



*29<sup>th</sup> Annual* JEWISH  
EDUCATOR  
AWARDS *Luncheon*

Luxe Sunset Boulevard Hotel ♦ Los Angeles ♦ December 13, 2018



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*Sponsored by the Milken Family Foundation in cooperation with BJE,  
a beneficiary agency of The Jewish Federation*

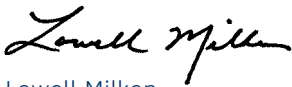
## Message from the MILKEN FAMILY FOUNDATION

How do we, as a community and as a people, best educate the next generation to lead and ensure a meaningful Jewish future? This question has been discussed with Talmudic intensity by Jews over the ages. Research conducted in recent decades reveals that the earlier a child begins Jewish education, the more likely he or she is to remain connected later in life. Early childhood education in a Jewish setting has the added benefit of nurturing a Jewish influence on the family as a whole.

As a child matures, every additional year of a Jewish day school education—particularly past the bar or bat mitzvah year—further solidifies a strong Jewish connection and understanding of that tradition and responsibility for living life according to these values. According to recent studies, 40 percent of today's young Jewish leaders attended Jewish day schools.

Combined, these factors point to a shared conclusion: Jewish day schools are important and worth the investment of effort, time and resources for all of us who care about ensuring a meaningful Jewish future. This places a great sense of duty upon those who deliver that education to maintain high standards of rigor, inspiration and results, whether Orthodox, Conservative, Reform or Community schools. If we are truly committed to the goals inherent in combining a secular education with the traditions and tenets of our faith, then it is up to all of us to ensure that high-quality professional learning is the norm, that resources are sufficient, and that teachers have opportunities to develop and flourish.

Rabbi Shimon Abramczik, Florette Benhamou, Fanny Koyman and Patty Tanner, the four educators whom we honor today, exemplify the intelligence, scholarship, creativity and compassion that are essential to guide new generations in realizing their potential and perpetuating our Jewish heritage. Through their vital work, these educators preserve the past, elevate the present and uphold the promise of the Jewish people.



Lowell Milken  
Chairman and Co-Founder



Richard Sandler  
Executive Vice President

## Message from

# BJE: BUILDERS OF JEWISH EDUCATION

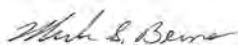
Names, whether of people or schools, often reflect the aspirations of those who confer them. This year, as we celebrate the essential role of educators in facilitating student learning, we recognize four outstanding teachers—Rabbi Shimon Abramczik, Florette Benhamou, Fanny Koyman and Patty Tanner—from schools named YULA Boys High School, Harkham Hillel Hebrew Academy, Abraham Joshua Heschel Day School and Wise School of Stephen Wise Temple. The names of each of these schools say much about the dreams of their founders and visions of Jewish education in Los Angeles.

In order of their establishment, Hillel, founded in 1948, recalls a rabbinic leader of two millennia ago known for promoting commitment to community, lifelong learning and consideration of others. Abraham Joshua Heschel, a 20th century theologian, was noted for spirituality and activism. He encouraged “radical amazement” at the wonder that is our world, and modeled a symbiosis of study and well-considered deed. Stephen S. Wise was a pre-eminent American Zionist leader of the first half of the 20th century, and creator of a school to educate rabbis for the growing Jewish community in the United States. The logo of New York-based Yeshiva University reads (in Hebrew) “Torah u-madda,” or “Torah and secular knowledge.” Those who founded YULA aimed to create, in Los Angeles, a top-flight high school fusing Jewish wisdom and broad, general education.

These schools are among 37 BJE-accredited day schools in Greater Los Angeles, each of which engages students in learning and experiencing the enduring teachings of Judaism as they acquire skills that will enable them to flourish in the world of the 21st century. The values at the core of Jewish day school education contribute to the lives of students and their families and to the communities of which they are a part. All of this is propelled by teachers who ably nurture and guide the educational journeys of successive generations of students.

BJE expresses the gratitude of an appreciative community to the Milken Family Foundation for recognizing the important role that educators play in shaping our collective future. May the Milken Family Foundation, our day school network, the community’s educators—represented by the teachers we honor today—and students of this and future generations proceed from strength to strength, building a better world as an outgrowth of shared commitment to education.

