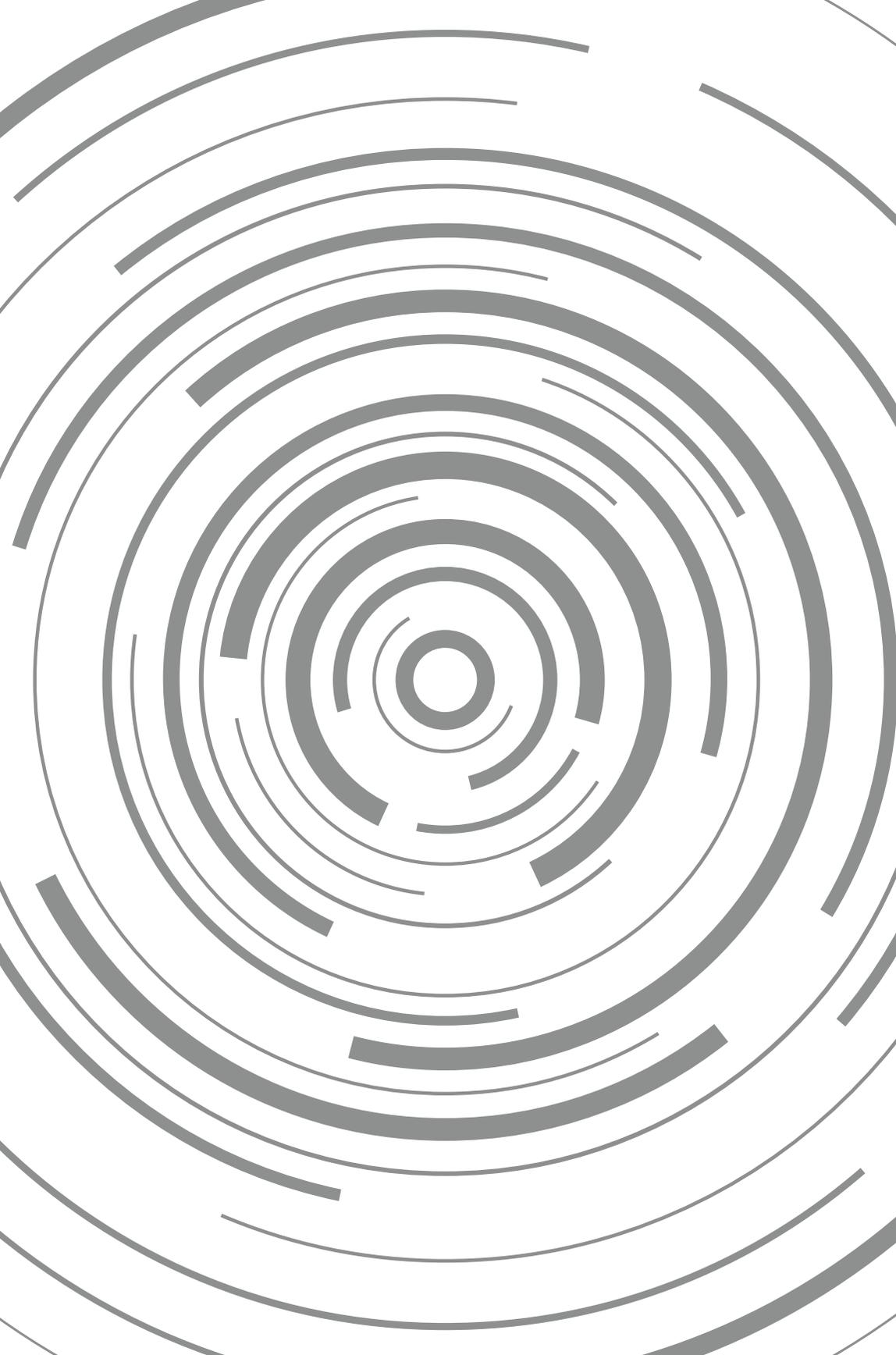


SLINGSHOT

WASHINGTON, DC
Edition

14
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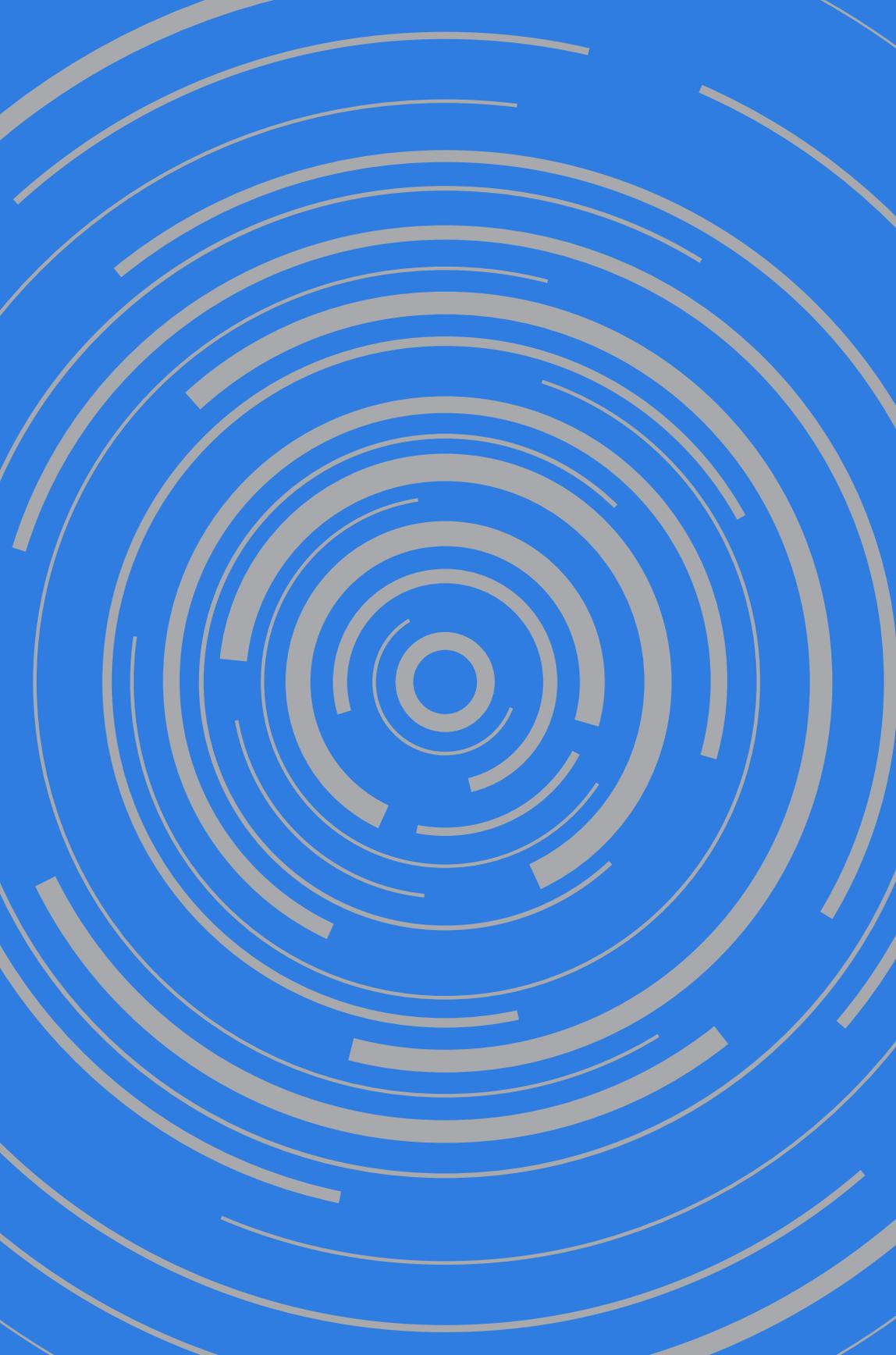
Sponsored by Emanuel J. Friedman Philanthropies



SLINGSHOT

WASHINGTON, DC
Edition

The offset quotation marks signify testimonials from *Slingshot* evaluators.



