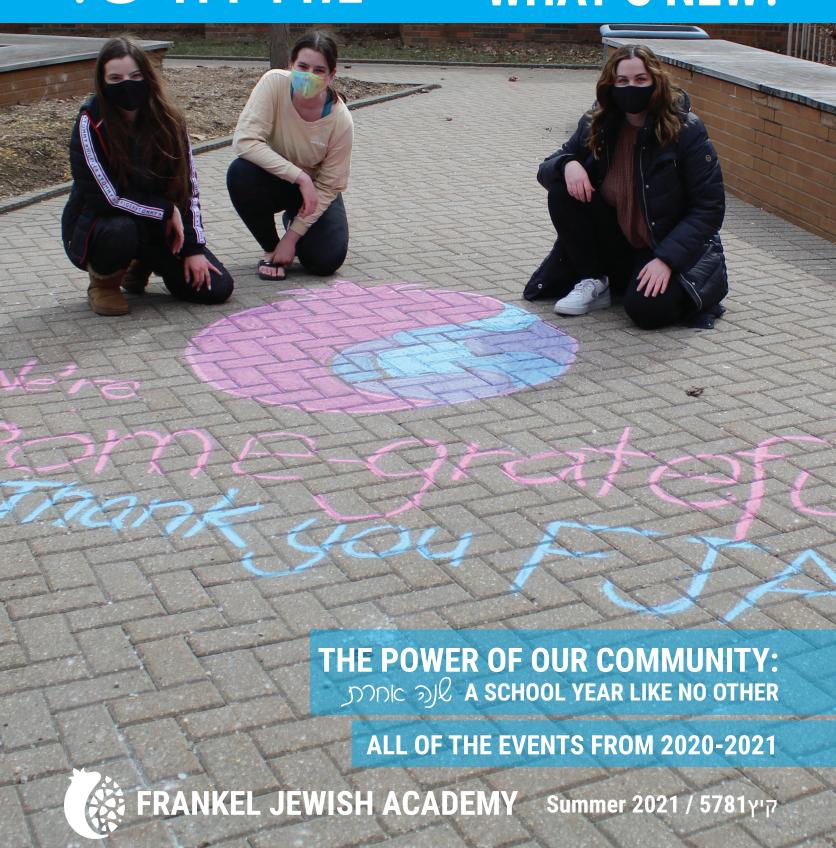
MAH HADASH?

מה חדש?

WHAT'S NEW?



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MAH HADASH

A publication of Frankel Jewish Academy

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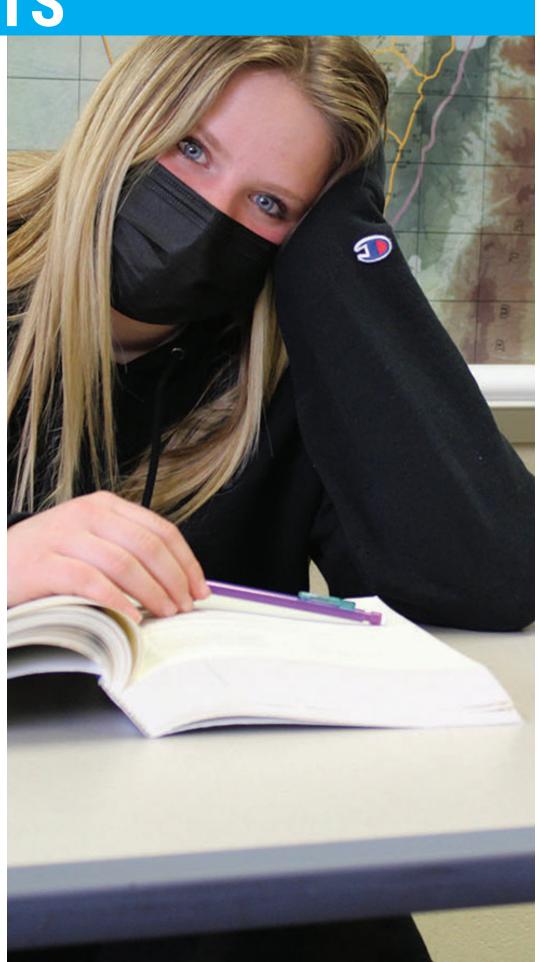
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RABBI AZARYAH COHEN HEAD OF SCHOOL

> Despite all of the challenges, we planned and implemented programs that celebrated Holidays, commemorated events, highlighted

milestones, and brought joy and spirit. Above all, FJA thrived and provided an incredible and supportive learning opportunity for all of our students, whether they learned in the classroom, or at home.

BOB CANVASSER

Finally, we affirmed that Frankel Jewish Academy is more than just a school. We demonstrated that we are a strong and supportive community. We learned that the values we adhere to and practice in our programs and learning experiences at FJA, are the same values that are the essence of who we are as a people. They are the values that guided us through the past year and are the principles that will ensure a strong and vibrant Jewish future for our local and greater Jewish communities.

We are grateful for the support of our entire FJA community - the faculty, staff, students, parents, Board of Trustees, alumni, and many friends that trusted us to see FJA through this extraordinary year. As we celebrate our success, we look forward with anticipation to the next school year, when we will be able to return to normalcy, with a new appreciation for our strength as a community.

Rabbi Azaryah Cohen

HEAD OF SCHOOL

Bob Canvasser

PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mah Hadash? What's new? Well, Kohelet (Ecclesiastes) declares v'en kol chadash tachat hashemesh / וְאֵין כָּל־חָדָשׁ תַחַת הַשָּׁמֶשׁ there is nothing new beneath the sun." That may be true in some sense but in our lifetimes we have never experienced a year like the one that has passed.

Before our very eyes the world literally changed around us and we were called upon to affirm our mission and core values in ways that we could not have imagined. Our mission asserts that learning to think critically is as important as creativity and compassion; that developing a Jewish identity necessarily involves an understanding and commitment to community; and that curiosity and ambition are characteristics which lead to lifelong learning and leadership. Our core values dictate that accountability and respect are essential features of our school community and that how we achieve success is just as important as success itself.

This past year gave us the opportunity to demonstrate the strength and relevance of our mission and core values. Meeting the needs of our students and families required us to employ critical, creative and compassionate thinking. We strove to identify the physical health needs of our entire community while also meeting the professional needs of our staff and faculty and the developmental needs of our students. While operating in modes that distanced us physically and emotionally, we endeavored to maintain the strong communal ties we value.

ברוכים הבאים B'RUCHIM HABA'IM WELCOME to NEW STAFF



RABBI ABI TAYLOR-ABT joined Frankel Jewish Academy as Judaic Principal.

