



יהודה הצעיר
YOUNG JUDAEA™

2015 was a very important year for Young Judaea – for in July 2015 we completed the three-year process by which Young Judaea became fully independent. We met all the benchmarks that had been set for our independence – financially and in programmatic growth – and are now ready to meet the challenge of creating a new generation of pluralistic activists and Zionists for the 21st century.

Thanks to the generosity of our alumni, friends, and families, together with a transition grant from Hadassah that ended in June 2015, we now have a sustainable platform from which to grow. Our Board – consisting of alumni and others dedicated to moving Young Judaea forward – approved a new five-year strategic plan, and we began taking initial steps toward implementing the vision to double our impact over the next five years with the addition of new camps to our network, new long-term programs in Israel, reinvigorated year-round activities through strategic partnerships, and a robust network of alumni, friends, and family.

As you will see in this report, all our programs – from summer camps, to programs in Israel, to activities throughout the year both nationally and in local communities – are growing. We are increasing the diversity of our programs and investing in the development of new educational content to meet the needs of today’s young Jews.

With independence, however, comes responsibility. While we continue to have a wonderful partnership with Hadassah, we no longer rely on another organization’s sponsorship – we have to stand on our own two feet. As with all educational nonprofits, this means our work is only possible with the support of our alumni, families, and friends. In other words – Young Judaea exists because of you.

We have raised over \$4 million from more than 1,000 donors during the past three years, including over \$1 million from the members of our board. That’s a great start – but it is only a beginning. We need your participation to nurture the next generation of committed pluralistic Jews. Join us!



Michael Berman
Board Chair



Simon Klarfeld
Executive Director



1
BOARD OF
DIRECTORS



2
YEAR-ROUND
PROGRAMS



4
SUMMER
CAMPS



6
ISRAEL
PROGRAMS



7
ALUMNI
OUTREACH +
ENGAGEMENT



8
FINANCIALS



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Board Treasurer
Finance Committee Chair
Great Neck, NY

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Past Board Chair
Newton Center, MA

Michael Berman
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Tel Aviv, ISR

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Development Committee Co-Chair
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New York, NY

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Board Assistant Secretary,
Development Committee Co-Chair
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Leadership and Governance
Committee Chair
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Endowment Committee Chair
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Marvin Krislov
Oberlin, NY

Dan Mogulof
Marketing and Communications
Committee Chair
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Metarie, LA

Simon Klarfeld
Executive Vice-President
Young Judaea Global
New York, NY





As the middle of three children, Adina Tuchman, 17, both inherited and is passing on Jewish engagement through Young Judaea. Adina's parents, Gila and Danny, were involved in Young Judaea in their day – they served together on the Mazkirut (Young Judaea's teen leadership board), and both attended Camp Judaea and Tel Yehudah. Adina's older brother Coby took part in 2014-15 Year Course, Young Judaea's gap year program in Israel, and is now a staff member at Camp Judaea. Adina is part of a local teen leadership group working to create Jewish engagement opportunities for peers and younger children in South Florida – and one of those younger children is Adina's sister, Liora. Next summer Adina is heading to Camp Judaea's MIT (Madrachim in Training) program and then off to Young Judaea's Machon summer program in Israel on a Hadassah Leaders of Tomorrow scholarship.

Young Judaea year-round programming in South Florida got a big boost in 2015 thanks to the dedication of Adina and our teens – as well as the arrival of a new shlichah, Sivan Raz. Sivan hit the ground running with several new initiatives, including monthly activities for ages 7 to 17.

South Florida is only one of now 15 communities in which Young Judaea year-round activities are growing. Nationally, participation in year-round activities has increased 400% in the past three years.

In Los Angeles, local activities resumed after a six-year hiatus. As part of a program launched with the help of a generous contribution by a local alumna, teens received leadership development training at Tel Yehudah during the summer, and began building up the community as soon as they returned, under the guidance of Young Judaea local coordinator Alex Zarembo.

In Pittsburgh, a strong partnership with local alumni parents and Camp Young Judaea Midwest has helped us to bring monthly programming and growing participant numbers, including a local Shabbaton, which has become a yearly staple in Young Judaea's community calendar. Not to be outdone, Chicago hosted several programs and no fewer than two regional conventions. A committed parent/alumni committee in the DC/Virginia/Maryland region helped to create new engagement opportunities for young children inside and outside the Beltway.

