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Jewish Education Center of Cleveland. Annual reports,  
1996-1998.

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# *96 Annual Report 97*

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**JEWISH EDUCATION CENTER OF CLEVELAND 5757**

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The close of our fourth year as the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland brings a most significant transition of leadership - one which will help us build upon our successes and address the continuing challenges of our work. After nine years of chairmanship of the Commission on Jewish Continuity and four years as president of the JECC Board of Trustees, Charles Ratner is completing an extraordinary period of leadership. During this time the Jewish education landscape has been transformed, and in fact, Jewish education has become our community's most central priority.

#### What have we accomplished?

In implementing [these]... programs, the COJC has succeeded in sponsoring and supporting programs that provide the framework for substantive, long-term change in Cleveland's Jewish schools. Each program alone has the scale, quality, and substance such that significant change can be effected; together, they have introduced into Cleveland a multi-faceted claim on Jewish lives... Above any Jewish community of which we are aware, Cleveland has succeeded in moving from single-shot, weakly supported efforts to strengthen continuity to a multi-faceted, comprehensive, and long-term effort wherein the individual pieces support one another.

Roberta Goodman, M.A., R.J.E.

Julie Tammivaara, Ph.D.

*Eight COJC Programs: An Evaluation*

#### In specific terms:

- ☐ We've developed an extraordinary reservoir of professional talent, at the JECC and in our partner agencies, unequaled by any North American community.
- ☐ We have made continuing education a norm for educators in our community, a unique accomplishment among North American Jewish communities.
- ☐ We've made family education an indispensable part of almost every educational institution, and have supported the development of full-time family educator positions in many of our synagogues.
- ☐ We've made high quality informal educational programming, particularly through retreats, an integral part of most children's Jewish educational experiences.
- ☐ We've made planning an essential component of Jewish educational activity - both through our work as a central agency, and by introducing planning models and processes into schools.

At the same time we have learned that there is much continuing work to convey our message to the community at large, to Federation leadership, and to the leaders and members of our constituent synagogues and schools. This must involve various approaches to engaging more deeply - to reinforce the community's priority focus on Jewish education, and to involve leadership from all aspects of the community in helping shape our agenda.

The JECC's new strategic plan introduces several fresh efforts, building on the success of the past eight years:

1. A dramatic new initiative in adult education, responding to Federation's strategic plan, which highlights adult Jewish literacy and lifelong learning as an underpinning of the community's future.
2. **מורשת** *Moresbet*, a new initiative in partnership with the WZO Joint Authority for Jewish Zionist Education, to promote the Hebrew language and train a new generation of Hebrew educators.
3. New efforts through the ORT/JECC Partnership for Technology in Education and a reformulation of our Ratner Media Center to enhance our schools' ability to reach children and families through cutting edge technological tools.
4. Development of a new day high school which can provide the highest quality secondary day school education for day school students not currently served by existing institutions.

Theodor Herzl writes:

אם תרצו אין זו אגדה  
If you will it, it is no dream.

Just as Herzl provided a founding vision for the Jewish State, we have tried to provide one for the JECC. May we move into this new period of board leadership, strengthened with the wisdom learned from our past and eager to continue building for the future.

חזק חזק ונתחזק



Dr. Sylvia F. Abrams  
Director of Educational Services



Mark D. Gurvis  
Managing Director



Charles A. Ratner  
President

The Educational Planning Department completed the evaluation of five programs of the *Commission on Jewish Continuity (COJC)* as well as the development of an interpretive profile of Cleveland's Jewish education profession, surveying nearly 600 teachers and administrators. Results of the two studies, unique in North American Jewish education for their scope and depth, were presented to professional leadership of preschools, day schools, and supplementary schools, as well as to the Cleveland Board of Rabbis and the JECC Board of Trustees. The studies' recommendations have become key elements of current and long-range planning in the three strategic cornerstones of the COJC process: family education, informal education and building the Jewish educational profession.

The *Community Day High School Planning Committee* completed an intensive one-year feasibility study on the development of a new day high school in Cleveland. The JECC board has approved the committee's report, which points towards the development of an independent board which would move forward with creation of the new school.

The Planning Department continued its intensive consulting relationships with the *Agnon* and *Solomon Schechter Day Schools*. Schechter concluded its second year as the JECC's partner in the *Drisha Project*, developing a strategic plan to enhance the school's mission by integrating community and learning, enhancing home-school partnerships and communication, and expanding family education opportunities. The Agnon School Goals Project involved JECC in on-going consultation in a process exploring the school's

core values. This process will serve as a guide to future educational planning, including Agnon's upcoming accreditation review.

The JECC has initiated a new *Adult Education Committee* to explore goals and strategies for dramatically expanding adult education in our community. The impetus for the process stems from Federation's recently concluded strategic plan, which focuses on adult Jewish literacy as a critical underpinning for the community's future.

The JECC's *Adolescent Task Force* has explored new directions for community planning and services for the teen population, and will be issuing its report in fall 1997. The Task Force is particularly focusing on program models that foster greater collaborative effort across organizations, and which work in multifaceted ways to meet the social, intellectual, emotional, spiritual, and physical needs of adolescents.

**The CJE-Harvard Institute: The Power of Ideas: Leadership, Governance, and the Challenges of Jewish Education** was attended by Charles A. Ratner, JECC President; Alayne Reitman, Planning Committee, Chair; Dr. Sylvia Abrams and Mark Gurvis, JECC and a delegation from the Agnon School. The program focused on building strong, collaborative lay-professional leadership based on shared understandings of roles and responsibilities, which are rooted in Jewish ideas and educational theory and practice. The institute was co-sponsored by the **Council for Initiatives in Jewish Education** and the **Harvard Graduate School of Education**.



Cleveland and Atlanta community leadership meet via video conference to discuss planning for day high schools.



Sally Wertheim, Dr. Daniel Pekarsky and Dr. Sylvia Abrams at the Community Day High School public meeting.

# Family Education

Cleveland's dramatic growth in family education activity was sustained through continued support for community-funded positions at 11 synagogues and schools, including **Agnon School**, **Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple**, **B'nai Jeshurun Congregation**, **Cleveland Hebrew Schools**, **Congregation Beth Am**, **Congregation Shaarey Tikvah**, **Park Synagogue**, **Solomon Schechter Day School**, **Suburban Temple**, **Temple Emanu El**, and **The Temple-Tifereth Israel**. Filled by graduates of the CCJS Cleveland Fellows Program or participants in the CCJS Executive Educator Program, the positions have enhanced both the number and quality of family education programs at these institutions.

Implementing recommendations from the JECC's 1996 Family Education Report, the first round of new family education grants were made available this past year. Two *Tzemach (Seedling) Grants* for early childhood institutions, and five *Shoresb (Root) Grants* for more advanced congregational and school programs, were awarded for the 1996-97 school year. Extensive support for consultation, evaluation and professional development were provided to grant recipients by JECC staff and College of Jewish Studies faculty.

*Tzemach Grants* were awarded to the **Agnon School** and **Park Synagogue Preschool**, both focusing on Judaism and nature programming. Park Synagogue families celebrated Tu B'Shevat at the **Holden Arboretum**. Agnon Preschool families hiked with a **Shaker Lakes Nature Center** educator and discussed ways to connect the cycles of nature with the three pilgrimage festivals.

The *Shoresb Grant* recipients included **Congregation Shaarey Tikvah**, which formed a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* study/celebration group, and **Hebrew Academy**, which instituted a Jewish parenting program. **Congregation B'nai Jeshurun** and **Temple Emanu El** created a joint family education program for high school students and parents, taught collaboratively by their faculties and the **Cleveland College of Jewish Studies**. A Shabbat afternoon/*Havdalab* fellowship series was held at the **Agnon School**, and **Temple Ner Tamid** offered a parent-student Hebrew program.



With the support of a *Tzemach Grant*, Park Synagogue Preschool celebrates Tu B'Shevat at the Holden Arboretum.



Rena Wertheim and her children, Max and Judith, enjoy activities at Shaarey Tikvah's Shabbaton "Purim Unmasked".

# Congregational Enrichment

*Congregational Enrichment Funds* were provided to 14 congregations for 111 programs including *shabbatonim* and family retreats, music and arts enrichment, co-curricular activities, Holocaust education related to the Anne Frank exhibit, special education programming, and summer camp incentive grants. *The Three Stars of Havdalab* involved **Park Synagogue** families in the rituals of *havdalab*. **Temple Ner Tamid** celebrated its jubilee year by creating oral history videos featuring founding members, Holocaust survivors and congregants. **Congregation B'nai Jeshurun** held a series of parent-teen dialogues on issues and dilemmas affecting their lives.

