

# PAWS & REFLECT

## כפות ולהשתקף



SEE SOME OF THE AMAZING  
THINGS OUR STUDENTS  
ACCOMPLISHED FROM  
FALL 2022 - SPRING 2024



FRANKEL JEWISH ACADEMY

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. **LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL**
2. **JAGS IN THE NEWS**
5. **AWARDS & ACCOLADES**
6. **YEARS IN REVIEW**
16. **JAGS IN COMPETITION**
21. **CELEBRATING THE ARTS**
27. **STUDENT LIFE**
29. **CLASS OF 2023**
30. **CLASS OF 2024**
32. **EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING**
40. **ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT**
42. **ALUMNI NEWS**
45. **REUNIONS**
46. **ADVANCEMENT NEWS**
50. **B'RUCHIM HABA'IM WELCOME!**

## **PAWS & REFLECT**

A publication of  
**FRANKEL JEWISH ACADEMY**

**HEAD OF SCHOOL**  
RABBI AZARYAH COHEN

**EDITOR**  
MALLORY GRANT

**COPY EDITORS**  
ELIZABETH CHAMBERS, RACHEL MAXBAUER, KIM OLSON,  
GLORIA STEINBERG, & JACKIE YASHINSKY

# LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL



Supporting students' understanding of the world's complexities, challenges, and opportunities, while helping them learn how to achieve personal success and religious fulfillment, is the foundation of all we do at Frankel Jewish Academy.

Students gain perspective and self-confidence, the strength of knowing who they are as Jews, and how to harness their talents and passion as individuals through the incredible opportunities at FJA to learn and grow. Our comprehensive program includes Jewish studies and general studies classes taught by skilled and nurturing pedagogs, art and theater programs led by talented and inspiring instructors, highly competitive athletics teams, student life and learning events, and unique travel and experiential learning activities. Our comprehensive program ensures that students develop a strong foundation of Jewish identity and values, confidence in their ability to achieve, knowledge of the world around them, and the determination to make a difference.

As you will see and read in the following pages, at FJA students are engaged in more than just academic studies. We encourage their creativity, foster personal connections, and enrich their most critical developmental years with innovative, meaningful, and memorable learning experiences. Each new experience complements the other, helping students form a global perspective that is both empowering and grounded in a strong sense of self and Jewish peoplehood.

We are proud to offer an FJA education that not only serves our students, it also provides the greatest guarantee for the future of our community, locally and worldwide.

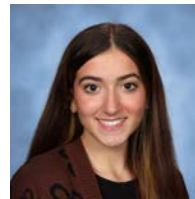
With gratitude for your support and blessings for peace,

Rabbi Azaryah Cohen  
Head of School

# JAGS IN THE NEWS

# כל הכבוד KOL HAKAVOD

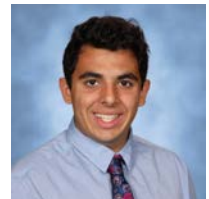
to the FJA students whose essays were featured in the  
Detroit Jewish News Student's Corner.



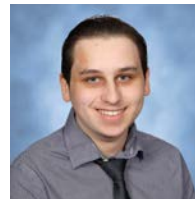
Talia  
Begres '24



Maddie  
Charnas '24



Spencer  
Cherrin '25



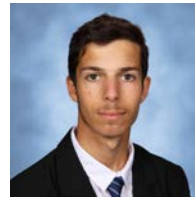
Andrew  
Eisenshtadt '24



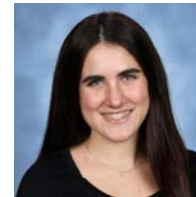
Zachary  
Elbinger '25



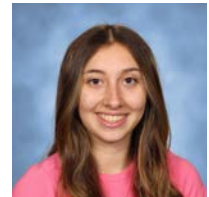
Allison  
Feldman '23



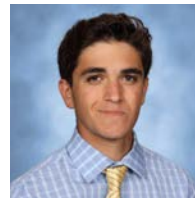
Eliyah  
Fradkin '24



Joely  
Gottlieb '24



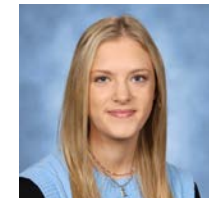
Camryn  
Katzen '24



Caleb  
Robbins '23



Ryan  
Schmeltz '24



Erin  
Starr '23



Evan  
Weitzman '23



Find Student  
Corner Articles  
here!

Over the summer in 2023, Head of School, Rabbi Azaryah Cohen, General Studies Principal, Mrs. Erika Weiler, and Director of Admissions, Mrs. Rachel Maxbauer were interviewed by the *Detroit Jewish News* about FJA's steady enrollment numbers. *Detroit Jewish News*, August 14, 2023



photo from *My Jewish Detroit*, December 5, 2023

Our Jewish Studies instructor, Mrs. Rebecca Strobahn, was interviewed by *My Jewish Detroit* and featured in the *Detroit Jewish News*, to discuss the joys and challenges of teaching in a Jewish Day School post-pandemic. *My Jewish Detroit*, December 5, 2023  
*Detroit Jewish News*, January 18, 2024

photo from Detroit Jewish News, January 4, 2024



At the beginning of January 2024, our wonderful Shinshinim for the 23-24 school year, Itay and Ofri, and their fellow Detroit Shinshinim, were featured on the cover of the *Detroit Jewish News*. It highlighted how the group “made the best out of the situation, have found more purpose in their roles than they ever would’ve expected, and found a second home they’ve connected with on a deeper level than they ever thought would be possible” after the attacks in Israel on October 7, 2023. *Detroit Jewish News*, January 4, 2024

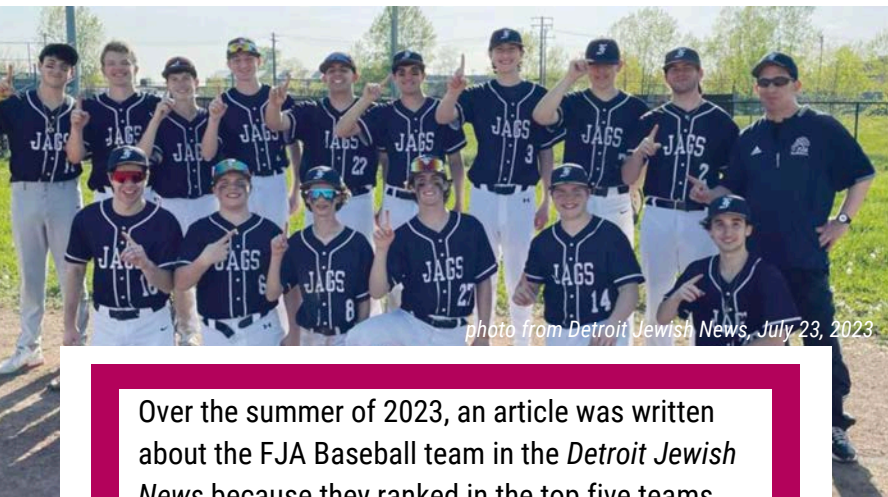
photo from Detroit Jewish News, November 26, 2023

In November 2023, FJA was featured in an article in the *Detroit Jewish News* because of our Niche ranking as the #4 best private high school in Michigan. *Detroit Jewish News*, November 26, 2023

photo from Detroit Jewish News, July 26, 2023

In July 2023, Dr. Walker was announced as our new Athletic Director in the *Detroit Jewish News*! *Detroit Jewish News*, July 26, 2023

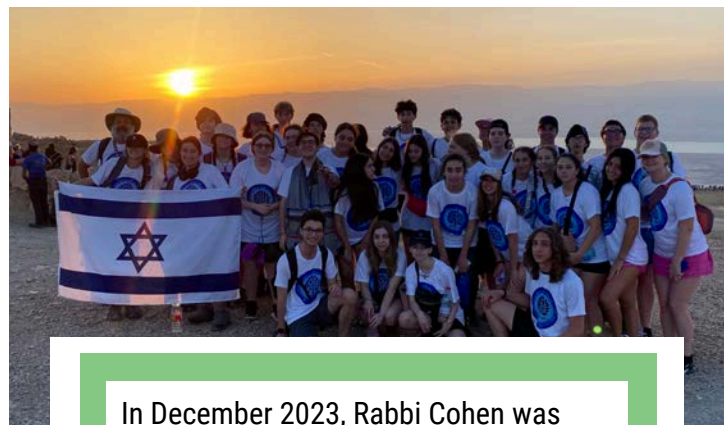
photo from Detroit Jewish News, July 23, 2023



Over the summer of 2023, an article was written about the FJA Baseball team in the *Detroit Jewish News* because they ranked in the top five teams academically in Division 4 by the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association. *Detroit Jewish News*, July 23, 2023

The FJA Boys Tennis Team was listed in *Student and Athlete* because they ranked in the top ten of Division 4. *Student and Athlete*, September 20, 2023

In December 2023, Rabbi Cohen was quoted in the *Forward* and the *Detroit Jewish News* about FJA’s commitment to continue to offer trips to Israel despite the ongoing conflict there. *Forward*, December 21, 2023  
*Detroit Jewish News*, December 22, 2023



# Cap & Gown

# 2024

photo from Detroit Jewish News, May 23, 2024

In May 2024, five FJA seniors were featured on the cover of the *Detroit Jewish News* for their annual "Cap & Gown" issue! The seniors pictured are: Elliot Salama '24, Esti Klein '24, Harry Shavsky '24, Ryan Schmeltz '24, and Rebecca Rabin '24.  
*Detroit Jewish News*, May 23, 2024

In April 2024, an article was published in *The Jerusalem Post* about the Teen Volunteer Mission Trip FJA students participated in through the Jewish National Fund in the spring of 2024. The article highlights the work our students and others did to help make a difference in the lives of Israelis post-October 7, 2023.