Sincerely,



Mark S. Berns  
President  
BJE: Builders of Jewish Education



Gil Graff, Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
BJE: Builders of Jewish Education

# JEWISH EDUCATOR AWARDS



The Milken Family Foundation, in partnership with BJE, established the Jewish Educator Awards (JEA) in 1990 as a complement to the Milken Educator Awards. Each fall, four unsuspecting educators in BJE-affiliated schools are surprised before their entire school communities with individual, unrestricted Jewish Educator Awards of \$15,000. Honorees reflect the highest ideals of Jewish and secular education, fostering the lifelong pursuit of knowledge and nurturing a value system that can guide students through adulthood. Recipients also demonstrate an outstanding ability to develop Jewish children's understanding of the connections between their religion, classroom activities and lives outside of school.

## GOALS

Outstanding educators who continue to learn are essential to fostering student growth, improving schools and enhancing the education profession. Hence, the goals of the Jewish Educator Awards are:

- » To honor and reward outstanding Jewish day school educators for the quality of their teaching, their professional leadership, their engagement with families and the community, and their potential for even greater contributions to the healthy development of children
- » To increase public support and recognition for Jewish day school educators who make outstanding contributions to the development of their students
- » To increase public awareness of the important role of Jewish day school educators in the community and in society
- » To encourage able, caring and creative people to choose the challenge, service and adventure of education as a career

## SELECTION

Award recipients are selected by a committee of educators—both professional and lay leaders from the Jewish community—who have a longstanding concern for and involvement with education in Jewish schools.

To be eligible for consideration, educators must teach a minimum of 15 hours per week at the K–12 level. They must have been teaching for a minimum of seven years in a BJE-affiliated school.

Criteria considered for the selection of Jewish Educator Award recipients include:

- » Exceptional educational talent and promise, as demonstrated by outstanding practices in the classroom, school and community
- » Evidence of originality, dedication and the capacity for leadership and self-direction
- » Commitment to influencing policies that affect children, their families and schools
- » Strong long-range potential for even greater contributions to children, the profession and society
- » Distinguished achievement in developing innovative educational curricula, programs and/or teaching methods
- » An outstanding ability to instill character and self-confidence in students
- » An outstanding ability to develop Jewish children's understanding of the connections between their religion, their classroom activities and their activities beyond the classroom
- » Commitment to professional development and excellence, and the continuing Judaic and/or secular study necessary
- » Personal involvement in responding to the needs of Jewish and secular communities

Criteria for administrators also include an outstanding ability to attract, support and motivate committed education professionals.

# SHIMON ABRAMCZIK



Rabbi Shimon Abramczik, a Judaic Studies teacher at YULA Boys High School in Los Angeles, spent 10 years studying in Israel and gaining an immense love for learning Torah, a love he strives to instill in his students. As the school's Israel Guidance Counselor, Rabbi Abramczik helps each student plan a gap year in Israel. The winter before graduation he leads a group of seniors on an overseas trip to visit yeshivot and give them a firsthand look at what their gap year will include. With Rabbi Abramczik's help, nearly 80% of YULA's graduates spend this Israel year before their post-secondary studies. The rabbi hopes that through this experience, students will come to "love learning and make it part of their lives."

Rabbi Abramczik joined YULA 12 years ago, shortly after earning a bachelor's degree in Talmudic Letters at Yeshivat Bais Yisroel. He shares his infectious enthusiasm for Torah and Talmud with his students in ninth through 12th grades. Rabbi Abramczik teaches various Judaic Studies classes, as well as implementing and leading the voluntary year-long *Masmidim* program, during which students collectively review around 15,000 pages of *Gemara* (a component of the Talmud). His pupils complete the program feeling "a mastery over the material, a sense of accomplishment and a love for the *Gemara*," says Rabbi Abramczik.

As YULA's dean of students, Rabbi Abramczik is responsible for ensuring that students are achieving developmental, academic and religious success. He serves as a mentor and confidant, helping students use school resources to achieve their goals, as well as communicating with parents and advising fellow teachers. Rabbi Abramczik also directs student activities for 11th and 12th grades, aiming to demonstrate what a Torah-learning life looks like outside the classroom. He extends this role all the way to his own family table, where students often spend Shabbat. Rabbi Abramczik holds important goals for his students: "I want them to live a life of sanctifying G-d's name and attain *simcha*, true happiness."