INTRODUCTION

The Emanuel J. Friedman Philanthropies is pleased to partner with Slingshot to bring you this edition of *Slingshot*, which highlights innovative organizations in the Greater Washington, DC area.

There are a lot of exciting things happening in Jewish life in the Washington, DC region, and we are thrilled to showcase 18 of them in the first *Slingshot DC Edition*! We hope you use this guide as inspiration for finding new programs in which you, your family, and your friends can become involved. Visit these organizations' websites, go to their activities, and support them financially. At Emanuel J. Friedman Philanthropies, we are proud of the Jewish innovation taking place in our region. Please join with us and help it flourish!

Simone Friedman Rones
Executive Director,
Emanuel J. Friedman Philanthropies

On a national scale, *Slingshot* highlights innovations – the most inspirational programs serving the needs of the Jewish community. A read through *Slingshot* is informative, but it's also encouraging. *Slingshot* paints the picture of a Jewish community rolling with the changes in culture and creating programs to address the needs of the community. It gives funders exciting projects and potential participants a sense of optimism about the future.

This is happening in the Greater Washington, DC area – and the community possesses the potential for much more. The DC Edition of *Slingshot* helps bring enthusiasm to the local conversation about Jewish life. Exciting innovations, relevant and stirring Jewish

programs, are popping up all over the region. Some of these projects help the community to better serve Jews in need, others allow Jews to live out their Jewish values in real and practical ways, and all contribute positively to Jewish life and community in the DC area.

We are excited to bring this exposure to inspiring local projects that motivate everyone in the region to do his or her best work. The featured organizations benefit from appearing in *Slingshot*, but this guide is even more valuable for you, the reader.

So if this book is for you, what can you do? First, please find an organization that inspires you, and make a gift of any size. Supporting the most inspirational programs drives more innovation and pushes for relevancy. Next, share this book with friends. The only way we can change the tone and celebrate Jewish life is with your networks. *Slingshot* will send you one copy for your desk, five copies for your family, or fifty copies for your board, all at no cost. What will you do to help the Jewish community continue to innovate? Thank you for reading, and we look forward to hearing your feedback about this first DC Edition of *Slingshot*.

Will Schneider
Executive Director

Julie Finkelstein
Associate Director

Hilary Schumer
Program Manager

SLINGSHOT WASHINGTON, DC EDITION

The Jewish innovation movement developed because Jewish organizations were not fully meeting the needs of the 21st century Jewish community. Today, hundreds of projects exist that are relevant to the needs of the Jewish community, but the majority of American Jews do not realize what is happening right under their noses. Hundreds of thousands of Jews could become more deeply engaged in Jewish life, if only they knew that relevant and interesting options exist.

What is the *Slingshot Guide*?

Slingshot is a resource guide featuring the most innovative projects in Jewish life in North America. *Slingshot* highlights organizations that work to ensure that Jewish life remains relevant to a changing Jewish community, including spiritual communities, Jewish environmental organizations, social justice projects, and Israel advocacy initiatives, among many other projects.

What is *Slingshot's* purpose?

The guide serves as a resource for funders of all ages, foundation professionals, and Jewish community leaders. We hope you use this guide to learn about new projects, be inspired to consider funding, and spot emerging trends. In ten years, *Slingshot* has become an important seal of approval for organizations that seek to impact Jewish life in the 21st century. *Slingshot* and its partner organizations have helped to introduce the drive for relevancy into the Jewish community, which often invests time and funding into projects that no longer serve the needs of the community.

Why print an edition for the Greater Washington, DC area?

A *Slingshot Guide* focused specifically on the Greater Washington, DC area lets us highlight the breadth and depth of this area's innovative Jewish organizations and projects. While the national *Slingshot Guide* can typically only list between five and ten initiatives from the Washington, DC area, this dedicated supplement allows us to showcase 21 organizations, painting a more complete picture of Jewish innovation in the region.

We hope this Washington, DC edition of *Slingshot* brings attention to the amazing work happening in the area and inspires readers to become involved with these initiatives.

Questions about the process?

Visit www.slingshotfund.org/methodology

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 01** 2239
- 02** AVODAH: The Jewish Service Corps
- 03** BBYO Northern Region East: DC Council
- 04** Gather the Jews
- 05** GLOE - Kurlander Program for GLBT Outreach & Engagement
- 06** Greater Washington Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse
- 07** JDC Entwine
- 08** Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington @ Adas Israel
- 09** Jews United for Justice
- 10** Machane TBA L'mata Program
- 11** Maryland Hillel Fellowships
- 12** Matan
- 13** MoEd: A Jewish Afterschool Community
- 14** Moishe House
- 15** NEXT DC's Reverse Mifgash
- 16** NOVA Tribe Series: A Project of NVHC
- 17** Sixth & I Historic Synagogue
- 18** Sunflower Bakery



2239

A synagogue-supported community for young adults in their 20s and 30s that inspires DC's young professionals to (re)discover their Jewish identities.

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address3935 Macomb Street NW
Washington, DC 20016**year founded**

2002

board chair(s)

Valerie Hillman

2014 expenses

\$150,000

project of:Washington Hebrew
Congregation**parent org founded**

1852

A 162-year-old synagogue might not be the most obvious venue for young adult engagement, but Washington Hebrew Congregation's (WHC) 2239 proves that this Reform congregation offers the perfect setting for exciting Jewish life. 2239's commitment to creating programming rich in Jewish content has helped to bring hundreds of young adults (ages 22 to 39) to its programs. Understanding the transient nature of DC's young adult population, 2239's initiatives do not just seek to create future congregational members and donors, but instead to provide engaging opportunities now that encourage further Jewish involvement later. 2239 inspires participants to lead active Jewish lives in DC or wherever their paths might lead.

2239's flagship initiative, Metro Minyan, a Friday night Shabbat experience, takes place in Metro-accessible locations throughout the city. Metro Minyan begins with a "Shot of Torah," an energetic Torah study over drinks, and continues with musical services and dinner catered by a trendy DC restaurant. 2239 also hosts citywide holiday celebrations in partnership with other young adult programs, organizes social activities, and runs ARK (Acts of Religious Kindness), a service learning initiative where participants volunteer locally and across the country. 2239's bold efforts to engage young adults bravely re-frame success. Washington Hebrew Congregation does not define success as simply more members and more fundraising; instead, the organization strives to create more active and excited members of the Reform Movement.

“ The future of the synagogue and of the Reform Movement depend on great programs like this to engage young people right now – 2239's leadership is deeply important to the Jewish world.

AVODAH: The Jewish Service Corps

Strengthening the Jewish community's fight against poverty in the US by training and supporting young Jewish adults to become lifelong leaders for social change.

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New York, NY 10018

year founded

1998

board chair(s)

Steven Dow

2014 expenses

\$2,640,500

AVODAH: The Jewish Service Corps builds and supports a generation of Jewish leaders committed to addressing the causes and effects of poverty in the United States. While the Jewish community remains thoughtfully committed to social justice, few Jewish outlets exist for young adults to make hands-on change. Through AVODAH, participants tap into their passion for service and gain the skills, knowledge, and networks necessary to make an impact, all while deepening their connections with Judaism.

“ AVODAH keeps reinventing to reach a whole new segment of young Jewish professionals and support individuals interested in social justice and antipoverty work.

