



2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT

30

KATZ HILLEL DAY SCHOOL
of Boca Raton

Where Excellence in Torah & General Studies is our Passion Since 1989/5749

YEARS





A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL AND PRESIDENT

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks wrote, in *Will We Have Jewish Grandchildren?*, "I received an invitation to lunch with the Prime Minister. At the same time,

I received an invitation to take part in the opening ceremony of a new Jewish school in London. Both events were on the same day, at roughly the same time. I could not attend both. Which took precedence?... Governments sustain society, but education sustains the world. On that occasion I regretfully declined the Prime Minister's invitation and opened the school." Education sustains the world because our children are our future.

And it is not simply the knowledge that they acquire in school that maintains the continuum of generations. Rather, it is the values that are transmitted that create a strong foundation for generations to come.



At Katz Hillel Day School we continually strive for excellence in general and Judaic studies. But at the epicenter of our education are core values that we seek to imbue in every one of our students. We teach respect of self, others, and our environment. We develop compassion and a sense of charity amongst our students toward those who need our help. Our students learn to seek justice through their actions and be truthful in their daily engagements. We teach our students to become responsible and engaged members of our community, lovers and supporters of Medinat Yisrael and the United State of America. Our students gain a joy and love of lifelong learning that encourages them to pursue wisdom and understanding through Torah and general learning.

Most importantly, we teach that emunah (faith) in Hashem is the source of all blessings and should be actively present in our lives.

This past year, KHDS students paired with seniors at various local senior residences doing projects with them, sharing stories, learning from them, and performing for them. Our 8th graders once again made deep connections with Holocaust survivors by interviewing them and learning about the survivors' Holocaust experiences while recording these oral histories. Our students invested themselves in additional learning opportunities outside of school hours in programs such as Sunday morning learning, G.R.I.T. (Growing and Learning In Torah), and a Wednesday night Gemara class. More and more lower school students obtained E.M.E.T. badges as they continue to work on their middot both inside and outside of school. And, they did all of this while achieving and growing academically.

We know how well our alumni succeed in high school, college, and beyond. But we also know that, more importantly, they are imbued with the core values that we work so hard to cultivate both inside and outside the classroom at Katz Hillel Day School.

When you invest in our school and thereby our students' education, these are the values you are helping perpetuate for the next generation. Thank you for being part of this sacred charge. We cannot thank you enough for your incredible support!

Rabbi Yehudah Potok, M.S. Ed.
Head of School

Daniel J. Katz
President

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



On the day before Walt Disney passed away, a reporter found his way into his hospital room in Burbank, CA, determined to get an interview. Mr. Disney invited the reporter to lay next to him, because he was only able to speak in a whisper. At one point, Disney pointed to an imaginary map on the ceiling of the yet unbuilt Magic Kingdom theme park, while he described his vision for the park and the attractions in great detail. At the opening of Walt Disney World six years later, someone asked CEO Mike Vance, "Isn't it too bad that Walt Disney didn't live to see this?" to which Vance replied, "He did see it. That's why it's here."

Over 30 years ago, a group of visionaries came together to share their image on the ceiling, which would become Katz Hillel Day School. It would be hard to believe that anyone could have foretold where KHDS would be after our first 30 years, with our growth, our campus, thousands of students, and our impact on their lives and on the community. Those pioneers, however, certainly did; and that's why we're here. Like Disney, they not only had and shared that vision, but they also led the way by pouring their time and resources into our success.

There is a well known story about President Kennedy's visit to the NASA space center in 1962. Along his tour, Kennedy stopped to introduce himself to a janitor carrying a broom, and asked what the man was doing. "Mr. President," he replied, "I'm helping put a man on the moon." This janitor recognized that it would take the contributions of thousands of people filling a variety of roles to achieve this historic feat, and he was one of those critical components.