Rabbi Taylor-Abt's education and extensive experience make her an extraordinary leader who will foster meaningful relationships, build community, and serve as an instructional guide. For the past 5 years, Rabbi Taylor-Abt has been the highly respected Education Director of the Yachad Religious School, a partnership between Temple Emanu-El and Congregation Beth Shalom. Her previous experience includes many years as an administrator and educator in Israel, Great Britain, and in the US, and 15 years in Jewish day schools. Rabbi Taylor-Abt holds qualifications in Curriculum Development, Judaism in Schools and Congregations, Differentiation and Inclusion, Modern Hebrew, and Excellence in Jewish Education. She is the recipient of numerous recognitions in Jewish education, a nationally known speaker, and the author of a published Jewish education curriculum.

Rabbi Taylor-Abt's creativity and breadth of experience will help to advance FJA's mission of inspiring students to dedicate themselves to Jewish tradition, peoplehood, and the State of Israel. She is a community builder with an aptitude for nurturing connections with students and teachers alike. As the parent of a current FJA student, Rabbi Taylor-Abt understands the value of an FJA education, the strength of our community, and how she can continue to help us grow.

wonderful addition to FJA, and an instructional leader who will foster meaningful relationships and build community. Erika first joined the FJA faculty as a math instructor in 2010. Her passion and leadership led her to assume responsibilities as Math Department Chair as well as Professional Development Coordinator.

After receiving her Masters of Educational Leadership, she left FJA to take a leadership position at FlexTech in Farmington Hills where her responsibilities included developing a master schedule, curricula review, managing Student Services, teacher supervision and support, and tending to facilities and capital projects. Erika worked closely with students, parents and teachers to best meet the needs of the diverse student body at FlexTech. Erika continued to

at FJA, working closely with teachers in multiple FlexTech locations on improving their practice. She also worked diligently on developing partnerships with teachers and students to find rigorous, authentic, and creative learning and assessment solutions for students with differing learning needs and styles.

In total, Erika has over 14 years of experience in education as a teacher-leader and administrator. She is poised and thoughtful, and her experience will help to advance FJA's mission of inspiring students to think critically, creatively, and compassionately. With a deep understanding of our community and values, we are excited to have Erika join the FJA leadership team.



ERIKA WEILER (née Badour) joined Frankel Jewish Academy as General Studies Principal. Mrs. Weiler's education and experience make her a

להתראות



RANDY GAWEL, Principal
Over the last three years,
I have had the pleasure of
seeing our FJA students
mature and grow as they have
readied to go off into the
world, applying all they have
learned while at FJA to these
endeavors, and their success
is a credit to this amazingly

L'HITRAOT

employ the skills she honed

supportive community. I am thankful for everyone who has cared for and nurtured them in our time together, as well as for all that these students have given to make our school what it is. In my time here, I have learned a great deal and I know that these lessons you have taught me will serve me well as I move on to other things, to new adventures. We have made great changes in the last couple of years as a school community - school start time, school schedule, teacher evaluation, graduation requirements, curriculum updates, administrative structures, and student experiences, to name just a few - and we have seen our work

FAREWELL to **STAFF**

bear fruit (pomegranates?) in many wonderful ways, with some of these fruits as of yet not realized. I am proud of the students, staff, and community that comprise our FJA family, and know that this momentum will continue to evolve to meet the needs of our school going forward. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to have been part of such an exceptional school and to all of you who have helped me to grow both as an administrator and person these last three years. The FJA community is a special one and it will always hold a place near and dear to my heart.

CONTINUED on pg. 30

YEAR IN REVIEW O'CIO ABLANCE

Frankel Jewish Academy spent every day during the 2020-2021 school year learning in person (with exception of the four weeks mandated by the state of Michigan). Students had the option to learn from home by choice, or due to illness. We are thankful to the FJA community for enduring and thriving throughout this year.



THE COMMUNITY THAT FJA PROVIDES IS PERSEVERING AND THRIVING THROUGH THIS PANDEMIC IN A WAY THAT I NEVER EXPECTED. **BOTH THE STUDENTS AND FACULTY ARE NAVIGATING** THESE UNPRECEDENTED TIMES WITH POISE AND STRENGTH. AS A MEMBER OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT, I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO BE A PART OF MAKING EVERYONE'S LEARNING EXPERIENCE THE BEST THAT IT CAN BE AND IT IS VERY REWARDING. - Ella Egrin '21

inkel wish ademy

"I love being in person at school. It's been a new experience and although it takes some time getting used to it, I really am thankful that Frankel is able to have in person school! Plus I missed seeing all my favorite teachers!!!" - Shayla Mostyn '22

"AFTER MANY MONTHS OF UNCERTAINTY, IT FEELS INCREDIBLE TO BE ABLE TO COME TO SCHOOL EVERY DAY AND HAVE FACE-TO-**FACE CONVERSATIONS** WITH STUDENTS AND STAFF. AS A MEMBER OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT, I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO WITNESS FIRSTHAND THE ATTENTIVE AND **CAUTIOUS PROTOCOLS** ESTABLISHED BY THE ADMINISTRATION AND COULD NOT BE MORE **GRATEFUL FOR THIS** OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN IN-PERSON."

- Emilie Weingarden '21

"Just by walking into the classrooms and feeling the presence of the teachers, the students immediately glow up with excitement. I can tell that they are doing everything they can to accommodate those online and that they have our best interests in mind."

- Ethan Grey '23

EVEN THOUGH SCHOOL IS NOW DIFFERENT WITH A TON OF NEW REGULATIONS IN ORDER TO KEEP EVERYONE SAFE, HAVING THE ABILITY TO CONNECT WITH MY PEERS ON AN IN-PERSON LEVEL BRINGS ME JOY AND HAPPINESS WHICH I CANNOT EXPLAIN. THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE STAFF, FACULTY, AND SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS WHO WERE ABLE TO COME UP WITH A SAFETY PLAN TO BE ABLE TO GET US WHERE WE ARE TODAY. YOU ALL DESERVE A STANDING OVATION!

- Sabrina Carson '21

TO SCHOOL IN PERSON IN SEVEN MONTHS. **BUT WHAT'S SPECIAL** ABOUT FRANKEL IS THAT THE RELATIONSHIPS YOU MAKE WITH YOUR PEERS, TEACHERS AND THE SCHOOL AS A WHOLE PERPETUATE NO MATTER THE DISTANCE. IN FACT, PLANNING **GRADE ACTIVITIES** AND PARTICIPATING IN **CLASSES AND SCHOOL EVENTS FEELS EVEN** MORE REWARDING WHEN CONSIDERING THE OBSTACLE OF BEING REMOTE. I CANNOT WAIT TO EVENTUALLY COME BACK, BUT THANKS TO FJA'S APPROACH TO **ONLINE LEARNING. IT** FEELS LIKE NO TIME HAS PASSED SINCE I LAST WALKED THE HALLS.

- Liana Tarnopol '21

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In the fall of 2019, we began a school-wide initiative for classroom instruction called Reading Apprenticeship, which is a framework that supports both academic and social-emotional learning. This framework offers a collaborative approach to learning that supports reading comprehension across all content areas. From the rearrangement of the classroom environment to encourage collaboration to the adoption of common language across all content areas, the Reading Apprenticeship framework has provided a meaningful structure for learning that empowers students to have metacognitive conversations that enable them to identify strategies that best support their learning.