Since 2002, more than 200 post-college Jewish adults have participated in AVODAH DC's year-long Service Corps. Participants, who come from a wide variety of Jewish backgrounds, work full time at antipoverty organizations, live communally, and receive extensive leadership training. While creating a network of leaders, AVODAH DC has brought critical services and support to more than 244,000 DC-area residents living in poverty through partnerships with 40 local organizations. Significantly, over half of AVODAH's DC alumni still live in the area, many studying or working in areas of social service or social change. AVODAH strengthens connections with Jewish life and has launched the careers of many alumni, who, as social change leaders, can have far-reaching impacts on the Jewish community and, ultimately, on the alleviation of poverty in the US.



BBYO Northern Region East: DC Council

Providing an outlet for Jewish young people to lead with their peers, create strong relationships and develop a passion for building community.

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Rockville, MD 20852**year founded**

1923

board chair(s)Walter Solomon (International)
Liz Shore (Local)**2014 expenses**

\$323,180

project of:

BBYO, Inc.

parent org founded

1923

While dealing with the pressures of school, college prep, and social groups, teens often have little interest in or time for Jewish life. However, teens gravitate to BBYO because the organization allows them to take on responsibility. BBYO: DC Council's leadership opportunities effectively engage and inspire more than 2,500 DC and Montgomery County teens to live active Jewish lives. Teens plan programs, manage others, practice public speaking, and sit on the strategic planning board of the Council. Through this teen-led, pluralistic, and highly customizable experience, DC Jewish teens take on real leadership opportunities and find community.

“ Through high quality leadership opportunities, BBYO has created a space where teens WANT to engage in Jewish life.

BBYO: DC Council programs emphasize Jewish culture, history, and practice, helping teens figure out for themselves what being Jewish means. DC Council participants come from all backgrounds; some attend Jewish day schools while others have no formal Jewish affiliation. Participation also ranges from teen leaders who attend BBYO programs two to four times a week to others who mainly attend monthly social and community service events. DC Council maintains a strong commitment to inclusion, offering individualized support that enables teens with disabilities to participate in council programming. The teen years represent a critical period of identity development, and BBYO: DC Council provides effective Jewish engagement opportunities that ensure today's teens choose to live vibrant Jewish lives as adults.



Gather the Jews

Connecting young professionals with Jewish organizations, Jewish organizations with Jews, and Jews with other Jews.

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address2300 H Street NW
Washington, DC 20037**year founded**

2010

board chair(s)

Louis Mayberg

2014 expenses

\$11,972

project of:Hillel at George
Washington University**parent org founded**

1951

Gather the Jews (GTJ) sets the new standard for outreach in cities with large populations of unaffiliated Jews. GTJ, the nexus of young Jewish life in Washington, DC, is at once an online calendar, a magnet for newcomers, and a coordinator for dozens of previously disparate efforts to engage 20- and 30-somethings. Career opportunities and educational responsibilities bring countless young Jews to Washington, DC every year, and they turn to GTJ by the thousands to find their communities of choice. The GTJ website features a master calendar for projects and events, a blog for discussions of all things Jewish, and the popular feature, Jewish Guy and Girl of the Week.

With no denominational or political agenda, GTJ has emerged as the agreed-upon atlas for the DC Jewish community. Its website allows users to find interesting events to attend, but many people go beyond this simple function, using the platform to post their own projects and connect with each other. Hundreds of readers attend happy hours, where nearly 70% report meeting a new friend, and many also participate in service activities, like the homeless outreach program Midnight Mitzvahs. GTJ has also begun promising explorations into the use of big data to learn more about young Jews in Washington, DC. Since its 2013 merger with the Hillel at George Washington University, GTJ has increased organizational efficiency and efficacy, allowing the organization to more effectively bridge the gap between young adults and the DC Jewish community.

“ GTJ is an exciting portal for Jews in their 20s and 30s to connect with Jewish life in DC.

GLOE – The Kurlander Program for GLBT Outreach & Engagement

Creating and modeling engaging and sustainable community for GLBT Jews.

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year founded

2006

board chair(s)

Amy Cotton
Alex Greenbaum
Joshua Siegel

2014 expenses

\$95,228

project of:

Washington DC Jewish
Community Center (DCJCC)

parent org founded

1985

GLOE proves that mainstream Jewish communal organizations can become inclusive of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) culture in all programming and policies. While many Jewish cultural organizations take steps to include GLBT community members, the Washington, DC JCC (DCJCC) provides a shining example of how GLBT inclusion can become fully integrated into the fabric of an organization. Thousands of GLBT Jews find community at the DCJCC through GLOE, which shows the value of creating GLBT Jewish community inside the Jewish establishment rather than alongside it.

Responding to important topics in the GLBT Jewish community, GLOE runs more than 40 programs each year. It has recently created a program to support GLBT parents, who notoriously have difficulty staying connected with their communities after having children, and it also runs anti-bullying and suicide awareness initiatives for the community. GLOE also hosts programs just like any other JCC, including Havdalah on the (P Street) Beach or an outing to a DC Nationals baseball game, all in the context of creating GLBT community. GLOE runs social justice programs with the DCJCC's community service department, teaches classes, and offers many other secular and religious events for thousands of local participants. Above all, GLOE gives GLBT Jews in Washington, DC a home base, inspiring other organizations to do the same.

“ The Washington DC JCC's GLOE program is a national leader in GLBT programming for Jews, and it should serve as a model for other communities looking for greater GLBT inclusion.



Greater Washington Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse

Creating a comprehensive approach to domestic and dating abuse that lowers barriers for victims to access services while creating a next generation of Jews who practice healthy relationship behaviors.

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year founded

2000

board chair(s)

Arielle Nathan Teitelbaum

2014 expenses

\$458,557

The Greater Washington Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse (JCADA) moves the needle on a thorny, complex, and sensitive issue that Jewish life too often ignores. Many Jews feel uncomfortable admitting publically that domestic violence occurs in the Jewish community at about the same rate (15 to 25%) as in the community at large. That discomfort frequently prevents the development of creative and comprehensive strategies to address victims' needs and initiatives that prevent future violence. Since 2000, the Jewish community in Washington, DC has come together to study national best practices and has implemented a holistic strategy to support area victims and their families, while striving to decrease future domestic violence in the DC Jewish community.

“ It is clear JCADA is meeting an unmet need and making a real impact in the DC area.

JCADA's three-pronged mission works to prevent domestic violence by reaching adolescents with information about healthy and unhealthy relationships, providing education to community leaders about the violence in their midst, and offering emergency and ongoing support to current victims and their families. To date, JCADA has reached nearly 2,000 individual victims and educated more than 3,000 young people. JCADA operates on a coalition model, bringing in Jewish and non-Jewish partner organizations to extend its impact. In order to shift community impressions more broadly, Jewish communities across the country should study and copy JCADA's work.



jcada.org



[@jcada_org](https://twitter.com/jcada_org)



JDC Entwine

A movement for young Jews seeking to make a meaningful impact on global Jewish issues through service, education, and leadership development.

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addressPO Box 4124
New York, NY 10163**year founded**

2012

board chair(s)Joy Sisisky
Annie Ulevitch**2014 expenses**

\$4,400,000

project of:American Jewish Joint
Distribution Committee**parent org founded**

1914

For the past 100 years, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) has cared for world Jewry, alleviating hunger and hardship and working to create lasting connections with Jewish life. Recognizing a failure to engage a new generation of Jewish activists in its work, JDC has launched the Entwine program to help young Jewish leaders make a meaningful impact on global Jewish issues. Unlike typical young leadership programs that emphasize fundraising, JDC Entwine combines volunteering, education, and local and national events that provide thousands of college students and young professionals across the country with opportunities to connect with Jewish life, Israel, and universal humanitarian challenges.

“Engaging young participants within a large established organization is not easy – and JDC Entwine has done it!”