*The Jerusalem Post*, April 15, 2024



photo from Jerusalem Post, April 15, 2024



photo from Detroit Jewish News, April 30, 2024

In April 2024, the *Detroit Jewish News* published an article about Teen Volunteer Mission Trip FJA students participated in through the Jewish National Fund in the spring of 2024. The article discussed FJA's participation in the mission trip and featured quotes from Rabbi Cohen, Spencer Cherrin '25, and Ryan Giles '24.  
*Detroit Jewish News*, April 30, 2024

# AWARDS & ACCOLADES



Esti Klein '24 received first prize in the 8th Annual Writing Competition held through the Cohn-Haddow Center for Judaic Studies at Wayne State University!

Zeev Maine '26 received honorable mention in the Cohn-Haddow writing competition!

Read their essays here:



On January 9, 2024, Harry Shaevsky '24 was the recipient of the DAR Good Citizen Award from FJA! The DAR Good Citizen award recognizes and rewards individuals who possess good citizenship qualities of dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism in their homes, schools, and communities. These students are selected by their teachers and peers because they demonstrate these qualities to an outstanding degree.



At Menorah in the D, on December 8, 2023 current FJA student Grace Kleinfeldt '25 and FJA alumna Jennifer Maxbauer '06 had the honor of being lamplighters!

# YEARS IN REVIEW

FALL 2022 - SPRING 2024

סיכום השנה

## ROBOTRAFFIC

FJA's Robotraffic team returned to Israel in the spring of 2023 to participate in the Technion Robotraffic competition! The team began their trip in Haifa where they toured the Technion campus and met the Technion Biomedical Engineering department. There, they saw a demonstration of the motion capture lab. Students also toured the 3D bioprinting lab where the Biomedical Engineering department is working on 3D Printing tissues to eventually be able to print meat and organs. On the day of the competition, the FJA team competed against schools from Argentina, Mexico, and Israel, and came in 4th place overall. The team was awarded for successful participation.





## MMCC TEAM WINS FIRST PRIZE

FJA successfully defended 2022's First Prize at the Maimonides Moot Court Competition, held on Sunday, March 19, 2023 at the Pearlstone Conference Center, near Baltimore. First Prize winning team members were: Samantha Caminker '24 (captain), Eliyah Fradkin '24, and Esti Klein '24. FJA's other MMCC team members were first timers: Brody Fleishman '25, Ryan Reinstein '26, and Jesse Weinstein '24, and four year MMCC participant (and multi-year captain) Evan Weitzman '23. This year's seven students and two teams were both all time highs for FJA. Rabbi Elliot Pachter has been FJA's MMCC advisor for the past four years. After three years of Zoom events, this year marked the return to attending in person.



## STUDENTS ATTEND MODEL UN CONFERENCE

The FJA Model United Nations (MUN) Club attended Yeshiva University's National Model United Nations (YUNMUN) conference, representing the country of Peru. Students acted as delegates for several committees, including: Commission on the Development of Science and Technology, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Human Rights Council, World Food Programme, and World Health Organization. Delegates debated a variety of issues with delegates from other "countries" (Jewish schools from across the country), proposing solutions to real-world problems that continue to plague our planet.



# WASHINGTON D.C. TRIP

Our juniors and seniors had a great time November 5 - 8, 2023 on FJA's first ever Washington, D.C. trip! They visited the Washington monument and World War II memorial, had a picnic lunch on the national mall, went to Arlington National Cemetery, the Iwo Jima Marine Corps memorial, and the 9/11 memorial at the Pentagon.

Our students had an amazing experience at the Supreme Court. They sat in awe of their surroundings as they watched the dynamic interactions among the nine justices and attorneys before them. They had lunch at the Court before learning about the history and significance of both the institution and the building itself through a docent-led lecture.

They spent the afternoon learning about Congress with a walk through the Rayburn, Longworth, and Cannon office buildings, including a look at the subway that runs underground to the Capitol. They capped their tour with gallery passes to the current House floor where they caught the end of a Rules Committee vote. They also explored the Korean War Memorial, Vietnam War Memorial, and the Lincoln Memorial.

Tuesday, they took a tour of Ford's Theater and the White House, along with the Holocaust Memorial Museum, Botanical Gardens, and the MLK Jr. and Jefferson Memorials. They met up with FJA alumni Josh Cohen '05, Cole Eisenshtadt '15, and Sammi Goldsmith '14 in the evening and chatted about the work that they do.



# PRO-ISRAEL RALLY IN WASHINGTON D.C.

The March for Israel on November 14, 2023 was the largest pro-Israel rally in U.S. history. It was an opportunity for Americans to show their support for Israel and condemn rising anti-Semitism around the country. Over 290,000 people attended the rally in person and over 250,000 attended virtually. FJA and Jewish Federation of Detroit sent a cohort of students and staff to attend the rally, but unfortunately due to an alleged "sick-out" by a number of bus-drivers protesting the rally, our students were not able to make it to the March once they arrived in Washington, D.C.

A message from Harry Shaevsky '24 on his experience trying to get to the Pro-Israel Rally in Washington, D.C.:

"Tuesday morning, the FJA contingent of students heading to Washington D.C. was energized for the opportunity to support Israel on the National Mall. Some students, including me, were returning to our nation's capital after last week's four-day trip. Our excitement was quickly squashed at Dulles International Airport, as we were stranded at the airport for 16 hours as a result of a bus driver boycott. This act left me heartbroken as we were the victims of anti-Semitism when our mission was to combat anti-Semitism. As Zionist Jews, now more than ever we must fight to end these acts of hatred and spread our unwavering support for Israel's obligation to defend itself from terrorists."



## PRO-ISRAEL RALLY AT FJA



Those students who stayed at FJA on November 14, 2023 were given the opportunity to virtually attend the rally in Washington, D.C. We learned about the history of Israel and Gaza from Mrs. Rebecca Stroehn before live-streaming the events in the capitol.

# YUNMUN CONFERENCE 2024

In February 2024, six members of our Model UN club, accompanied by Ms. Claire Sandau, traveled to Stamford, CT to participate in Yeshiva University's annual Model United Nations (YUNMUN) conference. Playing the roles of delegates to Qatar, our students represented a variety of positions, often ones with which they may not agree. In advocating for Qatar, our students conducted thorough research of the country's interests and policies across a wide range of issues and concerns. This increased their knowledge of world affairs and their appreciation of and facility with research, preparation, communication and critical evaluation. It was a great trip and we are proud of the students that participated in the conference!



## FJA WINS MMCC PRIZE FOR THE 3RD YEAR IN A ROW!

In April 2024, for the third consecutive year at the Maimonides Moot Court Competition, our team of Samantha Caminker '24, overall captain, Eliyah Fradkin '24, and Esti Klein '24 won a prize. After two first places, this team, otherwise known as Frankel 3, brought home the 2nd place trophy in their division. Returning participants Ryan Reinstein '26, and captains Brody Fleishman '25 and Jesse Weinstein '24, plus "rookies" Ryan Giles '24, Louie Kowalsky '26, Zeev Maine '26, and Aaron Schuchman '26 all worked hard and performed admirably on behalf of the Jags. Mazal tov!



# COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE TREE

At the end of March 2024, our seniors placed their college acceptances onto our brand new college acceptance tree! Each student received a set of “leaves” with the logo of the school(s) and gap year program(s) that the student had been accepted to. We had so much fun finding out where everyone got in and it made it all the more exciting when we got to find out their decisions in the weeks that followed. Thank you to our new college counselor Mrs. Sheri Dunatchik and a special donor who made this possible for our seniors. We look forward to continuing this new tradition!



# MISSION TRIP TO ISRAEL

On March 17, 2024, even as Jewish schools around the country, including FJA, were rethinking their yearly grade level trip to Israel, 7 FJA students and 2 chaperones boarded a flight to Newark for a connecting flight bound for Israel. The cohort included: Spencer Cherrin '25, Eliyah Fradkin '24, Ryan Giles '24, Grace Kleinfeldt '25, Ezra Lupovitch '25, Jacob Miller '25, Caleb Starr '25, Mr. Joe Berstein, and Rabbi Azaryah Cohen.

As a Jewish school, safety and security of students and staff is always a matter of priority. When parents expressed concerns about an Israel trip given the events in Israel post October 7, the school understood, but it also had to contend with a challenge to its fundamental mission - could FJA turn away, in essence abandon Israel, during the time of her greatest need.