Torah commentators famously debate the reasons why Avraham Avinu was greater than Noach. Rav Eliyahu Dessler explains that although Noach cared for the animals over the course of their year together in the ark, his kindness was merely reactive since he didn't want the animals to starve. Noach rebuked the wicked in his generation during the 120 years that it took to build the ark, but in all of that time, he never went the extra mile to inspire them to repent, seemingly getting by with just the bare minimum of effort. Avraham, on the other hand, was proactive by nature. He went to great lengths to seek opportunities to perform acts of kindness and spread the Torah and Hashem's oneness throughout the world. That characteristic was key to his greatness, and his legacy as the 'av hamon goyim'- the father of many nations.

It would have been difficult in 1989 to predict the challenges and opportunities that KHDS would face in our first three decades, just as we may not be able to predict what KHDS will look like in another 30 years, or the path we will take to get there. More than simply reaching the moon, we are aiming to change the course of generations and secure the eternity of Klal Yisrael, and a task of that magnitude will require the efforts of many people in many different roles. But we will have a new generation of pioneers to proactively assure that we fulfill our vision of what KHDS can be in 2049 and beyond, and I'm eager for you all to join our team.

Please contact me at jsharp@hilleldayschool.org to discuss how we can best utilize your unique vision, talents, and resources in this endeavor. Let your legacy mirror that of Avraham Avinu and partner with us to endow thousands of children with a Jewish education, and secure the eternity of Klal Yisrael.

Joe Sharp
Executive Director

2018-2019 / 5778-5779 ADMINISTRATION

Head of School

Rabbi Yehudah Potok, M.S. Ed.

Principal

Early Childhood – Grade 3
Chayim Dimont, M.S. Ed.

Principal

Grades 4 & 5 and Judaic Studies Grades 1-8
Hadassah Smolarcik, M.S. Ed.

Executive Director

Joe Sharp

Director of Development

Suzanne Rice

BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT

Daniel J. Katz

PTA PRESIDENT

Rachel Harow, M.S.W.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Daniel Adler

Harry Bloom, M.B.A., Ed.D.

Orlie Cohen, Ph.D.

Benjamin Freedman, M.D.

Rabbi Efreim Goldberg

Rachel Harow, M.S.W.

Daniel J. Katz

Sharona Kay, M.A. Ed

Rabbi Philip Moskowitz

Joshua Stern, M.D.

Ted Struhl

TRUSTEES

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Avraham Belizon, M.D.

Evan Landau, M.D.

Philip Landau, Esq.

Jessica Matiasch

Elan Rosenblat, M.D.

Dvora Weinreb Scher, Esq.

Todd Slesinger

Gil Stein

Joshua Stern, M.D.

Teddy Struhl

Ashi Weisstuch, M.D.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Hindy Rubin, Psy. D.

PAST PRESIDENTS

Ellen Channing

Bradley Cohen, M.D.

Elise Dolgow

Howard DuBosar, Esq.

Linda Levy

Debra Michaud



A MESSAGE FROM FINANCIAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

We did it!!! We surpassed our increased Annual Campaign goal of \$700,000 – what an amazing achievement for our 30th Anniversary! And

each of our 2018-2019 donors played a part in helping us to meet and exceed this goal. How did we do it???

Our major fundraiser of the year, the **30th Anniversary Annual Journal Dinner**, raised \$166,544 as we honored **Rabbi Josh and Simone Broide** on January 8, 2019.

The event also paid tribute to **Dr. Neal and Bonnie Weinreb**, who received the *Helen Cohan, z"l, Dor L'Dor Society Award*, and seven faculty members were recognized for their long time dedication to KHDS. See the full review on page 12.

The **Annual Mega Raffle** brought in \$51,421 as donors tried their luck to win one of many prizes, including the \$100,000 grand prize, made possible by a collaboration of Torah institutions.

Over "Fore"-ty nine thousand dollars (\$49,000) was raised through our **5th Annual Parent-Child Golf Outing**, held on May 19, 2019. See page 13 for the event in review and thank you to our generous sponsors.

