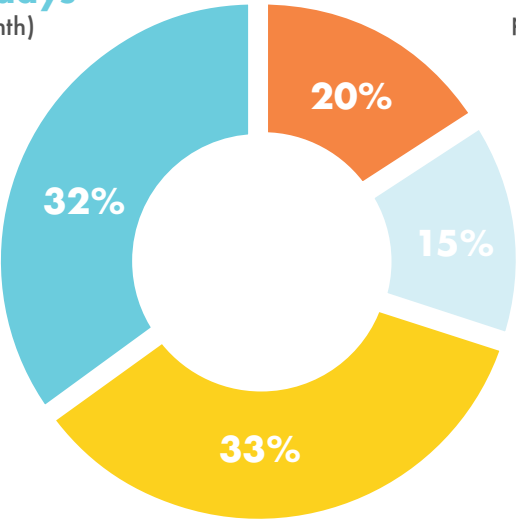
We believe that a budget is an expression of values. We express our values by investing in talented people and building great programs (you may have noticed we don't have a building), and we believe that this budget reflects those priorities. Our budget — and all the money raised to meet it — directly supports Mishkan's ability to engage, empower, educate and inspire the next generation and beyond.

Shabbat & Holidays

- Shabbat services (3/month)
- High Holidays
- Purim
- Passover
- Shavuote
- Tisha B'av
- Sukkot
- Simchat Torah
- Hanukkah

Adult Education

- S&M Bet Midrash
- Other classes, workshops & trainings
- Neighborhood Dinners
- Volunteer teams (Love Team, Social Justice Team, etc)
- One-to-one meetings
- Maggie's Place



Family Programs + Mensch Academy

- Food, venue rentals & supplies for mini-Mishkan, family holiday programs + Mensch Academy
- Teachers and facilitators
- Curricula and materials
- Music + educational specialists

Administration

- Office Space
- Marketing + Publicity
- Website + Database
- Fundraising
- Professional Development
- Composting

Shout Out: Givers

Mishkan is generously supported by:

Mark & Marcie Achler	Hannah Bloom-Hirschberg & Gary Hirschberg
Anonymous	Gary & Meme Hopmayer
Lizzi Heydemann & Henry Bernstein	Jan Kallish
Kathy & Peter Bresler	Jacob Kaufman
Charney-Averbukh Family	Dr. Arielle & Belle Kerman
Lynn & Jeff Coe	Lisa & Michael Kornick
Bruce & Lisa Cohen	Larry & Karen Kurtzon
Stephanie & Anita Cohen	Karen & Josh Leavitt
Margaret & Lee Cohn	Robin & Mark Le Vine
Robert Cohn	Stephen & Buffy Levy
Debbi & Aaron Cooper	Avi Lewittes & Family
Arnold Davis & Julia Turk	Max & Evelyn Maizels
Rona Talcott & Owen Deutsch	Akiva Gross & Ruth Mayer
Marcie Hemmelstein & David Drew	Mrs. Beatrice Mayer
Lori & Monte Dube	Dr. Scott Mirowitz
Morris & Natalie Fisher	Michael Oxman
Rachel Cort & David Frankel	Lisa Portnoy
Judy & Abel Friedman	Viki & Tom Rivkin
Sari Gluckin & Lance Friedmann	Susan & Marc Sacks
Michelle & Aidan Gilbert	Karyn & Bill Silverstein
Galit & David Gottlieb	Erica Tarantur
Harry Nathan Gottlieb	Josh Turnbull
Charles Hammerslough & Debby Spertus	Cindy Wolfson
Peter & Helaine Heydemann	Deb & Jeff Zaluda & The Dejelaja Foundation
	The 3021 Film Society

Foundations:

An Anonymous Family Foundation
Crown Family Philanthropies
Harvey L. Miller Family Foundation
The Community Foundation for Jewish Education
The Jack and Golde Wolfe Miller Fund
The Jewish Emergent Network
The Nikoh Foundation
Sondheimer Family Foundation
The Zarrow Family Foundation

And you!

Seriously, truly, really. We can't do what we do without you.

We recognize our donors who have made gifts of \$2,500 and above in 5778. If you would like to make a gift, please contact Rachel Cort at rachel@mishkanchicago.org.

Find
MEANING
MUSIC
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TORAH
TRUTH
JUSTICE
INSPIRATION
FAMILY
LOVE

Hell, let's just say it,

GOD

Find yourself @

מִשְׁכָּן mishkan
CHICAGO

inspired, down-to-earth Judaism