



34th Annual
JEWISH EDUCATOR
AWARDS *Luncheon*

December 10, 2024

Luxe Sunset Boulevard Hotel



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*Sponsored by the Milken Family Foundation in cooperation with
Builders of Jewish Education (BJE), a program partner of The Jewish Federation*

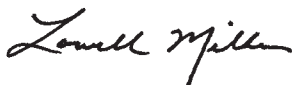
Message from the MILKEN FAMILY FOUNDATION

In today's complex and ever-changing world, educators in Jewish schools have the awesome responsibility of instilling in young people the skills, knowledge and experiences to reach their academic potential while ensuring their understanding of our people's history, destiny, and our obligations inherent in *tikun olam*.

The goal of the Jewish Educator Awards is to recognize those educators who fulfill this responsibility at the highest level of excellence. Outstanding Jewish educators provide a powerful source of continuity for the formation of Jewish identity. They achieve this by drawing from a range of resources, spanning the imperatives and sustenance of religious tradition to the fundamentals of an expansive and rich curriculum. They also must harness their own character and God-given gifts: their intelligence, scholarship, commitment and compassion, and the ability to develop these same values in their students. For what they are passing on to Jewish youth is not just their own endowment of knowledge, but also their moral understanding.

The extraordinary individuals we celebrate today—Rabbi Yossi Elefant, Rebecca Moray, Rabbi Ari Schwarzberg, and Einav Telem—are beacons of excellence and light. They are strong and steady guides in advancing their students successfully in learning and life. For decades to come, their students will evoke their names as they celebrate triumphs, navigate challenges, and embrace the wealth of opportunities life affords.

Each is a living example we should know and make known, so that collectively these educators become the standard for all educators and the criteria by which educational excellence can be measured. With each new Jewish Educator Award recipient, Jewish education and the standards of excellence become that much stronger—as do the roles of Jewish day school educators to nurture and enrich, uplift and inspire, illuminating a path forward—from generation to generation.



Lowell Milken
Founder, Jewish Educator Awards
Chairman and Co-Founder,
Milken Family Foundation



Richard Sandler
Executive Vice President,
Milken Family Foundation

Message from BUILDERS OF JEWISH EDUCATION (BJE)

Jewish education is central to the vitality of Jewish life, and teachers play a key role in shaping the learning experiences of their students. BJE is deeply appreciative of the leadership of the Milken Family Foundation, through its Jewish Educator Awards, in recognizing both the importance of Jewish education and of those who teach successive generations of students at our community's 34 BJE-accredited Jewish day schools. This year's award recipients, Rabbi Yossi Elefant, Rebecca Moray, Rabbi Ari Schwarzberg, and Einav Telem, reflect the excellence that characterizes Jewish education today.

In the cycle of weekly Torah study, this week's Torah portion includes Jacob's change of name to Israel. The new name emerges from, and connotes, struggle. Jacob/Israel and his descendants sometimes struggle, yet they persevere with renewed strength. Resilience is part of Jewish history, memory, and lived experience; it is among the lessons of Jewish education.

The Book of Genesis, of which Jacob's struggle is part, is largely about the Jews' long-standing relationship with the land of Israel. Patriarchs and matriarchs traverse the land, dig wells, build altars, assign place names, acquire property, and bury their dead in Israel. The Israel connection extends through the closing chapters of Genesis, even when Jacob/Israel and his family reside, temporarily, in Egypt; it is an abiding lesson of Jewish education.

Abraham, in the Book of Genesis, is told that he will be a blessing. God further says that Abraham will instruct his children and posterity to do what is just and right. Beyond the knowledge and skills they teach their students, outstanding Jewish educators, in the footsteps of Abraham, model and impart enduring values, enabling students to recognize and do *tzedakah u-misphpat*, what is just and right.

Jonathan Sacks reminds us that "we are guardians of the past for the sake of the future." Educators share with learners age-old wisdom to enrich the present and help imagine and create a better future. BJE proudly joins the Milken Family Foundation in honoring Rabbi Yossi Elefant, Rebecca Moray, Rabbi Ari Schwarzberg, Einav Telem and the field they so ably represent. These teachers are truly builders of Jewish education.