General donations accounted for \$88,646 of our Annual Campaign, and of this, \$25,000 was awarded by a national foundation thanks to 8th grade student **Ariella Mayer's** winning essay from the **Better2Write** competition. Other general donations include tributes (in honor or in memory of a loved one), Changebowl (download the app to seamlessly donate your spare change), and the **Koppie Cohn Day of Learning Program** which is endowed in memory of **Menashe Koppel Cohn, A"H**, by the **Cohn family** and raised over \$6,000 for the 2018-2019 school year.

Designated gifts are those donations allocated for specific programs and innovative projects. This past year \$102,507 was raised to support programs like class trips (8th grade Israel Trip and 7th grade Washington, D.C. trip) as well as \$65,000 generously donated by the PTA for our state-of-the-art Makerspace. The **Charles Scher Teacher's Discretionary Fund**, initiated by the **Scher family**, also continues to grow and assist faculty in need of financial assistance.

The "lion"-share of scholarship support, however, comes from our **Major Gifts Societies**. This generous group of donors raised \$267,000 over the past year and just as a lion, they are pillars of strength in support of Jewish education. In appreciation of our most generous donors, we created the new Hillel Society, which recognizes cumulative lifetime gifts of over \$1 million. We also introduced the Menachem Begin Society, to promote lead gifts of \$100,000. And of course our staple societies: Lamed Vav, Chai, and Maimonides Societies, continue to grow. For more information, and a full list of society members see page 6.

Our **Every Parent Campaign (EPC)** provides every KHDS family with the opportunity to donate and 'give back' to our school with a gift of tzedakah, regardless of their financial situation, as everyone is acknowledged equally. Every dollar counts and families can give any amount they feel comfortable with, based on their own personal circumstances. Any donation to the Annual Campaign or a designated gift qualifies. See page 10 for a listing of EPC participants.

We also continue to grow our **Dor L'Dor Society** for grandparents who donate \$360+. Our Honor Roll, on

pages 8-9, recognizes those generous grandparents who have supported the campaign.

All of these tzedakah opportunities benefit the scholarship fund of which over \$1.8 million is provided for families in need of scholarship assistance. It also allows KHDS to continue to maintain standards of excellence in all aspects of its educational programs.

Not all of our programs are based on donations though. The **Scholar Society** asks for your gift of "wisdom." Grandparents and community members can get involved while sharing their life and career experiences with KHDS students and make a direct impact on our future generations. Several Scholar Society speaking engagements were held throughout the year including our Inaugural Career Panel (see page 11).

After-lifetime giving is yet another important component to the longevity of our school. Our **Atid Legacy Society** now has 60 members (see page 7). We would like to acknowledge the **Jacobson Jewish Community Foundation of the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County** and the **Harold Grinspoon Foundation**, for sponsoring the Life & Legacy program over the past four years. This vital campaign has encouraged KHDS to focus on promoting planned giving, endowments and other after-lifetime giving opportunities so that we may continue to thrive and educate children for generations to come.

We are additionally grateful to the **Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County** for their ongoing support in funding a portion of our general scholarship fund through the tuition assistance grant as well as through other grant opportunities.

Special thanks to Executive Director, **Joe Sharp**, for his time and resources in supporting the Development Office. His hard work on the Annual Raffle, soliciting major sponsors for our Golf Outing and Journal Dinner, and all of his time and assistance behind the scenes is so greatly appreciated. And in his spare time, Joe's involvement and efforts with Teach Florida and other organizations has resulted in increased scholarship aid, security funding and other substantial grants.

We also acknowledge **Dvora Scher** for her time and efforts in assisting the Development Office. Dvora is the Chair of the Dor L'Dor and Scholar Societies, and is an active member of our Life & Legacy Team. She is also offering free confidential consultations and a last will and testament, codicil and/or trust amendment, as well as other useful guidance about legacy planning. Dvora recognizes the importance of relationship building with our grandparents and community friends and we are thankful to have her as part of our team.

Finally, we thank **Rabbi Yehudah Potok** and **Daniel Katz** for their support, leadership and guidance over the past year. Their dedication and love for our school generates an excitement and keeps us striving for continued excellence!

You can make a gift of tzedakah anytime through our website. Go to <https://www.hilleldayschool.org/support-hds/donate/>.