# Professional Educational Services

The Jewish Educator Services Program (JESP) continued its broad participation this year with a record 829 enrollments, representing 404 individuals participating in 75 assorted offerings - a 24% increase in enrollments over last year. JESP is an integrated approach to professional development combining various models of effective staff development which integrate theory and application. Financial incentives for JECC affiliates and educators encourage participation. Courses range in scope from teaching techniques to Judaic studies to computer skills. A complete JESP course catalogue was produced for the first time, with a summary of classes, instructors, credits earned, and course schedules.

The JECC provides completion stipends to teachers participating in continuing education activities. This year teachers earned 706 completion stipends for JESP courses, and 173 stipends for study at the Cleveland College of Jewish Studies.

Thirteen schools were provided a total of \$35,597 through the *Institutional Stipend* program. Supplementary schools earn institutional stipends when 75% of their teachers participate in a minimum of 10 hours of continuing education during the year. The funds can be used to pay for teachers' continuing education course and conference fees. Twelve schools have qualified for a total of \$37,010 in institutional stipends for the 1997-98 school year.

Sixty-six *Educator Conference Grants* were awarded in 1996-97 to help educators participate in the CAJE and Torah U'Mesorah conferences, Ohio Educators Israel Seminar and other out-of-town study opportunities.

Teachers from Fuchs Bet Sefer Mizrahi and Solomon Schechter Day School joined together this year to study Bible. In a series co-sponsored with the World Zionist Organization Department of Torah Education, world class scholars led monthly discussions on *Humash* entirely in Hebrew.

Significant changes occurred in many pre-school classrooms due to an intensive new early childhood seminar created by the JECC. A year-long *Seminar in Early Childhood Development* involved 26 teachers from 8 Jewish preschools. Taught by Dr. Nancy Barbour, KSU Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education, a wide range of topics included integrating curriculum and Jewish content into daily routine, using more child-centered approaches, room arrangements and materials. The issues of developmentally appropriate early childhood practices, parent involvement and family centered programs also served as a basis for class discussion and interaction. The mentoring process provided support in helping individuals develop a plan, observe, and provide feedback. The seminar was made possible by grants from The Treu-Mart Fund (a supporting foundation of the Federation and the Cleveland Foundation), and the Federation's Nathan & Regina Herman Charitable Fund, Isidore and Fay Rudin Memorial Fund, and David S. Stein Foundation.

Fifteen educators from Cleveland's Jewish schools spent two weeks traveling through Israel on the Ohio Educators Israel Seminar "Standing Within The Gates". Field observations and programs enabled participants to gain a first hand appreciation of Israel's historical background and unique multi-cultural make-up. Trips to educational sites allowed participants to compare the Jewish educational system in Israel with our own in Cleveland. The annual trip is co-sponsored by the JECC and Cleveland College of Jewish Studies.

Thirty-five educators traveled to the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC to learn how to use it in the most educational and effective manner. Participants became familiar with museum content to prepare for future visits with classes, youth groups, and synagogue adult groups.



Day school teachers from Fuchs Bet Sefer Mizrahi and Solomon Schechter study *Humash* in a class co-sponsored with WZO Torah Education Department.



Educators visited the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and other sites in Washington, D.C.

# Curriculum Resources Department

**Anshe Chesed-Fairmount Temple** saw impressive results in its first year implementation of a new curriculum for *Torah*, liturgy and Hebrew language, developed through their participation in *Project Curriculum Renewal*. The innovative curriculum broke new ground for teaching language in supplementary schools. The Curriculum Department also completed its intensive three year partnership with **The Temple-Tifereth Israel**, having fully developed a K-12 curriculum for its religious school. The JECC's Educational Resources Committee has accepted **Bet Limmud**, the new combined Hebrew program of **Congregations Beth Am and B'nai Jeshurun**, for an intensive PCR consultation project beginning in 1997-98.

Five educators graduated from the *Curriculum Practicum* while eleven others completed their first year of study. The course introduces senior and middle level educators to principles of curriculum design, implementation and support.

The *Teacher Center* saw 1,275 visitations from teachers creating educational materials, consulting for ideas, or attending a class. Students from communal and day schools also visited the center to work on class projects. Teacher Center staff designed and created 26 new instructional materials. New equipment was purchased this year to enable teachers to maximize their time, encourage creativity and reduce time on task, including a badge maker, an extra-large Ellison Die Cut Machine, and new holiday die cuts.

Overall circulation for the *Ratner Media Center (RMC)* curriculum and media collections totaled 1,698 print items and 1,531 audio-visuals, representing a 50% increase in circulation over last

year. With the addition of approximately 50 titles to the *Rudin Children's Collection*, the RMC print curriculum collection continues to grow and serve educators with general pedagogic materials.

In its third year, *Jewish Video Visions-On Location* worked with four new distribution sites: **Temples Am Shalom, Beth Shalom, and Emanu El**, and **Agnon School**. Over 500 titles were made available to over 1,200 families. In addition, RMC established weekly video viewing activities at the **Montefiore Home** and **R.H. Myers Apartments**. A movie education program was initiated with **Yachad**, a group for challenged Jewish high school students.

The introduction of Internet access and CD-Rom technology in the *Ratner Media Center (RMC)* have put Jewish educators in touch with cutting edge teaching and technology resources. RMC acquired two computers, 35 CD-Roms applicable to Jewish learning, and a color printer to reproduce web-site resources.

The JECC and the **Cleveland Chapter of American ORT** have established the *ORT/JECC Partnership for Technology in Education* - a computer resource center serving the **Agnon School, Fuchs Bet Sefer Mizrahi, Hebrew Academy of Cleveland, and Solomon Schechter Day School**. The project will help each school develop and implement a strategic technology plan. In addition, teacher development, technical assistance and on-going support to train Judaic and general studies teachers will be provided. Computer resources will enable day school students to have the highest quality and most effective technology-based education through access to software and customized applications.



Yachad members enjoy films and discussion in the JECC screening room.



Educators Rivka Dahan, Dara Holop and Lynn Leibling with instructor Nachama S. Moskowitz on completion of the JESP Curriculum Practicum.



Leora Kurs prepares a classroom display in the Teacher Center.

## Numbers 2000

In its fifth year, **Numbers 2000** included almost 300 students from 9 schools. In addition to the standard program involving study of personal family histories as a gateway to Jewish history, students from **Beth Israel-The West Temple, Park Synagogue, Solomon Schechter Day School, and Temple Emanu El** participated in the exhibit "*From Here to There*" at the **Western Reserve Historical Society (WRHS)**. These students compared their personal family stories with those of other Clevelanders through interactive exploration of Cleveland ethnic groups. The WRHS brought a traveling "trunk show" complete with ethnic stories and costumes to **Congregations Bethaynu and B'nai Jeshurun**. The WRHS programs were partially funded by the Federation's *Isidore and Fay Rudin Memorial Fund*.

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# The Special Education Department

The **Special Education Department** provides a broad-based network of programs, serving individuals from pre-school through the age of twenty-one in supplementary and day school settings.

Twelve synagogue schools, representing all denominations, participate in *ETGAR*, the community-wide consortium for families who choose a self-contained setting for their children, who have a wide range of disabilities. This year produced the first high school graduation, with two students honored for their accomplishments. Fifteen students were served in classes housed at **Congregation B'nai Jeshurun** and **Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple**.

Under the auspices of the *Shadow Project* 28 students with special needs were included in classrooms in 10 supplementary schools in our community. The Special Education staff trained 26 teen "shadows" to provide individualized support to these students. Funding for the Shadow Project was provided this year by four Jewish Community Federation funds: *The Mildred and Martin Becker Family Foundation*, *The Alex and Anne Miller Family Charitable Fund*, *The Betty and Alex G. Siegler Charitable Foundation*, and *The Naomi and Edwin Z. Singer Family Fund*.

In response to an increased number of families with special needs students seeking a day school education, the JECC has initiated a joint committee with *Segula* to explore needs and potential community policies and programs.



*Etgar graduates Jill Bresky and Isaac Mintz celebrate with their parents, Norm and Toby Bresky and Pat and Chuck Mintz.*



*Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple 6th grade students attempt group building skills at a Shabbaton.*



*Rabbi Joshua Aaronson from Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple leads 6th graders in a Torah service.*

## Beyond The Classroom

The *Retreat Institute* worked with 20 different institutions on developing and implementing 35 retreat programs. Almost 2,000 individuals, including students, parents, and school staff participated in these programs during the 1996-97 program year. The range of topics covered *Shabbat* and holiday observance, Israel and *mitzvot*. Programming focused on creative use of traditional text, addressing intellectual, spiritual, physical and social interaction. Participants discovered deeper meaning and relevance of Judaism in their lives by being part of an authentic Jewish experience. Weekend retreats were held at Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center, as well as Quality Inn/Wickliffe, Punderson and Mohican State Parks and various campgrounds.

