



REPORT ON PHILANTHROPY 2018–2019



# Our Vision

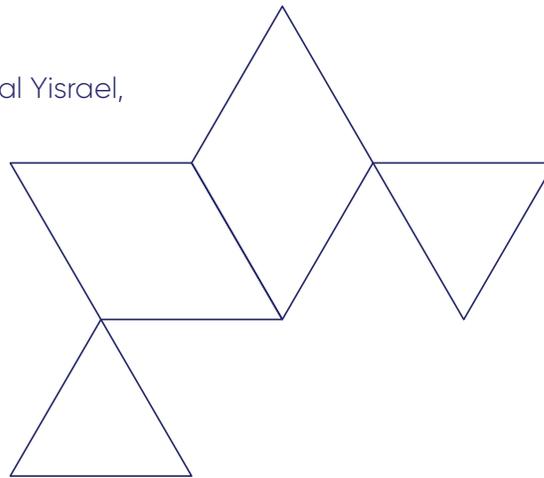
San Diego Jewish Academy is shaping the foundation of future thinkers, creators, and community leaders by blending modern education with greater purpose and meaning.

# Our Mission

Our mission is to further Academic Excellence, Social Responsibility, and Active Jewish Living.

# Our Values

Menschlichkeit, Torah, Avodah,  
Gemilut Hasadim/Tzedakah, Klal Yisrael,  
Ahavat Adonai, Israel



Challenging  
Minds

Inspiring  
Purpose

Exploring  
Possibilities

## 2018-2019 SDJA Leadership

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Jessica Fink

Heidi Gantwerk

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Sonia Mandelbaum

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Rabbi Yael Ridberg, **PRESIDENT**

Elliot Scott

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Laura Vainer

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Caryn Viterbi





## 2018-2019 Report on Philanthropy

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# A Special Message From Our Leadership



Dear Friends,

Forty years of anything doesn't just happen. Building, sustaining, growing something for forty years is a labor of love. San Diego Jewish Academy is exactly that for all of us who have been, and are, a part of this journey.

And what a journey it's been! Over multiple campuses, helmed by so many dedicated and talented lay and professional leaders, amid countless celebrations, innovations, and special moments of achievements, SDJA has created an indelible legacy here in San Diego—and beyond.

Nothing is more representative of our values, our spirit, than the ceremony we hold every year on the last day of school. As a community, we join together as students literally rise up to the next step. We are there to celebrate, to support all that those students have accomplished and all that we hope they will.

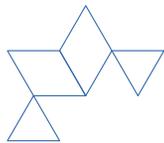
Our graduates go into the world as leaders and changemakers for good. They embody Jewish values—caring for others, living in community, keeping traditions alive while also taking risks, and charting a path for a better world.

We are a community committed to each other and to helping every single student and family find their path to success, to meaning, and to a purpose-filled life. In one way or another, all of us are part of this special story.

Thank you for being part of this journey. SDJA is poised to go from strength to strength because of those who did the heavy lifting before us, and those who we know will do so in the future. But in the present, we say *"todah rabah,"* "thank you," for all you do today.

## Here's to another 40 years and more!

**CHAIM HELLER**  
HEAD OF SCHOOL





As I reflect on my years as board president, I am heartened by what our community has created, expanded, and impacted—as a family. This thriving community premised on Jewish values is a result of the labor of love it is for all of us. Over the last few years, through the efforts of all involved in the *Our Family is One* Campaign, we have lived out the midrashic teaching in Deuteronomy Rabbah 1:21 that “a community is too heavy to carry alone.” SDJA has been elevated to unprecedented heights and the future is unfolding before us. Every day our students learn and play in the mix of friends and supportive teachers, they engage in experiential learning in our garden, critical thinking in the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurial Thinking, and thoughtful wrestling with Jewish values, ethics, rituals, and traditions.

It is a profound privilege to be a part of this remarkable story that is SDJA. Our growth and the impact we’ve had on families is because SDJA delivers an excellent general and Jewish education, and we embody Jewish values. At 40 years, we can say that SDJA truly does connect one generation to another. Our legacy has been built year after year, offering a singular, pluralistic Jewish day school experience that has influenced the lives of our students, their families and our community. *Mazal tov* on 40 years and may we go from strength to greater strength!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Yael Ridberg".