When reflecting upon the impact of reading apprenticeship on his classroom instruction, Rabbi Elliot Pachter said that students "do very well with directing the learning with their own questions and exchange of ideas. [Reading Apprenticeship] gives a great structure to a traditional Jewish learning model called Chevruta, in which students study in pairs."

Math instructor Christine Chadwick said that thanks to Reading Apprenticeship strategies her students are "taking more time to pause and think out loud the thought process when solving a problem."

Social Studies teacher Adam Shireman shared that he has been "incorporating metacognitive thought exercises and discussions into every aspect of my class, which helps to make EVERYTHING a learning experience. Even something as mundane as reading and understanding directions can be treated as a useful, real world learning opportunity."

This focus on metacognition aligns with our dual curriculum model, encouraging academic discussion in all classes and ensuring that students are actively engaged in our mission to think critically, creatively, and compassionately. Through this transformative practice, students take ownership of their learning so that they may become lifelong learners and leaders.



Nicole Kahn Melanie Sesi

English Department Chair Social Studies Department Chair

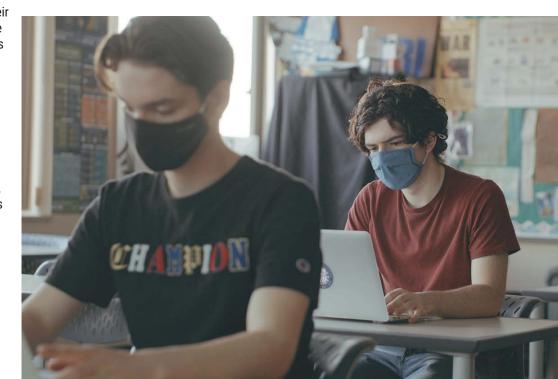
Kathryn Untener English Instructor Leroy Zagata English Instructor



Did you know that students in FJA's Jewish Studies classes learn about demons and other outlandish characters that appear in the Talmud? That students can be heard thanking each other for the insights they share with each other? That critical thinking through rich Jewish text study and building relationships with others go hand in hand in our classrooms?

This year, three of FJA's Judaic Studies instructors, Rebecca Strobehn ('06), Rabbi Michael Langer, and Rabbi Jeremy Yoskowitz, had the opportunity to participate in a professional development initiative led by Pedagogy of Partnership (PoP). Powered by Hadar, PoP is a comprehensive Jewish educational model that supports educators in bringing Torah to the next generation. PoP-inspired pedagogies help students find meaning in Judaism's ancient texts while building strong relationships with each other and the text. Strobehn commented, "I love having the kids see these stories that are in our tradition. It really motivates me and it is one of the most gratifying things in my teaching when I see the students authentically engaged in finding meaning in our texts."

Learning specific language to support their understanding of the text and treating the text as a full partner enabled our students to build learning partnerships even when masked and socially distanced. Indeed, during this year when our students were navigating learning in person, online, or a combination of the two, FJA's talented Jewish studies faculty specifically supported the nurturing of relationships between learners and the texts they study by developing the habits of wonder, empathy, and responsibility toward others and toward Torah.



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS קשרים בקהילה

FJA students were limited in the ways they could connect with the broader Jewish community due to the pandemic. Teachers and staff found creative ways to bring the community to them - whether online or in their learning.

During the Jewish holidays in the fall, Rebecca Strobehn '06, FJA Judaic Studies Instructor, linked up with The Well to bring us "Reflect4Rosh". Twice weekly on our social media pages, we posted prompts for students and staff to think about, and have the opportunity to reflect and have meaningful conversations with family and friends.

Each year, eight FJA 11th grade students are selected to participate in Jewish Senior Life's "Eight Over Eighty" event. Students are paired with a senior who is being honored by JSL, they spend time together, and the FJA students interview their partners. Although the event was online this year, our students still had the opportunity to present awards to the eight recipients. Guided by Rabbi Elliot Pachter and Ariella Monson, the eight students appeared in a recorded video, in which they talked about their experiences getting to know the honorees.







Driven by Ariella Monson, Coordinator of Student Life, FJA was selected to participate in the Better Together in a Box program. Better Together in a Box, which is modeled after the four-year Better Together program, is designed to encourage meaningful interaction between youth and older generations. FJA students had the opportunity to be a part of this program during their Z'man Kodesh (sacred time) elective. Students met and formed relationships with Jewish Senior Life residents. They explored Jewish identity, celebrated holidays, and created intergenerational dialogue.

One of FJA's most important community partners is Hillel Day School, because we share the mission of Jewish day school education for our community. This year, our partnership began with a drive-in movie event that brought together both communities to celebrate the beginning of the school year. Throughout the year, FJA students visited Hillel virtually to talk about high school, and Hillel's 8th graders attended virtual shadow days.

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS!

JAGS IN THE NEWS

MAZEL TOV to the FJA students featured the JN and JCC's Rising Stars: Teens Making a Difference The Jewish News, April 29, 2021



MANDI FEALK '21

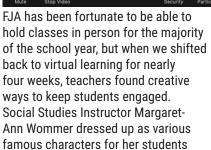


SKYLAR ELBINGER '22



ANDY TUKEL '22

We Can Do It!



SECTIVE SECTIV

each day. Examples include Rosie the Riveter, Wednesday Addams, and even Flo from the Progressive commercials!

"I got compliments and laughter; the majority seemed to be enjoying the experience," she said of her students.

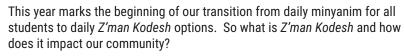
She added, "It's very much for the kids, but it's keeping me going as well." Many news outlets - local, national, and international, heard about Mrs. Wommer's costumes, and she became a social media sensation!



FJA TENNIS TEAM
Clinches 2021 Catholic League Division Title, The Jewish News,
May 21, 2021

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Z'man Kodesh (literally, "sacred time," or "time set aside for a holy purpose") is a means of engaging with, understanding, and expressing our shared Jewish values through a variety of different experiential educational options. We recognize that spirituality is individual, and not always expressed through the words of the siddur. Z'man Kodesh is a set time in which different options are made available to students for their own personal spiritual growth and development.

