Dear Gateways Friends,

It is with a hard-earned sense of accomplishment that we share the story of our work in 2020-2021 and the theme of this annual report, “Maintaining Connection, Maintaining Community.” Last year was one of the most challenging years in our history, where we juggled in-person and virtual offerings and determined our organizational strategic priorities in the face of enormous uncertainty during a global pandemic. Our ability to be nimble and generative has only strengthened as we continue to be called upon—now more than ever before—to meet the ongoing urgent need for professionalized support to help children and teens in our communities to access Jewish life and learning.

In the coming pages, you will read how we continued our services both in-person and online, providing direct supports for approximately 100 students across our local day schools; educating local and non-local students in our Sunday and B’nei Mitzvah programs; training a team of over 40 teen volunteers; and hosting professional development workshops for over 35 supplementary schools, afterschool programs, and early childhood centers in the Greater Boston area and beyond.

So how did we chart our course and decide on a strategic roadmap for the next three to five years during this challenging time? Even before the pandemic began, we focused on key questions about our future direction. The pandemic’s onset required significant adjustments to program delivery, internal processes, and ways of working with institutions, educators, students, families, and partners. These ongoing adjustments—along with more global shifts and trends in education, technology, philanthropy, and Jewish affiliation—all informed our current strategic planning process.

As we look to the future, we are proud to share the highlights of our newly adopted Strategic Plan, which was given a unanimous vote of approval by our Board of Trustees in June 2021. We are now redoubling our commitment to supporting systemic change—both locally, through our work in the Greater Boston area, and nationally, by sharing and championing best practices in inclusion. We are continually investing in the full educational ecosystem surrounding the children and teens we serve—including the leaders that set and drive culture—and their peers who are an integral element of lasting cultural change. We are expanding our focus to include both formal and informal Jewish education settings and are actively and intentionally seeking to strengthen connections, deepen relationships, and build intentional and strategic alliances with like-minded institutions and coalitions, both locally and nationally. Through these multi-pronged efforts, we are building our capacity to amplify the voices of children, teens, and families impacted by learning differences, disabilities, and mental health challenges.

We are committed to creating an inclusive Jewish community where all learners belong. Your partnership enables this vital work to continue. We remain very grateful for your ongoing support.

In partnership,

TAMAR DAVIS,
Chief Executive Officer

NORA FRIEDMAN & DARA GROSSMAN,
Co-Presidents, Board of Trustees
Meeting Students Where They Are

Miriam Fein, Gateways Learning Specialist

When you talk to Gateways Learning Specialist Miriam Fein, one fact is immediately, abundantly clear: she loves her work. A speech-language pathologist and a licensed reading specialist, Miriam meets regularly with students at Maimonides School who have language-related learning needs, collaborating with teachers and school support staff to give these students the tools to reach their potential and achieve success in the classroom. Without the support of educators like Miriam, these students would be at risk of leaving the Jewish day school community.

Miriam works hard to tailor her teaching to her students’ needs, and she credits the structure of Gateways with enabling her to deliver the right supports at the right time. "I love that Gateways gives me the opportunity to really try my best to meet the kids where they are. There isn't a rigidity that you find in some other educational settings... there's a certain level of flexibility in really focusing in on the kids' specific needs and being able to tailor the support to that.”

During the 2020-21 school year, that flexibility was more necessary than ever as Miriam adjusted to delivering some sessions in person and others online. During this transition, her Gateways colleagues were there to provide her with a supportive network. "There's still a sense of being a team even if we're in different schools,” she explains.

Miriam is truly thankful for the Gateways supporters who give so generously to make her work possible: “Gateways really is a unique model and a real opportunity for students to get what they need and be more successful in their environment. And that is huge—the students themselves and their families are very appreciative.”
Jewish Education Programs

JEWISH LEARNING IS FOR EVERYONE

“Gateways has been the most meaningful part of my high school experience. It has helped me grow as a person, as well as deepened my connections with those around me. I’ve learned valuable skills at Gateways that I know I will use for the rest of my life. I’m so, so thankful for this program!”

-SAMANTHA SHEPHERD, teen volunteer

Raya’s eyes twinkled from the bimah at Temple Sinai in Brookline, where her Gateways teachers and close relatives had gathered (with an additional hundred or so friends and family on Zoom) to celebrate her bat mitzvah. From watching Raya proudly, skillfully read from the parsha, gave an instructive d’var Torah, and led everyone in song and prayer, you would never know that, only a year and a half earlier, her parents had worried none of it was possible.

“When we first came to Gateways in fall 2019, we had no idea that Raya would be capable of doing all that she did yesterday,” wrote Raya’s mom Robbie the next day. Raya’s bat mitzvah was the joyful culmination of all of her hard work and growth at Gateways’ B’nei Mitzvah Program. Teen volunteer Mira, who was paired up with Raya during her second year in the B’nei Mitzvah Program, recalls the day they first met: “I remember seeing her walk through the door…and having our first session together and thinking to myself ‘I don’t know how we’re going to do it,’ because she didn’t want to learn Hebrew, she didn’t really want to speak Torah, let alone leyn (chant) Torah in front of the entire class. She was just a nervous kid. She was super shy.”