The Entwine Learning Network in Washington, DC emphasizes a global perspective and networking opportunities – a perfect match for DC’s young professional scene. Locally, a core group of 30 young leaders creates educational events on global Jewish issues for nearly 600 of their peers. Participants then deepen their involvement through the national Entwine network and service trips to every corner of the globe. Entwine’s DC-based programs inspire involvement with both the Jewish community abroad and the DC Jewish community. One participant writes, “Until I discovered JDC Entwine, I wasn’t involved in the DC Jewish community. I’m currently the Co-Chair of Entwine’s DC network, a role that would have been unimaginable just a few years ago.”



Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington @ Adas Israel

Using Jewish mindfulness, meditation, and yoga to reclaim a spiritually vibrant Judaism with body, heart, and soul.

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Washington, DC 20008

year founded

2012

board chair(s)

Arnold Podgorsky

2014 expenses

\$55,000

project of:

Adas Israel Congregation

parent org founded

1869

The Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington (JMCW) at DC's Adas Israel Congregation has emerged from the 145-year-old synagogue's complete change of approach in an effort to become more relevant to its contemporary community. Many Jews today seek spiritual fulfillment in yoga, meditation, and Eastern religions, while reporting a lack of fulfillment found through the Jewish practices offered in synagogue life. JMCW works to make Judaism more spiritually meaningful and accessible to Jews in the DC area, creating new paths into other aspects of Jewish life for participants, and reinvigorating the culture of the synagogue as a whole.

JMCW appeals to unaffiliated spiritual seekers who would otherwise never set foot in a synagogue. The organization, housed within the walls of a synagogue building, has engaged nearly 2,000 participants in Jewish mindfulness programming, learning, and worship over the last 18 months. Participants of all ages can choose from weekly meditation sessions and yoga classes that incorporate Jewish texts and teachings to focus the mind and body on balance. Hundreds of people attend JMCW's soulful Shabbat services, mikvah workshops, and spiritual retreats, and more than 1,200 people have attended JMCW's outdoor Kol Nidre service on Yom Kippur. JMCW's transformation of an existing synagogue presents a unique approach to meeting the spiritual needs of a Jewish community.

“ The program is altering perceptions of synagogue life and engagement and is a model for other communities on what it means to be a catalyst for change.

Jews United for Justice

Mobilizing the Jewish community to make real and lasting change for social justice and economic equality in Greater DC through local grassroots activism.

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Washington, DC 20009

year founded

1998

board chair(s)

Roberta Ritvo

2014 expenses

\$610,000

Motivated by the Jewish mandate to seek justice and to protect the vulnerable in one's own community, Jews United for Justice (JUFJ) mobilizes DC Jews to address the root causes of poverty and inequality in their own backyards. The DC region is one of the most affluent in the US but also encompasses extreme inequalities – a third of children live below the poverty line and thousands of workers earn low wages that do not provide a decent living. As a city focused on national and international policy, DC houses thousands of Jews inspired to work for a better world, yet few connect with these pressing local issues.

JUFJ reaches across class and racial divides and works with partners in low income and marginalized communities to win local campaigns. Addressing issues ranging from marriage equality to progressive taxation and workers' rights, JUFJ members make real differences in the lives of tens of thousands of people. JUFJ has acted as a leading organization in the Paid Sick Days campaign in DC, and its members have also won an increase in wages for 40,000 people in DC, Montgomery County, and Prince George's County. To power its movement, JUFJ invests in new leaders through the Jeremiah and Ruth Fellowships, which train local influencers and community leaders to act as agents for change. Community-wide programs like the JUFJ Labor Seder educate the broader Jewish community about contemporary justice issues. In the coming year, JUFJ plans to expand its base to Baltimore in order to better influence statewide legislation in Maryland and to continue to connect even more Jews with powerful, effective grassroots activism.

“ In a place where policy rules, JUFJ offers a unique way for Jews in the DC area to engage in social justice.



jufj.org



@jufj

Machane TBA L'mata Program

An experiential learning program offering dynamic interactive programming, prayer, spirited singing and a variety of electives.

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n/a

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year founded

2011

board chair(s)

Tom Temin

2014 expenses

\$165,000

project of:

Temple Beth Ami

parent org founded

1960

Summer camp provides kids with a powerful buzz and excitement about Judaism, but this energy usually fades by the fall. Temple Beth Ami's Machane TBA L'mata Program harnesses the energy and best practices of the Jewish camping movement in order to turn Hebrew school on its head, offering students creative and lively Jewish educational experiences throughout the school year. By developing exciting and engaging activities, Machane TBA piques students' interests and makes them excited to enter the synagogue for religious school.

“ Machane TBA is reinventing the Religious school model, building a creative and accessible model that other communities should know about.

This reinvented Hebrew school provides over 400 3rd through 6th graders with Hebrew and Judaic learning through lively prayer and song sessions as well as customizable electives that allow students to learn about aspects of Judaism that interest them. Some students choose to attend a shofar workshop around the High Holidays, others grind flour while learning the laws of shmita (the sabbatical year). Topics for community-wide learning include holidays, tzedakah, Jewish eco-farming, history, and the lifecycle. Students have the option of two-day or extended one-day programs, and Machane TBA continues to bring new families into the synagogue. Its successful inclusion classroom highlights the program's adaptability for many different learners and shows a commitment to making fun and engaging Jewish learning available for every child.





Maryland Hillel Fellowships

Developing a peer-to-peer engagement infrastructure to drastically increase the number of college students engaged in Jewish life, social activism, Israel advocacy, and leadership development.

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year founded

2006

board chair(s)

Ralph Grunewald
Sandy Shapiro

2014 expenses

\$311,000

project of:

Maryland Hillel

parent org founded

1952

Even in the best-case scenarios, top Hillels do not have enough staff to reach and fully connect with the majority of Jewish students on campus. At the University of Maryland, home to one of the largest and most diverse Jewish student populations in the country, Maryland Hillel utilizes the power of its greatest ambassadors – students – to reach out to peer networks and create large- and small-scale opportunities for Jewish life across campus. Maryland Hillel’s peer-engagement model also provides top-notch Jewish education and training for its student ambassadors, offering these fellows opportunities for personal and professional growth while teaching them to infuse their own programming with greater depth.

“ These fellowships not only help Maryland Hillel reach thousands of students, but enable the organization to offer increased opportunities for personally meaningful Jewish experiences to many who would not have sought them out otherwise.

To best serve the 6,500 students at Maryland Hillel, the Fellowships deeply invest in the personal development of promising students and prepare them for strong leadership roles in the Jewish community post-graduation. All fellows learn through specific curricula that enhance Jewish identity, develop leadership skills, and equip fellows with the tools to create effective initiatives. Each of the 120 annual fellows chooses a specific Fellowship, for example, Jews in Greek Life, Social Justice, Israel, or Women’s Empowerment. Each fellow then builds programming for other students, including volunteer opportunities, discussion groups, conferences, and alternative break trips domestically and abroad. Other Hillels look to Maryland to learn from its success: to date, the Fellowships have engaged 3,000 students, resulting in more student-driven and entrepreneurial initiatives that best meet students’ needs.

Matan

Training current and future Jewish communal leaders and educators to change the Jewish community's approach to educating Jewish children with disabilities.

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4th Floor
New York, NY 10018**year founded**

2000

board chair(s)

Rabbi William Plevan

2014 expenses

\$350,000

Many families feel that they cannot access the best Jewish education for their child with disabilities. Matan equips those on the front lines of Jewish education with the knowledge, skill-sets, resources, and materials to create large-scale change across the country. By advocating for students with disabilities and supporting educators, Matan ensures that providing access to Jewish education becomes a communal responsibility and that the challenge does not fall solely on the shoulders of parents of children with disabilities.