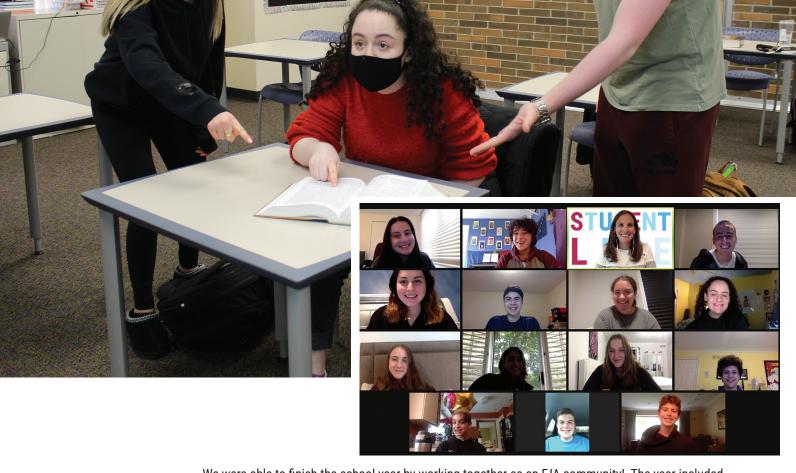
As a natural evolution in our ritual observances, some of these options will involve formal tefilah (prayer), and others will relate to tefilah in informal ways. The amount of formal tefilah in each Z'man Kodesh option may vary based on the individual needs, and Z'man Kodesh is intended to allow students, faculty, and staff to create and explore different means of accessing and deepening personal practices of Jewish spirituality. There are innumerable pathways towards a deep, thoughtful, and meaningful relationship with God and Judaism, and not all of those pathways will necessarily involve formal prayer.

Each quarter, faculty and staff offer multiple Z'man Kodesh options for students to join. Some options involve interacting with different groups in our community. Z'man Kodesh leaders regularly update their offerings, and options change from quarter to quarter, which allows us to not only meet more student needs in a thoughtful way but also to ensure that we're managing the numerous necessary changes in this very unusual year. For example, historically we have had a musical minyan group spend at least one day each week with residents at Jewish Senior Life on our campus, something that we were prevented from doing this year. To maintain and strengthen that connection, a new Z'man Kodesh option was developed that paired up students and seniors for regular virtual visits.

As we continue to grow as a school we will continue to add to and enhance our Z'man Kodesh options, and we look forward to students actively engaging in that process.

Rabbi Jeremy Yoskowitz

Judaic Studies Instructor



We were able to finish the school year by working together as an FJA community! The year included interesting, new and spirited events, while still preserving iconic FJA traditions. A school year wouldn't be complete without FJA's famous Spirit Week Jenga tournament, and in addition Student Government added "Shavua Stav" to the calendar and made sure that the school spirit didn't stop. Ask any FJA student this year how much time they spent on Zoom and the answer will be a lot, but the time Student Government spent was worth it because we were able to collaborate as a group and communicate school changes to the student body. We had to adapt to new learning styles, new safety policies, and implement changes on the fly, but as a student body we did it!

"We had to adapt to new learning styles, new safety policies, and implement changes on the fly, but as a student body we did it!"

I am so thankful to have been elected as All School President during a pandemic. I am grateful for everyone who made this year memorable and truly special - students, staff, and faculty. This is a year to be remembered.

Jack Harris '21

STUDENT LIFE

All School President

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JAGS IN COMPETITION

The 2020-2021 school year was unique in many ways, and it was no different for FJA athletics. Our student athletes experienced many ups and downs, but they always made the best of every situation. Due to Covid-19, many of our teams had to pivot from competitive mode to working with each other to improve and prepare for next season. When the volleyball, boys soccer, girls basketball, boys basketball, and girls soccer seasons were canceled due to fears of the increased number of Covid infections, the coaches and athletes worked together to develop a plan for intramurals. This comprehensive plan allowed our athletes to stay physically active and work on the skills that will prepare them for next season.

When the Frankel student athletes were able to participate, they succeeded. The boys tennis team finished second in the league, and just fell short in a push for yet another state championship appearance. The boys bowling team challenged some of the top programs in the state at the MHSAA bowling regional. Perhaps you heard about our girls tennis team this spring capturing the Catholic League Intersectional Division Championship with an undefeated record. You may have caught a glimpse of Merrick Michaelson '23 running around campus as he was training to be the first Frankel Jewish Academy student to ever qualify for the MHSAA Cross Country State Championships.

With all of the hardship of this year, it's easy to lose sight of all the good that has taken place. Our student athletes taught us all a lesson this year - a lesson in perseverance, how to look past the obvious disappointments, and create a positive experience.

Congratulations Jags. In a year that saw so much hardship, you have once again come out on top!

Rick Dorn

Director of Athletics





In the fall, Merrick Michaelson '23 ran a personal best time and finished tied for 2nd place at the MHSAA cross country regional meet, qualifying him for the MHSAA State Cross Country Finals. The finals were held at the Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn, Michigan. Merrick finished the 5k course in 18:08 which put him in 49th place out of 244 runners. Merrick is the first runner in FJA history to qualify and race at the state finals. Mazal Tov Merrick!





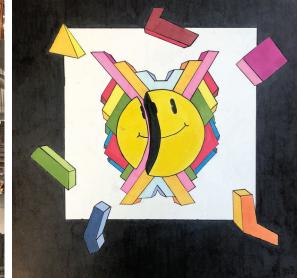
FJA's Visual and Performing Arts classes create environments that foster trust, comfort, creativity, and encourage a journey of self-discovery. Whether our school is in-person or distant learning, art is vitally important to building self-esteem, enabling a student to let go of inhibitions and take risks as they encounter challenges, both on and off the stage, or in and out of the art studio. Our incredible FJA arts instructors guide our students to comprehend, appreciate, and make educated choices, while applying the creative process to all areas of their lives.

We are grateful to the Burton A. Zipser and Sandra D. Zipser Foundation for their support of music education and performance, including Celebration of the Arts. They established the Zipser Fund

for Music Education and Performance at Frankel Jewish Academy in order to create meaningful opportunities for students at FJA to learn about, appreciate, and perform music.







ARTWORK CLOCKWISE FROM TOP Natalie Cherrin '22, Evan Zakucia '21, Skylar Elbinger '22, Evan Zakucia '21, Tali Feingold '24

TO ENJOY MORE FJA STUDENT ART PIECES, VISIT HTTPS://WWW.FRANKELJA.ORG/ARTS/CELEBRATION-OF-THE-ARTS



READER'S THEATER

The FJA Performing Arts community proudly kept the arts alive and flourishing this year! As soon as the school year began, the Performing Arts Department teamed up with the Student Life Office and launched a virtual coffee house. This unique online experience was filled to the brim with a diverse collection of

specialties from our talented students and faculty, including classical and contemporary music, expressive dramatic vocal arrangements, monologues, and poetry.

When the seasons changed and leaves began falling, we opened the pages to FJA's first ever Reader's Theatre Club. The club provided a meaningful opportunity to gather students and teachers to share their theater talents and passions as they reimagined classic movies and plays. Through the magic of Zoom, students were electronically together as an ensemble.

The table readings started with an adapted script of the beloved, romantic comedy "The Princess Bride." Following a successful interpretation, the club tackled an equally popular show, "Fame," based on the 1980's film filled with memorable and colorful characters attending New York City's Performing Arts School.

