



## STATE OF THE MISHKAN

Leading people toward purpose, connection and inspiration.



 **mishkan**  
**CHICAGO**  
inspired, down-to-earth Judaism

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

Back in 2011, when Mishkan began hosting services in living rooms, I never could have predicted that Mishkan would grow from a scrappy start-up to represent a revival. As part of the Jewish Emergent Network, we know this revival is national. Locally, we welcomed almost 4,000 people into our programs in person, and thousands more listening to our music online.



What started as an entrepreneurial experiment for a radically inclusive spiritual community on a shoe-string budget, has blossomed into a new phase in our life cycle: one focused on long-term sustainability, capacity building, and building deeper and more lasting relationships with our people – with you. Whether it's our ever-growing portfolio of kids' and family programs, justice partnerships, or our Jewish learning and spirituality groups, we are still committed to creating experiences that combine seriousness with playfulness, piety with irreverence, and information with inspiration. This year, we are turning our focus to growing deeper roots with you.

**Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook said that the task  
of the Jew is to make the old new, and the new holy.**

Our hope is that you come to Mishkan out of a sense of hope for what's possible – for the Jewish community more broadly and for you specifically. So if you're new here, we invite you to join us. We hope you will form significant relationships with people of wildly different backgrounds and stories, who all share one thing in common: the desire to change ourselves and the world for the better.

We invite you to reimagine and breathe new life into your own Jewish story.

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.

Rabbi Lizzi Heydemann

## Our Why

Fueled by Jewish tradition, Mishkan Chicago leads people toward more purposeful, more connected, and more inspired lives.

## We...

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

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

**are radically inclusive.** We welcome everyone and bend over backwards to be accessible on multiple levels, creating space that is both safe and brave.

**encourage self expression.** Judaism is not a spectator sport, it's a spiritual practice – we need to co-create (literally practice!) our Jewish experience for it to change our lives.

**heal the world.** Whether self-improvement or social justice, we know that everything we do has ripple effects that have the potential to transform our world.

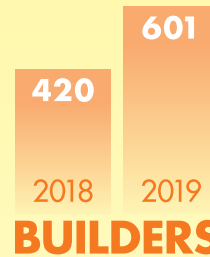
**empower people to lead.** We give people the space, tools and encouragement to make our mission their own and grow our collective impact.



Growth this year,  
by the numbers...

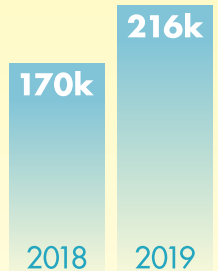
**200+**  
**PEOPLE**  
AVERAGE FRIDAY  
NIGHT SHABBAT

**75** LEARNING AT  
**KIDS** MENSCH  
ACADEMY  
IN 5780



**115+** PROGRAMS AT  
**THE WELLNESS SPOT** MAGGIE'S  
PLACE:

**4,000**  
**PEOPLE**  
**SERVED**  
LAST YEAR



**PLAYS**  
ON SOUNDCLOUD

**97%** THAT INVOLVEMENT  
**AGREE** WITH MISHKAN  
IMPROVES THEIR  
QUALITY OF LIFE



# Headlines of 5779



## INSPIRED MUSIC

Our davening team leads the way for joyful, song-filled prayer each Shabbat, packed with more than 200 people three times a month. Singing and prayer at Mishkan is the beating heart of what we do. Pictured left, renowned composer and prayer leader Joey Weisenberg, in concert with R' Lizzi and the Davening Team, performed a standing-room-only Havdallah Concert.

## PRAYING WITH OUR FEET

This past year, our rabbis and our people showed up rally after rally. Our Social Justice Team focused on issues including voter education, police accountability, and the Illinois budget in partnership with the Jewish Council of Urban Affairs, ONE Northside, and the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society.



## MENSCHES-IN-TRAINING

What started as a pilot project of 15 students in 2015, Mensch Academy has now grown into a robust program serving students from ages 3–13. This fall, we will welcome 75 students. We also offer Family Shabbat services, holiday celebrations, and more to hundreds of families each year. Kids and their grown-ups are our fastest growing (and cutest) population.





