

# 2024 Year in Review

In a year of deep reckoning for the global Jewish people, the Jewish Learning Collaborative (JLC) made great progress toward our goal of unlocking access, connection, and personal relevance of Jewish learning for our community's leaders. In 2024, we exceeded our goals for growth and matched professional and lay leaders at Jewish organizations with dedicated educators to empower them to create meaning in the present and build a vibrant and robust Jewish future informed by the wisdom of our past.

#### JLC Welcomed 14 Partner Organizations

Ammud

Birthright Israel Foundation Community Day School Pittsburgh Digital Storytellers Lab Impact Cubed Jewish Columbus

JDC - American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee

> Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh

Kavod v'Nichum Olam Chesed Fellowship

Limmud UK

M<sup>2</sup> - The Institute for Experiential Jewish Education – Atlanta Educators Cohort

OLAM

Third Space

Wexner Davidson Fellowship

Leaders at 42 partner organizations learn with JLC

#### A Sampling of the Diverse Topics JLC Learners Chose to Explore

Tanach, Mishnah, and Talmud Mysticism: Zohar, Hasidut, Chabad Jewish Magical Creatures and Mythology

Passover: Educating the Wicked Son, Preparing to Lead a Seder

Purim and the Carnivalesque

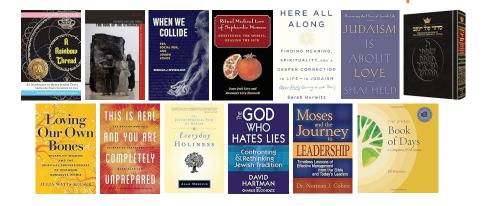
**Modern Hebrew and Yiddish** 

Torah and Haftarah Trope (Cantillation)

Origins of the Mikvah Golden Age of Jews in Spain under Islam Reform Movement Platforms Jewish Music of the Oud What Makes a Home Jewish? How to Talk about Death to Children Shabbat Liturgy Jewish Mourning Practices Fertility Journeys in Tanakh Mizrahi Feminism History of Zionism Jewish-Black Relations Judaism and Climate Change Jewish Pastoral Care and Disability Activism Ethics of Community Funding

MemGlobal

## A Sampling of Books JLC Shipped to Learners



#### **Spotlight: JLC Educators**

JLC educators live and teach around the world:

in the U.S.

in Canada

in Israel

in the UK and Europe

in South America

# Spotlight: JLC Learners

Learners completed 5,603 learning hours in 2024, up 26% from 2023

227

joined JLC in 2024

520 learners participated in learning sessions this year, a 27% increase from 2023 JLC educators have diverse and inspiring backgrounds:

### 79

Rabbis or cantors with ordination from:

Aleph Ordination Program Hadar Institute Hebrew College Hebrew Union College -Jewish Institute of Religion Jewish Theological Seminary Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

Yashrut Yeshivat Maharat/Yeshivat Chovevei Torah

**Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies** 

"This is a space where I'm safe to express and explore how I feel, I'm not judged, or pushed to any particular beliefs, it's been a very loving and supportive space, especially after October 7."

14 rabbinical students

PhDs or PhD candidates

trained educators and professional teachers

In Their Own Words: JLC Learners

"My JLC experience has been incredible. I have never felt so empowered in my Judaism and so invigorated by Jewish learning. My learning sessions have impacted my life greatly. They feel like spiritual therapy. It feels great to be spiritually and intellectually challenged. I am so grateful to have the opportunity to learn with such an incredible mind. Rabbi Rachael challenges me and lets me come up with my own conclusions instead of telling me what I'm supposed to interpret or learn from different texts. I look forward to my learning sessions every week, and it's my favorite perk of working at my organization."

> "In a time when Israel is at war, learning about the historical context has been invaluable."

"I believe everyone needs a coach, and this is a reimagination of what coaching can look like. My JLC Coach effectively bridges the world of practical reality and Judaic principles. She brings a Jewish learning lens to my questions around nonprofit leadership, growing a team, organizational culture, and philanthropic strategy. In a relational and relevant way, she also coaches on real world challenges that Harvard Business School didn't prepare me for. We apply the Jewish lens to my real-life scenarios and co-create impactful solutions."

"I am for the first time as an adult engaging with Torah study and enjoying it."







## **Thought Leadership: JLC in the News**

- JLC Executive Director Rabbi Ana Bonnheim wrote an <u>op-ed</u> in JNS making the case for Jewish learning as a lifelong endeavor that can help everyone address life's big questions and find the wisdom we all seek.
- JLC Executive Director Rabbi Ana Bonnheim wrote an <u>op-ed</u> in *eJewish Philanthropy* about expanding Jewish education through the Jewish learning gig economy.
- JLC was highlighted in the Spring 2024 edition of SAPIR, in an article titled <u>"How Resilient Are Jewish</u> <u>Institutions?</u>"
- Moishe House CEO David Cygielman published an <u>opinion piece</u> in the Jewish Journal entitled "More Jewish Young Adults Need Rabbis in Their Lives."
- JLC educator Rabbi David Levin-Kruss authored an <u>op-ed</u> in *eJewish Philanthropy* about changes amongst his Jewish learners post October 7.
- JLC learners Laura Herman and Deirdre Munley highlighted JLC in an *eJewish Philanthropy* <u>piece</u> about the power of chavruta as a tool for workplace success.