We proceeded next to capture the fantasy and whimsy of "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory," immersing ourselves within the personas of the candy-making Oompa Loompas. For our final reading, a small group of students and staff gathered in FJA's Beit Midrash for an in-person table reading of an original one act play entitled "The Mad Sting," written by alumna Emily Miller '16 and Mitch Master. The play is a satire filled humor fest, incorporating self-reflection in conflict with questions of ethics, integrity, and mental health.

As we review this past year of altered perceptions of what was considered normal, we celebrate our accomplishments, give thanks for the paths we were still able to pursue, and marvel at how we expanded the extent of our abilities. We are looking forward to what lies ahead for the performing arts next year!

Mitch Master

Director of Performing & Visual Arts

I was a little nervous coming from public school to FJA, but the experience has been amazing! I love the small class sizes, the caring teachers and being part of my school community. I love that I get to learn Hebrew and Jewish Studies along with all of my other classes plus fun electives like engineering, art and music. If

CLASS OF POTLIGHTS



Indiana University



Gap Year: Midreshet Lindenbaum **University of Michigan** Major: Undecided



Grand Valley State University Major: Recreation Therapy & **Special Education**



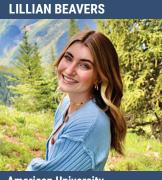
SABRINA CARSON

Northwestern University

BRANDON GLADSTONE

Major: Journalism

Army National Guard Basic Training Wayne State Universit Major: Intelligence Analyst / **Criminal Justice**



American University (College of Arts & Sciences) Major: Communication Studies Minor: Studio Art & Creative Writing



BENYAMIN BOTER





HANNAH GORMAN

University of Michigan

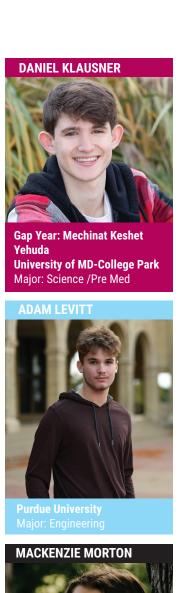
Gender Studies

Major: Political Science &







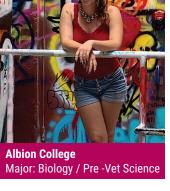








Osteopathic Medicine Scholars





ARI PARTRICH

Vanderbilt Universit

AMANDA SCHLUSSEL





Arizona State University

Major: Fashion & Business

MARLEE KROLL

















Northwestern University Major: Music Theater Program & Biology



University of Michigan Major: Engineering



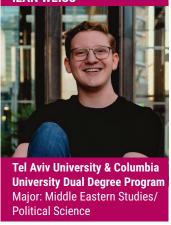
Major: Psychology





DAVID WROTSLAVSKY











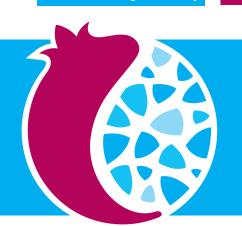








Michigan State University Major: Business Administration



"Frankel Jewish Academy's emphasis on Jewish community as well as its commitment to social responsibility have taught me that my individual path is not distinct, nor can it be separated, from the collective Jewish experience. As I move forward from high school and ready myself for the next stage of life, I do so with a keen awareness of my place within the wider Jewish community as well as my responsibility for the welfare of all Jews."

- JESSICA CAMINKER FJA CLASS OF 2021



OWN YOUR JOURNEY. DISCOVER YOUR TOMORROW.

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ELLA EGRIN

ENGLISH GRADUATION SPEECH



I will never forget the day when I shadowed here at FJA. It was Yom FJA in October 2018 and I'm going to be honest with all of you, I was not too excited. The idea of coming to a new school where I didn't know anyone, except Mr. Gawel was terrifying. Somehow all of the craziness that took place that day won me over. I started the next week, and with that I started my journey to self discovery. The students welcomed me with open arms and the faculty with helping hands. I quickly realized that this was a place that I would be more than just a face in the crowd. When I started here. I had no idea who I was or who I wanted to be, but now I stand before all of you with an understanding of myself that I could never have dreamed of three years ago. FJA has taught me more than just academics, but it has also taught me what it means to be human.

MARLEE KROLL

HEBREW GRADUATION SPEECH

Welcome, and thank you to everyone who has given the Frankel Jewish Academy class of 2021 their full support for these past four years.

Along with the rest of my classmates, on the first day of freshman year, I entered the halls of FJA, excited, curious, and a little nervous about what my future at this school would bring. As our time at FJA began to pass,

it became evident to the rest of the school that our class is talented, knowledgeable, admirable as leaders, and proud of our Jewish identities. Our willingness to be there for each other, both in and out of the classroom, being educated on the value of Judaism, and saying "hi" to each other with a smile, are just a few of the special things about FJA that I am really going to miss. As a class we have not only achieved tremendous accomplishments within our general and Judaic studies, but together we have become an outstanding group of people, regardless of the unexpected challenges we faced throughout the past fifteen months. I can confidently say this would not have been possible without the unconditional support that our teachers never hesitated to give to us. I am so grateful for the opportunity I was given, to build these meaningful bonds with my classmates and teachers that I know will last me a lifetime.

In a speech to a group of women at Harvard University in 2015, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said, "Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you." Four hard-working yet fun years of high school are coming to a close today. I know that our class will continue to fight for the causes that we care about, in a way that will lead others to join us. Congratulations to the class of 2021!

ברוכים הבאים, ותודה לכל מי שנתן למחזור של אלפיים עשרים ואחת את כל התמיכה בארבע השנים האחרונות ביום הראשון של כיתה ט, יחד עם חברי המחזור שלי, פסעתי במסדרונות FJA נרגשת וסקרנית לגבי העתיד שלי בבית הספר. ככל שהזמן בFJA עבר, נהיה ברור לכל בית הספר עד כמה בני המחזור הזה מוכשרים, בעלי כושר מנהיגות וגאים בזהות היהו<mark>דית של</mark>הם. הנכ<mark>ונות לעזור אחד לשני,</mark> בכיתה וגם מחוץ לכיתה, החינוך לערכי היהדות ואמירת שלום עם חיוך, הם רק חלק מהדברים המיוחדים שאתגעגע אליהם בFJA למחזור שלנו היו <mark>לא ר</mark>ק הרבה הישגים בלימודים הכלליים ולימודי היהדות אלא ביחד הפכנו לקבוצה מדהימה של אנשים למרות האתגרים הבלתי צפויים בחמישה עשר החודשים האחר<mark>וני</mark>ם. בביטחון רב אני יכולה לומר שזה לא הי<mark>ה</mark> מתאפשר לולא התמיכה המוחלטת של המורים שלנו. אני מלאת תודה <mark>על ה</mark>הזדמנות שניתנה לי ליצור, עם חבריי ועם מוריי ,קשרים משמעותיים שימשכו

בנאום בפני קבוצת נשים באוניברסיטת
הרווארד בשנת אלפיים וחמש עשרה, RGB
שופטת בית המשפט העליון אמרה: "הילחמו
למען הדברים שאתן מאמינות בהם, אבל עשו
זאת בדרך שתגרום לאחרים לרצות להצטרף
אליכן." ארבע שנים של לימודים המלווים
בזמנים יפים בבית הספר, מסתיימות היום.
אני יודעת שהכיתה שלנו תמשיך להילחם
למען כל מה שאכפת לנו, בדרך שתעודד
אחרים להצטרף אלינו. מזל טוב לכיתה של



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT SUSAN (GOLDIS) GOREN '03



When Susan (Goldis) Goren '03, graduated from FJA (then the Jewish Academy of Metropolitan Detroit - JAMD), she didn't yet know that her life path would take her on a world-wide journey filled with unexpected opportunities and important professional experiences.