*CYRO - The Community Youth Resource Office* awarded 7 Youth Opportunity Financial Incentive (YOFI) Grants for specialized programming in Jewish learning, leadership skills and human development. Among this year's awards were youth leadership programs sponsored by **Ner Tamid Youth Group**, **B'nai Akiva**, **TEFTY-The Temple Tifereth Israel**, **NCSY**, **JASY of Suburban Temple**, **Shaarey Tikvah Kadima**, and **Star of David BBG**.

A teen info line was established with recorded information about Jewish youth group events and activities. The 24 hour phone line is updated weekly.

The *Panim el Panim* program brought 18 teens to Washington DC during the Presidential inauguration weekend. The teens met with congressional leaders, the staff of AIPAC, and visited the Israeli Consulate while exploring their Jewish heritage and its relation to social and political issues.

In its second year, the *Songleader Institute* attracted 13 seventh through twelfth grade students who learned basic guitar chords, a broad repertoire of Hebrew and English songs, and techniques for songleading in camps, youth groups, schools, and community events.

The *President's Round Table Forum*, the convening mechanism for Jewish teens represents 7 youth movements and 25 individual groups or clubs. The forum provides an opportunity for representatives to discover common ground as well as to appreciate their differences.

# Israel Programs

A record 110 students used their *A Gift of Israel* (travel savings program) funds for an Israel experience this year. The various trips included summer programs, year-long study programs, Winter UJA and Hillel missions, a Federation sponsored senior project in *Beit Shean*, the Muss High School in Israel, and family trips. *A Gift of Israel* completed its seventeenth year with 239 new enrollees, bringing total enrollment to almost 2,000 children from 22 schools. Beginning last September the JECC began presenting a \$300 certificate to *B'nai Mitzvah* in the community. The certificate can be used in conjunction with an existing account or to open a new account.

Eleven Cleveland students participated in **Machane Yisrael**, a pilot Israel program sponsored by the **World Zionist Organization** and four North American Jewish communities. Local participants, recommended by their religious school directors, are part of an intensive five-week study program in Israel for students ages 14-16.

In the past school year, 93 middle school, high school and college age students received financial aid grants and loans for Israel travel.

Many have noted, on returning from Israel, that without this aid they would not have been likely to be able to participate in such an experience.

Eight students attended **Alexander Muss High School in Israel (AMHSI)**. AMHSI integrates travel with learning in an accredited academic program. Eleventh grader Naomi Worthington wrote, "I learned more than I thought possible. I visited both famous and not-so-famous sites and was overcome with emotion and understanding. I learned a lot about myself and my own Jewish identity."

The JECC coordinated a joint *Yom HaAtzmaut 5757* celebration for the **Agnon School**, **Fuchs Bet Sefer Mizrahi**, and **Solomon Schechter Day School**. Highlights included a parade at Fuchs Bet Sefer Mizrahi with children in Kindergarten through second grade followed by an Israeli lunch and a carnival. Theodor Herzl, portrayed by **Nate Arnold**, made a guest appearance for third through fifth graders at the Agnon School. A meeting with **Clifford Savren** of the ADL and a simulation game at Solomon Schechter gave older students an opportunity to voice their opinions about the Israeli-Arab situation.



Aaron Horowitz proudly waves the Israeli flag at a Yom HaAtzmaut celebration sponsored by the JECC.



Machane Yisrael camper Ira Ross at the Israel Lebanon border at Rosh Hanikra.

## Outreach

Almost 400 people participated in the first two offerings of "A Taste of Judaism: Are You Curious?" The program was designed by the **Outreach Department** of the **Union of American Hebrew Congregations** in response to the 1990 National Jewish Population Study, which showed that the fastest growing segment of the Jewish population was unaffiliated Jews, many of whom were involved in interfaith relationships. The goal of the program is to reconnect unaffiliated Jews with the Jewish community through a free, easy access introductory program. Eleven local rabbis taught the principles of Jewish spirituality, ethics and community in three-session offerings in the Heights area, Beachwood, Hudson, Mentor, Pepper Pike, and on the west side. About one-third of local participants have been Jewish, and many participants have requested further information on follow-up courses, and programs for children.

*Living the Jewish Year* operated at the **Mayfield Middle School** with 20 New-American students and their families participating regularly throughout the year. The themes for the year, synagogue and home, were enhanced by special programs which included visits to a synagogue, a *succah*, the public library (Jewish Book Month), a supermarket (treasure hunt for *kosher* food), the Jewish Food Bank, and by the preparation of a *kosher* dinner for parents. Five family education programs were well-attended by parents, grandparents and children. The program will become part of the Cleveland Hebrew Schools' Mayfield Heights Branch in the 1997/98 program year.



Rabbi Michael Hecht from Congregation Beth Am shows the Torah to students of A Taste of Judaism.



Living the Jewish Year students visited the Jewish Food Bank.

### ***Albert B. Ratner and Jack and Esther Goldberg Israel Fellowships***

**Etta Einstadter** and **Renee Wolkoff** are the 1997 winners of the Ratner Goldberg Fellowships. Presented annually to outstanding teachers in Cleveland's Jewish schools, the \$3000 award provides an opportunity for advanced study in Israel. Teachers undergo a comprehensive screening and observation process by the JECC Awards Committee.

**Esther and Jack Goldberg** are outstanding philanthropists both in Cleveland and on behalf of Israel. Both have had leadership roles in the Jewish Welfare Fund Appeal. Jack Goldberg is also a member of the Prime Minister's Club of the State of Israel Bonds. **Albert B. Ratner** is a significant Jewish leader both in Cleveland and internationally. Former president of the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland, he also headed the community's first in-depth study of Jewish education. Nationally, he has served as vice-president of the UJA.



*Etta Einstadter is a Hebrew language and Jewish history teacher at Yavne High School and Yavne Teacher's College for Women.*



*Renee Wolkoff teaches art at Solomon Schechter, Temple Emanu El and Mayfield JCC Pre-school.*

### ***Libbie L. Braverman Creative Teaching Award***

Winner of the 1996 Libbie L. Braverman Creative Teaching Award was Rosalie Young of Congregation Bethaynu. The Braverman Award provides a \$500 Israel Savings Bond annually to the teacher or team of educators who have designed the most creative classroom project. Copies of the award winning entry, and many other Braverman award winning projects are available as teacher resources from the JECC Curriculum Collection.

*Y'mei Tefillab*, created by Young, is a hands-on exploration of the synagogue service which provides an opportunity for students in grades 3-6 to take their *tefillab* learning beyond the classroom and sanctuary walls. Students were actively involved in reading, locating and identifying words, discussing concepts and values, and creatively interpreting texts at interactive learning stations.

*Libbie L. Braverman (1900-1990) was one of the nation's foremost Jewish educators. A teacher, author, administrator and community leader, she believed, "the accident of Jewish birth is not enough to sustain Jewish life. There must be an active, significant content in that life, so that the child may learn to be Jewish and like it." Libbie Braverman's legacy survives today as a result of her generosity.*



*JECC Awards Chair Michael Jacobson congratulates Rosalie Young on receiving the Braverman Award*

## The Chet Aleph Friedland Award

**Peter Rzepka** received the prestigious Chet Aleph Friedland Award for his extensive support of Jewish education locally, nationally and internationally. Involved with an extensive range of local institutions, including the Federation, JECC, Jewish Community Center and Park Synagogue, Mr. Rzepka was particularly recognized for his history of involvement with the Agnon School. From its founding days through today, Mr. Rzepka's determination and perseverance have ensured Agnon's physical, financial and educational future.



*Peter Rzepka receives the Friedland Award  
from JECC President Charles A. Ratner*

*Abraham H. Friedland, known as Chet Aleph for Chaim Avraham, was the founding director of the Bureau of Jewish Education (now the JECC), serving from 1924 until his untimely death in 1939. A noted educator, author, poet, and Zionist, Friedland was a charismatic personality of international stature. The JECC building on Taylor Road was named Bet Friedland in his memory, reflecting the respect and love the Cleveland Jewish community had for this outstanding leader.*

## The Steiger Family Education Grant

**THE STEIGER FAMILY EDUCATION GRANT** has been established to recognize an outstanding Jewish day school teacher by providing an opportunity for Judaic study in a formal setting. Honoring the memory of Max and Fannie Steiger and their belief in and support of the Jewish day school, the grant awards up to \$1,600 to help cover tuition and travel expenses. The selection process includes an essay, reference, and interview. The first winner will be announced during Hannukah.