The answer was a resounding "no." FJA pivoted to provide any student interested, an opportunity to travel to Israel and volunteer; to lend a hand wherever possible and to give strength and encouragement to our Israeli brothers and sisters.

The 9 person FJA delegation joined 13 other teens from across North America on a 4 day volunteer mission that many agreed was the most important and meaningful trip to Israel they had made. They prepared and packed food for soldiers, assisted with agricultural work, packaged food for the needy, and witnessed the strength and resilience of our people. They had the opportunity to see for themselves that all Israelis, Jewish, Muslim, Bedouin, and Druze, regardless of identity and affiliation, drew strength from each other and reinforced their resolve to work together.

They participated in a variety of activities and volunteered at different organizations in Israel. The group volunteered at Adi Negev, Wadi Attir, and Yad Ezra V'Shulamit and some activities included: cooking at Western Galilee Now, visiting Hostage Square in Tel Aviv, a Druze dinner in Usafia, visiting Kibbutz Reim, a walking tour of Old Jerusalem, and dinner at Machane Yehuda Market. The cohort also saw our former Shinshinot, Lihi and Aya!

Though the trip was brief, they left Israel proud and resolute - knowing that they are part of an incredible people with a rich heritage and together, they form the strength and purpose to confront and tackle even the most difficult of circumstances - Am Yisrael Chai.



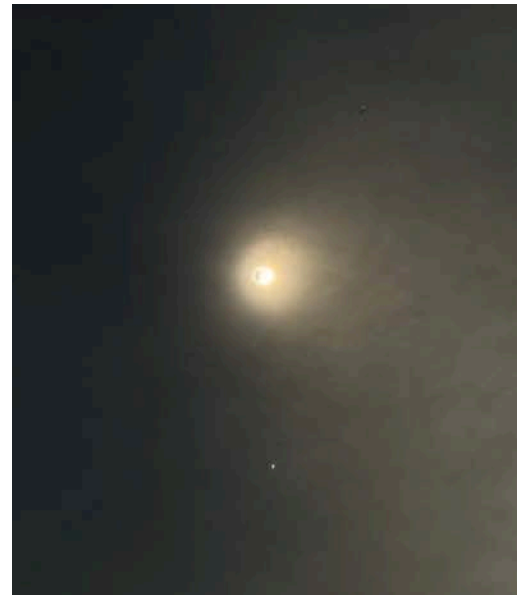
# ECLIPSE FIELD TRIPS

Total solar eclipses are dramatic, stunning, and astounding astrological events. Judaism is deeply connected to astronomy, with our calendar following the phases of the moon. Fun fact: solar eclipses will always fall around Rosh Chodesh (the start of a new month).

On Monday, April 8, 2024 (the day before the start of Nissan) students took day trips to various locations in Ohio to view (and learn about) the total solar eclipse. It was an awe-inspiring experience for the students and staff who made the trek to Ohio. The 9th and 10th grade classes traveled to Back to the Wildlife Rehabilitation in Castalia, Ohio, while the 11th and 12th grade classes started their day at the University of Toledo for a tour of their campus before heading to the Toledo Zoo to view the eclipse.

The field trip came about from the FJA Science Department Chair, Mr. Nicholas Mantas. He said, "I made the joke to my class about perhaps in a few years the school can go on a field trip to view the eclipse. Later that day, I was thinking about how the school introduced experiential learning trips and I proposed the idea to administration. I didn't really didn't know how it was going to be perceived but everyone thought it was a great idea. Two years later and I'm so happy that the school got to go and that the weather cooperated with us."

As one of many experiential learning opportunities available at FJA, this experience was especially unique since there will not be another total solar eclipse that crosses the United States until 2044. It was a once-in-a-lifetime field trip and was an informative, fun, and mesmerizing event for many FJA students. Not only were they able to learn about the science behind how eclipses work but they also could observe how this phenomena affected the animals at the rehabilitation center and at the zoo. According to FJA junior Rena Kantor '25 who was at the zoo: "In the 20 minutes before the eclipse, the giraffes were acting weird. They were more active than I have ever seen giraffes... whipping their heads around, running in circles, and sticking their tongues out. During the eclipse, they went inside their building to sleep, and when it was over, they came back out and kept exhibiting that same weird behavior. The zebras however, started fighting in the moments directly after the eclipse. It was so amazing to see how animals reacted during this once in a lifetime experience."







Other students had a lot to say about their general experiences that day. FJA junior, Lillian Moss '25 said: "It was such an amazing experience to get to see the solar eclipse. I was truly in awe getting to see the eclipse in the path of totality. Not only was watching the eclipse entertaining, but it was also so much fun getting to spend the day and bond with all my friends. Overall, the eclipse trip was a day full of fun and I'm so happy I attended!" According to freshman, Gillie Charnas '27: "The eclipse was a great experience to not only learn about, but get to see with my teachers and classmates, in a setting outside of school. It was fun to learn outside of school and the eclipse was super cool."

FJA junior, Ben Royzenblatt '25, was truly wowed by the day, saying: "The immense reality of the eclipse was very overwhelming... The colossal difference between 99% coverage and 100% coverage is INSANE, proving the brobdingnagian amount of light emitted from the sun. Totality was truly amazing... There was a glowing ring emitting around the border of the moon, it was as if it was a shiny rainbow ring. The atmosphere had suddenly become a false night time."

The eclipse trip is just one of the many experiential learning trips that FJA offers. Students have the opportunity to get outside the classroom and enhance their learning in a myriad of ways. This field trip in particular was "stellar" and FJA is so happy to have provided such a unique experience to their students and staff.



# JAGS IN COMPETITION



The "Jags of Summer" won their second straight Catholic League division championship in Spring of '23 and were named one of the top five teams academically in Division 4 by the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association.

*photo taken by: Jonah Miller '24*

The boys tennis team won its first regional championship during the 22-23 school year and played in the state tournament for the seventh time in nine years. Their coach, Larry Stark, was chosen Regional Coach of the Year by his fellow coaches.



*photo from Detroit Jewish News, November 23, 2022*



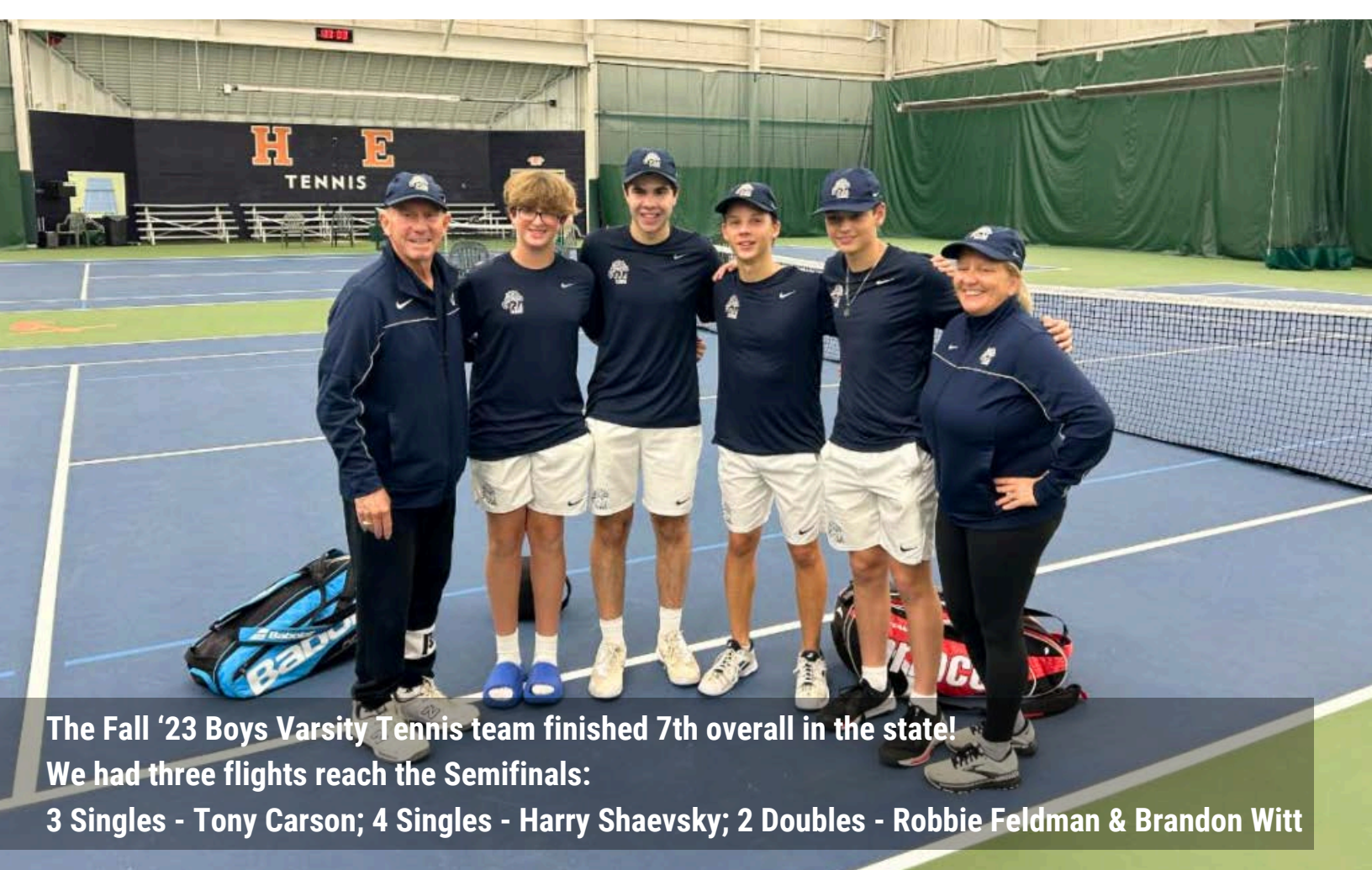


photo from Detroit Jewish News, December 26, 2022

For the first time in a decade, FJA had a girls bowling team during the 22-23 school year! An article in the Detroit Jewish News featured the newly formed girls team, as well as the boys team, and discussed the players and their abilities.