"I knew from a young age that I was interested in living and working abroad, but I didn't know anyone growing up who had pursued such a path. FJA/JAMD encouraged students to expand their horizons and pursue individual ambitions that might differ from the norm, which, in turn, helped bolster my decision to pursue a path much different from those I had witnessed."

Today, Susan is the Protection Coordinator for the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Mexico, managing their humanitarian response for refugees, asylum seekers and other vulnerable populations. She currently lives in Mexico City with her husband Nadav, who is Deputy Chief of Mission for the Embassy of Israel in Mexico, and their four year old son Liad.

With a background in political science, international studies, and a law degree from the University of Michigan, Susan has focused her career on providing protection to refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons and helping them rebuild their lives in safety and security.

Before the Gorens' made the move to Mexico, they spent five years in Abuja, Nigeria where Susan was able to join the UN Refugee Agency, UNHCR, amidst the growing internal displacement crisis in the northeast of the country and mounting humanitarian response. She helped coordinate protection operations and implement UNHCR's protection projects, prioritizing the evolving emergency needs in the country throughout the brutal Boko Haram insurgency. She also assisted in the UNHCR's response to the Cameroonian refugee crisis. During this time, her husband served as Deputy Chief of Mission for the Embassy of Israel in Nigeria.

"The careers and lives that my husband and I have chosen, to move around the world to different posts for international humanitarian relief and Israeli diplomacy, is not necessarily the path of least resistance," she says. "The distance from our families and friends is an eternal challenge."

Even so, Susan and Nadav feel fortunate for the experiences they've had and those their son will be exposed to as he grows up.

"Being able to absorb other cultures, learn new languages, and meet people from around the world has meant that we are continually learning, evolving and experiencing new adventures."

The foundation for Susan's world-wide experiences were established at FJA/JAMD. "I have so many great memories from JAMD—Anything Goes and A Midsummer Night's Dream plays, our Israel senior trip, our senior all-night party including pranks, and bringing in our sleeping bags to lounge in comfort in our student lounge, among many others. We took a memorable class trip to New York, where we waited outside MTV for the TV Show, TRL, got to be in the audience, and called JAMD to have the rest of the school tune in from back in Michigan!"

She explained that the school helped foster her passion for languages and learning about cultures all over the world. "FJA's unique character supports students' individuality and allows them to create their own opportunities and pursue their own interests."

We are excited to see where Susan's life journey will take her!















ALUMNI NEWS

MAZAL TOV to...

Ilana Goldberg Block ('03) for receiving the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit's Mark-Lis Family Young Leadership Award.

Vadim Avshalumov ('03) and wife Rachel on the birth of their son, Jacob.

David Kurzmann ('04) and wife Kate on the birth of their son, Rafael Franklin.

Pammy Gene Burns ('04) and husband David on the birth of their son, Everett Dylan.

David ('05) and Erin Stiebel on the birth of their first daughter (after four boys!).

Emily Nadis ('06) and husband Randy Silver on the birth of a baby girl, Isabella Fave.

Adva Gadoth ('06) for being featured in the Jewish News: Epidemiologists look at the impact of Covid-19.

Jennie Beitner Maxbauer ('06) and husband Sam on the birth of their son, Carl Leonard.

Adam Luger ('06) on his engagement to Jessica Sternberg.

Ryan Landau ('06) and wife Margot on the birth of their son, Nolan Jack.

Yair Hillman ('07) for being recognized by the Ministry of Education in Israel. He was offered a position as a medical physicist at Hadassah Ein Kerem Hospital in Jerusalem. He moved to Israel with his family in February and started this new position in March. They recently welcomed a baby boy.

Leiana Monkman Franklin ('07) and husband Daniel on the birth of their daughter, Lila Rose.

Sarah May Lohse ('07) and husband William on the birth of their son Harry.

David Devries ('07) on being featured in the Jewish News about his success in Hollywood.

Alaina Farber ('07) on her marriage to Avi Snider.

Alicia Mendelson Goldman ('07) and husband Bradley on the birth of their daughter, Ava Johenna.

Casey Weiss Ginsberg ('07) and husband Brian on the birth of their daughter, Livi Noa.

Lauren Walsh Vaughn ('07) and husband Joe on the birth of their son. Win.

Talya Krasner Jacobowitz ('07) and husband Binyamin on the birth of their son.

Alexander Orman ('07) for completing his Residency in May of 2020 in Emergency Medicine as Chief Resident at Ascension St. John Hospital. He is currently an Emergency Physician at Henry Ford Hospital.

Michael Baum ('08) and Traci Baum on the birth of their daughter, Madison Paige.

Arielle Mendelson ('08) and Jeremy Stauss on their marriage.

Marnie Beals Motola ('08) and husband Avi on the birth of their son, David.

Aaron Goss ('08) and wife Adina on the birth of their daughter, Willow Chana.

Rachel Belsky Moss ('09) and Justin Moss ('10) on the birth of their son Jackson.

Stephanie Horwitz ('09) for launching her podcast "What should I do with my Life?" and for getting engaged!

יום העצמאות ה-75 יום העצמאות ה-15 יום העצמאות איל יום העצמאות איל יום איל יום העצמאות איל יום איל יום

FJA Alumnus **AMI ZUROFF '15**, was named as an excellent soldier by the president of Israel. President Reuven Rivlin hosted the annual Independence Day ceremony at his official residence to award the Army's annual citations for distinguished service to 120 Israel Defense Forces soldiers.

Rachel Brown Schacht ('09)

and husband Aaron on the birth of their daughter, Nora Celia.

Eli Newman ('09) on his marriage to Livi Roth.

Brittney Brown ('09) on her engagement to Jake Steven.

Jamie Rabotnick Panzer ('09) on her marriage to Jonathan Panzer.

Jason Dovitz ('09) on his engagement to Shayna Turk.

Yoni Freedman ('09) and wife Naomi on the birth of their daughter, Sadie Rae.

Lauren Kepes Rubin ('09) and husband Adam on the birth of their son, Wally.

Danielle Brodsky ('09) on her marriage to Austin Frieder.

Josh Lowenthal ('10) on his marriage to Alexa Ellis.

Jacob Allen ('10) on his marriage to Laura Williams.

Tom Yaari ('10) on his marriage to Sara Lebovic.