With so many Judaeans in the Northeast, we've been able to add local programming in the New York City, Long Island, and Empire (Westchester, Rockland, and upstate New York) regions as well.

Nationally, our teens fearlessly tackled the complex subject of civil rights and race at Young Judaea's National Convention, marking the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act, and debated ways to address it and related issues.

In December, 75 teens put Jewish social values into action in Young Judaea's Alternative Winter Break. One group spent a week working with the homeless in Los Angeles; another helped rebuild neighborhoods in New Orleans still suffering from the effects of Hurricane Katrina. For all of the teens, it was a life-changing experience.

YEAR-ROUND PROGRAMS BY THE NUMBERS

**650
kids**



**participated in
Alternative Winter
Break programming
since its inception
in 2007**

**2200
hours**



volunteering



Judah Breland is a second generation camper at Camp Judaea in North Carolina

– one of his moms went there. But the main reason Judah went to CJ, he says, is “because the way my family is, certain Jewish groups won’t accept us. That makes it hard to get the Jewish education I need ... I was so glad CJ accepted who my family is and gave me that opportunity... I ended up having the best time of my life there!”

That kind of openness and pluralism characterizes all Young Judaea camps. With staff from 12 states and five countries – including 37 Israelis – diversity and Israeli culture were front and center at **Camp Judaea**. Campers enjoyed workshops with professional Israeli basketball players, an inter-camp Israel culture day, and much more. CJ also expanded physically, unveiling a new swimming pool. More than 80% of CJ’s American counselors this summer were former CJ campers – proof that CJ really is a community that promotes commitment and connection.

Similarly, in Wisconsin, **Camp Young Judaea Midwest** created a community of Connected Judaism for more than 190 campers from 15 states and three countries, among them over 20 campers from small Jewish communities and 15 Russian speakers. There was also a brand new fitness program for older campers to continue their high school sports training. Even more exciting new programs are on tap for the summer of 2016.



Everyone at Tel Yehudah was so welcoming and friendly. The last-minute decision to go to camp changed my summer, and hopefully my life, for the better.

– Micaela Ronberg
of Manalapan, NJ, a first-time camper at Tel Yehudah



Among the many successes at **Camp Young Judaea Texas** was the beginning of construction of a highly innovative 7,000 square foot Experiential Learning Center (ELC). Using the latest environmentally-friendly materials and techniques, the ELC will teach sustainable living through demonstration – with interactive exhibits highlighting Israeli technology – and embody the Jewish value of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world), one of Young Judaea’s five core values. Even more, the ELC will change the way future construction is considered at CYJ and at other summer camps and Jewish institutions. Instead of the traditional silos of “construction” and “education,” this project has brought together a diverse group to create a building that is itself educational by design.

Following significant growth over the past few years, **Camp Young Judaea Sprout Lake** began construction on a state-of-the-art aquatics center, to be opened in summer of 2016.

Sprout Lake brought the Young Judaea experience to even younger ages when it opened the first Young Judaea day camp, **Sprout Brooklyn**, for children from pre-K to 4th grade. Sprout Brooklyn’s inaugural summer attracted 70

campers from Brooklyn and Manhattan, and was rated one of the top local day camps by two well-known parent magazines – in large part because of its innovative custom-designed dual-language Hebrew-English curriculum. Meanwhile, enrollment at Young Judaea’s national teen camp **Tel Yehudah** grew for the third year in a row as it increased the diversity of the Jewish youth it serves through new partnerships and programs. This included the launching of *Hamamah*, a partnership with the four regional Young Judaea camps to build a new generation of madrichim (counselors) for all of the camps and throughout Young Judaea.

Tel Yehudah also partnered with Camp Kimama in Israel to bring 27 Israeli campers to second session. Combined with the continuing Havurah program for campers from the Russian-speaking Jewish community, this created a global Jewish community at camp that reflected the diversity of the Jewish people. Tel Yehudah partnered with the Israeli American Council as well to launch Machane Kachol Lavan a 10-day camp involving over 100 children of Israeli-American families.