# FLORETTE BENHAMOU



Every morning, Florette Benhamou begins her first-grade class at Harkham Hillel Hebrew Academy in Beverly Hills with a “Morning Meeting.” Students assemble on the rug to greet each other, play games and participate in open discussions. This fun and inclusive start to the day ensures that all her young students feel secure, comfortable and ready to tackle math, reading, science, history, educational technology and even coding. Mrs. Benhamou hopes that first-graders leave her classroom ready to “strive for their personal best and take pride in their efforts.”

Mrs. Benhamou’s first-grade General Studies classroom is a place of growth, exploration and discovery where students transition from the play-focused atmosphere of kindergarten. “The classroom is where I feel most alive, as my students challenge me with their curiosity, creativity and thirst for knowledge,” she says. Beyond her role as a teacher, Mrs. Benhamou also serves as the leader of Hillel’s accreditation process with CAIS (California Association of Independent Schools). She has been at the forefront of the school’s character and *midot*-building program, “Character Counts.”

Mrs. Benhamou is the daughter of Jewish immigrants from Burma and Calcutta; her father served as an educator and administrator at Hillel for more than three decades. Following in his footsteps, Mrs. Benhamou began her involvement with Hillel as a teen, working as a teacher’s assistant and camp counselor. She worked at a law firm and in retail, but teaching, she knew, was her passion, so she went directly to the classroom at Hillel after graduating from UCLA with a bachelor’s degree in English. That was 27 years ago, and Mrs. Benhamou has been devoted to the Hillel community and the promise of Jewish education ever since. Her ultimate goal: for all her students is “to appreciate being in a Jewish school and to value being good, being kind and being respectful, so they in turn can give back to others and their own community.”

# FANNY KOYMAN



Fanny Koyman, the lead Hebrew and Judaic studies teacher for transitional kindergarten and kindergarten at Abraham Joshua Heschel Day School in Northridge, brings Hebrew and Judaism to life for her young students. During her imaginary trip to Israel, students design their own passports and board a mock El Al plane headed to the Holy Land, where they travel around stations that simulate Israeli experiences. At the *shuk* station students taste Israeli produce, while at the Dead Sea station they experiment with floating eggs in salt water. Mrs. Koyman's classroom is such an exciting place to be that parents say their children often ask to go to school on the weekends.

To carry on her grandfather's legacy as a teacher of Torah, Mrs. Koyman left a career in fashion design in Israel to study child development at UCLA. Now in her 30th year at Heschel, Mrs. Koyman's creativity and innovative programs have set hundreds of the school's youngest students on their educational journeys with confidence and pride in the joy of learning. "There is nothing more beautiful than seeing my students' eyes open wide with astonishment and wonder as they sing, pray and speak the beautiful Hebrew language," says Mrs. Koyman. She brought 3-D printing into the classroom to represent the creation of the world and teach the children that "their imaginations have no limits, just like G-d." Now student-designed and fabricated 3-D *mezzuzot* adorn the kindergarten classroom and playhouse doorways. Her young pupils explore basic programming by participating in the worldwide Hour of Code—in Hebrew.

During the "Hospitality Event," another program implemented by Mrs. Koyman, students reenact Abraham's tent and host their own parents, learning the importance of having guests and helping others. It's all part of their teacher's main goal: to instill the importance of Torah and "plant the seed of Jewish values that will stay with them for life."

# PATTY TANNER



Patty Tanner, the K-6 math coordinator for Wise School in Los Angeles, knew from a young age that she wanted to be an educator. “It was school that was my refuge and filled my life,” she says. After graduating from UCLA with a bachelor’s degree in history and a minor in English and education, Ms. Tanner began a career in retail, yet she sought out teaching opportunities like mentoring colleagues and teaching merchandising classes. Once she began raising her children, she was inspired to pursue a career in the classroom.