**RABBI YAEL RIDBERG**  
IMMEDIATE PAST BOARD PRESIDENT

People always seem surprised that I would take on the role of board president after all three of my kids graduated, and my response is always the same: having seen personally what SDJA has done for my family, I am inspired to do everything I can to ensure that SDJA goes from strength to strength at this critical point in our history.

I believe that SDJA, as a pluralistic community day school, is already one of San Diego’s most important Jewish institutions, and that its centrality will only grow as new generations search for meaningful connections to Jewish life and community for their children and their families. We are key to a vibrant, thriving Jewish community because we are a welcoming and valuable place for Jews from all walks of life.

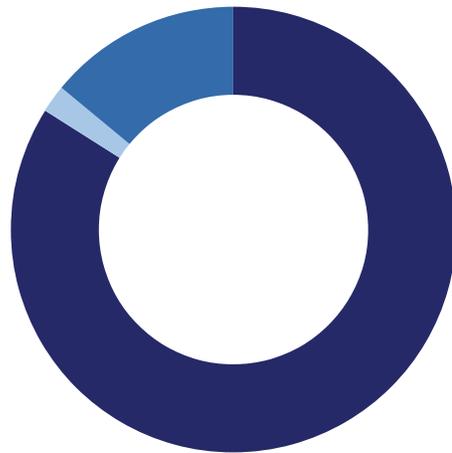
As we begin our fortieth year, I feel enormous gratitude to the families who, so many years ago, began the work of creating this school and this family. And today, the *Our Family is One* Campaign has built an incredible foundation to propel us into bright future, with outstanding academics, a campus without equal in San Diego, and a caring, connected community that nurtures every child in an atmosphere steeped in Jewish history, tradition and values.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heidi Gantwerk".

**HEIDI GANTWERK**  
CURRENT BOARD PRESIDENT

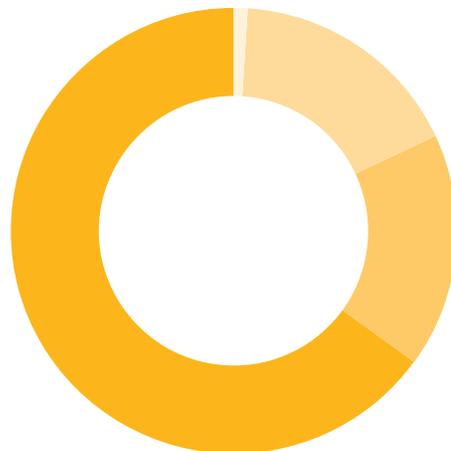
# Financial Overview / 2018-19

## Revenue



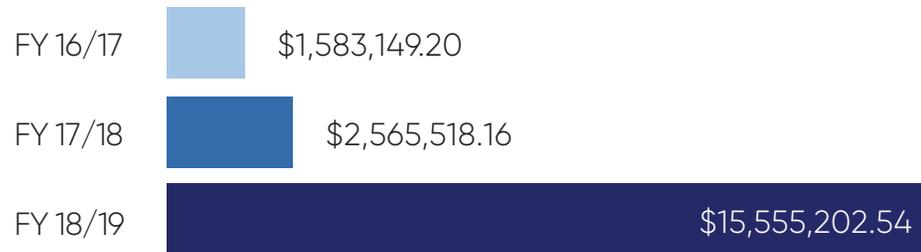
84%	Tuition + Student Fees: \$13,784,055
14%	Cash Gifts + Contributions: \$2,337,914
2%	Other Income: \$324,626

## Expenses



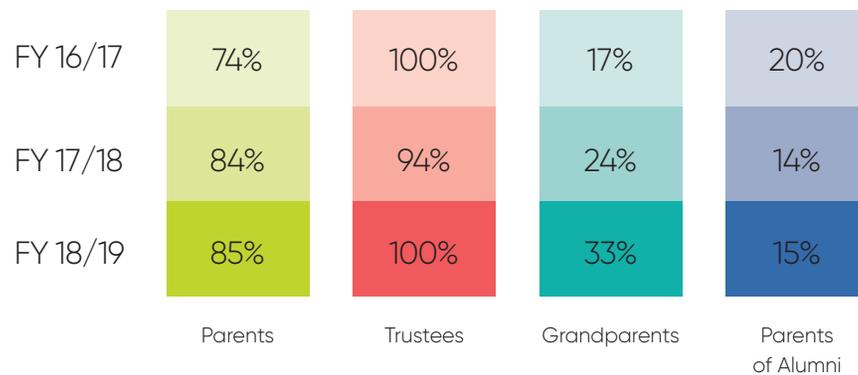
65%	Educational Program Expenses: \$10,423,847
17%	Tuition Assistance + Discounts: \$3,048,989
17%	Facilities + Administration: \$2,842,407
1%	Reserves for Future Use: \$131,352