Sincerely,



Craig Rutenberg
President
Builders of Jewish Education (BJE)



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



JEWISH EDUCATOR AWARDS

The Jewish Educator Awards was created by Lowell Milken and established as a partnership between the Milken Family Foundation and Builders of Jewish Education (BJE) in 1990. 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 help guide students through adulthood. Recipients also demonstrate an outstanding ability to develop Jewish students' understanding of the connections among 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 long-standing concern for and involvement with education in Jewish schools.

To be eligible for consideration, educators must work a minimum of 15 hours per week at the K-12 level. They must have been working for a minimum of five years in a BJE-accredited school (need not be at the same BJE-accredited school for all the years).

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 among 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.

RABBI YOSSI ELEFANT

Yeshiva Ketana of Los Angeles



For 12 years, Rabbi Yossi Elefant has worked morning, day, and night to provide a well-rounded education for young Jewish scholars. At Yeshiva Ketana of Los Angeles, he works as

the second grade rebbe and Judaic studies teacher in the mornings and serves as the middle school science teacher in the afternoons. Rabbi Elefant continues his work with college-aged students in the evenings, providing deeper instruction about their Jewish heritage.

Outside of the classroom, Rabbi Elefant is eager to assist his colleagues as the technology contact at Yeshiva Ketana. He takes the time to coach fellow teachers, sharing his classroom management strategies and pedagogical methods. Rabbi Elefant leads exciting and relevant hands-on science projects for students such as learning about photosynthesis,

respiration, and fermentation via chocolate-making, and building and testing popsicle stick boats and bridges—sometimes strong enough to hold his own weight! Rabbi Elefant holds a bachelor's in Judaic studies from Ohr Somayach Tanenbaum College, as well as a teacher's certification from the Ministry of Education of Israel and a rabbinic ordination from Rabbi Zalman Nechemia Goldberg in Jerusalem. He also completed the Ohr Lagolah Hertz Institute for International Teacher Training's Leadership Training Program in Jerusalem.

Rabbi Elefant strives not only to make learning exciting for students, but also to encourage their character development through his Middos program and spark a love for their Jewish heritage: "The single lesson I hope to instill in my students is a deep love for the Jewish way of life, rooted in Torah," he says. "I want them to see and feel that Hashem loves each of them unconditionally and is always present for us, regardless of who we are or what we have achieved."



REBECCA MORAY

Brawerman Elementary School of Wilshire Boulevard Temple West Campus



At Brawerman Elementary School of Wilshire Boulevard Temple West, lead kindergarten teacher Rebecca (Bec) Moray brings learning to life. Since beginning her career in education

in 2001, Miss Moray's passion for early childhood education led to exciting roles as a pre-K teacher and curriculum coordinator, ECE training mentor, floor time behaviorist, and more. Now bringing her experiences to kindergarten, Miss Moray leads students through engaging, multidisciplinary lessons that reflect her love of science, focus on the whole child, and incorporation of Jewish values.

In a lesson tied to Rosh Hashanah, students learn more about bees by role-playing the honey-making process. Students simulate other scientific phenomena using colored vests and props in class to represent cold air displacement, flower pollination, lava

formation, and even physics concepts like balanced and unbalanced forces. The Chanukah story is reflected in class through an oil and water lava lamp activity, while Tashlich and Yom Kippur are taught through experimenting with bread's reaction when dipped in various substances. Jewish concepts like ethical resource use, rebirth and renewal are taught through the KinderGARDEN, which students tend to year-round. Miss Moray is known for her interactive math games like lawn dart addition, balloon battle and fly swat numbers, as well as her puppet shows acting out stories from the Torah. Additionally, she is a teacher leader for STEAM nights and is a member of the instructional leadership team. Miss Moray holds a bachelor's in education from National University.

Empowering students to explore and care about the world around them is something Miss Moray emphasizes every day: "The vehicles and roads may vary widely, but viewing ourselves, each other, and the world with curiosity is the best fuel."



RABBI ARI SCHWARZBERG

Shalhevet High School



Students at Shalhevet High School have the space to build their character, resilience and ambition, thanks in large part to 12th grade dean and Judaic studies teacher Rabbi

Ari Schwarzberg. Since becoming a teacher at Shalhevet 13 years ago, his honesty and kindness help him build a strong rapport with students, colleagues and parents alike.