Ms. Tanner currently teaches sixth-grade math and reading, but she has taught many elementary grades throughout her 28 years at Wise. She challenges students by setting high standards and making deep connections with each pupil. Ms. Tanner loves watching her students gain an understanding of the material, particularly those who doubt their own math abilities, remarking “It’s like a light bulb goes on.”

As K-6 math coordinator, Ms. Tanner carefully selects all the math curricula, mentors new teachers, works with the school’s math faculty on math scope and sequence, and attends national math conferences to keep Wise’s curriculum on the cutting edge. Beyond her official roles, Ms. Tanner has also taken on leadership roles in other departments. She rewrote the third- and fourth-grade social studies curriculum and became one of the school’s first mentors for DeLeT, a program dedicated to fostering teaching excellence in Jewish day schools across North America. Several of her mentees have gone on to successful careers in education.

Ms. Tanner embraces the challenge to ensure that all students at Wise gain confidence in math and see its relevancy in their everyday lives. “When young students struggle with math,” she feels they often conclude that they are missing the “math gene.” Nonsense, says Mrs. Tanner, “I hope to turn that around in every student.”

# PREVIOUS JEA RECIPIENTS

## 2017

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**Yehudis Blauner**  
Cheder Menachem  
**Adrienne Coffield**  
Brawerman Elementary School  
**Melody Mansfield**  
Milken Community Schools  
**Jenny Zacuto**  
Yavneh Hebrew Academy

## 2016

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**Ilana Ribak**  
Sinai Akiba Academy  
**Fruma Ita Schapiro**  
Ohel Chana High School  
**Tammy Shpall**  
de Toledo High School  
**Rabbi Chaim Trainer**  
Yeshiva Rav Isaacsohn

## 2015

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**Jamie Gomer**  
Abraham Joshua Heschel Day School  
**Hanna Keynan**  
The Rabbi Jacob Pressman Academy of Temple Beth Am  
**Kelly Shepard**  
Milken Community Schools  
**Rabbi Levi Solomon**  
Emek Hebrew Academy

## 2014

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**Rabbi Menachem Mendel Greenbaum**  
Cheder Menachem  
**Katya Malikov**  
Shalhevet High School  
**Ariela Nehemne**  
Valley Beth Shalom Day School  
**Barry Schapira**  
Brawerman Elementary School West of Wilshire Blvd. Temple

## 2013

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**Osnat Bernstein**  
Abraham Joshua Heschel Day School  
**Benny Ferdman**  
New Community Jewish High School  
**Mickey Rabinov**  
Beth Hillel Day School  
**Deborah Raskin**  
Or HaChaim Academy

## 2012

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**Mary Itri**  
Stephen S. Wise Temple Elementary School  
**Rabbi Usher Klein**  
Mesivta Birkas Yitzchok  
**Rabbi Baruch Kupfer**  
Maimonides Academy  
**Lidia Turner**  
Saperstein Middle School of Milken Community High School

## 2011

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**Lisa Feldman**  
Weizmann Day School  
**Marnie Greenwald**  
Temple Emanuel Academy Day School  
**Hava Mirovski**  
Sinai Akiba Academy  
**Juli Shanblatt**  
Bais Yaakov School for Girls

## 2010

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**Deborah Cohen**  
Abraham Joshua Heschel Day School  
**Dalia Golan**  
Harkham Hillel Hebrew Academy  
**Louis Schwerdtfeger**  
Valley Beth Shalom Day School  
**Debra Sokolow**  
Milken Community High School

## 2009

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**Shelley Lawrence**  
Sinai-Akiba Academy  
**Melanie Berkey**  
Shalhevet School  
**Rabbi Mitchel Malkus**  
The Rabbi Jacob Pressman Academy of Temple Beth Am  
**Rabbi Dov Goldman**  
Cheder Menachem

## 2008

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**Malka Clement**  
Stephen S. Wise Temple Elementary School  
**Suri Nowosiolski**  
Yavneh Hebrew Academy  
**Debra Schaffer**  
Abraham Joshua Heschel Day School  
**Dena Wolmark**  
Bais Yaakov School for Girls

## 2007

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**Mona Riss**  
Emek Hebrew Academy  
**Alan Rosen**  
Maimonides Academy  
**Bilha Schechter**  
Valley Beth Shalom Day School  
**Lee Tenerowicz**  
Brawerman Elementary School of Wilshire Blvd. Temple