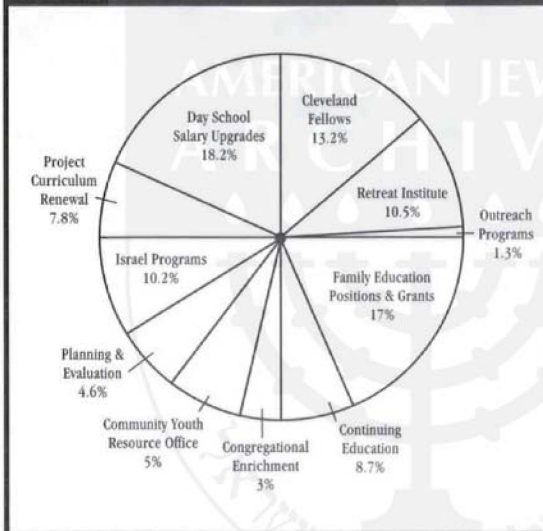
*Harry Steiger announces the establishment of  
The Steiger Family Education Grant.*

As a result of the merger between the former Bureau of Jewish Education and the Commission of Jewish Continuity, the JECC operates with two major budgets - its Operating budget and the Fund for the Jewish Future. Following is the basic financial information for the 1996-97 fiscal year for these two funding streams.

## Fund for the Jewish Future

Jewish Learning Fund Allocation .....	\$1,073,500.
JCF Endowment Fund .....	\$400,000.
FJF Private Family & Foundation Grants .....	\$668,629.
Add'l Program Grants .....	\$172,223.
Fee Income .....	\$6,316.
Misc. Income .....	\$22,527.

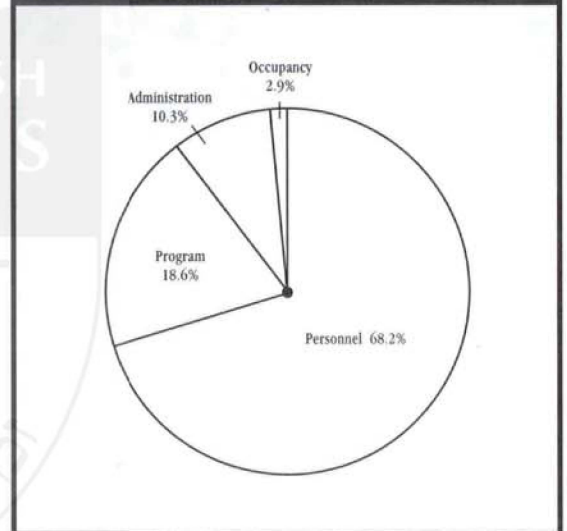
**TOTAL SOURCES .....** \$2,343,095.



## Operating Budget

Jewish Welfare Fund Allocation .....	\$775,725.
Grants and Foundations .....	\$86,277.
Contributions .....	\$1,534.
Investment Income .....	\$7,681.
Fee Income .....	\$84,945.
Misc. Income .....	\$6,645.

**TOTAL SOURCES .....** \$962,807.



## Supporters of the Fund for the Jewish Future

During this year, the following individuals, families, and foundations provided critical funding support for the projects and programs initiated through the Commission on Jewish Continuity process.

Richard Bogomolny  
Toby & Morton J. Gross  
Cari & Gary Gross  
Rochelle & Harley Gross  
Mandel Associated Foundations

The Ratner, Miller, and Shafran Families  
The Samuel Rosenthal Foundation  
The Fred and Peter Rzepka Families  
Mr. and Mrs. Irving I. Stone  
The Wuliger Family



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## JECC LEADERSHIP OFFICERS:

Charles A. Ratner ..... *President*  
 Deborah Cowan ..... *Vice President*  
 Alvin Jaffe ..... *Vice President*  
 Zachary T. Paris ..... *Vice President*  
 Keith Libman ..... *Treasurer*  
 Harley Gross ..... *Secretary*

## HONORARY CHAIRS:

Morton L. Mandel  
 Leighton A. Rosenthal  
 Irving I. Stone

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE:

Dr. Sylvia F. Abrams *Director of Educational Services*  
 Mark D. Gurvis ..... *Managing Director*

## JECC BOARD COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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**Budget** ..... Keith Libman  
**Committee on  
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**Educational Outreach** ..... Rabbi Daniel Roberts  
**Educational Resources** ..... Mitchell Frankel  
**Financial Aid Subcommittee** ..... Mindy Davidson  
**Finance and Investment** ..... Michael Wager  
**Planning** ..... Alayne Reitman  
**Adolescence  
Task Force** ..... Larry Kadis, Edward Kraus  
**Adult Education Committee** ..... Harley Gross  
**Community Day  
High School Task Force** ..... Dr. Howard Siegel  
**Evaluation and  
Research Advisory** ..... Irvin Leonard  
**Professional  
Educational Services** ..... Elliott Azoff  
**Awards Subcommittee** ..... Michael Jacobson  
**Benefits Subcommittee** ..... Alan Yanowitz  
**Cleveland Board of License** ..... Yehudith Shamir  
**Retreat Institute** ..... Earl Leiken  
**Nominating** ..... Bennett Yanowitz



*Alan Bennett, Dan Polster, and David Ariel  
discuss future plans for the JECC*



## JEWISH EDUCATION CENTER OF CLEVELAND BOARD OF TRUSTEES 1996-1997 5757

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Mitchell Barron  
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### Executive Committee Honorary Trustee

## IN MEMORIAM LAWRENCE C. LICHTIG

*During the past year we were touched by the loss of Honorary Trustee Lawrence C. Lichtig. Serving as Treasurer and Vice-President of the Cleveland Bureau of Jewish Education between 1982 and 1991, Larry was wholeheartedly dedicated to Jewish education. His warm heart, generous hand, loving smile and wise counsel were ever at the agency's service. May his memory be for a blessing.*

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Leslie Brenner ..... Director, Retreat Institute  
Andrew Cohen ..... Retreat Educator  
Rivkah Dahan ..... Director, Teacher Center  
Ellen Fishman ..... Director of Special Education  
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Earl Lefkowitz ..... Director, Ratner Media Center  
Cindi Maggied ..... Director  
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Rabbi Rob Toren ..... Director, Educational Planning  
Jane West Walsh ..... Educational Planning Associate  
Yisrael Wiener ..... Shaliach  
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Akiva High School  
Am Shalom of Lake County  
Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple  
Beth Israel - The West Temple  
Beth Torah Religious School  
B'nai Jeshurun Congregation  
Cleveland Board of Rabbis  
Cleveland College of  
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Cleveland Hebrew Schools  
Congregation Beth Am  
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Congregation Shaarey Tikvah  
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Jewish Day Nursery  
Merkaz HaRabbonim  
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True Sisters Nursery  
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## NEW POSITIONS AND STAFF ASSIGNMENTS 1997-98

Shlomo Batsia ..... Shaliach  
Brenda Blanks ..... Database Coordinator  
Elissa Bortz ..... Curriculum Associate  
Maury Greenberg ..... Director, Technology Resources  
Melissa Kerbel ..... *Moresbet*/Hebrew Advocacy Associate  
Earl Lefkowitz ..... Senior Media Specialist  
Celia Hollander Lewis ..... Curriculum Assistant  
Marci Rogozen ..... Israel at 50, Project Coordinator  
Judy Schiller ..... Retreat Educator



Solomon Schechter student  
Gilan Herman proudly shows  
off his Tu B'shevat plant.



Akiva High School students Ezat  
Yomtovian and Sam Greenspan  
light candles in memory  
of 7 Israeli schoolgirls.



Mark Bailin of Congregation  
Beth Am receives his Teacher  
Scholar certificate from Dr.  
Sylvia Abrams.



Fifth grade Fuchs Bet Sefer Mizrahi students create  
projects with Teacher Center director Rivka Dahan.



Arlen and Bonnie Gulko and sons Brian and Ross at Shaarey Tikvah family education program.



Agnon School prepares for the Yom HaAtzmaut parade.



**THE JEWISH EDUCATION  
CENTER OF CLEVELAND**

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**JEWISH EDUCATION CENTER  
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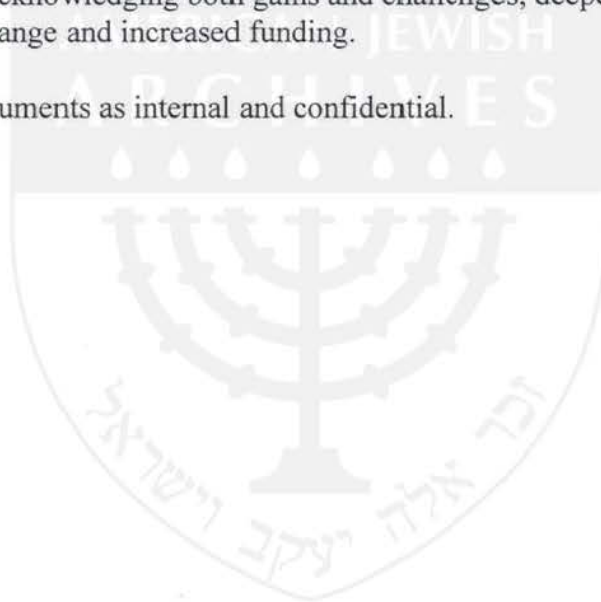
# MEMO

**To:** CIJE Steering Committee  
**From:** Nessa Rapoport  
**Subject:** Follow-up to June 26 Meeting: Cleveland Evaluation Reports  
**Date:** July 7, 1997

In discussing the role of evaluation in helping to improve Jewish education and in mobilizing the community, Chuck Ratner mentioned the constructive role played by a serious evaluation effort conducted in Cleveland. It was felt that members of the Steering Committee would be interested in reading these documents, which are enclosed. Chuck described the way that responsible evaluation, by openly acknowledging both gains and challenges, deepened the commitment to ongoing educational change and increased funding.