## Total Support



\*15M raised to support the *Our Family is One* Campaign

## Donor Participation



# 395

Total Donors

# 99

First-Time Donors

# 42%

Increase in  
Donor Upgrades



# Years of Impact

San Diego Jewish Academy has been a pillar in our community for 40 years. From its humble beginnings as a small elementary school in San Carlos serving 94 students, to today – a 52-acre campus in Carmel Valley serving nearly 600 preschool through 12th grade students – SDJA has made profound impacts on its community and on the lives of hundreds of its students.

Throughout SDJA's history of growth and transformation, our school has always remained committed to the same crucial mission: ensuring our students have access to a world-class education, and inspiring them to be socially responsible citizens rooted in Jewish values. Our alumni are innovators, advocates, and change-makers passionate about the world and those around them. This impact – SDJA's 40-year

legacy – is only possible because of the leaders who made it so. Here's to each of you – our founders, past Board Presidents, long-time faculty and staff, and community members. Thank you all for your many years of leadership, partnership and support that has led us to this incredible milestone in our history.

Finally, thank you to each and every one of you who supported the *Our Family Is One* Campaign. With your gift, you have not only safeguarded SDJA's legacy, but have become our champions now paving the way for our next 40 years.

Gratefully,

**RACHELLE B. JAGOLINZER**  
DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT

# Because of your partnership and dedication to SDJA's mission...

## 100 new students

SDJA welcomed over 100 new students for the 2019/20 academic year.

## 600 total students

SDJA currently has the highest enrollment in a decade with nearly 600 total students.

## 80% + 80%

80% of our alumni are currently involved in their local Jewish communities, with over 80% currently holding a leadership position of some kind.

## Third kindergarten class

For the first time in several years, SDJA has opened a third kindergarten class.

## Blue Ribbon Award

SDJA's Golda Meir Lower School received the prestigious 2018 National Blue Ribbon Award, and was the only Jewish school in the country to receive this distinction this year.

## Breaking ground this year

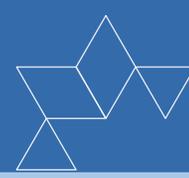
SDJA will be breaking ground on a state-of-the-art Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurial Thinking this year, which will provide more opportunities in technological innovation and entrepreneurialism for our students.

## 5% increase in student percentile ranks

The average student percentile rank for grades 1-5 rose by 5% in just one year thanks to the substantial increases in professional development for our faculty.

## Dozens of new programs

SDJA's Jewish life program has grown substantially with dozens of new programs added for students, parents and the greater community.

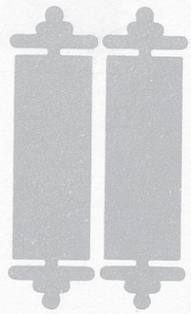


# A Visual History of San Diego Jewish Academy

**1979 - 2019**



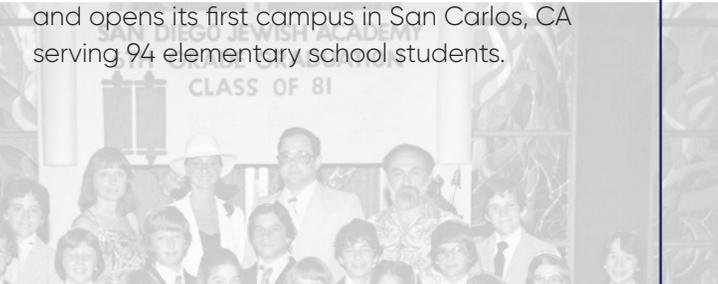




# SAN DIEGO JEWISH ACADEMY

600 Charles Mountain Boulevard  
San Diego, CA 92119

Due to the dedication and commitment of Charles and Randi Wax, SDJA is founded and opens its first campus in San Carlos, CA serving 94 elementary school students.