Jessica Polk Barris ('11) and husband Neil on the birth of their son, Ryder James.

Jonathan Pachter ('12) on his engagement to Natalie Weiss.

Andrew Moss ('13) on his marriage.

Laurenne Kaufman ('13) on her engagement.

Rafi Levi ('14) on his marriage to Daphne Logan.

Danielle Keith ('14) on her wedding to Ari Brown.

Ami Zuroff ('15) who was nominated as an excellent soldier by the president of Israel, Reuven Rivlin.

Carter Altman ('16) for being featured in the New York Times: Diversity: A Movement, Not a Moment.

Talia Gothelf ('16) and Jake Berlin ('16) on their engagement.

Sarah Broner ('16) for being featured as a U of M Undergrad spotlight: LSA Department of Psychology.

Tyler Presser ('17) for graduating with his masters, receiving the 2021 Viterbi MS Award, and accepting his PhD at USC.

Jeremy Rosenberg ('17) on his engagement to Menuchah Bluth. He also recently became MoGo Detroit's Marketing and Digital Media Manager.

Pelli Mechnikov ('19) for serving as president of Spartans for Israel. She is majoring in Neuroscience & Psychology and is minoring in Judaic Studies. Pelli was also a #UURAF2021 presenter in the Diversity and Interdisciplinary Studies category. Her research project is titled "Becoming Israeli: Stories of Aliyah".

OLIVIA BRODSKY '11 STEPS INTO THE CANTOR'S PULPIT

Growing up in Michigan, Olivia Brodsky was always singing. After her Bat Mitzvah, she joined the Temple Israel Teen T'fillah Team and was an original member of Shaarey Zedek's "Music & Motzi" on Shabbat. Over the years, Olivia grew into the role of soloist, leading Shabbat services, and ioining both Cantors Michael Smolash and Neil Michaels



at Temple Israel, as well as Cantor Meir Finkelstein at Shaarey Zedek, for High Holiday services. Once she realized her dream was to become a cantor, Olivia created her own high school workstudy program at FJA, training weekly with Cantor Smolash and Cantor Finkelstein to learn liturgy, prayer and music.

After her studies in the Tufts University/New England Conservatory of Music dual-degree program, Olivia was accepted to the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion's Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music, where she was one of six members of the cantorial class of 2021.

Interning at Congregation Beth Yam in Hiltonhead, SC, and at the distinguished Rodeph Shalom synagogue in New York City, she honed her craft even more while inspiring congregants both in person and online. We are so pleased to share that Olivia has now been called to the pulpit of Temple Beth Rishon in New Jersey. A short commute from New York City, this beautiful synagogue will be a spiritual home for Olivia as she steps into her position of Jewish leadership, and also a home base from which to continue making uplifting and polished Jewish music.

"I am deeply passionate about preserving Jewish music and tradition, while making it evermore applicable to our daily lives. Jewish music is a powerful vehicle for transmitting our shared history, traditions, and identity midor I'dor—from generation to generation. My vision is to help people enrich their lives through a Jewish lens: culturally, intellectually, ethically, and spiritually."

We send our congratulations and we look forward to many more tremendous accomplishments from Cantor Olivia Brodsky.

SUBMIT YOUR NEWS DIRECTLY THROUGH OUR WEBSITE frankelja.org/alumni

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ALUMNI IN THE

CLASSROOM

This year, we had several opportunities for alumni to "virtually" visit FJA, sharing their knowledge and expertise in the subjects being taught in the classroom. Elektra Petrucci '04 (Also FJA's Graphic Designer and Administrative Assistant) taught Adobe Photoshop basics to Mrs. Wommer's Digital Photography class, while Simon Pinter '06 shared his experiences as a photographer. Siblings Yossi '09 and Eden '16 Lichterman joined Mrs. Wommer's Journalism class for a Q+A panel about their experiences in the field.

It was a lot of fun to have some of our alumni "back" at school, and have our students learn from their real-world experiences.

If you are interested in getting involved, please contact

Shana Kantor, Director of Advancement skantor@frankelja.org.



CAMI KATZEN '24 is on the Teen Action Council for the lobbying arm of the American Cancer Society Michigan chapter. As a council member, she was given the task of coming up with a fundraiser, and had to think of a creative product to sell. She had heard about FJA alumna Annie Slabotsky '15 who started a business creating an allergy friendly and healthy banana bread - GoNanas. Cami reached out to GoNanas to see how they might be willing to help her raise money for cancer research, prevention, and treatment. Annie and her team generously donated the first 20 bags of banana bread mix to the cause, helping Cami raise \$500!

We love to see our students, past and present, work together to make a difference in our community.



MAY HIS MEMORY BE A BLESSING זיכרונו לברכה

NOAH CUTLER '15 passed away on July 15, 2020. He is remembered lovingly by his parents Dr. Nancy and Michael



Cutler, his brother

Adam, and many family and friends.

"Not only was Noah one of the most brilliant students I have ever taught, he was without a doubt one of the kindest. He never had a negative thing to say about anyone or anything. Always

had kind words to offer and always had a smile to give. Given all of these gifts, he was also humble. He was never one to brag about his accomplishments. He was more of a doer, not a talker. His humility was even more apparent to me as the years went on."

-Eric Rapp, FJA Mathematics and Physics Instructor

"Noah was always a gentle giant. He was a friend that you could always count on to have your back no matter what the situation was. A friend that would always have a smile on his face no matter what was thrown at him. A friend who was always the first to apologize. That was Noah, The Gentle Giant."

-Ben Canvasser '15

ADVANCEMENT NEWS

POMEGRANATE SOCIETY

This winter, FJA launched the Pomegranate society to thank our most committed donors. The Pomegranate Society recognizes donors of \$1,800 or more to Frankel Jewish Academy in a particular year, who through their philanthropic support help FJA to fulfill its mission of inspiring students to think critically, creatively, and compassionately, and to dedicate themselves to Jewish tradition, peoplehood,

and the State of Israel. Alumni donors become members of the Pomegranate Society with a gift of \$100 x the number of years since graduation. The inaugural Pomegranate Society event celebrated the donors of 2020 and hosted Chanie Apfelbaum, author of the cookbook Millennial Kosher and

the Busy in Brooklyn website and social media channels. If you would like more information on joining the Pomegranate Society in 2021, please contact Shana Kantor, Director of Advancement at

FJA's giving levels represent the seven species of Israel and include our logo, the Pomegranate. They represent bounty and our ever present connection to the land of Israel



FIG תאנה \$50,000 +



OLIVE זית \$25,000



DATE HONEY דבש \$10,000 +



GRAPE VINE גפ \$5,000 +



שה חטה \$2,500 +



POMEGRANATE רמון \$1,800 +



BARLEY שערה \$1,000 +

\$500 חבר FRIEND +

VIRTUAL HONORS

For the second year FJA's Annual Gala moved online, but there were unintended silver linings. Gala attendees included FJA friends, alumni, and family from all over the world, and the Gala may still be viewed at facebook.com/Frankelja/ live. Geography also did not limit our choice of honorees! We honored alumni parents, and long-time FJA supporters, Robin and Leo Eisenberg from their home in California. Alumni honoree Ryan Landau '06 and Faculty honoree Nicole Kahn were closer to home. With the expert assistance of alumnus Scott Wasserman '12 and his company EverVideo, Rabbi Azaryah Cohen, Head of School, and emcee Eli Newman '09 hosted from inside the school and welcomed more than 500 participants online. Viewers also heard from three students about their FJA experiences, and their school experiences as FJA remained inperson throughout the past school vear.

skantor@frankelja.org or 248-592-5263.