Orlie Cohen, Ph.D.
Financial Resource
Development Chair

Suzanne Rice
Director of
Development

WAYS TO GIVE

Major Gifts

- ◆ **Hillel Society** members have achieved \$1 million in cumulative lifetime giving.
- ◆ **Menachem Begin Society** members donate \$100,000 (payable over 4 years).
- ◆ **Lamed Vav Society** members donate \$36,000 (payable over 3 years).
- ◆ **Chai Society** members donate \$18,000 (payable over 2 years).
- ◆ **Maimonides Society** members donate \$15,000 (payable over 3 years).

Annual Campaign

- ◆ **General Scholarship Fund**
- ◆ **Koppie Cohn Day of Learning Program:** This successful program is endowed in memory of Menashe Koppel Cohn, A'H, by his parents, Naomi & Todd Cohn, and his siblings, Eli Meir, Leora and Tamar.
- ◆ **Tribute Donations** (in honor of, in memory of)
- ◆ **Mega Raffle**

Events

- ◆ **Annual Journal Dinner**
- ◆ **Annual Parent-Child Golf Outing**

Designated Gifts

- ◆ Donations designated for specific programs or projects and class trips
- ◆ **Charles Scher Teacher's Discretionary Fund:** This special fund, available for any faculty member who may be dealing with difficult financial circumstances, was created in blessed memory of Charles Scher, beloved brother of Herschel and Dvora Scher (KHDS parents).

Every Parent Campaign

- ◆ A gift to any of the above opportunities (Major Gifts, Annual Campaign, Events and Designated Gifts) qualifies as fulfilling the **Every Parent Campaign** (for KHDS parents only). This annual fundraising effort provides every KHDS family with the opportunity to donate and give back to our school with a gift of tzedakah, regardless of their financial situation, as everyone is acknowledged equally. Every dollar counts and families can give any amount they are comfortable with, based on their own personal circumstances. Our annual goal is to reach 100% participation in this critical effort to raise scholarship funds in support of Jewish education.

Dor L'Dor Society

- ◆ Donations of \$360+ from grandparents are considered part of the Dor L'Dor Society.



Capital Campaign

- ◆ Dedication and naming opportunities are available throughout the Milton B. Katz Campus. See page 7 for more information.

Atid Legacy Society

- ◆ Planned giving is not only important for you and your family's future, but is crucial to the longevity of our school. Gifts including endowments, bequests, life insurance and retirement accounts all qualify. See page 7 for more information.