Detroit Jewish News, December 26, 2022





The Fall '23 Boys Varsity Tennis team finished 7th overall in the state!  
We had three flights reach the Semifinals:  
3 Singles - Tony Carson; 4 Singles - Harry Shaevsky; 2 Doubles - Robbie Feldman & Brandon Witt







**The 2024 FJA Boys Baseball team were the winners of the 2024 CHSL Intersectional II league championship!**

**Their championship banner will join the other banners on the championship wall in the FJA Gym this summer.**



# CELEBRATING the ARTS

Under the direction of our fantastic Director of Performing Arts and Theater Manager, Mr. Mitch Master, our talented students put on four wonderful performances over the past two years: "John Lennon & Me" in the fall of '22, "Little Shop of Horrors" in the spring of '23, "Leaving Iowa" in the fall of '23, and "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" in spring '24. We look forward to the fall play on December 11 and 12, 2024!

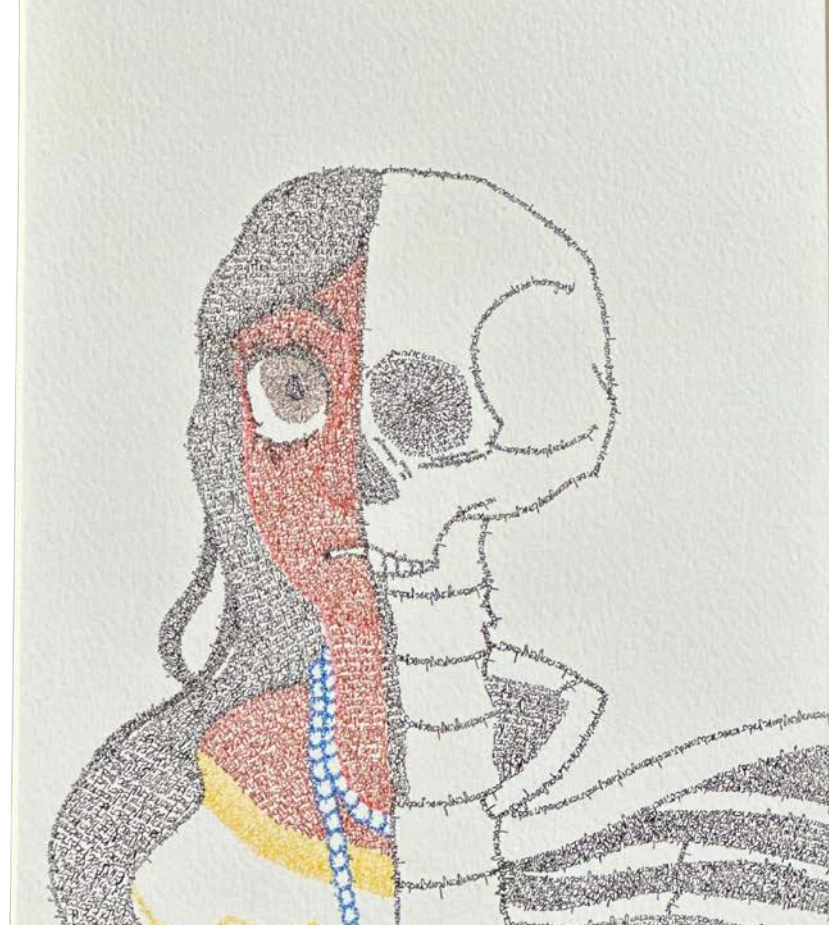
Save the date and see you then!





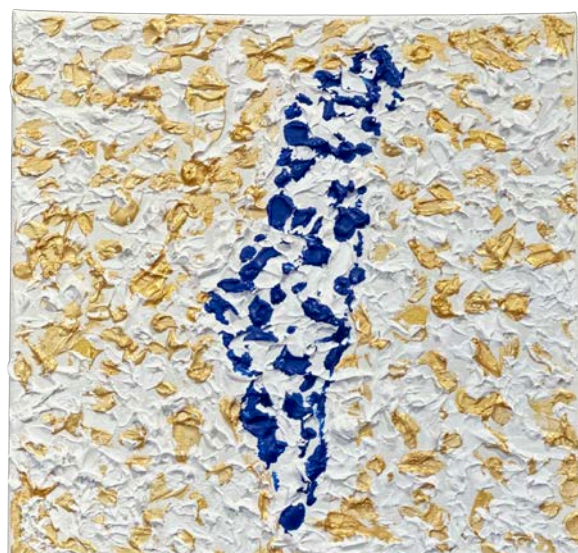






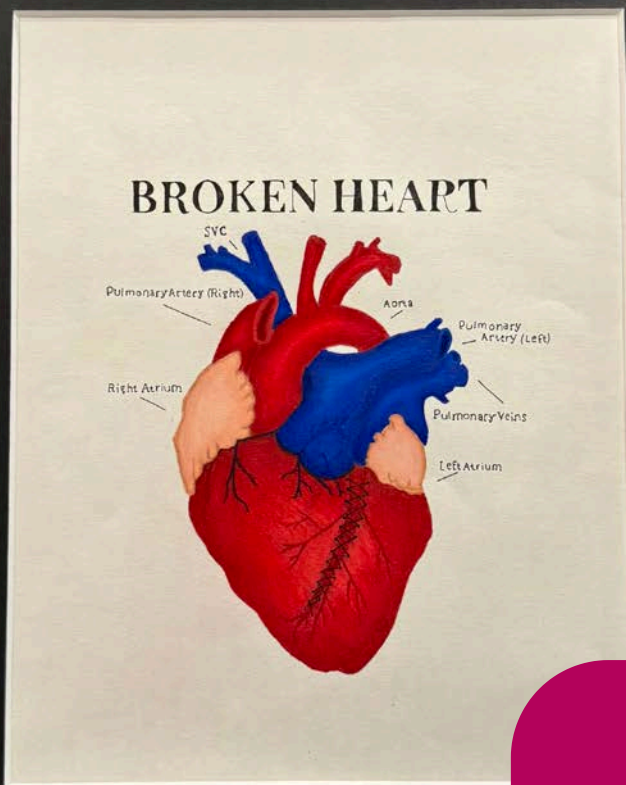
## Visual ARTS

We are grateful to the Burton A. Zipser and Sandra D. Zipser Foundation for their support of music education and performance, including Celebration of the Arts. They established the Zipser Fund for Music Education and Performance at Frankel Jewish Academy in order to create meaningful opportunities for students at FJA to learn about, appreciate, and perform music. Check out some of our talented student's artwork from the 2022-2023 school year and from fall semester of 2023.