## 2006

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**Bluma Drebin**  
YULA Girls High School  
**Rabbi Simcha Frankel**  
Cheder Menachem  
**Tamar Rosenfeld**  
The Rabbi Jacob Pressman Academy of Temple Beth Am  
**Dr. Rennie Wrubel**  
Milken Community High School  
**Beverly Yachzel**  
Beth Hillel Day School

## 2005

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**Rabbi Berish Goldenberg**  
Yeshiva Rav Isaacsohn-Torath Emeth Academy  
**Vivian Levy**  
Sinai Akiba Academy  
**Chaya Moldaver**  
Yavneh Hebrew Academy  
**Dr. Bruce Powell**  
New Community Jewish High School  
**Robin Solomon**  
Adat Ari El Day School

## 2004

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**Eileen Horowitz**  
Temple Israel of Hollywood Day School  
**Rick Hepworth**  
Yeshiva Gedolah of Los Angeles  
**Rabbi Mordechai Dubin**  
Maimonides Academy  
**Pamela Kleinman**  
Heschel West Day School  
**Inez Tiger**  
The Rabbi Jacob Pressman Academy of Temple Beth Am

## 2003

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**Aliza Dallalzadeh**  
Temple Emanuel Academy Day School  
**Rabbi Shlomo Goldberg**  
Yeshiva Ohr Eliyahu  
**Shulamith Y. May**  
Harkham Hillel Hebrew Academy  
**Jan Navah**  
Stephen S. Wise Temple Elementary School  
**Tamar Raff**  
Valley Beth Shalom Day School

## 2002

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**Rabbi Gordon Bernat-Kunin**  
Milken Community High School  
**Rabbi Avrohom Klyne**  
Yavneh Hebrew Academy  
**Marty Uslaner**  
Kadima Hebrew Academy  
**Barbara Wirtschafter**  
Bais Yaakov High School for Girls  
**Sara Yoseph**  
Atid Hebrew Academy