Hailing from a family of educators, Rabbi Schwarzberg keeps students' academic, emotional, and spiritual growth top of mind. He seamlessly instills Judaic values, Torah learning, and critical thinking into every class, whether teaching the highest level of Gemara (Talmud) shiur to juniors and seniors, advanced Tanach shiur to sophomores, or Jewish law to freshmen. Rabbi Schwarzberg's first year heading Shalhevet's participation in Yeshiva University's Gemara Learning Bekiut Program yielded outstanding results: His students took

four of the top six highest scores nationwide. Rabbi Schwarzberg holds a rabbinic ordination and a master's in education from Yeshiva University in New York, as well as a master's in theological studies from Harvard Divinity School in Massachusetts.

Rabbi Schwarzberg supports the betterment of those around him, inspiring the senior class to act as leaders and run town halls through Shalhevet's Just Community. Fostering a lifelong love of learning, he established the "Night Seder" initiative at Shalhevet, providing students with time after school once a week to learn on their own terms – not attached to their class grade or content.

"Every student, no matter their natural intellectual ability, work ethic, or familial expectations, can push themselves beyond their imagination," Rabbi Schwarzberg says. "Students need to leave their class feeling nourished, enriched, and proud of what they're learning and how they're growing."



EINAV TELEM

Valley Beth Shalom Day School



After discovering her passion for working with people while growing up in Israel, Einav Telem made her way to Valley Beth Shalom (VBS) Day School in 2006, where she now serves as a fourth

grade Hebrew and Judaic studies teacher. At VBS she wears many hats: She also teaches fifth grade Hebrew classes; supervises the Israeli Shinshin program (cultural exchange); directs the Generation's Day program and develops projects for grandparents and students to complete together; and leads the sixth grade Grinberg Passport to Israel trip.

VBS students and parents begin each morning with an enthusiastic welcome from Mrs. Telem in the parking lot as she ushers in students to begin an exciting day of learning. A former second grade teacher, Mrs. Telem's rich experiences in the classroom guide her written fourth grade Torah portion curriculum and tiered instructional strategies.

She enriches students' experiences and inspires them to be active participants in their education through organizing Jewish holiday celebrations, teaching the Book of Exodus via a character poster-making project using found objects, and strengthening students' connection to their heritage through her Israel Museum Project. Striving for schoolwide excellence, Mrs. Telem mentors teachers, pursues professional development opportunities, and connects the Hebrew faculty via group chat to share best practices and curriculum notes. Mrs. Telem holds a bachelor's in education from Oranim Teachers College in Israel.

"Learning is not just about absorbing information, but also about engaging with it actively, exploring beyond the surface, and always striving to know more," Mrs. Telem says. "This approach will help students succeed academically and empower them to navigate in the world with confidence and critical thinking."