However, with the support of volunteers like Mira and the Gateways staff and community, Raya flourished. Every time Raya’s teachers set her a new challenge, she not only met that challenge, she exceeded it. Raya’s parents noticed as she began to light up when recounting her B’nei Mitzvah Program sessions. These educators “changed Raya’s life,” said Robbie.

Mira and some of Raya’s other volunteers looked on proudly over Zoom on the day of her bat mitzvah. “It was such a special moment to me to see her open up like that. She was confident, she was strong, she spoke beautifully, she leyned beautifully,” said Mira. Robbie reflected, “This experience has been a lesson for all of us to keep raising the bar for her.”

“After yesterday, Raya has a newfound confidence that she will have for the rest of her life… We are overflowing with gratitude that Gateways exists and made it possible for her to achieve such a tremendous milestone.”

- ROBBIE, Raya’s mom
Learning Moments

Accommodating Diverse Learners in the Religious School Classroom

Over 90 people listened on as Gateways presenter and behavioral specialist Mia Hyman described how visual schedules can help students with disabilities and diverse learning needs stay engaged both online and in person.

“One of the number one visuals we always encourage teachers to have in their classroom is a schedule... students can see that there’s light at the end of the tunnel in case there’s a subject or task that they’re not looking forward to, they can see that there’s something coming after it that they will enjoy...We always want to make it really predictable for the student, to decrease any sort of anxiety they’re having about what’s coming next.”

—MIA HYMAN, Gateways Behavioral Specialist

Visual Supports: Schedule

| Keep things routine at the beginning and end of class | ![Check In] |
| Send a question-of-the-day beforehand so students can prepare | ![Movement Break] |
| Send an email or text message (Remind app) of what materials they need for class (remind.com) | ![Show and Tell] |
| Share a Goal | |

From “Accommodating Diverse Learners in the Religious School Classroom.”

“Gateways’ Community of Practice has helped me immensely throughout the 2020-21 school year. To be able to share ideas with colleagues through such a difficult time when COVID was beginning really helped support our school...”

—EDYE KATZ, The Trust Center for Early Education (TCEE)
Virtual Sweet Sounds: Building an Inclusive Community

Even as Sweet Sounds 2020 went virtual—hosted by Joyce and Michael Bohnen and Ellie and Barry Shrage—you came together as a community to honor Gateways’ vision that every Jewish student, regardless of ability, will have access to quality Jewish education and the opportunity to participate meaningfully in Jewish life.

Everyone Has a Place

Interview with Jordana Bluestein, Gateways Board of Trustees

“It would have been so nice if there was something like Gateways around for my uncle.” This was the thought that Jordana Bluestein kept coming back to during her first Parenting with Purpose event, as she listened to Cindy Kaplan present about her daughter, Mira, who was born with cerebral palsy and had experienced a meaningful bat mitzvah because of Gateways. “I had an uncle who had cerebral palsy,” explains Jordana. “I remember during Jewish holidays my uncle and his wife really just kind of sat at the table—they never were able to participate. He was self-sufficient but there was definitely one aspect—his Judaism—that was never approached or addressed.”

Hearing Mira’s story inspired Jordana to get involved in Gateways: she joined the Parenting with Purpose Committee, and eventually the Board of Trustees. Above all, she says, being engaged with Gateways has kept her connected to her own vision of a community where everyone belongs and strives for mutual understanding. “I truly believe in community, and that means everyone having a place and a role.”

“I think it’s essential that Gateways doesn’t just say ‘how can we teach these students their Hebrew or parsha or get them to the bar mitzvah?’ but also ‘how can we connect them to their community?’”

—JORDANA BLUESTEIN

Above: Israel’s Shalva Band, made up of eight talented musicians with disabilities, premiered a brand-new performance at Sweet Sounds 2020.
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Sharon Goldstein, Director of Day School Programs

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Miriam Fein, Learning Specialist
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Jennifer Friedberg, Speech-Language Pathologist
Ilene Greenwald, Occupational Therapist
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Jodi Saltzman, Speech-Language Pathologist
Rachel Schein, Mental Health Education Program Specialist
Amanda Schouela, Speech-Language Pathologist

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In a year of continued significant challenges across the community, Gateways carefully managed both assets and expenses to ensure that any pandemic-related losses in revenue did not limit our ability to provide much-needed services. We were fortunate to have our 2020 Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan be fully forgiven within FY21, representing a forgiveness of note payable which is separate from the numbers reflected here.
DONORS & SUPPORTERS

Gateways is proud to partner with day schools, community schools, preschools, and congregations throughout the New England region to help foster an inclusive Jewish community.