SUMMER CAMPS BY THE NUMBERS

>2500 campers



at YJ camps in 2015



In addition to the flagship programs of Machon (Young Judaea's high school leadership Israel experience) and Year Course (Young Judaea's gap year program in Israel), Young Judaea created a number of new programs, connecting young Jews with different interests to Israel through niche trips. These included community-based trips, individualized internship programs, Israel trips with focuses on environmentalism, new age spirituality, and a trip designed specifically for Russian speaking Jews.



This internship has not only given me a glimpse into the intimacies of river ecology and the multiplicities of an urban ecosystem; it has allowed me to understand the greater complexities of Israeli society, stemming first from the complicated nature of municipality governments and more generally from the challenge of Israeli politics.

— Talia

Participant in Young Judaea's Onward Israel Green Energy program



2015 saw the continued growth of Young Judaea's Israel programs for teen and young adult communities beyond North America, including Great Britain and now Australia. We continue to be approached by a wide range of communities to design unique Israel experiences for them – due to Young Judaea's reputation for excellence as well as our pluralistic philosophy – helping Jews from all backgrounds connect to each other, to Israel and to the Jewish people.

Several new educational modules were developed over the course of the year. With the opening of the memorial site to Young Judaea alumna Anne Heyman z"l every Young Judaea group now not only visits the breathtaking site at Goren Park in the most northern part of Israel, but study discuss and envision social change, inspired by Anne's personal story, in the great tradition of this movement. In addition, whilst Year Course participants live and volunteer in Bat Yam as part of their core experience, they are now exploring new approaches to service learning, reflective practice, and Israelis' activism for change within local, national and international societies.

ISRAEL PROGRAMS BY THE NUMBERS

total number of participants by age



Ages 16-17
396



Ages 18-21
330



Ages 22-35
136*

*This number represents participants who took part in our 5 week and 5 month long programs.



“I grew up in says Brooklyn resident Mollie Isaacson. “I went to Camp Sprout Lake and Tel Yehudah. It was an amazing outlet for me and helped me find the direction of my Jewish identity.” Now Mollie is giving back by helping to organize the New York alumni hub, together with a dedicated core group of other local alumni. “Our alumni are a great group of people – down to earth, politically and socially conscious, and doing interesting things. They’re people you want to be connected to,” Mollie says.

The New York alumni group organized a comedy night featuring Young Judaea alumnus Benji Lovitt that brought together nearly 100 alumni. The event was so successful, they decided to make it an annual tradition. They also held a Purim carnival for alumni families. “Our goal is for Young Judaea to keep playing a role in our lives,” Mollie says.

Alumni events, including learning hubs (supported by the Jim Joseph Foundation), receptions, and parlor meetings,

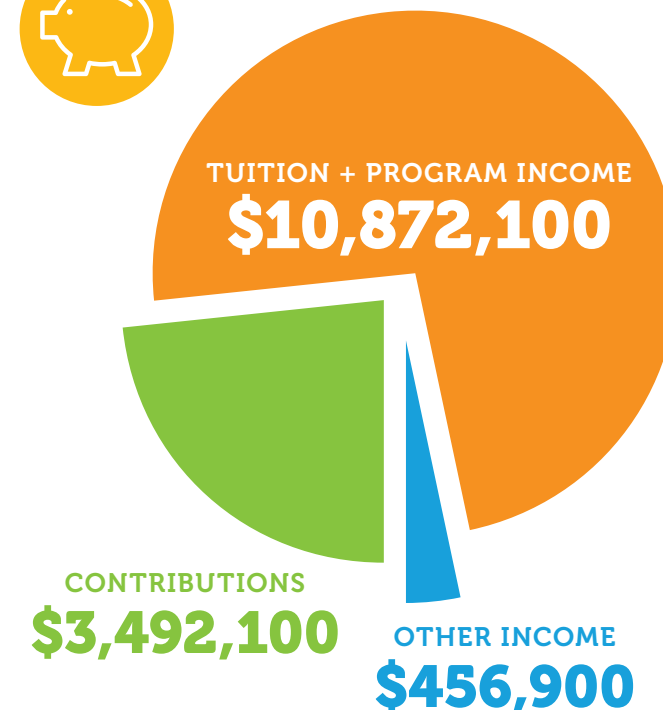
also took place in DC, Chicago, and other cities. Judaeans care a lot about our world – that was clear from several events that took place in 2015 as part of our *Judaeans Speak* series. They included a panel of journalists – all Judaeans – working for a wide range of media outlets spanning the ideological spectrum, who spoke about freedom of the press in the wake of the attack on the French satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo; a special evening with Forward correspondent and YJ parent Larry Cohler-Esses, who shared insights from his experience as the first writer from a Jewish newspaper to report from Iran; and a webinar with nonprofit leaders Caryl Stern (US Fund for UNICEF), Rachel Tiven (Immigrant Justice Corps), and Don Futterman (Moriah Fund) – also all Judaeans – about the migrant crisis and ethics surrounding the global response.