PREVIOUS JEA RECIPIENTS

2023

Anna August

Sinai Akiba Academy

Rabbi Avraham Berman

Yavneh Hebrew Academy

Rabbi Moshe Tropper

Emek Hebrew Academy

Sarah Shpall

Wise School

2022

Rabbi Daniel Grama

Valley Torah High School

Shoshana Braude

Bais Chaya Mushka

Larry Kligman

Abraham Joshua Heschel Day School

Monica Daranyi

Milken Community School

2021

Yoav Ben Horin

de Toledo High School

Cherie Friedman

Kadima Day School

Natalie Williams

YULA Girls High School

Chana Zauderer

Yeshiva Rav Isaacohn-Toras Emes Academy

2019

Michelle Andron

Emek Hebrew Academy

Eric Hartung

Rabbi Jacob Pressman Academy of Temple Beth Am

Rabbi Abraham Lieberman

Shalhevet High School

Nelly Wisner

Beth Hillel Day School

2018

Rabbi Shimon Abramczik

YULA Boys High School

Florette Benhamou

Harkham Hillel Hebrew Academy

Fanny Koyman

Abraham Joshua Heschel Day School

Patty Tanner

Wise School

2017

Yehudis Blauner

Cheder Menachem

Adrienne Coffield

Brawerman Elementary School

Melody Mansfield ☆

Milken Community Schools

Jenny Zacuto

Yavneh Hebrew Academy

2016

Ilana Ribak

Sinai Akiba Academy

Fruma Ita Schapiro

Ohel Chana High School

Tammy Shpall

de Toledo High School

Rabbi Chaim Trainer

Yeshiva Rav Isaacohn

2015

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mona Riss

Emek Hebrew Academy

Alan Rosen

Maimonides Academy

Bilha Schechter

Valley Beth Shalom Day School

Lee Spiro

Brawerman Elementary School of
Wilshire Blvd. Temple

2006

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

Rabbi Berish Goldenberg

Yeshiva Rav Isaacohn-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

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

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

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

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

Kathy Reynolds

Milken Community High School

Andi Schochet

Maimonides Academy

Rabbi Pesach Wachsmen

Emek Hebrew Academy

Elaine Wasserman

Temple Israel of Hollywood Day School

Ginny Zemtseff

Sinai Akiba Academy

1999

Irit Eliyahu

Temple Emanuel Academy Day School

Malca Schwarzmer

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

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

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

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

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 Wachsmen ✧

Emek Hebrew Academy

1994

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

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

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

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

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



MILKEN FAMILY
FOUNDATION

Celebrating Over 40 Years Advancing a Mission in 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*

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.

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 teaching 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

MILKEN FAMILY FOUNDATION | **MFF.ORG**



MilkenArchive.org

Milken Archive of Jewish Music: The American Experience

Lowell Milken founded the Milken Archive of Jewish Music in 1990 to discover, preserve and disseminate the vast body of music reflecting the American Jewish experience over its 350-year history. Through new recordings by world-class artists and ensembles, an ambitious oral history project, and comprehensive written materials elucidating the music's historical and cultural context, the Milken Archive has charted a groundbreaking approach to cultural preservation. In the process, it has created a unique resource that has special significance for Jews that resonates with people of all faiths and cultures.

“In sharing the Milken Archive’s diverse repertoire, scholarship and multimedia resources, we seek to broaden public awareness of 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

ADVANCING A MISSION



MilkenEducatorAwards.org

Milken Educator Awards

Lowell Milken created the Milken Educator Awards in 1985 to provide public recognition and individual financial rewards to K-12 teachers, principals and specialists who are furthering excellence in education. Hailed by the media as recipients of the "Oscars of Teaching," educators 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 3,000 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

Milken Community School

As an independent Jewish community school serving over 700 students in grades 6-12, learning at Milken Community School happens everywhere and with intention—it happens in classrooms, on trips, at programs, at home, online and offline, and during activities. It is grounded in Jewish ideas, values, traditions and practices. Learning encompasses social, emotional, intellectual and spiritual realms. Learning at Milken is personal and communal. It is both the realization of who we are and whose we are. Milken's learning is encompassed in these core values: Pursuing Academic Excellence; Building Joyful, Welcoming Community; Treating Others with Dignity and Kindness; Taking Responsibility for Self and Others; Connecting to Israel and the Jewish People; Reflecting and Repairing with Integrity; and Pausing to Nurture the Soul.

"Founded on Jewish Values, Milken is about who our children can become and how they can help others become who they might be. Because the world our children will create tomorrow is born in the school we build today, our mission is to educate our children so they can surpass us."

— Sarah Shulkind, Ed.D.
Head of School



MilkenScholars.org

Milken Scholars

Milken Scholars was founded by Mike and Lori Milken in 1989 to honor exceptional young individuals 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 Scholars
President and Co-Founder, Milken Family Foundation



MFF.org

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 also 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 useful experiences to prepare people for rewarding and productive lives.

“One individual has
the power to make
a powerful and
profound difference
in the lives of others.”

— Lowell Milken
Chairman and Founder
Lowell Milken Family Foundation





LOWELL MILKEN FAMILY FOUNDATION | LOWELLMILKEN.ORG

LOWELL MILKEN FAMILY FOUNDATION



NIET.org

National Institute for Excellence in Teaching

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

Committed to building educator excellence to give all students the opportunity for success, Lowell Milken established the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) in 2005. NIET partners with schools, districts, states and universities to attract, develop, support, and retain the high-quality human capital necessary to raise achievement levels for all students. NIET has impacted more than 350,000 educators and 3,500,000 students in 1,000 districts and its teacher standards rubric is used by more than 100 university schools of education to prepare a pipeline for the next generation of effective educators.