The Matan Institutes provide intensive training and ongoing mentorship for current and future Jewish leaders. Cohorts of educators engage in an ongoing professional development network, connecting with each other for ideas, support, webinars, and ongoing consultation. Through a partnership with Gratz College, Matan teaches courses on Jewish special education, and it also works to develop more partnerships in other communities. The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington plans to bring the Matan Institute for Educators to congregational school directors, teachers, and Jewish leaders in the DC area. In addition, Matan's DC-based Hebrew school partners with Shaare Torah in Gaithersburg, MD and attracts children from throughout Montgomery County and Northern Virginia. These children would not otherwise receive a Jewish education, and over the past six years, 100% of participants have returned. When other institutions nationally seek a strong voice of inspiration regarding special needs, they turn to Matan.

“ Matan understands the importance of leveraging educator training to make significant waves in the world of Jewish disabilities education.

MoEd: A Jewish Afterschool Community

A creative afterschool program for immersive Hebrew and Jewish learning and play, building a community of Jewish children and their families.

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Chevy Chase, MD 20815

year founded

2012

board chair(s)

Elizabeth Weber Handwerker

2014 expenses

\$258,000

A clear and growing gap has emerged between the Hebrew and Jewish literacy abilities of day school-educated children and those learning from even the best synagogue religious schools. MoEd: A Jewish Afterschool Community presents an alternative: a daily afterschool program that excites children about Judaism and gives them the tools to grow into Jewishly literate adults who can access the aspects of Jewish life that provide meaning for them. MoEd's elementary-school-aged participants come from Israeli and American families, attend public and day schools, belong to many different synagogues, and come from every religious background. In this diverse environment, MoEd creates a fun space that stresses Judaism and Hebrew comprehension and fluency, while building Jewish community.

Founded by a group of parents looking for afterschool care while also seeking to enhance Jewish education for their children, MoEd operates its Hebrew immersion program five afternoons a week with a fully Hebrew-speaking staff. During the summer, MoEd offers a three-week Hebrew immersion camp, and this year, the organization plans to launch a new Hebrew enrichment program for preschoolers and a counselor training program for middle school students. MoEd enhances the DC area's vibrant synagogue supplemental schools and thriving day schools with top quality Hebrew language education, and is opening a new DC affiliate in the DCJCC. One parent shares, "MoEd is an answered prayer. Six months into the school year, our son teaches Hebrew at dinner and sings holiday songs for his grandparents.... Best of all, he and we have made a community of new Jewish friends."

“ Hebrew School has long been in need of a major overhaul: MoEd could be the solution we've been waiting for.



Moishe House

Creatively redefining post-college Jewish life through a peer-led model of connection.

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year founded

2006

board chair(s)

Kevin Waldman

2014 expenses

\$4,498,609

Moishe House has changed the way Jewish programs are created, proved that 20-somethings are interested in Jewish life, and found a way to do it both inexpensively and on a worldwide scale. At Moishe House, a small group of Jewish young adults lives together with subsidized rent in exchange for planning a number of events for the local Jewish community. With this simple model, Moishe House attracts more than 80,000 attendees annually to events around the world. Today, Moishe House has 69 houses, often locally supported, operating in 17 countries.

“ Moishe House is becoming as synonymous with 20-something Jews as Hillel is for college students. For funders looking to spark young adult programming in their communities, start with Moishe House.

Moishe House DC has become increasingly popular and raises the bar for other organizations in the area that serve young adults. Since 2006, the houses in DC, Maryland, and Northern Virginia have created low-barrier, rich, and vibrant environments, bringing a variety of quality Jewish experiences to the community. Its success has generated a desire to create more houses in other DC areas, such as Capitol Hill and Dupont Circle. By partnering with local organizations and synagogues, Moishe House DC offers participants many different points of connection and numerous ways of accessing Jewish experiences. Through the creativity of Moishe House residents and collaboration with other Jewish organizations, Moishe House ensures that participants always have a place to turn for Jewish experiences.





NEXT DC's Reverse Mifgash

Bringing Israeli alumni of the Taglit-Birthright Israel: DC Community Trip to Washington, DC for a ten-day immersive “reverse Birthright” experience, ensuring that Americans and Israelis continue to develop connections to each other, Israel, and their local Jewish communities.

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6101 Executive Boulevard
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year founded

2008

board chair(s)

Jeffrey Finkelstein
Karen Slachetka

2014 expenses

\$45,000

project of:

The Jewish Federation
of Greater Washington

parent org founded

1976

Birthright has provided hundreds of thousands of Jews with transformative experiences in Israel. But what happens when the ten-day trip ends? How do alumni connect with Jewish life back at home? The Reverse Mifgash (Hebrew for “encounter”) at the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, provides an opportunity for DC-based Birthright alumni to deepen their connections with the Jewish community and to share this community with the Israelis they have met through Birthright. A successful example of a peer-led, authentic exchange between US Jews and Israelis, the Reverse Mifgash offers a model program for communities seeking to engage Birthright alumni in a meaningful way.

“ Reverse Mifgash takes Birthright Israel alumni engagement to an entirely new level. This program should happen in all areas with community Birthright buses.

The Reverse Mifgash provides a ten-day immersive experience, much like Birthright, but centered in Washington, DC. A group of 15 Birthright alumni craft the experience while learning about the DC Jewish community and determining which aspects of Jewish life they value and want to share with their Israeli peers. Over the ten days, Americans host Israelis in their homes, and the group explores local synagogues, schools, museums, and other agencies. Through the Reverse Mifgash, Israeli participants gain an appreciation for Jewish life and culture in the Diaspora, while the nearly 350 American participants increase their engagement in the Greater Washington Jewish community and build stronger relationships with Israel.

NOVA Tribe Series

Redefining community through a Jewish ecosystem for young professional Jews in Northern Virginia.

contact

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Reston, VA 20190

year founded

2011

board chair(s)

Nancy Kruger

2014 expenses

\$80,000

project of:

Northern Virginia Hebrew
Congregation

parent org founded

1967

The DC-area young Jewish population has boomed in the last several years, but those in the Northern Virginia area still find a lack of engaging programming close to home. In response, NOVA Tribe Series provides rich programming, leadership development, and community building for Jewish young adults in the Northern Virginia suburbs. In partnership with a local synagogue, Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation, NOVA Tribe Series uses its youthful, entrepreneurial spirit to help attract unaffiliated Jews, while the established synagogue offers financial, administrative, and pastoral support. This deep partnership helps to create a new generation of young, engaged Jews.

With consistent programming offered at least two to three times a month, participants can choose from Shabbat events at accessible locations and synagogues, speakers and networking events for young professionals, or gender-specific programs. While welcoming over 1,400 participants, NOVA Tribe Series has also created over 30 leadership positions for volunteers, increasing the investment of the participants themselves. NOVA Tribe Series' events, along with efforts to raise money for local non-profits, develop emotional ties within groups of Jews, create collaboration, and embrace the developing community. With this type of peer-driven partnership between unaffiliated young adults and an established congregation, NOVA Tribe Series has established a replicable model for redefining community engagement.

“ This is a phenomenal effort to involve young people where they live and work. It could revolutionize the approach to an entire generation.





Sixth & I Historic Synagogue

A multi-denominational and membership-free historic synagogue focused on engaging young adults in their 20s and 30s through impactful, entertaining, and thought-provoking programs that span Jewish and secular traditions.