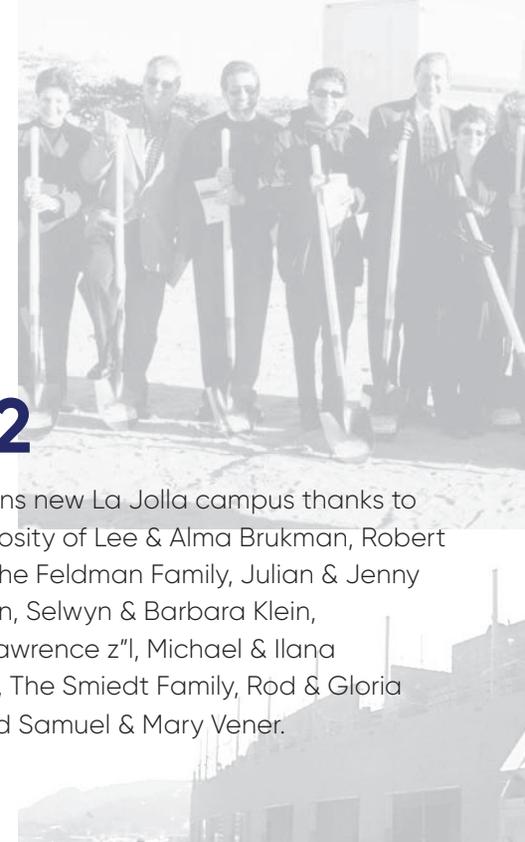
**1981**

SDJA graduates its first fifth-grade class.



**1982**

SDJA opens new La Jolla campus thanks to the generosity of Lee & Alma Brukman, Robert Caplan, The Feldman Family, Julian & Jenny Josephson, Selwyn & Barbara Klein, M. Larry Lawrence z"l, Michael & Ilana Silverman, The Smiedt Family, Rod & Gloria Stone, and Samuel & Mary Vener.



**2003**

SDJA graduates its first-ever high school senior class.



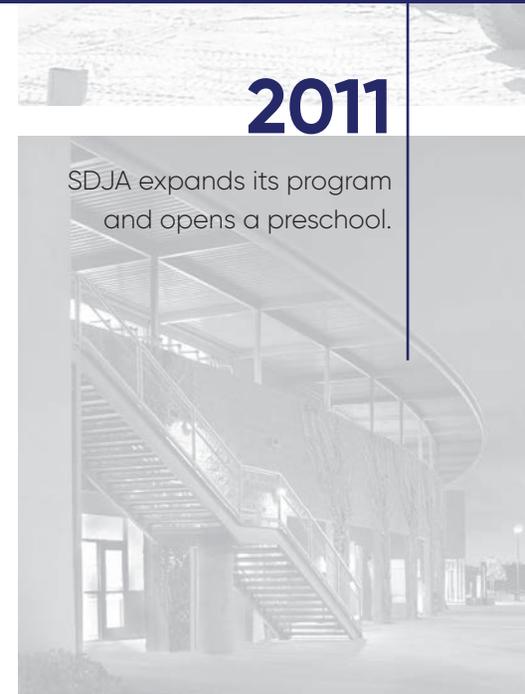
**2006**

Butterfly Project begins.



**2011**

SDJA expands its program and opens a preschool.



## HEADS OF SCHOOL:

Michael Halzel	1979 – 1985
Robert Sherman	1985 – 1992
Michael Kessel	1992 – 1999
Larry Acheatel	1999 – 2012
Chaim Heller	2012 – 2020



# 1990

SDJA expands its program to middle school students.



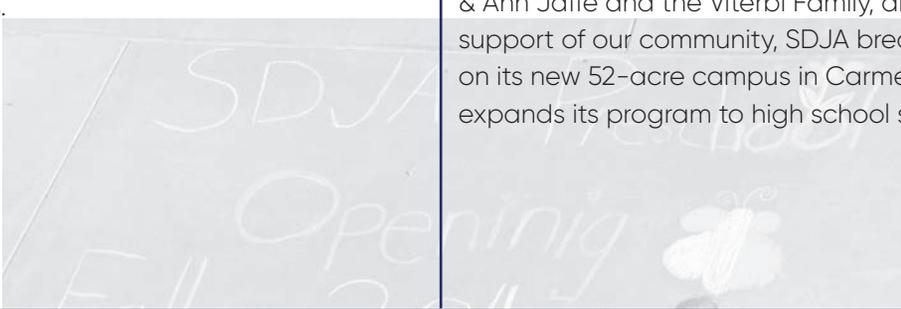
# 1999

Thanks to the incredible leadership of Richard & Ann Jaffe and the Viterbi Family, and with the support of our community, SDJA breaks ground on its new 52-acre campus in Carmel Valley and expands its program to high school students.