Please regard these documents as internal and confidential.

*Nessa*





1997-98  
*Annual Report*  
5758

*Jewish  
Education  
Center  
of  
Cleveland*



Our rabbis teach:

נר לאחד נר למאה

תלמוד: שבת קכב א

*A Light for One is a Light for a Hundred.*

Talmud, Shabbat 122a

As we work with schools, teachers, students, or parents, we affect not only that particular situation, but also have a broader impact on our community.

When our Curriculum Department partners with a school for Project Curriculum Renewal, that process helps us investigate new approaches applicable to many. When we invest in teacher education programs, the teachers' newly acquired practices and knowledge improve the learning experiences of many students. When our Retreat Institute works with a school's staff on learning to access Jewish texts in an informal setting, those individuals apply that knowledge in other settings as well.

This year the JECC brought new light to the community's efforts to strengthen and expand Jewish learning:

- In partnership with the Cleveland College of Jewish Studies, we launched מורשת: *Moreshet*, The Hebrew Literacy Project, to build support for Hebrew in the Jewish community and to prepare a new generation of Hebrew teachers for the supplementary school system.
- We celebrated Israel's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary through a series of community events, including an exhibit at the Mandel JCC, an art show at La Place, and the first joint day school concert in our community.
- We sponsored the נפש *Nefesh* Conference as a first step in disseminating and implementing the report of our Adolescent Task Force. A unique mix of over 200 teens, youth workers, teachers, parents, and lay leaders grappled with how to influence this critical age group more effectively.
- Our ORT/JECC Partnership in Educational Technology facilitated the installation of state of the art computer labs in our day schools, while the Ratner Media Center completed a strategic

planning process to reformulate its mission as Media and Technology. The synergy between ORT and the JECC has resulted in our new website - **[www.jecc.org](http://www.jecc.org)**. These technology initiatives will promote learning and build community through connectivity.

- We created the Shared Services Organization (SSO), a consortium of seven Federation beneficiary agencies, which will provide financial management expertise and more effective integration of technology into the business functions of the Agnon School, Cleveland College of Jewish Studies, Cleveland Hebrew Schools, Fuchs Bet Sefer Mizrachi, Hebrew Academy of Cleveland, Jewish Education Center of Cleveland, and the Solomon Schechter Day School.
- We supported the initial formation and board activity for The Pardes School, a new community high school which will open in fall, 1999.
- In partnership with The Avi Chai Foundation and the Jewish Community Federation, we launched a pilot school voucher program to attract new families to day school education.
- Our Adult Education Committee launched several new initiatives to bring the communal goal of universal adult Jewish literacy, set through the Federation's strategic planning process, closer to reality.

The JECC's planning, coordination, and service functions help ensure that the light of Torah touches all parts of our Jewish community.



*Harley Gross*



*Dr. Sylvia F. Abrams*



*Mark D. Gurvis*

# Educational Planning

The JECC completed its year-long study on adult education, leading to the development of two new initiatives. The first, *Meah*, is an intensive adult learning program developed in Boston, which will be adapted by the **Cleveland College of Jewish Studies** for implementation in Cleveland. The program will work with synagogues, schools and other organizations to organize cohorts of adult learners prepared to commit to 100 hours of learning over two years. The first four cohorts will begin study in January, 1999. The second initiative creates partnerships with various organizations in the community to expand adult educational outreach activities designed to attract and involve in Jewish learning the marginally affiliated and unaffiliated. The first two partnerships are with **Aish HaTorah**, and a consortium involving **Or Chadash**, the **Jewish Community Center**, and the **Cleveland College of Jewish Studies**.



At the Nefesh Conference, teens speak out about growing up Jewish in Cleveland.

The JECC's **Adolescent Task Force** completed its work, having developed a broad series of recommendations for strengthening both formal and informal education for teens. With a strong focus within the report on advocacy, the JECC convened *Nefesh: A New Vision For Jewish Teens Conference*. The *Nefesh* Conference, keynoted by Dr. Jonathan Woocher from JESNA, attracted over 200 adult and adolescent participants from across the community spectrum for a full day of learning and exploration of issues. The JECC has since convened the Adolescent Steering Committee to oversee implementation of recommendations from the report.

The Planning Department worked through the year to support the formation and initial activity of **The Pardes School**, the new Jewish day high school in Cleveland. This is the result of last year's study on the feasibility of a new community day high school. The school has engaged a Head of School, Dr. Howard Fine, and will open with classes in August, 1999.

The department also supported intensive planning and consultation for several other community day schools. The JECC provided funding support for school assessment consultations by Independent School Management (ISM) for the **Agnon School**, **Fuchs Bet Sefer Mizrachi**, and **Solomon Schechter Day School**. The ISM consultation for Schechter followed on the successful partnership through the JECC's *Drisha Project*, and has helped the school initiate a more formal strategic planning process. The JECC has also provided staff support for the Agnon School's development of a strategic board agenda following their ISM consultation.

The JECC is facilitating implementation of a new *Shared Services Organization (SSO)* following a Federation-initiated consultation among its educational beneficiary agencies on strengthening fiscal management services. The SSO will provide fiscal management and information technology services to seven partner agencies - **Agnon School**, **Cleveland College of Jewish Studies**, **Cleveland Hebrew Schools**, **Fuchs Bet Sefer Mizrachi**, **Hebrew Academy of Cleveland**, **Jewish Education Center of Cleveland**, and **Solomon Schechter Day School**. In the information technology area, the SSO is building upon the *ORT-JECC Partnership for Technology in Education*, bringing 3 additional agencies into that project.



Mother-daughter Nefesh Conference participants Marcia and Elyssa Auster express their views on the Cleveland Jewish teen experience.

# Professional Educational Services

The **Jewish Educator Services Program (JESP)** offers cutting-edge methodologies that encourage life-long learning about teaching. A record 859 individual teachers participated in 67 course offerings for a total 1,187 enrollments. Twenty-five of the JECC's 26 affiliates took advantage of these professional educational services.

Eight teachers from **Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple, B'nai Jeshurun Congregation, Congregation Beth Am, The Suburban Temple, Temple Emanu El** and **The Temple-Tifereth Israel** participated in *Teacher Corps*, the year-long intensive seminar in pedagogy and Judaics, co-sponsored by the **Cleveland College of Jewish Studies**.

The *Seminar in Early Childhood*, taught and coached by Dr. Nancy Barbour, KSU Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education, involved 22 educators from 6 Jewish preschools. The seminar was made possible by grants from *The Treu-Mart Fund* (a supporting foundation of the Jewish Community Federation and Cleveland Foundation), and the *David S. Stein Foundation, Nathan L. & Regina Herman Charitable Fund, and Isadore & Faye Rudin Memorial Fund of the Jewish Community Federation*.

Fifteen individuals traveled to Israel on the eighth annual *Israel Educators' Seminar*, co-sponsored by the **Cleveland College of Jewish Studies**. These educators spent 2 weeks traveling through Israel, gaining a first-hand appreciation of Israel's historical background and unique multi-cultural make-up. The JECC also offered a trip to the **US Holocaust Memorial Museum** in Washington DC that attracted 17 participants. This allowed educators to become familiar with the museum and to prepare themselves to teach this subject.

Fifty-five educator *Conference Grants* were awarded to help educators participate in the **CAJE, Torah U'Mesorah, Ohio Educators Israel Seminar, and Council for Initiatives in Jewish Education** conferences, and other out-of-town study opportunities.

Four preschool departments and 12 supplementary schools earned over \$40,000 in *Institutional Stipends*. This was the first year of eligibility for preschools. Financial stipends for completing continuing education courses were issued to 719 educators.

The JECC obtained school district status from the **Ohio Department of Education**. A consortium represent-

ing affiliated day schools was formed as a Local Professional Development Committee and began operation on September 1, 1998.