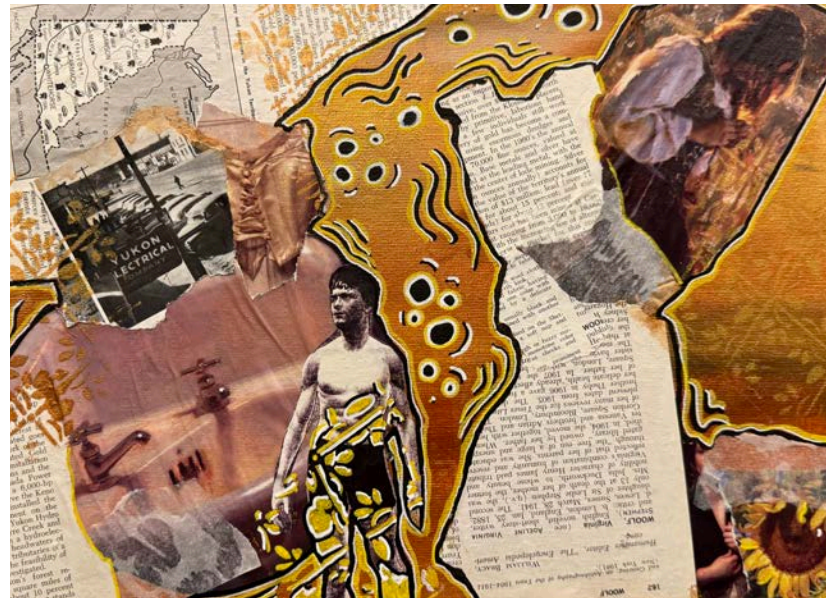
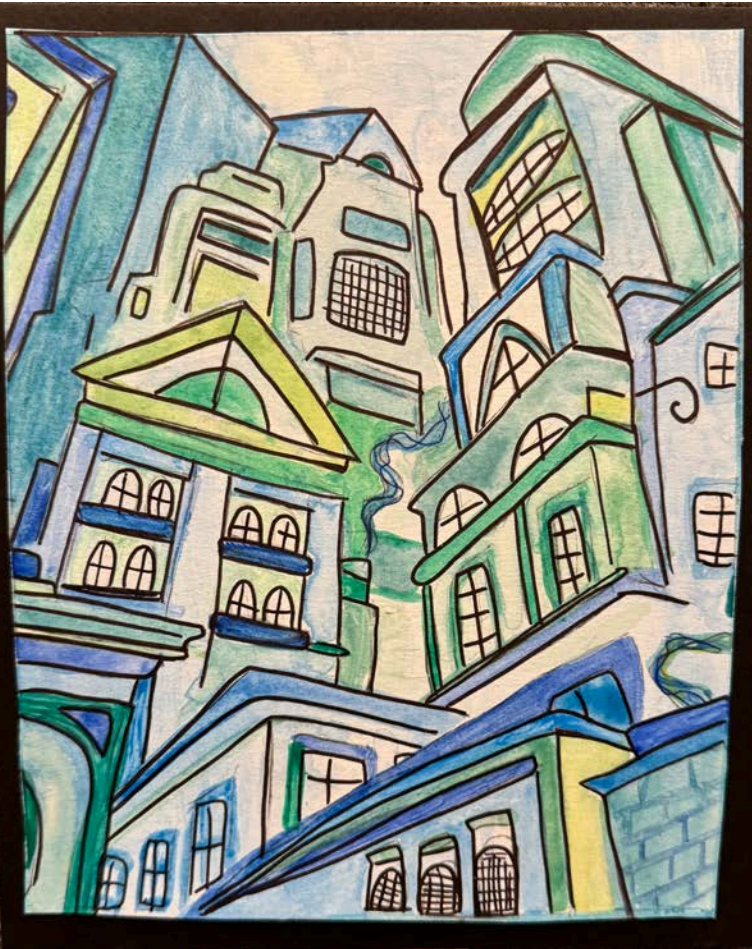
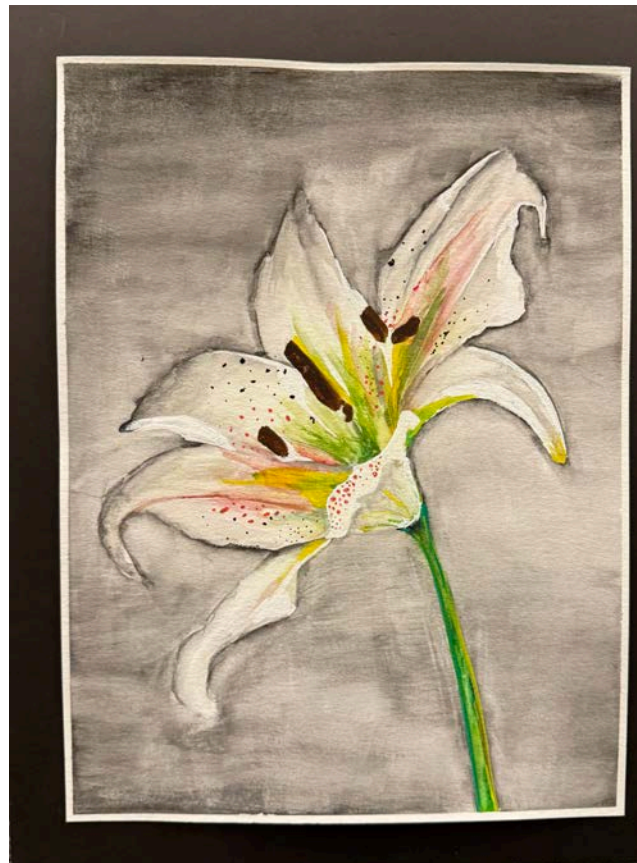
### ARTWORK CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:

Jessie Tracht '26, Kate Winkelman '23,  
Daniella Minevich '24, Zion Rozin '23



**ARTWORK CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:**

Alexia Peysakhov '26, Benjamin Brown '27,  
Abigail Goldberg '24, Rebekah Schwartz '24



## ARTWORK CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:

Hannah Glazer '27, Lilly Resnick '26, Tobi Felhander '27,  
Katya Sryotnikova '24, Emily Miller '27

# STUDENT LIFE

The 2022-2023 school year was full of FJA ruach (spirit)! We were so happy to continue many of our fantastic FJA traditions that students love! All grades had the opportunity to go on a Shabbaton this year. Each grade gathered at Tamarack's Butzel Retreat Center for a Shabbat to build community among both students and faculty and to celebrate the joy of Shabbat. The programs over the course of the day are planned both by students and faculty.

We had a fun time with spirit week in the fall where each grade level wore grade colors, decorated their hallways and competed in grade competitions. The seniors participated in their annual "Senior Lock-In" that included an array of grade bonding activities. Our students also participated in and created many new clubs!




The 2023-2024 school year was also full of FJA ruach! We gained two new wonderful Student Life Coordinators, Ms. Jessica Caminker '21 and Mrs. Erin Young. They helped create many incredible programs for us in the fall and winter: a fantastic spirit week, fun and meaningful Sukkot programming, the homecoming dance, Shabbatons for the senior and sophomore classes, a game-filled Hannukah lunch, and many more daily fun activities.

In the spring, student life with the help of our Shinshinim and Hebrew department also put on programming for Purim, Yom HaShoah, Yom HaZikaron, Yom HaAtzMa'ut, and Yom Yerushalayim. It was a fantastic year and we're so excited to see what the 2024-2025 school year has in store for student life!



# CLASS OF 2023 SENIOR SPOTLIGHTS

**ETHAN BAKER**



Michigan State University

**HUGO BRODSKY**



Wayne State University

**AIDAN CHARLIP**




Michigan State University

**MAX CHARLIP**




Michigan State University

**ALLI FELDMAN**




University of Michigan

**AJ GOODMAN**



Michigan State University

**GABE GORDON**



Michigan State University

**ERIN GREY**



University of Michigan

**ETHAN GREY**



University of Michigan

**CELIA LEVY**



Columbia College Chicago

**ALIYAH LOFMAN**



Gap Year in Israel  
University of Michigan

**MERRICK MICHAELSON**



University of Michigan

**LOGAN MILLER**



Michigan State University

**MORGAN REIFLER**




Gap Year in Israel, Gap Year for Golf  
Miami University

**CALEB ROBBINS**



Indiana University

**JACOB ROND**



Wayne State University

**ZION ROZIN**



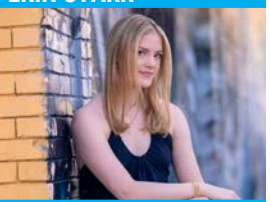
Michigan State University

**AIDEN SCHAFER**




Michigan State University

**ERIN STARR**



Michigan State University

**EMILY TRACHT**




Adrian College

**NOAH TRACHT**



Gap Year in Israel  
Bowling Green State University

**ETHAN WEITZMAN**




Miami of Ohio

**EVAN WEITZMAN**



Northwestern University

**MOLLY WILSON**



Michigan State University


**KATELYN WINKELMAN**



Savannah College of Art and Design


# CLASS OF 2024 SENIOR SPOTLIGHTS

**GENNY ARONOV**



University of Michigan

**ROZIE ARONOV**




University of Michigan

**TALIA BEGRES**




Michigan State University

**VERONICA BERKOVICH**



Western Michigan University

**SHAI BROWN**




Michigan State University

**SAMANTHA CAMINKER**



University of Michigan

**TONY CARSON**




University of Michigan

**MADDIE CHARNAS**



Michigan State University

**GABÉ COZZETTO**



Bowling Green State University

**ERIC DISKIN**



Michigan State University

**ANDREW EISENSHTADT**



Wayne State University

**TALI FEINGOLD**




University of Michigan

**ERICA FISCHMAN**




Reichman University

**SARAH FISH**



Oakland University

**ELIYAH FRADKIN**



University of Michigan

**ABBIE GELFAND**



University of Michigan

**RYAN GILES**



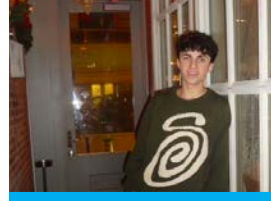
Wayne State University

**LILAH GLAZER**



Wayne State University

**ETHAN GLUZMAN**



Michigan State University

**ABIGAIL GOLDBERG**



College for Creative Studies

**JOELY GOTTLIEB**



Gap Year in Israel  
Binghamton University

**NOAH HACK**



Michigan State University

**ALEXA HERNANDEZ**




Eastern Michigan University

**CARMELA IFRAIMOV**



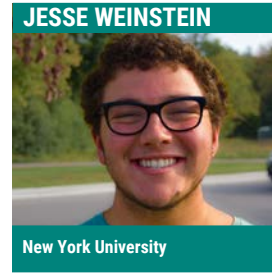
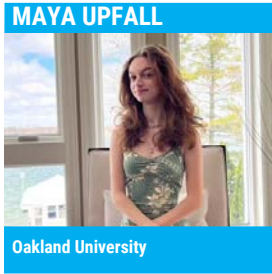
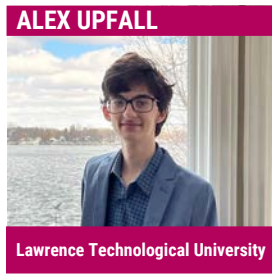
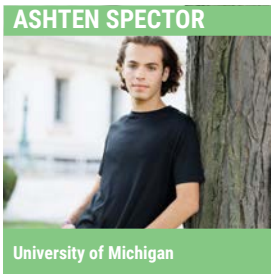
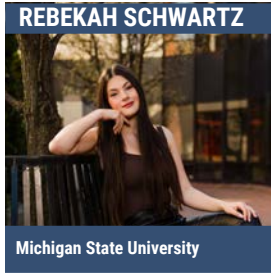
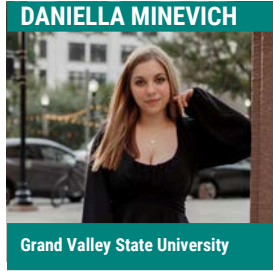
Michigan State University