“Research and personal experiences confirm that the single most important in-school factor that determines student learning is the quality of the teacher in the classroom. Thus, the most direct way to improve student achievement is to invest in teachers by providing them with the requisite skills, knowledge, and useful experiences to improve their effectiveness in the classroom and beyond.”

— Lowell Milken
Chairman and Founder



MilkenJewishMusicCenter.SchoolofMusic.UCLA.edu

Lowell Milken Center for Music of American Jewish Experience

Established by Lowell Milken in 2020, the Center for Music of American Jewish Experience at the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music is North America’s first permanent academic home for the study of American Jewish music. It 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.

The Lowell Milken Center for Music of American Jewish Experience fosters artistic creativity, scholarship, performance and other cultural expression to advance and advocate for the field of American Jewish music in order to engage and educate the community.

“The Lowell Milken Center’s breadth of research and curriculum, preservation of treasured oral histories, performance of diverse repertoire, and partnerships around the world, are creating new avenues for music of American Jewish experience.”

— Mark Kligman, Ph.D.
Director



AaronMilkenCenter.org



“Aaron Milken Center represents the next chapter in the Wise community’s extraordinary commitment to early childhood education. Through our work in Aaron Milken Center, we are granted the amazing opportunity to enrich the Jewish life of children, their parents, and their grandparents.”

— **Rabbi Yoshi Zweiback**
Senior Rabbi
Stephen Wise Temple and Schools

Aaron Milken Center for Early Childhood Education at Stephen Wise Temple and Schools

Conceived by Lowell Milken in 2018 and with the support of the leadership of SWT, the Aaron Milken Center at Wise embodies a transformative vision for early childhood education. Inspired by Lowell’s experience as a parent of four children within the Wise School community and the chairman of the largest early childhood education company in the world, Lowell is passionate about ensuring that children have an outstanding foundation that fosters a love of learning. The Center at Wise provides a connection to Jewish values and a deep sense of community as it prepares students for lifelong success by combining world-class facilities with a nurturing environment. The Center embodies Wise Founder Rabbi Isaiah Zeldin’s dream of providing lifelong Jewish education to all those who seek it. The Aaron Milken Center will also serve as a living tribute to the late son of lead donors Lowell Milken and Sandra Salka Milken.

A new state-of-the-art facility opening in early 2025 will maximize the beautiful hilltop campus of Stephen Wise Temple with a sense of connection with the natural world that will foster growth and learning for children. The Aaron Milken Center will also house community and sacred spaces for parents and families alike to create a place where all ages feel welcome and inspired.

LOWELL MILKEN FAMILY FOUNDATION



Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes

Discover ... Create ... Change

Established by Lowell Milken in 2007, 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. Students have the opportunity to participate in two international competitions honoring Unsung Heroes: the **Discovery Award**, which inspires students to uncover and share the impact of an Unsung Hero, and **ARTEFFECT**, which allows students to explore the stories and invaluable lessons of Unsung Heroes as role models through the visual arts.

LMC has reached over 3,000,000 students worldwide through its online projects, educator resources and student competitions. The Lowell Milken Hall of Unsung Heroes, a state-of-the-art museum and research hub based at LMC's Fort Scott, Kansas, headquarters, has welcomed visitors from all 50 states and around the world.

"The discovery of Unsung Heroes reveals that history is not a done deal. Past, present, and future are available for shaping; and through learning about these individuals, we can join together in a shared purpose."

— Lowell Milken
Founder



LowellMilkenCenter.org/ARTEFFECT

ARTEFFECT

Discover the power to create positive change through visual art

ARTEFFECT, founded by Lowell Milken, extends the learning around Unsung Heroes as role models by inviting educators and their students to creatively interpret these stories from history through the visual arts. ARTEFFECT offerings include an annual art competition for middle and high school students worldwide, exhibitions, and online professional development through its ARTEFFECT Ambassadors Visual Arts Fellowship—all to celebrate the profound impact of one individual to make a positive difference in the lives of others and society. The Ambassadors fellowship – now in its second year – provides a framework for educators nationwide to learn alongside other high-level practitioners through visual-art-focused, project-based learning.