Shopping & Retailer Programs

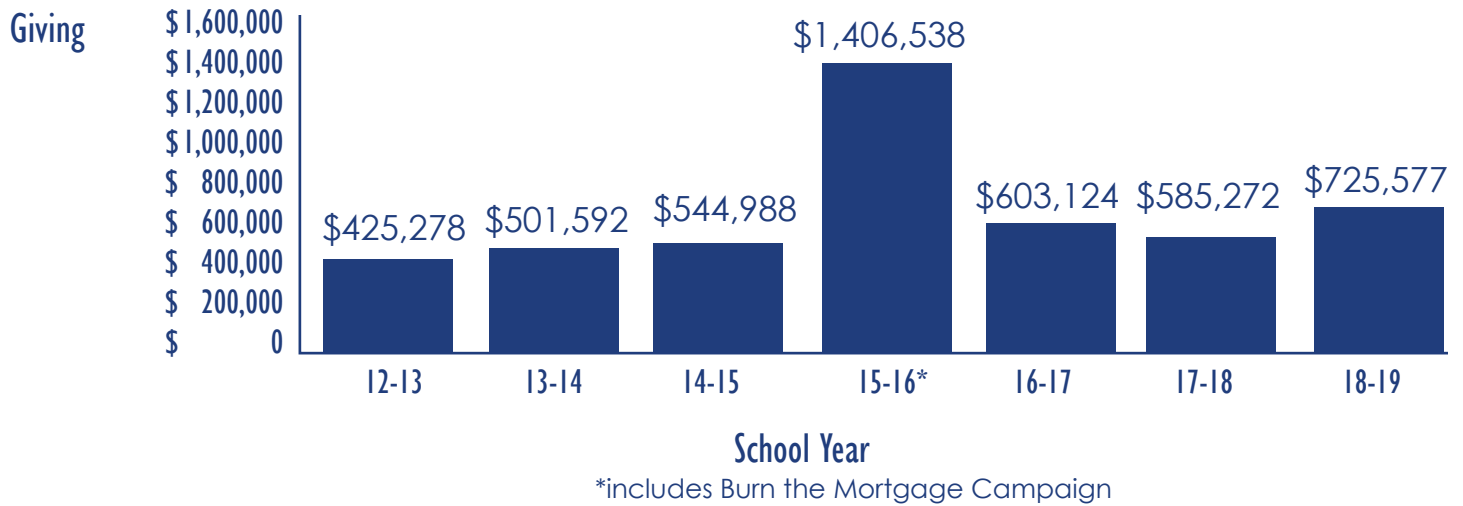
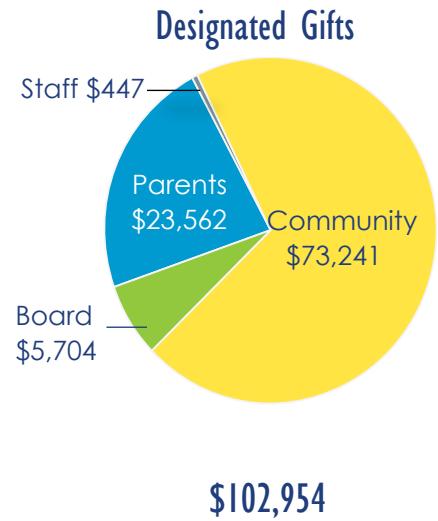
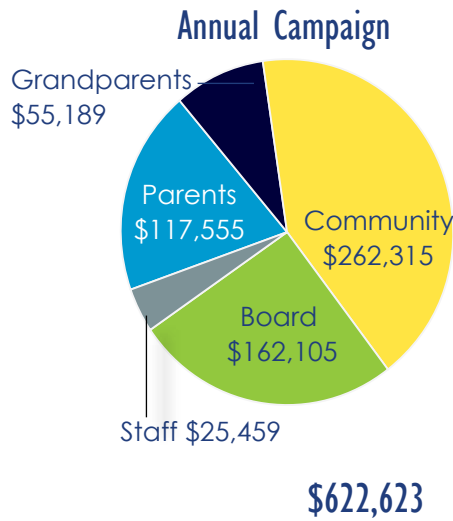
- ◆ Dlyted and Scrip offer hundreds of gift card merchants at no extra cost, or donate your spare change easily with the Changebowl mobile app! Visit our website for more information at <https://www.hilleldayschool.org/support-hds/scrip-program/>.



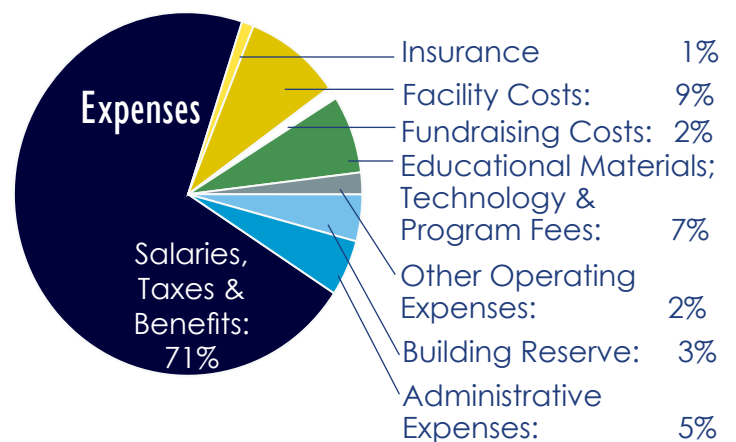
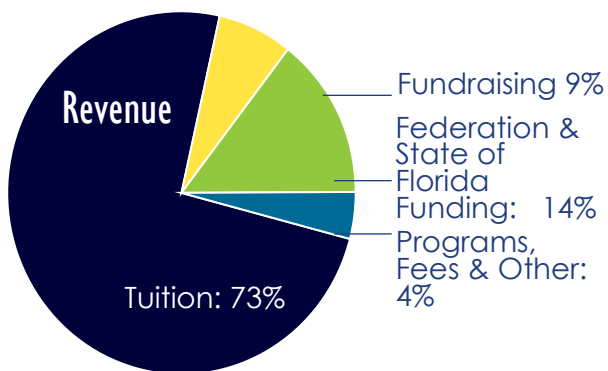
For more information on any of these opportunities, contact the Development Office at 561-470-5000 ext. 225.