**ELIANA ISRAILOV**



Gap Year in Israel  
Binghamton University





# MAZAL מזל טוב טוב

# FRANKEL JEWISH ACADEMY

# EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING



## 2023 MONTANA EXPERIENCE



FJA's class of 2026 spent a week at the beginning of June 2023, camping and learning with members of the Northern Cheyenne Nation in beautiful Lame Deer, Montana. They visited the Little Bighorn Battlefield Monument before arriving at the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. The freshmen learned about and built tipis, which they slept in each night! The group also participated in a traditional sweat lodge experience, a beading workshop, and visited the Tribal Council Offices.

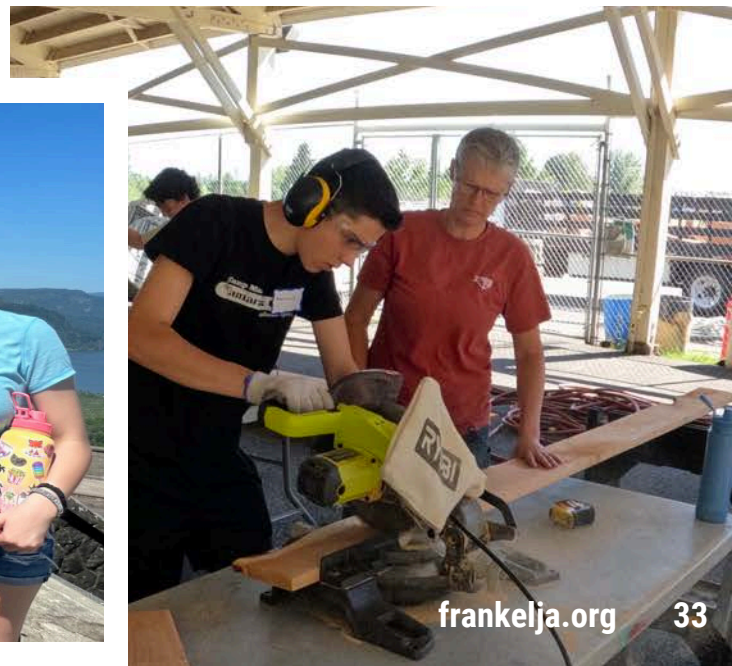
They learned about tribal history, environmental issues, and cultural practices from tribal elders. From the reservation, they headed to Yellowstone where they visited the hot springs at Lava Creek, and hiked the Norris Geyser Basin.



# 2023 PORTLAND COMMUNITY SERVICE EXPERIENCE



FJA's class of 2025 spent a week in Portland, Oregon in the spring of 2023, where they were introduced to the history, culture, and scenery of the Pacific Northwest. While there, they were provided an opportunity to do community service. In keeping with our values of serving the Jewish and general community, and providing tzedek opportunities for students, the sophomores learned about the issue of affordable housing and helped build homes in a "tiny home" community. They learned about some of today's most pressing social issues, including housing, food, and environmental challenges through a Jewish lens. Daily hands-on social and communal work gave the 10th graders an opportunity to deepen their understanding of what Judaism, Jewish history, and Jewish sources have to offer them as agents of positive change.



# 2023 ISRAEL EXPERIENCE



FJA's 11th grade students visited traditional Israeli highlights, like praying at the Western Wall, riding camels, climbing Masada, floating in the Dead Sea, and visiting Ben Yehuda Street. While in Israel, the juniors also learned about other cultures and religions in Israel, the environmental struggles facing Israel today, visited Yad Vashem, and had the opportunity to do community service.



# 2023 EUROPE EXPERIENCE



FJA's 12th graders traveled to Poland and Prague with Ramah Institute Israel. Students learned about the centuries of thriving Jewish communities that existed in pre-Shoah Poland. They then learned what life was like in a shtetl, visited the concentration camps, and explored historic synagogues. After they had a chance to meet current Jewish and non-Jewish college students living in Warsaw today. From Poland the seniors traveled to Prague where they experienced a millennia of Jewish history, walked through the rose garden, visited the Franz Kafka Museum, and much more!



# 2024 MONTANA EXPERIENCE



The class of 2027 traveled to Montana at the end of May 2024. Their first day they visited the Little Bighorn Battlefield Monument and arrived at the Northern Cheyenne Reservation, where they setup camp at Lame Deer High School. The next day they learned about and built tipis, which they had the option to sleep in! The group also participated in a traditional sweat lodge experience, in a beading workshop, visited the Tribal Council Offices, and saw buffalo. Then they headed to Yellowstone where they hiked the Norris Geyser Basin, saw Old Faithful, and Yellowstone Lake. The group also saw the Grand Canyon of Yellowstone and did the South Rim Hike to Artist Point before preparing for Shabbat!



# 2024 PORTLAND COMMUNITY SERVICE EXPERIENCE



Our class of 2026 made their way to Oregon in early June of 2024. They learned about the issue of affordable housing and helped to build homes in a "tiny home" community. The group worked at their worksite each day and explored Portland and the surrounding areas each afternoon. They visited Powell Books, the world's largest independent bookstore, the beautiful Latourell Falls, went whitewater rafting on the Deschutes River, and went roller skating at Oak Park.



# 2024 JUNIOR DAY TRIPS

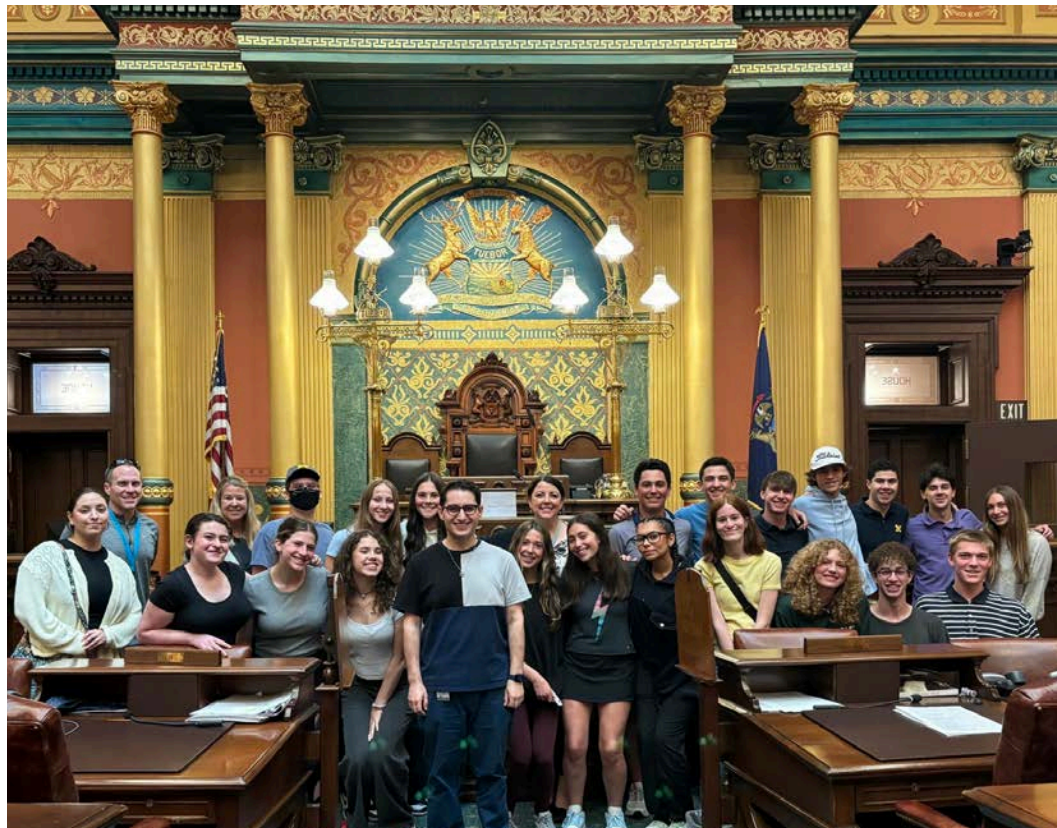
## HOLOCAUST CENTER



The class of 2025 had the opportunity to take a field trip to The Zekelman Holocaust Center in Farmington Hills, MI. The group took a docent-lead tour through the space and were asked to analyze a piece of media in the exhibits that they saw. Following the tour, the 11th graders heard from Gloria Ruskin, the daughter of a Holocaust survivor. She told them her father's story and explained how this affected her life growing up in America. It was a meaningful, impactful, and educational experience.