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year founded

2004

board chair(s)

Shelton Zuckerman
Ronald Abramson

2014 expenses

\$2,793,895

Sixth & I offers a place where young adults in Washington, DC can explore creative and thought-provoking ways to become involved with Judaism. Sitting at the intersection of secular and Jewish life, the organization reinvents synagogue life in ways that speak to its constituency of intellectually and spiritually curious young professionals. Sixth & I uniquely targets one age group – people in their 20s and 30s, largely without children – and offers this audience a space where Jews and non-Jews alike can experience and explore Judaism through a menu of affordable and wide-ranging programs. Focused on creating a “convening point” rather than a membership- or fees-based community, Sixth & I reaches over 100,000 young adults each year.

Nearly every night, Sixth & I hosts programs in its beautiful, historic synagogue, ranging from trivia night to yoga to Shabbat and holiday celebrations, and from sold-out learning opportunities like Interfaith Couples or Jewish Welcome Workshops, to concerts and book talks from some of the biggest names on tour today. As the organization celebrates its tenth anniversary this year, Sixth & I continues to look inward and regularly innovate in order to meet the needs of the local DC young adult community, while also looking outward through Inside Sixth & I, an initiative that allows other congregations and communities to adapt the Sixth & I model across the country.

“ Disproving the idea that synagogue life is not attractive to single adults in their 20s and 30s, Sixth and I is a wake up call to congregations across the country seeking to provide meaning to young adults.

Sunflower Bakery

Preparing individuals with developmental or other cognitive disabilities for employment through skilled, on-the-job training, internships, and employment services.

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n/a

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8507 Ziggy Lane
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

year founded

2008

board chair(s)

Daphna Raskas

2014 expenses

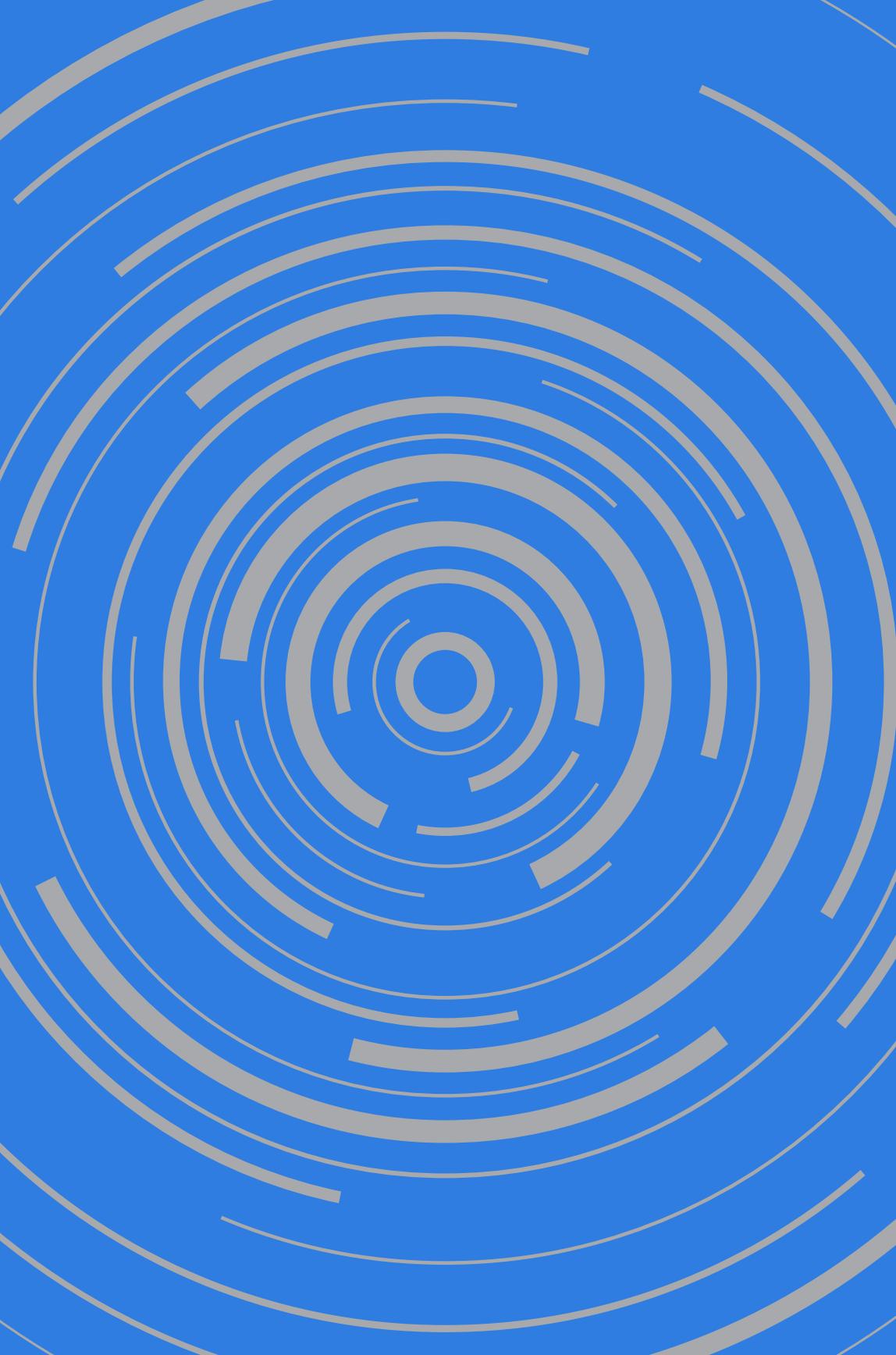
\$452,019

Founded by Jewish community disability professionals and lay leaders, Sunflower Bakery is a kosher establishment that enables Washington, DC-area Jews to make mindful choices not just about what they eat, but how their eating decisions can support a population in need. Inspired by the lack of employment opportunities and high poverty rates among young adults with cognitive and developmental disabilities, Sunflower Bakery prepares this population for employment in the baking industry through skilled training in an inclusive environment. Sunflower has developed a highly replicable model; leaders from across the country and Israel look to Sunflower for guidance on how to establish similar programs in their own communities.

“ Sunflower Bakery lets us live out our Jewish values – every community should adopt this model to supporting its adults with disabilities.

Sunflower makes its unique vocational program available to people with disabilities in both the Jewish and wider DC communities. Its three- to six-month Pastry Arts Training Program prepares participants to work in all aspects of the pastry arts industry. After hands-on experience at Sunflower Bakery, students participate in off-site internships and gain the confidence and skills necessary to seek employment in the field. Sunflower’s Next Steps Employment Program continues to provide graduates with one-on-one counseling for interviews and help transitioning into a new workplace. Currently, 81% of graduates have found employment in the DC area. As one participant says, “They were exactly what I needed in order to turn my life around.”