GIVING OVERVIEW

Fundraising Success of Katz Hillel Day School



Operating Budget Fiscal year ending June 30, 2019



MAJOR GIFT SOCIETIES



HILLEL SOCIETY

We are excited to announce the establishment of the **Hillel Society**, which gratefully recognizes donors who have cumulative lifetime giving of over \$1 million. These generous donors truly follow the philosophy of true menschkeit.

Anita Katz
Daniel & Caroline Katz
Teddy & Linda Struhl

LAMED VAV SOCIETY

Katz Hillel Day School gratefully recognizes the generosity of the members of the Chavurat Ha-Lamed Vav, the **Lamed Vav Society**, who contribute \$36,000 or more to the KHDS Annual Campaign (payable over 3 years).

Sal & Leslie Abady	David & Marissa Levenson
**Daniel & Liora Adler	Rabbi Alejandro, z"l, & Sandra Lilienthal
Alliance for Jewish Education	Harold & Donna Richter
Anonymous	Michael & Jill Rose
Al & Evelyn Begas	Michael & Amy Schiffman
The Bensmihen Family	Reid & Naomi Shapiro
Esther Berglas	Paul & Caryn Sherman
Steven & Rebecca Berkeley	Teddy & Linda Struhl
Michael & Mirta Brown	Warren & Robin Struhl
**Eli & Orlie Cohen	Benjamin & Donna Tripp
Daniel & Gilah Danino	Michael & Risa Zimmerman
Michael & Sheryl Dennis	
Brian & Sharon Ferber	
*Benjamin & Cara Freedman	
Joseph & Galit Freedman	
Roger & Lisa Gladstone	
Glen & Rosa Golish	
Hillel Gomolin	
Avi & Laura Greenbaum	
Stanley & Ana Haar	
Jeffrey & Jodi Harris	
Bernie & Melanie Kaminetsky	
Daniel & Caroline Katz	
David & Sharona Kay	

MENACHEM BEGIN SOCIETY

Created to honor donors in our highest tier of annual giving, the **Menachem Begin Society** gratefully recognizes those who contribute \$100,000 to the Annual Campaign (payable over 4 years).

** Anita Katz
* Daniel & Caroline Katz
* Alexander & Yochi Mitchell
** Cheryl Kari Golden Memorial Fund

CHAI SOCIETY

Katz Hillel Day School gratefully recognizes the generosity of the members of the **Chai Society**, who contribute \$18,000 to the KHDS Annual Campaign (payable over 2 years).

Avraham & Elana Belizon	David & Sara Markowitz
Lisa Kaufman Bensmihen	Jack & Marilyn Pechter
Mark & Helen, z"l, Cohan	Michael & Jill Rose
*Eli & Laurie Epstein	Stuart & Hindy Rubin
Benjamin & Cara Freedman	Michael & Amy Schiffman
Glen & Rosa Golish	Teddy & Phyllis Struhl
Avi & Laura Greenbaum	Warren & Robin Struhl
Stanley & Ana Haar	Hedy & Dori Zaghi
Rabbi Alejandro, z"l, & Sandra Lilienthal	Michael & Risa Zimmerman

MAIMONIDES SOCIETY

Katz Hillel Day School gratefully recognizes the generosity of the members of the **Maimonides Society**, who contribute \$15,000 to the Annual Campaign (payable over 3 years).