“ARTEFFECT ensures that stories of Unsung Heroes live on as guiding lights for future generations. By offering young people and educators the opportunity to express these stories through art, we inspire them to embrace the power of history and creativity, lead with purpose, and make a lasting difference in the world.”

— Lowell Milken
Founder



HMCtartcenter.org

Hoffmitz Milken Center for Typography

Created by Lowell Milken in 2014 as both a tribute to his late wife, Leah Hoffmitz Milken, and as a center 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 in an age of rapidly changing communication methods and devices. The Center serves as an educational forum, design laboratory, research center, and archive. As a meeting place for learning, discussion, and the exchange of ideas and skills, the HMCT presents workshops, special classes, symposia, lectures, exhibitions, and residency programs.

“The HMCT reinforces the significance of typography and its widespread influence on our everyday lives. More than just a tool for conveying written language, typography acts as an art form that shapes emotions, enhances communication, and showcases creativity and expression.”

— Susan Malmstrom
Chief Operating Officer

LOWELL MILKEN FAMILY FOUNDATION



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 law as well as business and government service. Established in 2011 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 financial prizes.

“The decisions that businesses make shape our work lives, our consumption patterns, and even our health and longevity in profound ways. The business and tax laws that influence those decisions are therefore incredibly important. The Lowell Milken Institute for Business Law and Policy is ideally equipped to study and engage in these exciting developments.”

— **Michael Dorff**
Executive Director



LowellMilkenInstitute.Law.UCLA.edu

Lowell Milken Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofits at UCLA School of Law

Established by Lowell Milken in 2023, the Lowell Milken Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofits (LMPN) at UCLA School of Law serves as a central hub for education, thought leadership and scholarship at a time when the generational wealth shift is transforming philanthropy and giving. Building on the mission of the Program on Philanthropy and Nonprofits, formed by Lowell and the UCLA School of Law in 2021, LMPN is poised to become the national destination in the field. It engages leading scholars, practitioners, nonprofit and philanthropic leaders, and policymakers to address important issues in this area of society, and in the process, provides essential training for the next generation of nonprofit leaders and advisors.

“Philanthropy and the nonprofit sector address huge challenges in our society, from alleviating poverty, to promoting the arts, to championing environmental solutions—while contributing over \$1 trillion annually to the U.S. economy. Our mission is to elevate understanding and effectiveness of the sector by providing education and training to current and future nonprofit leaders, funders, and advisors; a place to gather and develop thought leadership on the sector's challenges; and scholarly research and writing to predict and address critical issues.”

— **Rose Chan Loui**
Founding Executive Director



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MILKEN
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of Jewish Music

The American Experience



WOMEN OF THE AMERICAN CANTORATE

Upcoming Multipart Web Series

Commemorating the upcoming 50th anniversary of the ordination of America's first female cantor, the Milken Archive will feature a multipart series of articles and interviews about the history of women's participation in Jewish liturgical music in the American context. Explore reflections of female cantors from across the spectrum of religious affiliation, professional training, and career stages on their journeys in the contemporary landscape, advice for aspiring female cantors and outlook for the future.

MilkenArchive.org

UCLA

Herb Alpert School of Music

**Lowell Milken Center for Music of
American Jewish Experience**

SCHOENBERG IN HOLLYWOOD WEST COAST PREMIERE

May 18, 20, 22, 2025

Join us for the West Coast premiere of composer Tod Machover's *Schoenberg in Hollywood*—a high-spirited, affectionate homage to one of the most influential artistic figures of the 20th century, and UCLA's revered professor of music composition from 1936 to 1944. Through vignettes from Schoenberg's life, seen through the aesthetic of the Hollywood film industry, *Schoenberg in Hollywood* explores the complex relationship between uncompromising art and mass appeal, and whether—and how—art can change the world.

MilkenJewishMusicCenter.SchoolOfMusic.UCLA.edu



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