*מורשת Moreshet: The Hebrew Literacy Project*, a joint venture between the JECC and the **Cleveland College of Jewish Studies**, promotes Hebrew literacy in the community. *Hebrew On One Foot*, a 1 day, 6-hour crash course for beginners attracted over 60 participants. In *Hebrew As You Go*, sponsored in cooperation with **Akiva High School** and **Israel Experience**, 10 teens traveling to Israel learned useful phrases and language. Similarly, *From Aleph to Tav*, offered in cooperation with the **Cleveland Hillel Foundation**, also attracted 10 students.

The *Pre-Service Hebrew Teacher Development* program will train 15 new teachers. *מורשת Moreshet* also enhances the Hebrew capacity of teachers currently in the field, trains mentors, and supports Hebrew in the classroom.

Hebrew and English signage is now visible in the JECC and **Solomon Schechter Day School**, with several other community buildings in the planning stages.



*Students of all ages learn to read Hebrew at the Moreshet marathon "Hebrew On One Foot".*



*Renee Siegel and Marsha Goldstein get a first-hand look at a nursery program at Kibbutz Shuluchot.*

## Family Education

Cleveland's emphasis on family education continued as the third cycle of family education grants was completed. Five *Shoresh (Root) Grants* for more intensive congregational and school programs, and 2 *Tzemach (Seedling) Grants* for early childhood institutions, were awarded for the 1997-98 school year.

Shoresh Grant recipients included **Cleveland Hebrew Schools, Solomon Schechter Day School, Suburban Temple, Torah Tzion Kollel of Fuchs Bet Sefer Mizrachi, and Workmen's Circle.**

Tzemach Grants were awarded to **Mandel JCC Preschool, and Mayfield JCC Preschool.** Mayfield JCC Preschool families celebrated Shabbat with hands-on activities, prayers and songs. Mandel JCC families participated in a Havdalah Dinner with an evening of songs, Israeli dance, and the crafting of Havdalah candles and spice boxes.

Cleveland's unique support of community-funded positions in synagogues and schools continued to fuel the growth of family education programming in our community. Participation sites include: **Agnon School, Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple, Beth Israel-The West Temple, B'nai Jeshurun Congregation, Cleveland Hebrew Schools, Congregation Beth Am, Congregation Shaarey Tikvah, Park Synagogue, Solomon Schechter Day School, Temple Emanu El, The Suburban Temple, and The Temple-Tifereth Israel.** The Cleveland College of Jewish Studies plays an important role in facilitating the placement process and mentoring the professionals in these positions.



*Hands-on Havdalah rituals make an impression on Mandel JCC Preschool families in a program made possible through a Tzemach Grant.*

## Congregational Enrichment

Congregational Enrichment Funds were provided to 14 congregations for 166 programs, including 21 weekend retreats and 31 family education programs. Other programs included Shabbatonim, music, drama and art enrichment with artists-in-residence, summer camp incentives, holiday celebrations, and Israel at 50 programs. The JECC's newest affiliate, **Congregation B'nai Abraham of Elyria**, enriched classroom learning with music and art projects. Yom T'fila involved 8th grade students studying prayer at **Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple.** The students produced a hands-on T'fila museum, creative prayer service, and video for grades 3-6.



*Decorative fruits created by students hung in the Sukkah at Congregation B'nai Abraham in Elyria, JECC's newest affiliated school.*



*Anticipating their Purim celebration, Congregational Enrichment Funds made it possible for Beth Israel -The West Temple students to create an array of masks.*

## Educational Resources

**Bet Limmud**, the combined Hebrew school of **B'nai Jeshurun Congregation** and **Congregation Beth Am**, began its first year as a **Project Curriculum Renewal (PCR)** school. The school's educators and PCR staff developed cutting-edge Jewish curriculum in the format of Problem-Based Learning. Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple completed its third year of PCR and has been extended to a fourth year. PCR's work in Hebrew language was intensified through involvement with both Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple and Bet Limmud; and Hebrew teachers from both schools participated in joint educational experiences. A unit on "*Our Bodies*" was developed as part of a major revision of the Issues and Values curriculum generally used in grades 7-9. Completing the first level of the *PCR Curriculum Practicum for Education Leaders*, 14 educators were introduced to principles of curriculum design and support. Five educators completed the second level of the *Practicum*.

Almost 1,300 visitations were made to the **Teacher Center** to construct teaching aids under the guidance of Jewish educational materials specialists. Students from **Agnon School**, **Mosdos Ohr Hatorah**, and **Fuchs Bet Sefer Mizrachi** visited the center to work on class projects. The staff created 25 new instructional materials including a series of Big Books which encourage participation in early childhood and primary grades. In honor of Israel's 50th anniversary, a set of 10 learning centers was designed for grades 6-8. The Teacher Center houses photo albums showcasing individual projects, and providing opportunities for schools to share ideas.

**The Ratner Media and Technology Center (RMC)** has taken an increasingly visible leadership role in library, media and technology services for a wide range of educational institutions and agencies locally and nationally. Reorganized space and automated RMC operations improved service, increased efficiency, and made it possible to extend borrowing privileges to the entire community. The overall number of print and video materials circulated to affiliates increased to 3,266. Outreach to community librarians provides a network for sharing educational resources. Community educators and over 25 JESP instructors are taking advantage of a resource "helping hand" box and new material updates. Refurbished and expanded, *Jewish Video Visions* was available through 7 distribution sites: **Congregations Am Shalom, Beth Am, El Emeth of Youngstown, The Temple-Tifereth Israel, Cleveland**

**Hebrew Schools, Solomon Schechter Day School and Workmen's Circle.**

The **ORT/JECC Partnership for Technology in Education** saw technological advances for the 4 participating day schools: **Agnon School, Fuchs Bet Sefer Mizrachi, Hebrew Academy** and **Solomon Schechter Day School**. New computer labs of networked multimedia workstations were set up. Educational software was installed and integrated into the existing curriculum. In conjunction with the RMC, ORT's involvement with Cleveland's *Partnership 2000* made it possible for students to participate in a collaborative Hebrew-English learning project via the Internet with peers in Bet Shean.



*The Teacher Center is always a hub of activity for educators creating teaching aids.*



*Educators stay in touch with the cutting edge of academic leadership in the Curriculum Practicum.*

## Special Education

The **Special Education Department** is marking its tenth year serving the Jewish community's 26 affiliated preschools, supplementary and day schools. Central to its mission is the integration of students with special needs into the Jewish education system.

The *ETGAR* program, in its ninth year, continues to serve children with significant disabilities. Eleven schools participate, representing all denominations. This year 12 students were served in 2 classes housed at **Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple** and **B'nai Jeshurun Congregation**.

The *Shadow Project*, now in its fourth year continues to grow as increasing numbers of families request inclusion as an educational option for their children. This year 34 teens from 9 supplementary schools provided support to 36 students who would otherwise not be able to participate in Jewish educational life. The teens are trained by the special education staff to provide individual support to students with special needs.

Over the past year the JECC has been involved in a planning process in partnership with **SEGULA** to develop a set of recommendations which would allow our community to serve better the needs of students with a variety of special needs enrolled in the day school. The recommendations include an array of services that will better enable students with special needs to succeed in day school settings.

The JECC co-sponsors *Coffee Talk*, a parent-networking group that allows parents to share their challenges. About 50 parents participated in 3 programs during the year.



The "Journey to Israel" archeological dig excited these Hebrew Academy students.



A Solomon Schechter Day School student "uncovers" ancient text at the Israel at 50 art show.



Participating in the *Etgar* program allows students with special needs to enjoy a holiday celebration with teachers, Avi Litwak, Darla Gross, and Jenny Wexler.



NOVA Artist works with students from Congregation B'nai Jeshurun to create a wall for the Israel at 50 art show.

# Special Projects

## ISRAEL AT 50

Celebrating Israel's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, nearly 2,700 children visited the JECC's hands-on **Journey to Israel** exhibit at the Mandel JCC from February 15 – March 22. Pre-school through eighth grade students from 31 public, parochial, supplementary, and day schools enjoyed the simulated trip to Israel. Children had the opportunity to visit an archeological dig, a *kibbutz*, a modern Israeli city, the seashore, a growing desert, and a Bedouin tent. At each site, volunteer docents helped with games and activities. Visitors were treated to the music and aromas of Israel, sampled authentic Israeli foods, and dressed up in native garb.

Over 300 students participated in *Children's Art Celebrating Israel at 50*, a juried art exhibit held at La Place in Beachwood. Entries depicted the past, present, and future of Israel in sculpture, mixed media, tapestry, pastels, watercolor, and ceramics. Local artists from the **New Organization for Visual Artists (NOVA)** worked with 4 schools to create individual or group entries for the show. Both projects were made possible by a grant from the Endowment Fund of the Jewish Community Federation.