## THE JUDAISM THEY NEVER TAUGHT YOU IN SUNDAY SCHOOL

Judaism is a full-body, intellectual-spiritual tour-de-force and nobody has learned all there is to know. That's why our classes are open to students of all backgrounds. This year, 16 students went through our Conversion Cohort, and we built deep relationships over time through workshops and small groups including our Rosh Chodesh Circle, Partners in Parenting (pictured left), our High Holiday House Parties, and Justice-themed Shabbat dinners.

## THE WELLNESS SPOT

To date, Maggie's Place, our holistic wellness center, has offered more than 115 wellness programs serving more than 750 participants regardless of background, affiliation or ability to pay. From our themed drop-in nights to indoor rock climbing and wellness workshops, our programs nurture the mind, body, and spirit.



## GO DEEP, GET HIGH, STAY WOKE: THE HOLIDAYS

More than 2,500 of you attended our holiday events in 5779 and even more of you engaged digitally, bringing new life to the ancient wisdom of the Jewish calendar. Over 100 people downloaded our Seder Sidekick, 3,000 people listened to our High Holiday podcast, and our Simchat Torah draws a bigger crowd each year. We partied hard at The Davis Theatre for Purim: Haman's Democracy this year (pictured above), featuring the best Purim spielers, megilla readers, silent disco and the best food this side of Shushan. If there's one thing we know, Mishkanites like a good party with good friends.

And looking ahead to 5780,  
we promise you:

**MORE ELEVATED  
JEWISH LEARNING**

Mish Mosh: Small Group  
Experiences  
Conversion Cohort  
Judaism 201: Adult BMitzvah  
Partners in Parenting Workshop  
Jewcurious for Interfaith Couples  
Maggie's Place  
Wellness programs  
Rosh Chodesh Women's Circle  
One Prayer Saturday  
Morning Shabbat

**MORE KIDS + FAMILIES**

Mensch Academy  
BMitzvah Family Learning  
Hanukkah and Purim for all ages  
Family Shabbat  
Junior Davening Team Rehearsal

**MORE JUSTICE**

Neighborhood Action by Ward  
2020 Election Prep

**MORE MUSIC...**



...**MORE MISHKAN**



# Our Impact

We believe that a budget is an expression of values. At Mishkan, we invest in talented people and meaningful programs (you may have noticed we don't have a building)—and that's it! Our budget, and all the money raised to meet it, directly supports Mishkan's work engaging, educating and inspiring our diverse community.

## Shabbat + Holidays

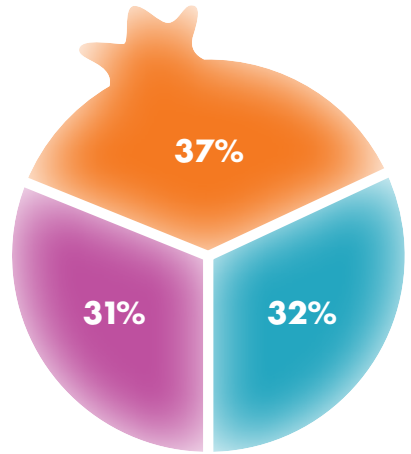
Shabbat services (3/month), High Holidays,  
Purim: Haman's Democracy, Sukkot, Simchat  
Torah: Holy Pandemonium!, Light and Heat:  
Interfaith Hannukah Celebration

## Learning + Music

Volunteer teams (Love Team and Justice Team),  
Jewcurious course, Conversion Cohort, workshops,  
trainings, musical guests, and programs

## Families

Mensch Academy, Mitzvah Makers,  
Rise N' Shine Services, Junior Davening Team,  
family holiday events, home-hosted Havdallahs



## Shout Out: Givers

### **MISHKAN IS GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY THE FOLLOWING, WHO HAVE MADE GIFTS OF \$5,000 AND ABOVE IN 5779:**