# 2000

Carmel Valley campus open its doors.



# 2016

SDJA celebrates its 36-year anniversary.

### PAST BOARD PRESIDENTS:

Charles Wax	1979 – 1981
Allen Jay z"l	1981 – 1982
John Adler	1982 – 1983
Michael Silverman	1983 – 1984
Michael Schwartz	1984 – 1985
Natan Bacht	1984 – 1985
Ruben Rosenthal	1985 – 1986
Julian Josephson	1985 – 1987
Sharon Davidson	1986 – 1988
Norman Lurie	1986 – 1988
Avrille Copans	1987 – 1989
Mark Berger	1989 – 1991
Claire Ellman	1991 – 1993

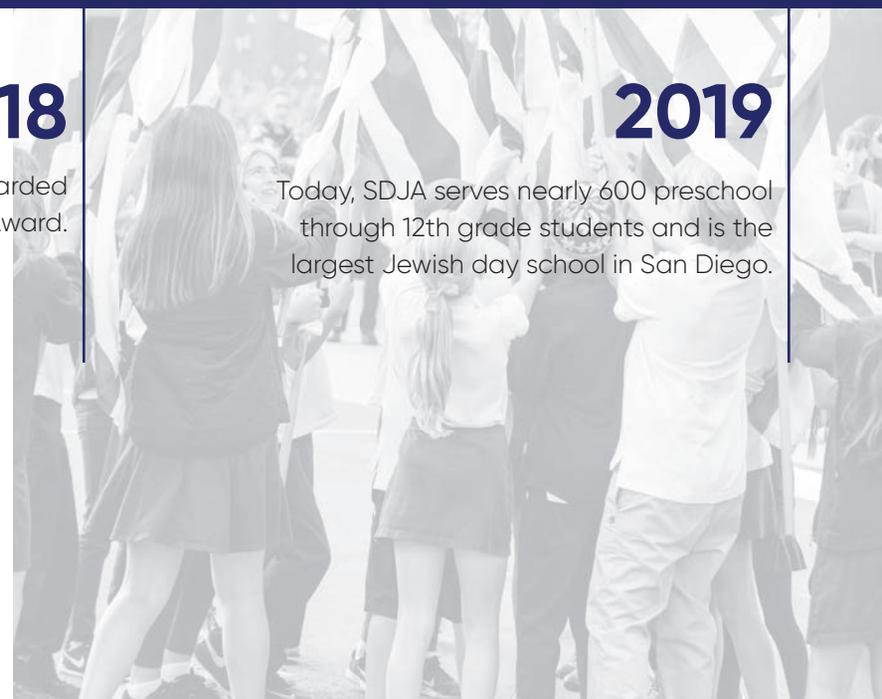
# 2018

SDJA's Golda Meir Lower School is awarded the prestigious National Blue Ribbon Award.

Harold Krasner	1993 – 1995
Rhonda Fink	1995 – 1997
Ann Jaffe	1997 – 1999
Daniel Shinoff	1999 – 2001
Alan Viterbi	2001 – 2003
Renee Sherman	2003 – 2005
Leo Spiegel	2005 – 2007
Bev Pamensky	2007 – 2009
Roberto Jinich	2009 – 2011
Shari Schenk	2011 – 2013
Ingram Losner	2013 – 2015
Theresa Dupuis	2015 – 2017
Rabbi Yael Ridberg	2017 – 2019

# 2019

Today, SDJA serves nearly 600 preschool through 12th grade students and is the largest Jewish day school in San Diego.



# Our Family is One Supporters

Thank you to all of our donors who made the *Our Family Is One* Campaign possible. SDJA's incredible growth and bright future is because of your leadership and support.