*The game Sim Kibbutz grabs the attention of students visiting "Journey to Israel".*

## NUMBERS 2000

Completing its 6th year, **Numbers 2000**, the family-based historical research project continues to be an exciting program for 6th and 7th grade students and their families. Over 250 students participated with their parents in activities facilitated by 14 educators in 8 schools. Working with the **Western Reserve Historical Society (WRHS)**, several schools conducted research with the Curator of the Jewish Archives, and students donated their family photographs to the WRHS library.

## A TASTE OF JUDAISM: ARE YOU CURIOUS?

**A Taste of Judaism: Are You Curious?** reaches unaffiliated Jews and non-Jews in a non-threatening risk-free environment. In 1997-98, Rabbis taught classes in 13 locations throughout the city to 260 participants. The free, 3-session course focuses on Jewish ethics, community, and spirituality. About 50% of the participants are Jewish, with many of the non-Jews involved in interfaith relationships. The goal of the course is to reconnect unaffiliated Jews and integrate them back into the Jewish community.

## THE AVI CHAI VOUCHER PROGRAM

The Avi Chai Foundation chose Cleveland as one of two communities for a pilot program distributing up to \$12,000 in tuition vouchers for 2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade students transferring to the **Agnon School**, **Fuchs Bet Sefer Mizrahi**, **Hebrew Academy of Cleveland**, or **Solomon Schechter Day School** from a public or private secular school. Based on intake assessment of 86 inquiries, 41 eligible families were referred to the individual schools. Twenty-three students were enrolled in a day school for the 1998-99 school year. The Avi Chai Voucher Program was developed as a partnership between The Avi Chai Foundation, JECC, Jewish Community Federation, and the participating day schools.

## Beyond the Classroom

The **Retreat Institute** supported 40 retreats throughout the year. Over 2,000 individuals participated in these programs, which included themes such as family history, Israel, Biblical leadership, and renewal. Working with **Akiva High School**, two retreats were incorporated into a year-long course, *Exploring Judaism*. A specialized course on retreat education, co-sponsored by the **JECC** and **Cleveland College of Jewish Studies**, focused on the philosophical foundations and practical implementation of developing retreat programs. A study session for colleagues with acclaimed author and educator Rabbi Arthur Waskow was co-sponsored by The Retreat Institute.

The **Community Youth Resource Office (CYRO)** awarded 9 *Youth Opportunity Financial Incentive (YOFI)* Grants providing consultation and up to \$750 in funding to youth groups for creating leadership, and Jewish cultural and spiritual programming. Groups receiving grants were **Am Shalom Youth Group**, **Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple CLEFTY**, **Cleveland BBYO Advisors**, **NCSY Seniors**, **NCSY Yachad**, **Shaarey Tikvah Kadima**, **Star of David BBG**, **Suburban Temple JASY**, and **The Temple-Tifereth Israel TEFTY**. The ongoing *Advisor Training Seminar* held 8 sessions with 16 participants focusing on planning and program strategies.

Eleven Cleveland teens joined others from all over the United States participating in the *Panim El Panim Program* in Washington, D.C. The annual 4-day seminar allows American Jewish teens to explore their Jewish heritage and its relation to critical social and political issues facing our nation and the world.



Congregation Shaarey Tikvah worked with the Retreat Institute to make outdoor exploration a part of a Shabbaton "Envisioning Israel: A Journey of Dreams".



The people and traditions of Israel were highlighted at a community-wide Israel at 50 celebration co-sponsored by the JECC, the Agnon School, Fuchs Bet Sefer Mizrahi and Solomon Schechter Day School.

Now in its 18th year, **A Gift of Israel** (travel savings program) enrolled 261 new children, bringing the total enrolled to almost 2,000 in 23 schools. A record 119 students used their funds for an Israel experience this year. Trips included various youth movement summer programs, eighth grade school trips, and Alexander Muss High School in Israel. More than 170 children received a \$300 *B'nai Mitzvah* gift certificate, bringing in 33 new 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade enrollees into the program. Sixty students received personal gifts through The Bar/Bat Mitzvah Registry.

Through the JECC's **Financial Aid Program** 117 students received grants and loans for first time travel to Israel. Revised financial aid rules now offer up to \$2,000 for first time travelers, and up to \$1,500 for a second trip.

Fourteen students from Beachwood, Cleveland Heights, Hathaway Brown and Solon attended **Alexander Muss High School** in Israel. The eight-week program integrates travel throughout Israel with studies while fostering Jewish identity and unity.

Together with Agnon, Fuch Bet Sefer Mizrahi and Solomon Schechter Day School, the JECC planned an evening of entertainment for *Yom HaAtzmaut* to honor Israel at 50. The performance, attended by 1,300 people, featured students from all four schools.

# Sources and Uses of Funds

As a result of the merger between the former Bureau of Jewish Education and the Commission of Jewish Continuity, the JECC operates with two major budgets. Following is the basic financial information for the 1997-98 fiscal year for these two funding streams.

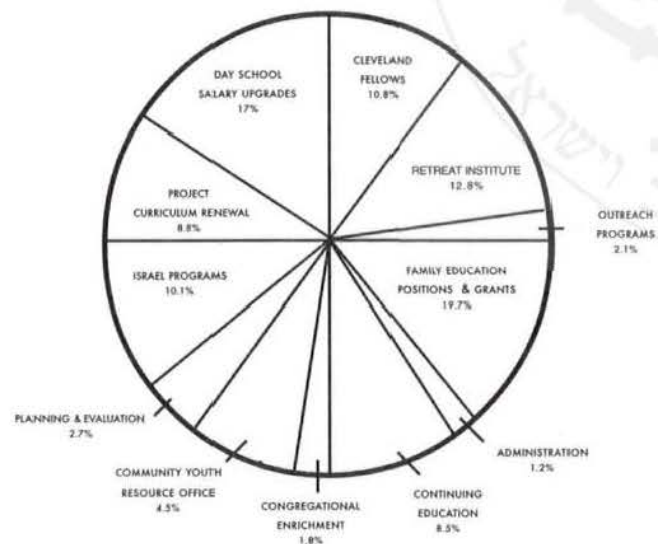
## FUND FOR THE JEWISH FUTURE

### Revenue:

Jewish Welfare Fund Allocation .....	\$2,120,910
JCF Endowment Fund .....	\$450,000
Grants & Foundations .....	\$17,364
Fee Income .....	\$56,554
Misc. Income .....	\$1,236

**TOTAL SOURCES .....** \$2,646,064

### Expenditures:



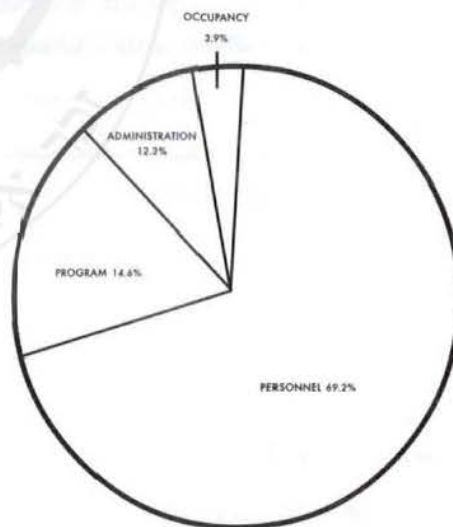
## OPERATING BUDGET

### Revenue:

Jewish Welfare Fund Allocation .....	\$802,657
Grants & Foundations .....	\$15,416
Contributions .....	\$777
Investment Income .....	\$1,588
Fee Income .....	\$61,520
Misc. Income .....	\$1,605

**TOTAL SOURCES .....** \$883,563

### Expenditures:



**THE ALBERT B. RATNER and JACK and ESTHER GOLDBERG ISRAEL FELLOWSHIP** recognizes 2 outstanding teachers in Cleveland Jewish schools. Recipients receive up to \$3000 for advanced study in Israel.

Esther and Jack Goldberg are vital philanthropic leaders in Cleveland's Jewish community. For many years they have lent exceptional support to the Jewish Welfare Fund Appeal, State of Israel Bonds, Park Synagogue, and many other local agencies and organizations. They have a long-held commitment to Jewish education and services to children. Esther Goldberg has fulfilled many leadership roles in Jewish women's organizations, including the Women's Division of State of Israel Bonds, United Order of True Sisters #30, Women's American ORT, and Hadassah. Jack Goldberg chaired the Builders and Real Estate Division of the Jewish Welfare Fund Appeal and is a member of the Prime Minister's Club of State of Israel Bonds. He serves as a life trustee of Park Synagogue.