3021 Film Society

Marcie & Mark Achler

Anonymous

Hannah Bloom &  
Gary Hirschberg

Britta Bolin & Peter Kupferberg

Kathy & Peter Bresler

Susanne & Larry Broutman

Lynn & Jeff Coe

Debbi & Aaron Cooper

Lisa & Bruce Cohen

Stephanie & Anita Cohen

Margaret & Lee Cohn

Joan Colmar & Mitchell Sabshon

Lori & Monte Dube

Judy & Abel Friedman

Galit & David Gottlieb

Harry Nathan Gottlieb

Marcie Hemmelstein &  
David Drew

The Heydemann Family

Karen & Josh Leavitt

Sharon Kahan & Alan Miretzky

Ariel & Belle Kerman

Lisa & Michael Kornick

Karen & Larry Kurtzon

Avi Lewittes

Evelyn & Max Maizels

Dr. Scott Mirowitz Family

Lisa Portnoy

Rebecca Richards &  
Matthew Kutcher

Susan & Marc Sacks

Rona Talcott & Owen Deutsch

Ericka & Matt Thacker

Laren Ukman

Cindy Wolfson

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

An Anonymous Family Foundation

The Community Foundation  
for Jewish Education

Crown Family Philanthropies

The Jack and Goldie Wolfe  
Miller Fund

jBaby Chicago

The Jewish Emergent Network

The Jewish United Fund  
of Metropolitan Chicago

The Nikoh Foundation

Pathways

Project Accelerate

Sondheimer Family 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 by way of checks and credit cards, donor advised funds, stock transfers, corporate matches and planned giving. For more information, please contact Rhonda Abrams, [rhonda@mishkanchicago.org](mailto:rhonda@mishkanchicago.org).

**It takes three things to attain a sense of significant being:  
God, a soul, and a moment. And the three are always here.**

**– Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel**



# Shout Out: Leadership

## OUR SUPER-HUMAN STAFF

**Rhonda Abrams**, Director of Development

**Rachel Cort**, Executive Director

**Ashley Donohue**, Director of Marketing & Communications

**Ilana Gleicher-Bloom**, Vision Director of the Mensch Academy

**Rabbi Lauren Henderson**, Rabbi & Director of  
Family Learning + Spirituality

**Rabbi Lizzi Heydemann**, Rabbi & Founder

**Hannah Schaeffer**, Program and Engagement Associate

**Ellie Spitz**, Director of Programs

**Rebecca Stevens**, Director of Experience Design

**Rabbi Jeff Stombaugh**, Jewish Emergent Network Rabbinic Fellow

**Zach Weinberg**, Rabbinic Executive & Administrative Assistant

**Anna Wolfe**, Family Program Coordinator

We also love and rely on a small army of part-time program staff who work on Shabbat, Mensch Academy, Maggie's Place, and more!

Mishkan's rocking **Board of Directors** is leading our organization as we grow and help us to deliver purpose, inspiration, and connection to you.

Mark Achler (Board President)

Lisa Portnoy (Treasurer)

Scott Issen (Secretary)

Hannah Bloom Hirschberg

Adam Case

Jane Charney

Stephanie Cohen

Stephanie Goldfarb

Rabbi Lizzi Heydemann

Michael Kornick

Avi Lewittes

Shira Marks

Al Rosenberg

### **Emeritus Board Members**

Susan Horowitz

James Edward Johnson

Jacob Kaufman



## Thank You

Shout out to the literally hundreds of volunteer leaders who make this community go 'round! Thank you to all our teams including: Love, 5780 High Holidays Volunteers, Finance, Mensch Academy Advisory, Support Squad, Sacred Spaces, Strategic Planning, Davening, Development, Communications Advisory, Maggie's Place Advisory, 40s+ Social, and Social Justice.