## LANSING

Our class of 2024 took a trip to our state capital! While there, they learned about how state government works and how it compares to our national government. They also took a tour of the State House and had the chance to meet with our local member of the Michigan House of Representatives, FJA alumnus Noah Arbit '13!





# 2024 JUNIOR DAY TRIPS

## CEDAR POINT

The FJA Cedar Point Physics trip made a comeback in 2024! For years, the freshman physics Cedar Point trip ran for students to learn the science of the rides while they experienced them. At the park, our 11th graders did quick calculations about the forces at play on some of the rides (i.e. rollercoasters) and then had the opportunity to ride them.

Students had a thrilling time!



# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## DANIELLE BROWN '14

### healthygirl KITCHEN



Danielle Brown

100+ Plant-Based Recipes to Live Your Healthiest Life

Danielle Brown '14 always says, "I wish I could go back to high school (I know most people would never say this). I am SO nostalgic for my days at FJA." She stated that she could not pick one favorite memory but some things that made the list include: being best friends with all her teachers, everyone knowing your name in the halls, spirit week, town hall, sleep-in Wednesdays, and long lunches with friends. One of Danielle's funniest memories was when Mr. Merlin (Bible instructor) let Danielle and her best friend, Zoe Soble, perform for their class. Danielle sang "A Whole New World" and Zoe sang "Lean on Me." She said that Mr. Merlin then had the class vote on who was the best and she'll never forget the endless laughter and how much fun they had at school.

After graduating from FJA, Danielle attended Michigan State University where she graduated with honors in Psychology and Healthy Promotion. After MSU, Danielle attended the Institute for Integrative Nutrition before starting her brand "HealthyGirl Kitchen" in 2020. "HealthyGirl Kitchen" is a recipe and lifestyle brand with over 8 million followers on social media. She shares "easy (healthy) vegan recipes with millions of people everyday." Her mission is to "teach people how to take care of their bodies, learn how to cook for themselves, and how to make plant-based meals that are better for them, better for the sustainability of the environment (tikkun olam), and that save animals."

While a student at FJA, Danielle says she "learned the meaning of hard work, diligence, striving to be [her] best." Danielle stated, "I am still connected and friends with my FJA peers and teachers, and I am so thankful to still have those friendships in my life. Frankel truly impacted my life for the long-term." Danielle currently lives in Boca Raton, FL and recently she published her first cookbook, *HealthyGirl Kitchen: 100+ recipes to Live Your Healthiest Life*, and is a best-selling author.

[@healthygirlkitchen](https://www.healthygirlkitchen.com)



# VEGAN JACKFRUIT BRISKET (JEWISH-STYLE)

BY: DANIELLE BROWN '14

**Tender, meaty, juicy, flavorful Jewish style vegan brisket made out of jackfruit! This plant-based version of brisket is perfect for the Jewish holidays.**

**Prep Time 10 minutes**

**Cook Time 1hour**

**Total Time 1hour 10minutes**

**Servings 6**

## Ingredients

- 2 20 oz cans young green jackfruit
- 1 diced yellow onion
- 5 cubed russet potatoes
- 1 cup chopped carrots
- 1 tsp smoked paprika
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp pepper
- 2 cups plain tomato sauce
- 3 tbsp ketchup
- 2 tbsp tomato paste

## Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees F. Rinse and drain the canned jackfruit. Gently shred and pull apart the jackfruit with your hands then saute for 10 minutes in a pan to get rid of some of the moisture.
2. In a casserole dish or roasting pan, add the onions to the bottom of the pan. Then, add the jackfruit to the center of the pan. Add the potatoes and carrots around the jackfruit. Season the jackfruit with paprika, garlic and salt then mix.
3. Top the jackfruit with tomato sauce, tomato paste, and ketchup. Cover and bake for 1 hour or until the potatoes are fork tender.
4. Enjoy!



## MAZAL TOV to...

**Monica Woll Rosen '03** and **Josh Lowenthal '10** for being featured in the Detroit Jewish News "Next Dor" articles.

**Keren (Stiebel) Klein '04** and her family for making Aliyah in August 2022 (Rabbi Lee Buckman welcomed them at the airport). Her son also had a Bar Mitzvah in September 2022.

**Adam Luger '06, Simon Pinter '06, Scott Wasserman '12**, and the rest of the 52 Scripts team. Their film 'A Change of Scene' won first place in the 48 Hour Film Project: Detroit and will compete in Los Angeles during the Filmopalooza film festival!

**Jennifer Maxbauer '06, Judy Margolin Landau '07, Rachel Devries '09, Lauren (Kepes) Rubin '09, Tom Yaari '10, Mallory Tyner '11, Andrew Moss '13, Sara Weinfled '14, and Hank Pinter '15** for being named as Detroit Jewish News' 36 Under 36 winners 2023!

**Ilyssa Oppenheim '06, Carly Cykiert-Miller '10, Jacob Gottlieb '10, Rachel Klar '13, Adar Rubin '13, and Molly Goldman '18** for being named as Detroit Jewish News' 36 Under 36 winners 2024!

**Alexandra (Gudenau) Budnitskiy '11** and **Albert Budnitskiy '08** on the birth of their son Ezra Gershon Budnitskiy.



**Danielle DePriest '08** who was appointed as NEXTGen Detroit's President of the Board.



**Robert Goldman '08** who recently opened his own law firm, The Law Offices of Robert Goldman, PLLC based out of Birmingham, Michigan.



**Rachel (Margolin) Arbit '10** and her husband on the birth of their son, Nate Harold Arbit.



**Carly Cykiert-Miller '10** on her marriage to Eric Miller.

**Lauren (Sandberg) Lewis '08** and her husband on the birth of their daughter Claire.

**Zoe (Pinter) Levett '10** on her marriage to David Levett of Oak Park, MI on 6/2/2024.

**Rachel Devries '09** and **Scott Wasserman '12** on their engagement.



A  
L  
U  
M  
N  
I  
N  
E  
W  
S

# ALUMNI NEWS

**Polina Fradkin '12** and **Chava Levi '17** for being featured on Kveller.com's Instagram page! Polina and Chava formed a duo singing group called The Shvesters where they sing different songs in Yiddish.

**Noah Arbit '13** who was elected as State Representative for Michigan's 20th House District.



**Danielle (Keith) Brown '14** for publishing her book *Healthy Girl Kitchen: 100+ Plant-Based Recipes to Live Your Healthiest Life*.

**Mara Cranis '14** on her engagement to Daniel Levine.



**Chase Marx '14** on the birth of his daughter, Wendy Eleanor, named in blessed memory of her maternal grandmother and paternal great grandmother.



**Emily Miller '16** for being cast in the Chicago premiere of 'Goosebumps the Musical'.

**Rachel Baker '21** for being featured as the Detroit Jewish News cover story and for being the Jewish War Veterans Michigan's newest, youngest, and only female in-service member in the organization.

**Daniel Klausner '21** who served as a paratrooper in the IDF.



**SUBMIT YOUR NEWS  
DIRECTLY THROUGH  
OUR WEBSITE  
[frankelja.org/alumni](http://frankelja.org/alumni)**

# REUNIONS



Over Thanksgiving 2023, the class of 2010 and 2013 held their reunions! The class of 2010 had to push back their 10-year reunion due to COVID-19 and instead held a 13-year "Bar Mitzvah" reunion at Urbanrest Brewery in Ferndale, MI. The class of 2013 had their 10-year reunion at the Franklin Cider Mill in Franklin, MI. There was a great turnout at both reunions and it was so much fun to see everyone reconnect!

We also brought back the alumni basketball game! Alumni played basketball, cheered on their fellow Jags, and came back up to FJA after for some nosh and conversation.



# ADVANCEMENT NEWS



## GRANDFRIENDS DAYS

We were thrilled to welcome 150 guests in person for our annual Grandfriends Day on October 14, 2022! Grandparents, parents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and family friends joined their student(s) to experience a glimpse of their time at FJA. Guests attended two classes and participated in a Sukkot celebration. After two years of virtual visitors, it was so nice to open our doors for an in-person experience.

In the fall of 2023 we had to reschedule Grandfriends Day at the last minute, but had a great time (and a great turn out!) on our new date of November 29, 2023. We opened our doors to over 150 guests and it was so wonderful to watch our students experience school alongside their special guest(s). After enjoying breakfast, guests joined their student(s) at Town Hall. Members of Student Government hosted a fun game "How well do you know your Grandfriend?" After Town Hall, our Grandfriends attended two classes with their student(s).