## 2001

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**Frida Eytan**

Sinai Akiba Academy

**Carol Goldman**

Stephen S. Wise Temple Elementary School

**Vered Hopenstand**

Shalhevet High School

**Rabbi Shmuel Jacobs**

Yeshiva Rav Isaacsohn-Torath Emeth Academy

**Janet Saltsman**

Heschel West Day School

## 2000

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**Kathy Reynolds**

Milken Community High School

**Andi Schochet**

Maimonides Academy

**Rabbi Pesach Wachsman**

Emek Hebrew Academy

**Elaine Wasserman**

Temple Israel of Hollywood Day School

**Ginny Zemtseff**

Sinai Akiba Academy

## 1999

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**Irit Eliyahu**

Temple Emanuel Academy Day School

**Malca Schwarzm**

Yeshiva Ohr Eliyahu

**Bonita Selk**

The Rabbi Jacob Pressman Academy of Temple Beth Am

**Rabbi Aron Tendler**

YULA Boys High School

**Shawn Watanabe**

Milken Community High School

## 1998

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**Joan Cohen**

Harkham Hillel Hebrew Academy

**Susan Dubin**

Valley Beth Shalom Day School

**Deborah Norwood**

Stephen S. Wise Temple Elementary School

**Rabbi Laurence Scheindlin**

Sinai Akiba Academy

**Shira Smiles**

YULA Girls High School

## 1997

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**Tova Baichman-Kass**

The Rabbi Jacob Pressman Academy of Temple Beth Am

**Joseph Hakimi, Ph.D.**

Sinai Akiba Academy

**Lynn Karz**

Yeshiva Ohr Eliyahu

**Chaya Shamie**

Bais Yaakov of Los Angeles

**Mari Siegel**

Kadima Hebrew Academy

## 1996

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**Rabbi Asher Z. Biron**

Valley Torah High School

**Ofra Dor**

Stephen S. Wise Temple Elementary School

**Lana Kideckel Marcus**

Adat Ari El Day School

**Esther Markel**

Emek Hebrew Academy

**Lee Shaw**

Abraham Joshua Heschel Day School

## 1995

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**Elyse Flier**

Milken Community High School

**Haim Linder**

Adat Ari El Day School

**Andrea Silagi** ✧

The Rabbi Jacob Pressman Academy of Temple Beth Am

**Rabbi Avrohom Stulberger**

Valley Torah High School

**Debbie Wachsm**

Emek Hebrew Academy

## 1994

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**Esther Bar-Shai**

Adat Ari El Day School

**Rabbi Avrohom Czapnik**

Yeshiva Rav Isaacsohn

**Valerie Lev**

Stephen S. Wise Temple Elementary School

**Adele Rubin**

Abraham Joshua Heschel Day School

**Rabbi Dovid Thaler**

Ohr Elchonon Chabad

## 1993

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**Adina Bender**

Valley Beth Shalom Day School

**Rochelle Majer Krich**

YULA Girls High School

**Luisa Latham**

Abraham Joshua Heschel Day School

**Rabbi Joseph Schreiber**

Emek Hebrew Academy

**Suzanne Linden Stein**

Sinai Akiba Academy

## 1992

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**Janine V. Jacoby** ✧

Abraham Joshua Heschel Day School

**Manuel R. Katz**

YULA Boys High School

**Rabbi Yochanan Stepen**

Emek Hebrew Academy

**Avishag Wyte** ✧

Temple Emanuel Academy Day School

**Nili Ziv**

Valley Beth Shalom Day School

## 1991

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**Dr. Vardina Berdugo**

YULA Girls High School

**Rabbi Yakov Krause**

Yeshiva Rav Isaacsohn

**Shirley Levine** ✧

Abraham Joshua Heschel Day School

**Lily Mattes**

Kadima Hebrew Academy

**Barrie Richter**

Adat Ari El Day School

## 1990

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**Metuka Benjamin**

Stephen S. Wise Temple Schools

**Roxie Esterle**

Abraham Joshua Heschel Day School

**Rabbi Menachem Gottesman** ✧

Harkham Hillel Hebrew Academy

**Rabbi Nachman Mandel** ✧

Yeshiva Rav Isaacsohn

**Rivka Shaked**

Sinai Akiba Academy

✧ of blessed memory



# ADVANCING A MISSION IN EDUCATION SINCE 1982



**MILKEN FAMILY  
FOUNDATION**

Leading Advances in Education  
Since 1982

Founded by Lowell and Michael Milken in 1982, the Milken Family Foundation (MFF) strives to discover and advance inventive, effective ways of helping people help themselves and those around them lead productive and satisfying lives. The means most conducive to achieving these goals is through education.



"Education is  
at the heart of  
nearly everything  
we value as  
individuals, as  
citizens and  
as productive  
human beings."

— **Lowell Milken**

*Chairman and Co-Founder  
Milken Family Foundation*

Whether founding the nation's preeminent teacher recognition program, promoting excellence through academic achievement, preserving and expanding a cultural legacy, or pioneering the nation's most successful comprehensive education reform system, MFF continues to champion strategies that elevate education in America and around the world.

Our initiatives:

- » Strengthen the profession by recognizing and rewarding outstanding educators, and by expanding their professional leadership and policy influence.
- » Attract, develop, motivate and retain the best talent for the teaching profession.
- » Stimulate creativity and productivity among people of all ages through programs that encourage learning as a lifelong process.



[milkenarchive.org](http://milkenarchive.org)

"In sharing the Milken Archive's diverse repertoire, scholarship and multimedia resources, we seek to broaden public awareness for the various forms of Jewish musical expression that have contributed significantly to American Jewish cultural identity and to the music world in general. In the process, we also encourage present and future composers and performers to express Jewish themes in their music."

— **Lowell Milken**

*Founder*

#### **Milken Archive of Jewish Music: The American Experience**

The *Chicago Tribune* hailed the Milken Archive of Jewish Music as, "the most comprehensive documentation, ever, of music reflecting Jewish life and culture in America.... The Milken will realize something that has been a dream of scholars and musicians practically since the dawn of recorded sound." Launched by Lowell Milken in 1990, this vast "virtual museum" features music, videos, oral histories, photos and essays. The Milken Archive preserves Jewish heritage even as it reveals the universality of the Jewish experience to people of all faiths and cultures.