Robin and Leo Eisenberg shared stories of how their children learned passion for Jewish life and critical thinking through FJA's Jewish Studies courses. Leo urged others to get involved saying, "You will get back much more than what you give." With the help of alumni, parents, and friends, the Gala raised significant funding for FJA's Annual Fund. FJA's Annual Fund for 2020-2021 received more than 800 gifts totaling more than \$700,000.

WATCH THE GALA ONLINE at facebook.com/frankelja/live

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It has been such a pleasure being involved in the Parent Council this year. As a parent of a freshman, in the middle of a pandemic, this provided an amazing opportunity to learn first hand how the FJA community came together to give our children a safe school year. Without ever walking through the door into the physical school, it was evident to me that growth and learning were taking place every day. This is thanks to an incredibly dedicated staff. Some highlights of the 2020-2021 school year were:

- A Havdalah Zoom The FJA family got together to celebrate Chanukah and Havdallah. Featuring a beautiful slideshow of the different family chanukiot, families got together for a night of lights.
- Challah appreciation As a special treat, we had yummy Dakota challah delivered to our hard working staff.
- Chalk the Walk We surprised the staff with positive messages on the entryway to the school. It was a fun way to get teachers pumped up for conferences.
- Candy Grams Parents and students filled out candy grams to show their appreciation to the staff of FJA. Over 200 messages were delivered.
- Pizza Making Zoom What is better than schmoozing with FJA parents? Shmoozing over carbs! A deliciously fun event.
- Mask Chains The parents of FJA bought mask chain kits and beaded mask chains to keep our staff stylish and safe.
- Staff Appreciation Week We culminated our year with a staff appreciation week full of food and surprises for our hard working staff. From coffee and flowers to kind words and lunch, our hard working and generous parents thought of it all.

Get involved in the FJA parent community! parents@frankelja.org

Laura Charnas 9th Grade Parent Liaison

THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS

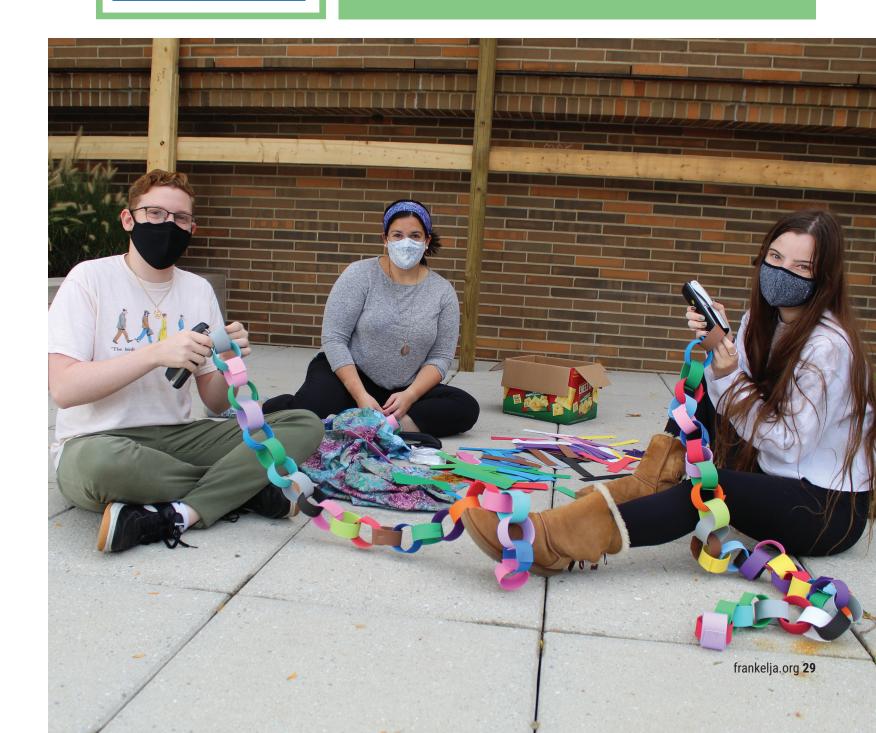


EverVideo



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

To learn more about FJA's Sponsorship opportunities, please contact Shana Kantor, Director of Advancement at 248-592-5263 or skantor@frankelja.org.



L'HITRAOT CONTINUED...



ARIELLA MONSON

will be joining the JCC of Ann Arbor to serve as their Director of Development and Operations. As the Coordinator of Student Life for the past 4 years, Ariella enhanced the opportunities for students to learn and engage outside of the

classroom, a significant part of our students' experience. We wish Ariella much success as she transitions to her new role.



JULIE (RUSKIN) OHANA

leaves Frankel Jewish
Academy after serving
in various roles for 14
years. Julie began as
FJA's social worker
and later worked
on recruiting new
students and creating
relationships with
our alumni, parents,
and other important

stakeholders. We wish Julie a b'hatzlacha - the best of luck - as she continues to grow her Culinary Art Therapy business. Her business and social work practice focuses on improving communication through food and cooking. It has been featured on local and national news outlets.



We wish all the best to DALE ROGERS, who has served as FJA's Genesis Lab Manager for the past two years. We appreciate Dale's work managing our STEAM space and instructing students in engineering and design.

WHERE DOES YOUR DONATION GO?

TUITION ASSISTANCE

More than 60 percent of FJA students receive tuition assistance. Your support ensures that any teen can receive a Jewish education

EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES

Create opportunities for students to broaden their horizons and choose from an array of offerings including technology in the Genesis Lab, art, performing arts, sports and much more

SUPPORT FACULTY

FJA's excellent faculty provide ongoing mentorship and close relationships with students that doesn't end at graduation

HOW TO DONATE

www.frankelja.org/give

Call the Advancement Department 248-592-5263

Mail to

6600 West Maple Rd, West Bloomfield, MI 48322

Your gift is important to us. Thank you for making a gift to Frankel Jewish Academy to help our students DISCOVER THEIR TOMORROW.

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FJA Leadership Team 2021 - 2022

Rabbi Azaryah Cohen, Head of School Rabbi Abi Taylor-Abt, Judaic Principal Erika Weiler, General Studies Principal Cynthia Baker, Chief Operating Officer Shana Kantor, Director of Advancement





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