Key Philanthropic Partners:

- Slifka Family Day School Inclusion Initiative
- Ruderman Family Foundation
- Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP)
- The Klarman Family Foundation
- Legacy Heritage Fund
- Jessica and Chuck Myers

PARTICIPATING DAY SCHOOLS

- Bais Yaakov of Boston
- Epstein Hillel Academy
- Gann Academy
- Jewish Community Day School
- MetroWest Jewish Day School
- Maimonides School
- New England Hebrew Academy
- Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Boston
- Striar Hebrew Academy of Sharon
- The Rashi School
- Torah Academy
- Yeshiva Ohr Yisrael

PARTICIPATING COMMUNITY & CONGREGATIONAL JEWISH EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- Beit Rabban, Brookline
- Beth El Temple Center, Belmont
- B’nai Torah, Sudbury
- Boston Area Jewish Education Program (BJEP), Waltham
- Congregation Beth Shalom of the Blue Hills, Milton
- Congregation Shirat Hayam, Swampscott
- Dorshel Tzoedek, Newton
- Jewish Learning Collaborative of MetroWest (JLCMW), Sudbury
- Kahal D’braira, Cambridge
- Kerem Shalom, Concord
- Kesher After School, Somerville
- Kesher Newton, Newton
- Temple Aliyah, Needham
- Temple Beth David, Westwood
- Temple Emanuel, Marblehead
- Temple Etz Chaim, Franklin
- Temple Isaiah, Lexington
- Temple Israel, Natick
- Temple Kol Tikvah, Sharon
- Temple Ner Tamid, Peabody
- Temple Ohabei Shalom, Brookline
- Temple Sinai, Brookline
- Temple Sinai, Sharon
- Temple Shalom, Medford
- Temple Shalom, Newton
- Temple Tiferet Shalom, Peabody

PARTICIPATING JEWISH PRESCHOOLS & EARLY LEARNING CENTERS

- Alef-Bet Child Care, Cambridge
- Gan Aliyah, Needham
- Gan Shelanu, Newton
- Kehillath Israel Preschool, Brookline
- Kesher Nevatim, Somerville
- Judy Gordon Early Learning Center, Natick
- Maimonides Early Learning Center, Brookline
- The Trust Center for Early Education (TCEE), Brookline

Donor Listing

We extend our sincere gratitude to those listed in this report who have chosen to support Gateways: Access to Jewish Education, including 100% of our Board members. This donor report is reflective of gifts made in FY21 (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021). We have made every effort to recognize our donors correctly. Please excuse any typos and omissions. Direct any corrections or concerns to development@jgateways.org. Thank you for your generosity!

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- Lisa and Neil Wallack
- Cindy Kaplan and Marc Weisskopf

“During COVID, my connection to my community has been altered, and working at Gateways means that for a short time every week I get to feel connected again.”

- CAROLYN BERNSTEIN, teen volunteer

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Gateways students received goodie bags before class on Purim, hand delivered by our amazing teen volunteers

In-person staff gathering, June 2021

17

18
In 2020-21, Gateways provided vital direct services to 100 students, like the one pictured here, in Boston-area Jewish day schools.

Congregation Shaarei Tefillah
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Paula Sommer
Dr. Judith Feldman and Dr. Norman Spack

a day school student strikes a pose in occupational therapy

Two Gateways teen volunteers and a student celebrated Purim together over Zoom

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Sherry Grossman and Allen Spivack
Priscilla and Geoffrey Stein
Barry Sugarman
Gail Schulman and Robert Sullaway

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Temple Isaiah Sisterhood
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Selma Green
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Kate Gutow
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Lisa Tannenbaum and Kenneth Hoffman
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Ronda and Joshua Jacobson
Josh Jick
Lori Johnsen
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Joy Karol
Phyllis and Jeffrey Katz
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Carol and Daniel Milewich
Meryl and Eric Miller

During 2020-2021, Gateways connected with our Jewish Education Program students by holding individual remote sessions with each student, their teen volunteers, and a teacher.
It was really nice to hear your workshop and have access to your examples for helping the kids access the best possible learning they can during these trying times.

– LEAH, Educator, Kesher Newton
Imagine an Even Greater Impact

Get Involved

There are lots of ways you can help support Gateways further and ensure that more Jewish students have access to quality Jewish education and the opportunity to participate meaningfully in Jewish life.

[www.jgateways.org](http://www.jgateways.org)

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**Donate Financially**

Each time you make a gift to Gateways you open the gates to inclusion, welcoming a family in need into a lifelong community. Make your gift today at [www.jgateways.org/donate](http://www.jgateways.org/donate).

---

**Leave a Legacy of Inclusion**

Your estate gift can change the lives of Jewish students and families for generations to come. To learn more about making a planned gift, connect with us at development@jgateways.org.

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**Stock Donations**

When you make the choice to donate stock, you’ll not only change the lives of Gateways’ families and students, but you’ll also avoid paying a costly capital gains tax. Our staff is ready to help walk you through the process. To learn more, reach out to development@jgateways.org.

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**Our Teen Volunteers**

What makes our Teen Volunteer Program stand out is not only the skillset volunteers gain, but also the relationships they build with students. If you know a Boston-area teen in grades 10-12 who is interested in a one-of-a-kind volunteer experience, please contact us at gjep@jgateways.org.

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**Get Involved with a Committee**

Your time and talent are valuable assets! If you’re interested in donating your time, we’re very glad to have you join one of our committees. For more information or any questions, please reach out to info@jgateways.org.