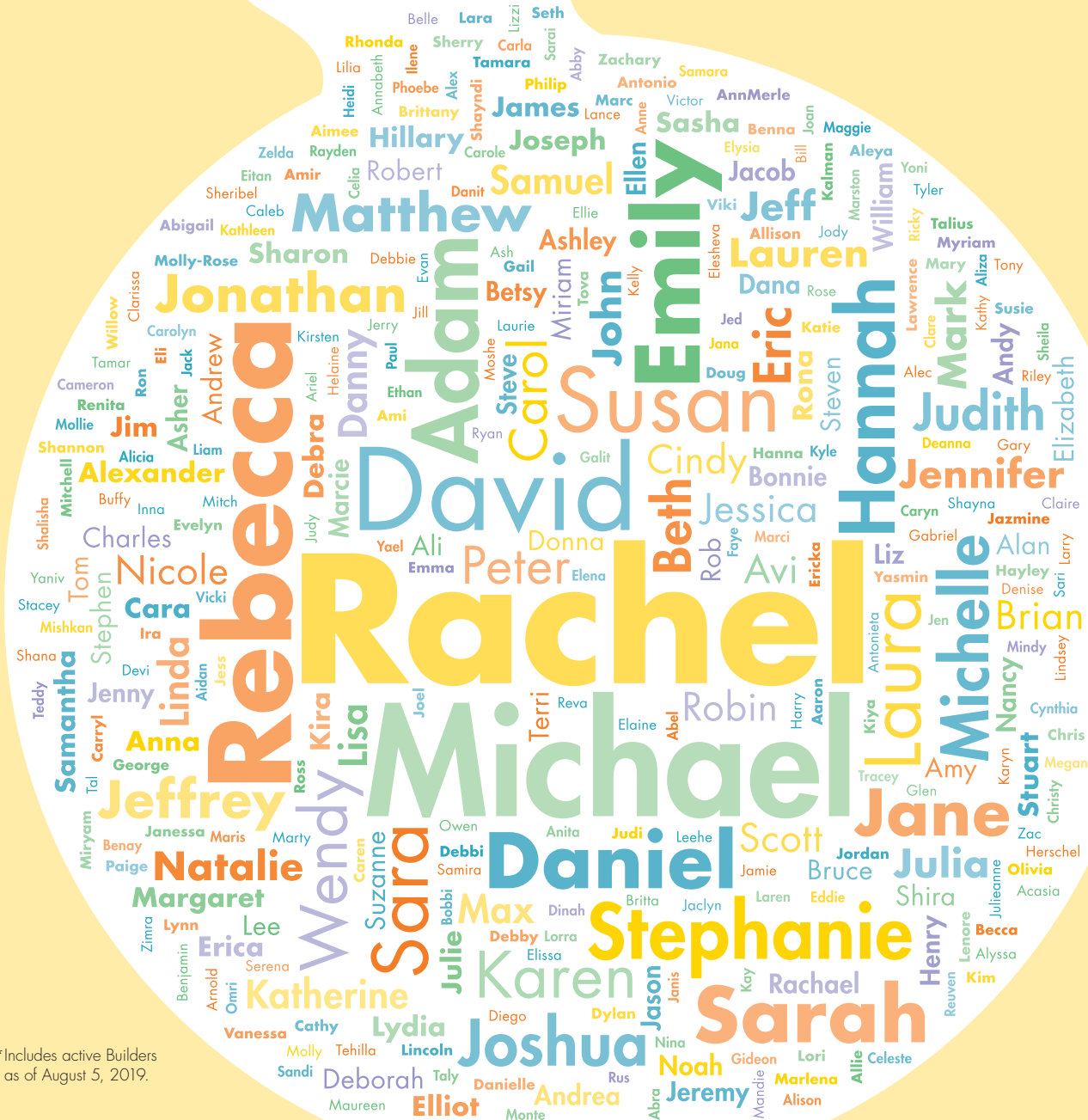
## Build With Us

If you're seeking spiritual growth, Jewish learning, and belonging – to bring your whole self and become part of something larger than yourself – join us. We're looking for people who are serious about radical inclusivity and want to create community with people across lines of age, background and identity. More than a membership, Buildership is a creative partnership that allows us to co-create your spiritual journey with you, in community. To learn more about Buildership, please see: [www.mishkanchicago.org/join](http://www.mishkanchicago.org/join).



# Our Builders

While our love is distributed equally, names in the community are not! Size corresponds to how many of each name we have in our community of Builders.\*



\*Includes active Builders as of August 5, 2019.



Let's get social! Follow us @mishkanchicago.org  
[www.mishkanchicago.org](http://www.mishkanchicago.org)