## **Guardians / \$2,000,000+**

Anonymous  
The Galicot Family  
The Jaffe Family  
Neil and Trish Shaw

## **Benefactors / \$499,999-\$250,000**

Dan and Jaime Feder  
David and Melissa Gilbert  
Benjamin and Trisha Handler  
The Josephson and Silberstein Family  
The Klein Family  
The Michan and Krongold Family  
The Woolf and Grusd Family

## **Pillars / \$249,999-\$100,000**

Anonymous (2)  
The Feldman Family  
Elliot and Diane Feuerstein  
Robert and Jessica Fink  
Laura Galinson and Jodi Diamond  
Dustin and Tara Gillman  
Lee and Amy Goodman  
Stuart and Lee Posnock  
Elliot Scott and Lee Diamond Scott  
Barry Simons

## **Leaders / \$99,999-\$50,000**

Marsha Berkson  
The Cohn Family  
Avrille Copans  
Brett and Carly Feuerstein  
Chaim and Michal Heller  
Gary Kornfeld and Theresa Dupuis  
Gary and Cheryl Levitt  
Carlos and Perla Shteremberg  
The Smiedt Family  
Simon and Laura Vainer  
Charles and Randi Wax  
Eric Weisman and  
Susan Chortek-Weisman

## **Ambassadors / \$49,999-\$25,000**

Anonymous (2)  
Michel and Samantha Cohen  
David and Claire Ellman  
Jonathan and Carol Goldwasser  
Shira Ladelsky  
Steven and Nicole Ludwig

## **Champions / \$24,999-\$10,000**

Leonel Burrola and Innesa Zavulunova  
Skip and Terri Carpowich

Raymond and Rhona Fink  
Rabbi Philip Graubart and  
Rabbi Susan Freeman  
Katherine Green  
Ricardo and Daniela Jinich  
Steven and Audrey Levine  
Ingram Losner and Jane Willoughby  
Navias Family Foundation  
Rabbi Yael Ridberg and Mark Laska  
Abraham and Ana Rothman  
Eric Vann and Karin Zell  
Richard and Nancie Vann  
Jose and Sonia Zyman

## **Builders / \$9,999-\$5,000**

David and Melody Abeles  
Sergio and Ariela Berkstein  
Jaime and Karen Breziner  
Isaac Engel and Ruth Schwartz  
Ira and Andrea Feinswog  
John and Roberta Foss  
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Christopher and Kelley King  
Andrei and Oxana Litvak  
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Rebecca Rakow-Penner  
Gary and Sharon Pollak  
Jeffrey and Jessica Pollak  
Michael and Jill Quigley  
Robert Shapiro and Jacqueline Saleh  
Steve and Danielle Shulman  
Daniel and Stacy Varon

## **Partners / \$4,999-\$1,000**

Anonymous (3)  
Noam and Heidi Arzt  
Clarice Barrelet

Rebeca and Roberto Besquin  
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Ayal and Gvira Abed  
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Alberto and Nancy Calderon  
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Jack Cohen  
Joshua and Lyda Cohen  
Yoram and Avigaeil Cohen  
Tommy Collins and Ihan Anita Ip  
Brian and Merle Datnow  
Stuart and Sharon Davidson  
Lily Deveau  
David and Jackie Diamond  
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Ricardo and Gabriela Dondisch  
Keren Douek  
Steven and Ruth Douek  
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Richard and Lauren Dupuis  
Dale and Sandra Elledge  
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Lia Ismaj Morgenstern

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Jean Feinstein  
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Marilyn and Len Fishman  
Noel and Miriam Fishman  
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Stacey Goldblatt  
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Dolores Goodman  
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Dmitri and Irene Lerner  
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Roberto and Julie Levin

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Deena Libman  
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Flossie and Tony Riesner  
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Leonard and Kathleen Rosen  
Ephron Rosenzweig  
and Yvonne Webber  
Steven and Carole Ross  
Eugene Roytman  
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Gideon and Jordanna Rubin  
Karen Rubin  
Marc and Tamara Rubenzik  
Vivienne Saleh  
Vilma Schafer  
Kristine Schneid  
Scott and Alicia Schoenwald  
Jeff and Adrienne Schwartz  
Marcia Selz  
Estee Sery  
Gil Sery  
Dianne Shapp  
Mark and Renee Sherman  
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Gideon and Lidor Shuster  
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Brandon and Mei Steele  
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Sherry Weinblatt  
Jeffrey and Yu Weinstein  
Jason and Marni Weiss  
Gerry and Esther Wellman  
Ed Whitmore and  
Linda Rosenberg  
Douglas and Vicki Wolf  
Sharleen Wollach  
Ken and Christine Woodall  
Edna Yedid  
Sharone Yedid  
Alex and Esti Yeshanov  
Darren and Beryl Youngleson  
Andrew and Nadene Zack  
Dan and Rachel z"l Zagursky  
Moshe and Bonnie Zakarin  
Howard and Linda Zell

# Lion's Society

San Diego Jewish Academy's Lion's Society was established to recognize our generous donors and their annual contributions made during the 2018-19 year. All gift levels below are based on the annual portion of multi-year commitments, including *Our Family is One* Campaign pledge commitments.