INDEX

WASHINGTON, DC
Edition

PROGRAM AREAS

Advocacy

Jews United for Justice

Arts & Culture

Sixth & I Historic Synagogue

Children

Machane TBA L'mata Program

MoEd: A Jewish Afterschool Community

Community Building

BBYO: DC Council

Gather the Jews

Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington @ Adas
Israel

Machane TBA L'mata Program

MoEd: A Jewish Afterschool Community

Moishe House

NEXT DC's Reverse Mifgash

NOVA Tribe Series: A Project of NVHC

Disabilities

Matan

Sunflower Bakery

Domestic Violence

Greater Washington Jewish Coalition Against
Domestic Abuse

Economic Security

Sunflower Bakery

GLBTQ

GLOE- Kurlander Program for GLBT Outreach &
Engagement

Israel

NEXT DC's Reverse Mifgash

Health

Greater Washington Jewish Coalition Against
Domestic Abuse

Jewish Education

Machane TBA L'mata Program

Maryland Hillel Fellowships

Matan

MoEd: A Jewish Afterschool Community

Sixth & I Historic Synagogue

Leadership Development

AVODAH: The Jewish Service Corps

BBYO: DC Council

Gather the Jews

JDC Entwine

Jews United for Justice

Maryland Hillel Fellowships

Moishe House

NOVA Tribe Series: A Project of NVHC

Outreach & Engagement

2239

BBYO: DC Council

Gather the Jews

GLOE- Kurlander Program for GLBT Outreach &
Engagement

JDC Entwine

Maryland Hillel Fellowships

Moishe House

NEXT DC's Reverse Mifgash

Sixth & I Historic Synagogue

Professional Development

Matan

Service & Volunteerism

2239

AVODAH: The Jewish Service Corps

JDC Entwine

Sunflower Bakery

Social Justice

AVODAH: The Jewish Service Corps

GLOE- Kurlander Program for GLBT Outreach &
Engagement

Jews United for Justice

Ritual

Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington @ Adas
Israel

Spirituality

2239

Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington @ Adas
Israel

Women & Girls

Greater Washington Jewish Coalition Against
Domestic Abuse

POPULATION SERVED

20's and 30's

2239
AVODAH: The Jewish Service Corps
Gather the Jews
JDC Entwine
Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington @ Adas
Israel
Jews United for Justice
Moishe House
NEXT DC's Reverse Mifgash
NOVA Tribe Series: A Project of NVHC
Sixth & I Historic Synagogue
Sunflower Bakery

Adults

AVODAH: The Jewish Service Corps
Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington @ Adas
Israel
Sixth & I Historic Synagogue

Baby Boomers

Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington @ Adas
Israel
Jews United for Justice

Children

Machane TBA L'mata Program
MoEd: A Jewish Afterschool Community

College Students

JDC Entwine
Maryland Hillel Fellowships

Disabilities

Matan
Sunflower Bakery

Educators

Machane TBA L'mata Program
Matan

Families

MoEd: A Jewish Afterschool Community

GLBTQ

GLOE- Kurlander Program for GLBT Outreach &
Engagement

Interfaith

Sixth & I Historic Synagogue

Jewish Professionals

Greater Washington Jewish Coalition Against
Domestic Abuse
Matan
NOVA Tribe Series: A Project of NVHC

Multiethnic

Jews United for Justice

Other

AVODAH: The Jewish Service Corps
Gather the Jews
NEXT DC's Reverse Mifgash

Teens

BBYO: DC Council
Greater Washington Jewish Coalition Against
Domestic Abuse

Women & Girls

Greater Washington Jewish Coalition Against
Domestic Abuse

2014 ANNUAL EXPENSES

<\$100,000

Gather the Jews
GLOE- Kurlander Program for GLBT Outreach & Engagement
Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington @ Adas Israel
NEXT DC's Reverse Mifgash
NOVA Tribe Series: A Project of NVHC

\$100,001-\$200,000

2239
Machane TBA L'mata Program

\$200,001-\$500,000

BBYO: DC Council
Greater Washington Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse
Maryland Hillel Fellowships
Matan
MoEd: A Jewish Afterschool Community

\$500,001-\$1,000,000

Jews United for Justice
Sunflower Bakery

\$1,000,001-\$3,000,000

AVODAH: The Jewish Service Corps
Sixth & I Historic Synagogue

\$3,000,001+

JDC Entwine
Moishe House

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Special thanks to the 18 organizations profiled in this supplement and to the hundreds of exciting projects that applied for inclusion in *Slingshot '14-'15*. We are privileged to consider you our colleagues and are inspired by your devotion to ensuring that the North American Jewish community continues to thrive. Thank you to the next generation members of the Slingshot Fund, who have spent five months engaged in a collective giving process to support innovative Jewish organizations. These members have provided the original inspiration for this guide and continually drive its production. Our gratitude also goes to the panel of professional evaluators that select the organizations featured in *Slingshot*. Without them, this guide would not exist. Thank you to all of our funders, families, and friends who help to make *Slingshot* possible.

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Leadership

Slingshot is guided by a board of directors without whom *Slingshot '14-'15*, the Slingshot Fund, and our annual community gathering, Slingshot Day, would not be possible.

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Evaluators

Thank you to the team of evaluators that has helped to assemble *Slingshot '14-'15*. The evaluators who decide which organizations to feature in *Slingshot* devote at least some professional time to supporting innovative Jewish organizations. These evaluators have lent extraordinary analytical skills, sector expertise, and valuable time to assist in the near impossible task of choosing the most innovative projects in Jewish life. Their commitments ensure that *Slingshot* features organizations that inspire their participants and can play a role in shaping the future of Jewish life.

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*Special thanks to our local DC experts

OTHER INFORMATION

What is Slingshot?

The core of the idea that became *Slingshot* developed organically following a 2003 weekend retreat for a dozen young Jews who were preparing to become involved in their families' philanthropic efforts. Participants wanted to learn how to navigate the alphabet soup of the Jewish community and sort out which organizations resonated for themselves and their peers. *Slingshot: A Resource Guide to Jewish Innovation* was launched shortly after as a Zagat-style guidebook to highlight the most innovative nonprofits in North America each year.

What is the Slingshot Fund?

Since 2007, the next generation funders responsible for *Slingshot* have taken their concept a step further by supporting innovative Jewish organizations through the Slingshot Fund. In conjunction with their peers, Slingshot Fund members pool their funds, review proposals, conduct site visits and make allocation decisions. Being part of the Slingshot Fund offers members opportunities to connect with peers, explore Jewish interests, find causes that are meaningful to their own identities and experiences, and hone leadership skills.

Why should I join the Slingshot Fund 2015?

The Slingshot Fund offers grant-making training to next generation funders across the country. Members may join to build relationships with other funders in their 20s and 30s, explore the Jewish not-for-profit world, learn more about grant-making, or simply have philanthropic experiences independent of their families. There is no one-size-fits-all reason for joining, but if you are interested in having a peer- grant-making experience, leveraging your giving, joining a community of next generation philanthropists, receiving grant-making training, or learning about cutting-edge Jewish organizations across North America, the Slingshot Fund may be right for you.

How does the Slingshot Fund work?

All organizations featured in *Slingshot* in a given year are eligible to apply for a Slingshot Fund grant. Slingshot Fund members pool their donations and spend five months examining proposals, conducting site visits and selecting grantees whose organizations not only fit the criteria, but who also resonate with a next generation audience.