Albert B. Ratner is a preeminent Jewish leader here in Cleveland and on the national and international scene. President of the Jewish Community Federation from 1976-1979, he is a former general chairman of Cleveland's Jewish Welfare Fund Appeal and spearheaded the community's first in-depth report on Jewish education. Nationally, he has served as vice-president of the Council of Jewish Federations and vice president of United Jewish Appeal. Deeply devoted to Israel, Ratner has played a key role in Israel's Technical Advisory Committee on Housing and lent his exceptional leadership skills to the Jewish Agency and Israel Bonds Board of Governors. He was honored with the Jewish Community Federation's distinguished Charles Eisenman Award for outstanding service in 1986.

## RECIPIENTS:

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1989	Judith Abrams, <i>Hebrew Academy</i>	1994	Ida Zelman Friedman, <i>Agnon School</i> Rabbi Menachem Meisels, <i>Hebrew Academy</i>
1990	Suzanne Arnold, <i>Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple</i> , <i>Temple Emanu El</i> Gail Simon, <i>The Suburban Temple</i>	1995	Shoshana Ault, <i>Beth Israel-The West Temple</i> Jeffrey Muller, <i>Cleveland Hebrew Schools</i>
1991	Ann Lewis, <i>Bet Sefer Mizrachi</i> Malka Weil, <i>Cleveland Hebrew Schools</i> , <i>Solomon Schechter Day School</i>	1996	Rabbi Asher Newman, <i>Hebrew Academy</i> Anna Sportas, <i>Solomon Schechter Day School</i>
1992	Paul Koret, <i>B'nai Jeshurun Congregation</i> , <i>Beth Torah Religious School</i> Edna Akrish, <i>Cleveland Hebrew Schools</i>	1997	Etta Einstadter, <i>Yavne High School</i> Renee Wolkoff, <i>Solomon Schechter Day School</i> , <i>Temple Emanu El</i> , <i>Mayfield JCC Pre-school</i>
1993	Rabbi Shmuel Berkovicz, <i>Mosdos Ohr HaTorah</i> Sarah Kudroff, <i>Solomon Schechter Day School</i> , <i>Cleveland Hebrew Schools</i> Barbara Weiss, <i>Agnon School</i>	1998	Diane Lavin, <i>Agnon School</i>

**THE LIBBIE L. BRAVERMAN TEACHING AWARD** recognizes a teacher who has demonstrated dedication and devotion to teaching and has significantly contributed to developing methods or materials to the Jewish teaching profession a \$1,000 Israel Bond is awarded.

Libbie L. Braverman, one of the foremost educators of our time, devoted her life to the enhancement of Jewish education. She served in many educational capacities in both public and religious school faculties, synagogues, communal educational boards and parent-teacher associations. Her presence was felt nationally in her service as the first female vice president of the National Council of Jewish Education and as a national board member and regional officers of Hadassah. In 1931, she was a delegate to the World Zionist Congress, held that year in Basle, Switzerland. She believed that "the accident of Jewish birth is not enough to sustain Jewish life. There must be active, significant content in that life, so that the child may learn to be Jewish and like it." She strove to make "Jewish life alive, real and meaningful."

## AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

### RECIPIENTS:

1984	Honey Massey, <i>Congregation Shaarey Tikvah</i>	1993	Sandy Baskin, Lynne Berliner, Rosalie Schwebel, Barbara Seewald, <i>The Temple - Tifereth Israel</i>
1985	Sharlene Pearl, Debra Tew, <i>The Temple-Tifereth Israel</i>	1994	Jesse Epstein, <i>Temple Ner Tamid</i>
1986	Susan Lockshine, <i>Temple Emanu El</i>	1995	Alice Green, <i>Akiva High School</i>
1987	Carol Schottenstein, <i>Hebrew Academy</i>	1996	Rosalie Young, <i>Congregation Bethaynu</i>
1988	Evy Rosenblum, <i>Beth Israel-The West Temple</i>	1998	Rabbi Moshe Adler, <i>Akiva High School</i>
1989	Melvin Arnoff, <i>Beth Torah Religious School</i>		
1990	Ellen Wohl, <i>Temple Emanu El</i>		
1991	Drora Arussy, <i>Park Synagogue</i>		
1992	Evan Langholt, <i>Temple Emanu El</i> Barbara Isaacs, Melanie Ryshen, <i>Cleveland Hebrew Schools</i>		

**THE STEIGER FAMILY EDUCATION GRANT** recognizes an outstanding Jewish day school teacher by providing an opportunity for Judaic study in a formal setting. Up to \$2500 is awarded to help cover tuition and travel expenses.

Max and Fannie Steiger were wonderful teachers through the way they lived their lives. They modeled a way of life as represented by the biblical injunction "to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God." They valued Jewish education, believing in and supporting the Jewish day school movement all their lives. In their memory, the Steiger family dedicated this education grant for teachers of Cleveland's day schools.

### RECIPIENTS:

1997	Judy Yehudit Sharaby, <i>Solomon Schechter Day School</i>	1998	Tami Goldberg, <i>Fuchs Bet Sefer Mizrahi</i>
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Morton L. Mandel, Chuck Ratner and Ilana Horowitz Ratner reflect on Chuck's accomplishments as outgoing JECC president.

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Andrew Cohen ..... Retreat Educator  
Rivkah Dahan ..... Director, Teacher Center  
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Yossi Israeli ..... ORT Computer Consultant  
Earl Lefkowitz ..... Senior Media Specialist  
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Caren Shiloh ..... Retreat Educator  
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Judy Schiller ..... Retreat Educator  
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Rabbi Rob Toren ..... Director, Educational Planning  
Jane West Walsh ..... Educational Planning Associate  
Polly Wilkenfeld ..... Librarian  
Helen Wolf ..... Director, Israel Programs

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Wendie Sachs Forman ..... Avi Chai Voucher, Program Coordinator  
Ava Hodous ..... Director, A Taste of Judaism  
Melissa Kerbel ..... Moreshet/Hebrew Advocacy Associate  
Marcy Rogozen ..... Israel at 50 Project Coordinator

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Carol Magden ..... Secretary  
Mary Resnick ..... CYRO Administrative Assistant  
Bonnie Shapiro ..... RMC Administrative Assistant  
Sandra Wager ..... JESP Project Coordinator  
Edith Weiner ..... Teacher Center Assistant

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Akiva High School  
Am Shalom of Lake County  
Anshe Chesed-Fairmount Temple  
Beth Israel-The West Temple  
B'nai Jeshurun Congregation  
Cleveland Board of Rabbis  
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Congregation Shaarey Tikvah  
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Temple Ner Tamid  
The Suburban Temple  
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True Sisters Nursery  
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## NEW POSITIONS AND STAFF ASSIGNMENTS 1998-99

Jill Cahn ..... Retreat Educator  
Suri Dessler ..... Teacher Center Assistant  
Robert Happ ..... Director, Financial & Accounting Services, SSO  
Rachel Kerem ..... Planning Associate  
Zina Kiselman ..... Database Coordinator  
Ilya Kligman ..... IT Technician, SSO  
Mary Resnick ..... Retreat Programs Coordinator  
Marcy Rogozen ..... Co-Director, Teacher Center  
Deborah Karmin Rose ..... Curriculum Associate  
Felicia Rosen ..... Curriculum Assistant  
Judy Schiller ..... Asst. Director, Retreat Institute  
Bonnie Shapiro ..... Ratner Media Center Associate  
Linda Silver ..... Curriculum Librarian



*Bet Limmud students plant for the future and celebrate Tu B'Shevat.*



*15 Jewish educators travel to Israel on the Israel Educators Seminar.*



*Teens learned Hebrew phrases and expressions for their upcoming Israel experiences.*



*Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple students go on a retreat "voyage" to America.*



*Former BJE President Hershel Koblenz honors Alan Bennett, Executive Vice President Emeritus.*



*Suburban Temple students and teacher Jill Leve enjoy a camp weekend.*



*Students use the dress up area in the "Journey to Israel" exhibit.*



*A student shows off her work at the Israel at 50 art show.*



*Congregational Enrichment Funds made it possible for Beth Israel - The West Temple students to create an array of masks for Purim.*



*Harley Gross takes over the helm as JECC president.*



**THE JEWISH EDUCATION CENTER OF CLEVELAND**  
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## 1997-98 ANNUAL REPORT 5758

### JEWISH EDUCATION CENTER OF CLEVELAND

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Wisconsin Center For Education  
Research  
1025 West Johnson Street  
Madison, WI 53706



*And they who are wise shine like the brightness of the firmament  
and they who turn many to righteousness  
like the stars for ever and ever.*

**Daniel 12:3**

*This refers to teachers of children who teach and train them in the good way.*

**Bava Batra 8a**

***Charles A. Ratner, PRESIDENT***

***Dr. Sylvia F. Abrams      Mark D. Gurvis***

***OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE***

***THE JEWISH EDUCATION CENTER OF CLEVELAND***