[milkeneducatorawards.org](http://milkeneducatorawards.org)

## Milken Educator Awards

Now in its 31st year, the Milken Educator Awards provide public recognition and individual financial rewards to K–12 teachers, principals and specialists who are furthering excellence in education. Hailed by *Teacher Magazine* as the “Oscars of teaching,” recipients are heralded in early to mid-career for what they have achieved and for the promise of what they will accomplish in the future. Each honoree joins the Milken Educator Network, a group of over 2,700 distinguished professionals whose expertise serves as a valuable resource to fellow educators, legislators, school boards and others shaping the future of education.

“The Milken Family Foundation seeks you out to let you know that every day your choices are affecting the human capital in the world. To have that acknowledgment not only validates what we do, but it takes us away from a career and moves us into a profession. It restores the nobility of teaching.”

— Nader Twal  
California Milken Educator



[milkenschool.org](http://milkenschool.org)

## Milken Community Schools

As an independent college-preparatory institution for grades 7–12, Milken Community Schools emphasize rigorous formal academic preparation, development of critical thinking, competence in project design and implementation, and promotion of an entrepreneurial spirit. Specialized institutes and centers range from architecture and design to science and technology, from robotics to creative writing. A wide range of Advanced Placement courses are complemented by a full array of performing arts, visual arts, and language electives. Although core curriculum focuses on general subject areas most commonly associated with future academic success, Milken’s status as a Jewish community school translates into an emphasis on ethics, social responsibility and skills needed for the critical analysis of text.

“At Milken Community Schools, we consciously choreograph transformative experiences both within and outside of the classroom that encourage intellectual inquiry, ethical behavior and an appreciation of cultural diversity.”

— Dr. Robert Wexler  
Interim Head of School



[milken scholars.org](http://milken scholars.org)

## Milken Scholars

Milken Scholars was founded by Mike and Lori Milken in 1989 to honor exceptional young men and women who have demonstrated the potential to make a profound difference in the world. While high school seniors, scholars are chosen on the basis of academic performance, school and community service, leadership and evidence of having overcome personal and social obstacles. Milken Scholars receive financial assistance during their undergraduate careers, but what makes the program truly unique is the vast array of other resources provided to recipients. Being a Milken Scholar means joining an extended family and building relationships with fellow Scholars and staff who provide a strong support system that lasts over time.

*"Whether they become doctors, research scientists, educators, entrepreneurs or diplomats, the common denominator of Milken Scholars is a genuine sense of service."*

— **Mike Milken**

*Co-Founder, Milken Family Foundation*



## Mike's Math Club

Learning that appeals to a sense of discovery captures children's interest and imagination. Mike's Math Club, a curriculum enrichment program, shows students in inner-city elementary schools that math is not only useful, but entertaining. Students learn "secret codes" and "handy hints" that promote math skills while they play math games and gain a sense of self-worth. Learning with the Mike's Math Club team is important proof to students that learning can be its own reward.

*"My mother said it was going to take a miracle to make me interested in math, but now she likes how I come home confident about my math homework."*

— **Fifth-grade student**

*Birdielee V. Bright Elementary School*

# LOWELL MILKEN FAMILY FOUNDATION

Strengthening Communities through Innovation and Education

The Lowell Milken Family Foundation (LMFF) is based on a core belief that education endures as the best means for cultivating human capital by developing the skills, knowledge and experiences to prepare people for rewarding and productive lives. Yet, education can have this power only if it is delivered and received as part of a rigorous experience. LMFF's efforts are focused on groundbreaking, comprehensive initiatives that provide powerful opportunities for students, faculty and the community at large.



[niet.org](http://niet.org)

## National Institute for Excellence in Teaching

*Educator excellence ... Student achievement ... Opportunities for all*

Recognizing that an effective teacher is the most important school-based factor in improving student achievement, Lowell Milken founded the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) with a commitment to ensuring a highly skilled, strongly motivated and competitively compensated teacher for every classroom in America. NIET partners with state education agencies, universities, districts and schools to develop structures for educator leadership and career paths; professional learning; educator evaluation systems based on instructional frameworks and rubrics; and performance data systems. NIET impacts 250,000 educators and 2.5 million students.