Young Judaea is inspired by the past as we look toward the future. In that spirit, we hosted a special evening with members of the National Board of Hadassah to thank them for Hadassah’s many years of support for Young Judaea, and to celebrate our continuing partnership. The event highlighted *Leaders of Tomorrow*, a new Hadassahsponsored program that gives full scholarships to a Young Judaea teen summer program to two future women leaders each year.

Young Judaea’s development efforts advanced significantly. Several new members joined our Board of Directors, bringing their enthusiasm and new ideas to move our work forward. Supporters responded generously to our end of year appeal, contributing nearly \$100,000.

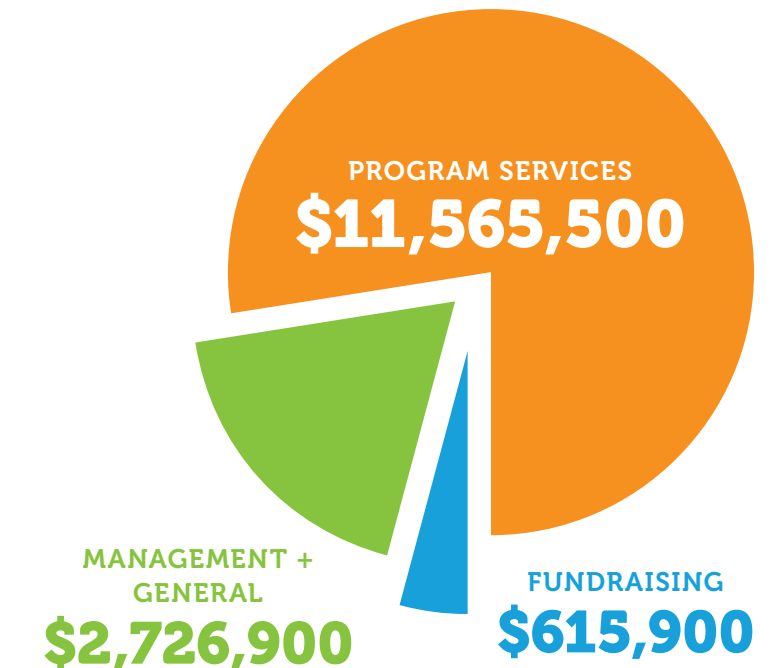


REVENUE



Total 14,821,100

EXPENSES



Total \$14,908,300

consolidated financials of Young Judaea Global, Young Judaea Israel, Camp Tel Yehudah, and Camp Young Judaea Sprout Lake

Young Judaea Mission Statement: To inspire American Jews' life-long engagement with Israel and the Jewish People.

Through immersive informal and experiential education, Young Judaea fosters a sense of value and love for Jewish tradition and ritual, as well as pride in the Jewish people, Israel and being Jewish. Our life-changing camp, year-round and Israel experiences provide an open and pluralistic environment that encourages mutual respect and understanding between diverse groups of Jews, and empowers our *chanichim* by imbuing them with the self-confidence, independence, problem-solving skills, knowledge, and other tools they need to make informed choices for themselves and the communities they will help to shape.

- Young Judaea is a Zionist youth movement that embraces the diversity of the Jewish people.
- We inspire Jews to connect with their Jewish identity and to the Jewish people – past, present and future.
- We are committed to supporting the centrality of Israel in Jewish life.
- We empower our participants to imagine and bring about positive change in Israel and the world at large.
- We grow insightful, educated and creative leaders through powerful and life-changing experiences.
- We plant the seeds for a lifetime of commitment to Young Judaea's values, vision and work.