# 2023 GALA



FJA celebrated the Annual Gala on May 11, 2023. Over 200 people joined the event at the Berman Center for Performing Arts to recognize distinguished alumni honoree David Kurzmann '04 and distinguished staff honoree Pat Anderson.

The event was a resounding success, bringing in significant funds, and highlighting the critical role FJA plays in inspiring the next generation of community leaders.

Thank you to our generous donors and supporters who continue to make Jewish education a top priority.



## TEACHER & STAFF APPRECIATION 2023



Thank you to the many FJA parents for organizing and contributing to Teacher and Staff Appreciation week in winter 2023. The slogan for the week was "We Think the World of Our Teachers and Staff." As part of the around the world theme, each day the teachers and staff were transported to a different country to enjoy a treat inspired by that country.



# 2024 GALA



May 16, 2024, over 200 supporters gathered to celebrate FJA, recognize our Alumni Serving in the IDF, and honor Leroy Zagata at our Annual Gala. It was a meaningful and powerful evening, filled with positive and hopeful energy that could be felt throughout the room. The event started with a delicious strolling dinner in the JCC lobby, followed by a program in the Berman Theater. During the program, we heard about the connection FJA has with Israel and the impact that has on our students, alumni, and community. A video was shown highlighting this important relationship. We also heard performances of "Am Yisrael Chai" and "One Day" from our talented students, Rozie Aronov '24, Eliyah Fradkin '24, and Zoe Schiffer '25. Thank you to all of our generous donors who helped raise crucial funds for FJA. Your generosity enables us to continue providing an exceptional education for our community's future leaders.



## TEACHER & STAFF APPRECIATION 2024

The theme for 2024's Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week was "Thank You From The Bottom Of Our Hearts!" Thanks to the many parent volunteers and donors, our teachers and staff had a week full of "heart" and full stomachs! Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week was made possible because of you!



## **FJA's MISSION**

Frankel Jewish Academy is a rigorous college preparatory high school pursuing academic excellence and Jewish literacy. We inspire students to think critically, creatively, and compassionately; to dedicate themselves to Jewish tradition, peoplehood, and the State of Israel; and to become lifelong learners and leaders.

FJA alumni who volunteered to serve in the IDF are the epitome of our mission. We are so proud of them for protecting the State of Israel and the Jewish people.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

## **ALUMNI WHO HAVE SERVED IN THE IDF SINCE OCTOBER 7**

AVI BUCKMAN '11

KAMREN KERCH '17

DANIEL KLAUSNER '21

JAKE KORMAN '11

MAX KRESCH '14

ERIC LIPSKY '19

CHLOE SCHWARTZ '16

JOSH SIDER '12

MIKEY SOCLOF '09

DAVIDEE WROTSLAVSKY '21

NUCHEM AMNON SHLOMO

BEN MOSHE V'LEAH NECHAMA

## **ALUMNI VETERANS OF THE IDF**

ILAN BEN-AMI '09

ILAN BUCKMAN '07

DAVID DARMON '16

JUSTIN FARBER '10

ANDREA GOLDSTEIN '12

AARON GOSS '08

KEREN (WALSH) HEPNER '07

Yael (KIDRON) JOSEFF '07

JOSH KAHN '11

NATHAN KLAUSNER '17

LAURENNE (KAUFMAN) KLINGER '13

FRAYDA KRESCH '03

ARAVA LEV '06

SHAKED LEV '10

KENDALL MAXBAUER ZUNTZ '09

JOSH NEWMAN '12

OMER OPPENHEIM '12

STEPHANIE (HORWITZ) REUVENI '09

COREY ROSEN '10

ARYEH WEISS '18

# B'RUCHIM HABA'IM ברוכים הבאים

WELCOME NEW  
STAFF TO FJA!



**Jessica Caminker**  
Student Life  
Coordinator



**Sheri Dunatchik**  
Director of College  
Counseling



**Ryann Easterbrook**  
Biology Instructor



**Aleza Elles**  
Learning Support



**Rachel Maxbauer**  
Director of Admissions



**Kimberly Olson**  
Director of  
Advancement



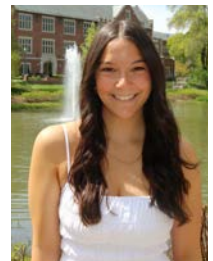
**Michelle Raytman**  
Learning Support



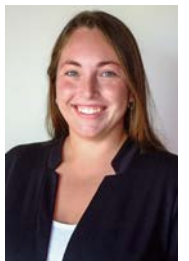
**Mitch Rosenwasser**  
Chief Operating Officer



**Claire Sandau**  
Social Studies Instructor



**Alex Scheier, MSW**  
Social Worker



**Gloria Steinberg**  
Marketing &  
Communications  
Associate



**Bret Sutton**  
Assistant Director of  
Athletics & Student  
Services



**Joseph Thornton**  
English Instructor



**Lee Twina**  
Hebrew Instructor



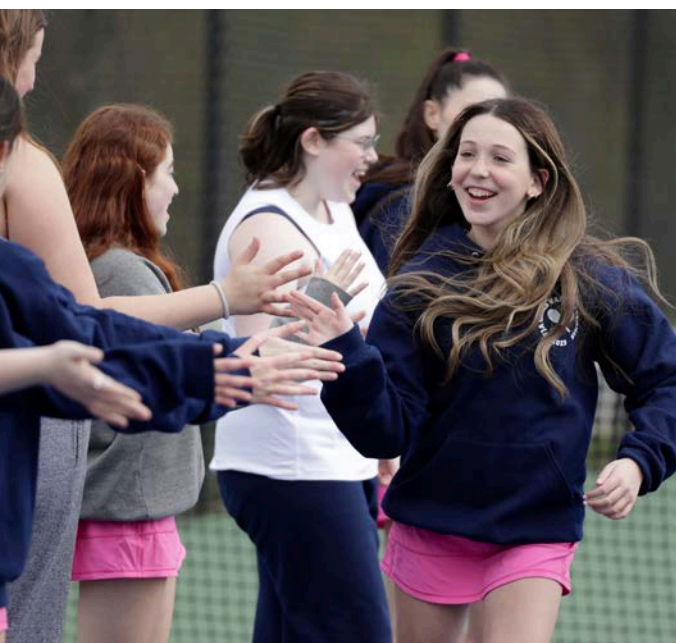
**Brendan Walsh**  
Business Office Manager



**Dr. Robert Walker**  
Director of Athletics &  
Student Services



**Erin Young**  
Student Life Coordinator



## 2022-2023 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Marc Weinbaum, President  
Stacey Lee, Vice President  
Beth Margolin, Vice President  
Michael Eizelman, Treasurer  
Nancy Berman, Secretary  
Bob Canvasser, Immediate Past President

Jill Dean  
Matt Gorman - NEXTGen Liaison  
Rabbi Joseph Krakoff  
Jeremy Michaelson  
Samantha Partrich  
David Salama  
Sarah Sallen '04  
Aaron Schaer '04  
Illana Stern  
Daniel Weiner

## 2023-2024 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Marc Weinbaum, President  
Stacey Lee, Vice President  
Beth Margolin, Vice President  
Michael Eizelman, Treasurer  
Nancy Berman, Secretary  
Bob Canvasser, Immediate Past President

Laura Charnas  
Meredith Dahlen '03  
Jill Dean  
Rabbi Arianna Gordon  
Matt Gorman - NEXTGen Liaison  
Rabbi Joseph Krakoff  
Jeremy Michaelson  
Samantha Partrich  
David Salama  
Sarah Sallen '04  
Aaron Schaer '04  
Mark Schwartz  
Illana Stern

## FJA LEADERSHIP TEAM 2022-2023

Rabbi Azaryah Cohen, Head of School  
Erika Weiler, General Studies Principal  
Cynthia Baker, Chief Operating Officer

## FJA LEADERSHIP TEAM 2023-2024

Rabbi Azaryah Cohen, Head of School  
Erika Weiler, General Studies Principal  
Mitch Rosenwasser, Chief Operating Officer

# WHERE DOES YOUR DONATION GO?

## TUITION ASSISTANCE

More than 65% of FJA students receive tuition assistance. Your support ensures that any teen can receive a Jewish education.

## EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES

Create opportunities for students to broaden their horizons and choose from an array of offerings including technology in the Genesis lab, art, performing arts, sports, and much more.

## SUPPORT FACULTY

FJA's excellent faculty provide ongoing mentorship and close relationships with students that does not end at graduation.

## HOW TO DONATE

**Online:**

[www.frankelja.org/giving](http://www.frankelja.org/giving)

**Call the Advancement Department:**

248.592.5263

**Mail to:**

6600 West Maple Road  
West Bloomfield, MI 48322

**Your gift is important to us.**  
**Thank you for making a gift to Frankel Jewish Academy to help our students**  
*DISCOVER THEIR TOMORROW.*



## CONNECT WITH FJA!



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



[facebook.com/frankelja](https://facebook.com/frankelja)



[@frankel\\_jewish\\_academy](https://@frankel_jewish_academy)



[youtube.com/frankelflicks](https://youtube.com/frankelflicks)



**FRANKEL JEWISH ACADEMY**

6600 West Maple Road, West Bloomfield, MI 48322

frankelja.org | 248.592.5263