*"Every young person deserves the high-quality educational experience that only a talented teacher can provide. What's more, our nation's future strength is directly linked to the effectiveness of our educators."*

**— Lowell Milken**

*Founder and Chairman, National Institute for Excellence in Teaching*



[HMCtartcenter.org](http://HMCtartcenter.org)

## Hoffmitz Milken Center for Typography

Created by Lowell Milken to advance the research, teaching and understanding of letterform design, the Hoffmitz Milken Center for Typography (HMCT) at ArtCenter College of Design is setting global standards of excellence as an influential force in the field of visual language. HMCT honors the legacy of Leah Hoffmitz Milken, a letterform expert specializing in the creation of unique logotypes and typefaces and a legendary professor for two decades.

*"Leah gave us the gift of knowing language, of seeing the visual word, in its most precise and exacting form. As we explore the mission of the Center to set the global standard of excellence in typography and design education, let us do so in the spirit of Leah's voice continuing to sound, to be made visual, to shout her brilliance, to whisper her profound wisdom, to make real both her scientific precision and the poetry of her imagination."*

**— Lorne M. Buchman**

*President, ArtCenter College of Design*



[schoolofmusic.ucla.edu/milken-fund](http://schoolofmusic.ucla.edu/milken-fund)

### Lowell Milken Fund for American Jewish Music

The Lowell Milken Fund for American Jewish Music at the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music builds upon the historic work of the Milken Archive with unprecedented university-level support for Jewish music research, scholarship and programs at undergraduate, graduate and faculty levels. A robust schedule of concerts and symposia engage and educate the university as well as the broader community, creating new audiences for the musical journeys of America's Jews.

"New Jewish music is created every day; L.A. is the epicenter. With its incredibly diverse Jewish community, this is the best place to investigate how music reflects the American Jewish experience."

— **Mark Kligman**  
Ph.D., Director



[lowellmilkeninstitute.law.ucla.edu](http://lowellmilkeninstitute.law.ucla.edu)

### Lowell Milken Institute for Business Law and Policy at UCLA School of Law

By setting new standards in business law education, the Lowell Milken Institute for Business Law and Policy prepares students for outstanding careers and leadership in the practice of law as well as business, government and philanthropy. Established by the UCLA School of Law and Lowell Milken, the Institute serves as a dynamic hub of research and strategy for practitioners, scholars and experts across a variety of disciplines. Conferences and scholarly events promote solutions to some of the nation's most pressing challenges. The Institute treats law as an integral part of an entrepreneurial economy. This is exemplified by the Lowell Milken Institute-Sandler Prize for New Entrepreneurs—a cross-disciplinary business plan competition offering \$100,000 in prizes, the most offered to students in any discipline at UCLA.

"Answering Lowell Milken's call 'to make a real difference,' the Lowell Milken Institute for Business Law and Policy engages and channels current leaders of the business law community to train and inspire the next generation of leaders in law and business. The many and varied successes of UCLA Law students demonstrate the Institute's role in developing tomorrow's business law leaders."

— **Joel Feuer**  
Executive Director



[lowellmilkencenter.org](http://lowellmilkencenter.org)



## Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes

*Discover ... Create ... Change*

The Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes (LMC) discovers, develops and communicates the stories of Unsung Heroes who have made a profound and positive impact on the course of history. Through a unique project-based learning approach, LMC works with students and educators across diverse academic disciplines to develop history projects that highlight role models who demonstrate courage, compassion and respect. LMC's international student competitions offer \$32,000 in prizes and include The ArtEffect Project and Discovery Award. Established by Lowell Milken in 2007, LMC has a global footprint impacting more than a million students across all 50 states and around the world. The Lowell Milken Hall of Unsung Heroes is a state-of-the-art museum and research hub based at LMC's Fort Scott, Kansas headquarters.

*"History is the connective tissue between generations. It provides the moral fiber. By uncovering these stories, we hope to instill these values in our own generation and our children's generation."*

**— Caleb Johnson**

*Discovery Award Grand Prize Team, 12th grade,  
Prince George, Virginia*

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