*Daniel & Emely Aghion	*Elan & Juliana Rosenblat
Steven Berkeley & Rebecca Stern	*Jason & Eva Saka
Mark & Helen, z"l, Cohan	*Paul & Caryn Sherman
Hillel & Chayi Cohen	Adam & Shaani, z"l, Splaver
Meyer & Laura Cohen	**Joshua & Stephanie Stern
Benjamin & Cara Freedman	**Teddy & Phyllis Struhl
**Chanoch & Rachel Harow	**Ashi & Chava Weisstuch
David & Sharona Kay	Jonathan & Suri Winograd
Philip & Jennifer Landau	
*Rabbi Yehudah Potok & Shira Loewenstein	

*New or renewed member for 2018-2019 Campaign
** Current member for 2018-2019 Campaign

LEGACY PLANNING: WHY IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY

Take the steps to ensure that your hard-earned wealth will seamlessly transition to your chosen beneficiaries. With an estate plan, you can take control to ensure that your vision for the future is realized, and not just left to some corporate or governmental bureaucracy to decide. Many people think that an estate plan is purely the act of dividing assets between beneficiaries and should be done "later in life." However, this is far from the truth. An estate plan should include details of your wishes for your future medical care in the event that you become incapacitated and you should also specify instructions about how you would like your finances to be managed. It is wise to do this "sooner" rather than "later."

And while you are taking care of this important matter, why not include KHDS as a beneficiary? It can be as easy as designating the school in your retirement plan or IRA by filling out your plan's beneficiary form. Simple as that! Other easy ways to make a legacy gift include naming us in your life insurance policy, through a charitable gift annuity or remainder trust, or a bequest in your will.

Your planned Legacy gift will:

- help KHDS continue to provide best practices in education, programming, technology, and facility so that we will always offer the very best and be attractive to new students.
- help stabilize and ultimately lower tuition costs so that more families can choose KHDS for their children.
- ensure that no child, regardless of their family's financial situation, is denied this impactful Jewish education.

JUST DO IT...

We are offering free confidential consultations and services, which include a last will and testament, codicil and/or trust amendment and other useful guidance about planning your legacy, thanks to the donation of pro bono services by **Dvora Weinreb (Scher)**, Esq., KHDS parent and Board member. Please contact the Development Office if you would like to set up a time to speak with Dvora.



Atid Legacy Society

Sal & Leslie Abady	Rabbi Efreim & Yocheved Goldberg	Aron & Penina Schoenfeld
Daniel & Liora Adler	*Glen & Rosa Golish	David & Rand Schwartzwald
Danny & Emely Aghion	Jeffrey & Naomi Gross	Reid & Naomi Shapiro
Anonymous	Chanoch & Rachel Harow	Joe & Shira Sharp
Ari & Cara Beim	Matthew & Tova Hocherman	Joseph & Selma Sitrick
Rabbi Gur & Ira Berman	Noam & Jill Kaminetzky	Rabbi Mordechai & Hadassah Smolarcik
William & Batzion Berman	* Daniel & Caroline Katz	Gil & Lysee Stein
Marc & Sara Bienenfeld	David & Sharona Kay	Ido & Gila Stern
Harry & Shelly Bloom	Evan & Ilana Landau	Joshua & Stephanie Stern
Rabbi Josh & Simone Broide	Phillip & Jennifer Landau	Ted & Linda Struhl
Rotem & Jordana Carmel	Stephen J. & Elizabeth Landes	Teddy & Phyllis Struhl
Mark & Helen, z"l, Cohan	* Rabbi Samuel J. & Breindel Levine	Hommy & Syd Tannenbaum
Aaron & Sarah Cohen	Robert & Linda Levy	Neal & Bonnie Weinreb
Anna S. Cohen	Howard & Lisa Luber	Ashi & Chava Weisstuch
Eli & Orlie Cohen	Mark & Jessica Matiasch	Jonathan & Suri Winograd
Eyal & Elise Cohen	Zoltan & Jolana Matiasch	Uri & Rachel Yudewitz
Jerry & Jeanne Cohen	Aryeh & Brandy Meiteles	Hedy & Dori Zaghi
Meyer & Laura Cohen	Rabbi Yehudah Potok & Shira Loewenstein	Michael & Risa Zimmerman
Todd & Naomi Cohn	Shira Loewenstein	
Rabbi Adam & Shira Englander	Michael & Jill Rose	*Founding Members
Benjamin & Cara Freedman	Herschel & Dvora Scher	Legacy Gift Formalized
Rabbi Simcha, z"l, & Anna Freedman		