www.slingshotfund.org

Grand Street

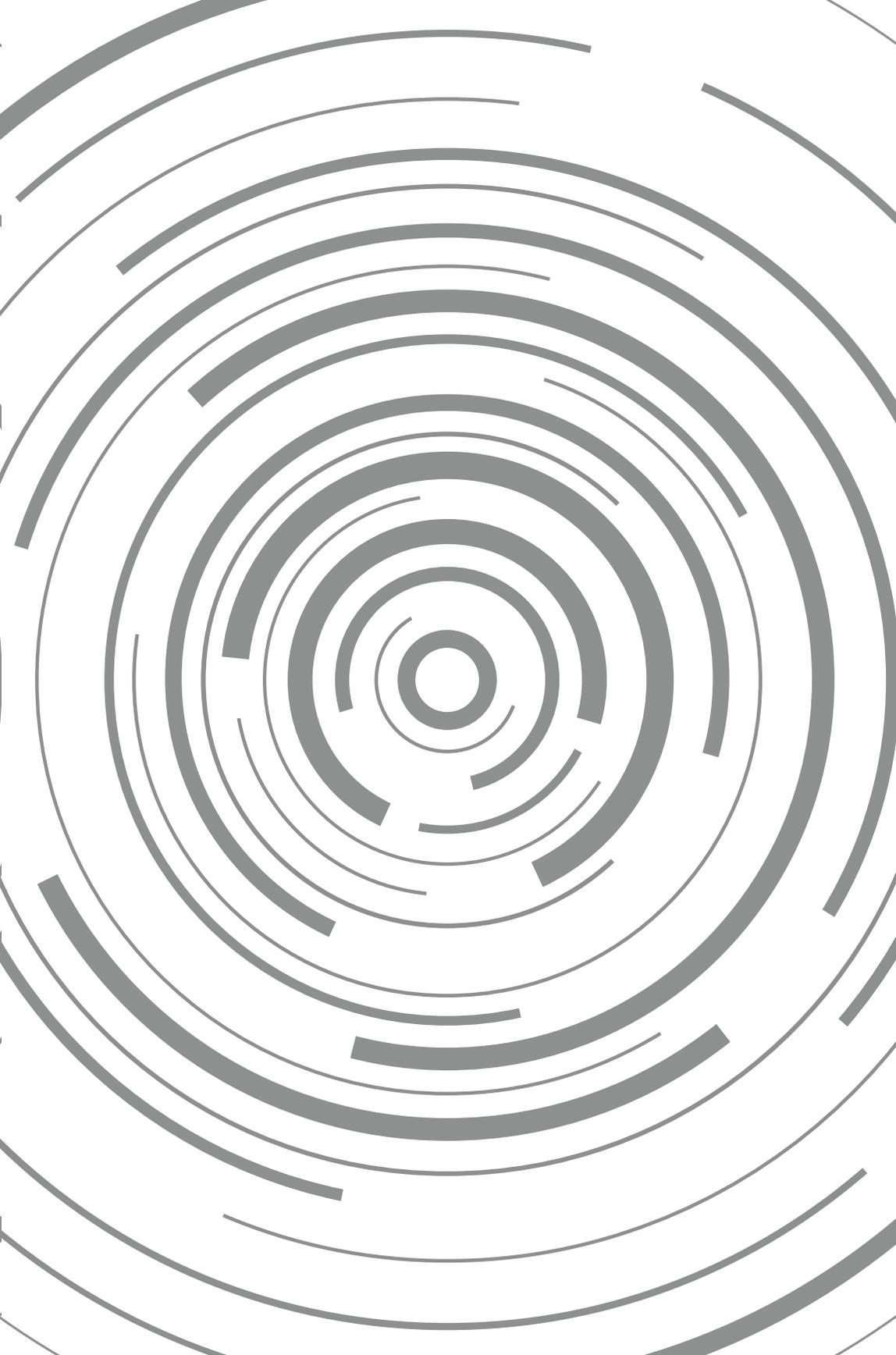
The idea for *Slingshot* and the Slingshot Fund has evolved through the Grand Street network. Grand Street is a meeting place for young Jews (18 to 28 years old) who are involved or will be involved as leaders in their families' philanthropic efforts. Beginning in 2002 with 12 people meeting for a weekend to ask their own questions, Grand Street seeks to develop a Jewish philanthropic analysis and capacity for strategic thinking, as well as to create a space where members can pursue personal development and build a network of peers in similar positions of philanthropic responsibility. A new cohort of 12 individuals is added each year.

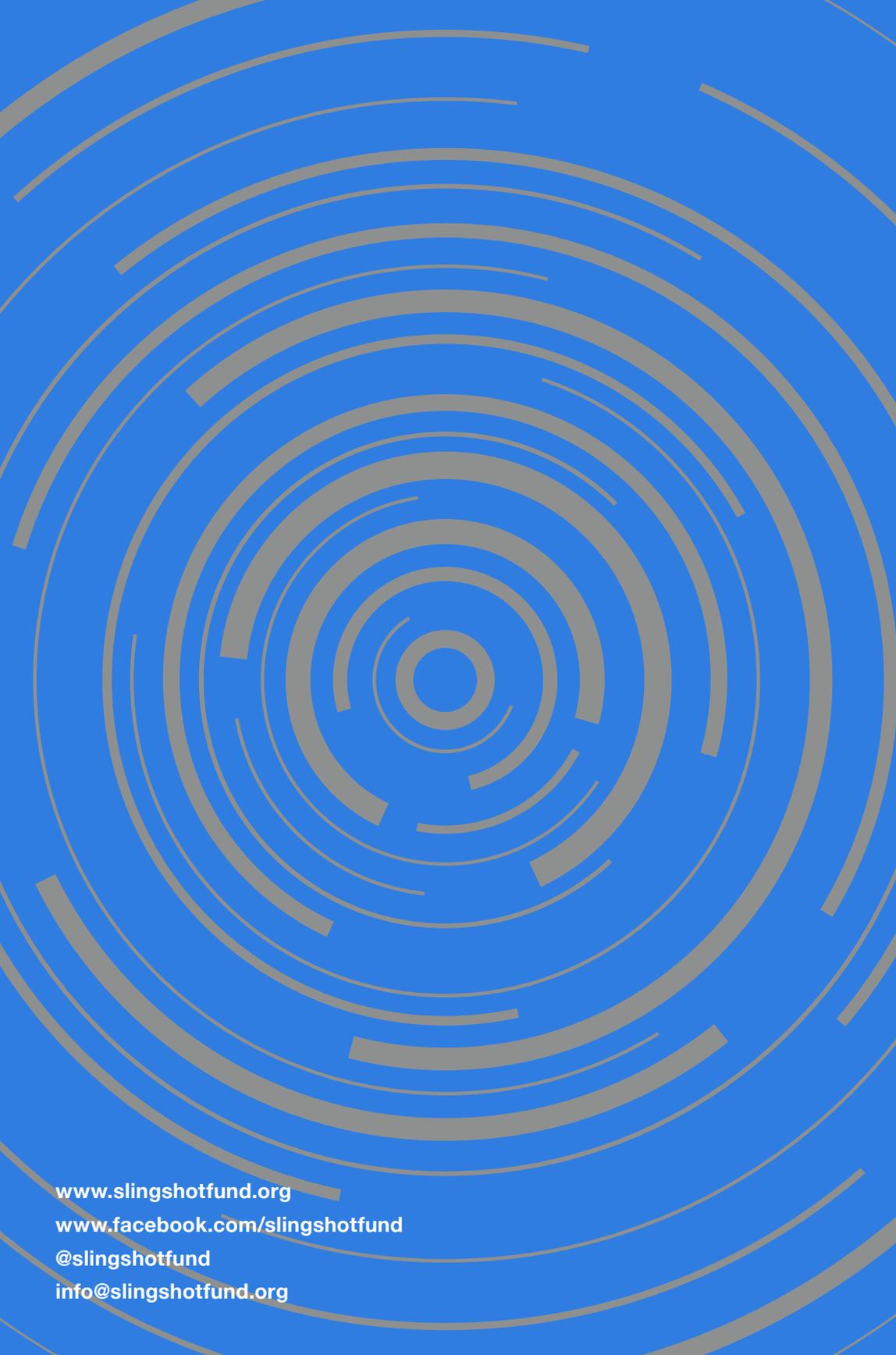
Some participants are in college or have recently graduated, some have already assumed roles within their families' foundations, and many others are just becoming aware of those imminent responsibilities. All feel alone in being young and associated with philanthropic wealth. Many struggle with allocating, or planning to allocate, money while also seeking to reconcile their personal passions with their families' interests, both Jewish and universal.

www.grandstreetnetwork.net

Emanuel J. Friedman Philanthropies

Emanuel J. Friedman Philanthropies (EJFP) supports innovative Jewish life in the Washington, D.C. region and across the country. Their philanthropic approach is based on a partnership model; they believe strongly in the importance of co-creating a vibrant Jewish future in collaboration with other Jewish philanthropists and foundations. For more information about the projects in which they are involved, visit www.ejfphilanthropies.org, and to contact them, please email their executive director, Simone Friedman Rones, at simone@ejfphilanthropies.org.





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