## MITZVAH CIRCLE

The *Mitzvah* Circle recognizes the Lion's Society members who made annual gifts of \$5K or more.

### \$1M+

Anonymous  
The Jaffe Family  
Neil and Patricia Shaw

### \$500,000+

The Galicot Family

### \$250,000+

The Josephson and Silberstein Family

### \$100,000+

Benjamin and Trisha Handler  
Stuart and Lee Posnock  
Elliot Scott and Lee Diamond Scott

**\$50,000+**

Marsha Berkson  
 Elaine Chortek  
 Dan and Jaime Feder  
 David and Melissa Gilbert  
 Lee and Amy Goodman  
 The Woolf and Grusd Family  
 The Klein Family

**\$36,000+**

Elliot and Diane Feuerstein  
 Laura Galinson and Jodi Diamond

**\$18,000+**

Anonymous  
 Michel and Samantha Cohen  
 Brett and Carly Feuerstein  
 Robert and Jessica Fink  
 Dustin and Tara Gillman  
 Gary Kornfeld and Theresa Dupuis  
 The Michan and Krongold Family  
 Barry Simons  
 Charles and Randi Wax

**\$10,000+**

The Cohn Family  
 Avrille Copans  
 David and Claire Ellman  
 Rabbi Philip Graubart and  
 Rabbi Susan Freeman  
 Katherine Green  
 Chaim and Michal Heller  
 Jewish Federation of SDC  
 Gary and Cheryl Levitt  
 Navias Family Foundation  
 Abraham and Ana Rothman  
 Carlos and Perla Shteremberg  
 The Smiedt Family

Simon and Laura Vainer  
 Eric Weisman and  
 Susan Chortek-Weisman  
 Jose and Sonia Zyman

**\$5,000+**

Anonymous  
 David and Melody Abeles  
 Isaac Engel and Ruth Schwartz  
 Ira and Andrea Feinswog  
 David-Alexandre and Kelly Gros  
 Shira Ladelsky  
 Andrei and Oxana Litvak  
 Elias and Charlotte Mizrahi  
 Harold and Shirley Pidgeon  
 Shapinko International Inc.  
 Robert and Mao Shillman  
 Mort Vogelzon z"l Endowment  
 for the San Diego Community

**Chai Circle**

The *Chai* Circle recognizes the Lion's Society members who made annual gifts of \$1,800-\$4,999.

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The *Tzedakah* Circle recognizes the Lion's Society members who made annual gifts of \$360-\$1,799.

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The *Matmid*/Loyalty distinction recognizes our loyal supporters who have made gifts to SDJA for five (5) or more consecutive years.

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SDJA's *Sabbim* Society recognizes our generous grandparents who made an annual gift of \$1,800 or more during the 2018/19 year.

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The L'Dor V'Dor Legacy Society recognizes donors who have created their legacy at SDJA with a planned gift. Because of their support, SDJA is able to ensure that generations of students have access to a Jewish education for many years to come.

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The list below recognizes our generous donors who have made gifts of \$5,000 or more to existing named endowments.

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Theresa Dupuis, Laura Galinson, Beverley Pamensky

SDJA would like to thank and recognize our L'Dor V'Dor Legacy Committee, Theresa Dupuis, Laura Galinson, and Beverley Pamensky, for their incredible leadership and dedication to this critical effort.



Thank you to everyone  
who attended our  
**2019 BLACK + WHITE SOIRÉE.**

Because of your support, we  
were able to reach our goal  
of \$15M for the *Our Family Is  
One Campaign!*

A very special "thank you" to our incredible campaign and event chairs,  
without whom the success of the event and campaign would not have been possible:

**JONATHAN & CAROL GOLDWASSER / GARY KORNFELD & THERESA DUPUIS / DAVID & TAMARA KLEIN / GAVIN & SONIA MANDELBAUM  
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