Katz Hillel Day School of Boca Raton successfully completed Year 4 of the "Life & Legacy" program, sponsored by the Jacobson Jewish Community Foundation of the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. This vital campaign has been implemented to help promote planned giving, endowments and other after-lifetime giving opportunities. KHDS has secured over 60 letters of intent (LOI's) for legacy gifts, many of which have already been legally formalized.

We are thankful for those who understand the importance of making their legacy commitment now to ensure the future of KHDS so it may continue to provide a stellar Jewish education to our children for years to come.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

MIDDLE SCHOOL BUILDING

\$1,500,000	Middle School & Building
\$500,000	Beit Midrash (Reserved)
\$250,000	Atrium
\$100,000	Science Lab
\$80,000	Apple-Mac Computer Lab/ KHDS PTA
\$60,000	Head of School's Office/The Haar Family
\$60,000	Middle School Conference Room/ Leonard, z"l, & Eunice Rose
\$50,000	Elevator
\$50,000	* Classrooms
	Epstein Family
\$36,000	Offices (3 available)
\$36,000	Tutoring Classrooms
\$36,000	Main Entrance Mezuzah/The Markowitz Family
\$36,000	Aron Kodesh(Beit Midrash)/The Tripp Family
\$36,000	BRS West Entrance Mezuzah
\$25,000	Beit Midrash Stained Glass Windows
	Anonymous (Chevron)
	Mark & Helen, z"l, Cohan (Yerushalayim)
	Merv & Elaine Jacobs (Teveria)
	The Muller Family (Tzfat)
\$25,000	Ner Tamid (Beit Midrash)/Michael & Risa Zimmerman
\$12,500	Classroom Mezuzahs & Other Outer Door Mezuzahs
	Isaac & Ilona Grynstein (2)
	Martin, z"l, & Edith Stein (1)

OTHER NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

	Milton B. Katz Campus		
	Teddy & Linda Struhl Elementary School		
\$500,000	Early Childhood Program/ Estate of Rosalind Henwood, z"l		
\$250,000	Aunt Jessie's Playground		
\$200,000	SATA-PTA Pool/Daniel & Caroline Katz & Family & KHDS PTA		
\$175,000	Makerspace/KHDS PTA & Legacy Learning Labs		
\$75,000	Art Room/Legacy Learning Labs		
\$75,000	Kiln Room		
\$45,000	Sunshades (3)/KHDS PTA		
\$12,500	Classroom Mezuzahs & Other Outer Door Mezuzahs		
\$3,600	Benches		
	OUTDOOR HAAR ATHLETIC FIELDS		
\$100,000	Basketball Court		
\$100,000	Softball Field		
\$100,000	Soccer Field		
\$25,000	Scoreboards/KHDS PTA		
\$25,000	Bleachers (6 available)		
	GYMNASIUM BUILDING		
\$1,500,000	Gymnasium	\$25,000	Scoreboards (2 available)
\$100,000	Main Lobby	\$25,000	Boys Locker Room
\$36,000	Main Entrance	\$25,000	Girls Locker Room
	Mezuzah	\$18,000	Trophy Case
\$50,000	Bleachers		
\$36,000	Offices (2 available)		

Many classrooms are available. Some contributions have the option to be payable over as many as five years. If you, or someone you know, may be interested in one of our Capital Campaign opportunities, please contact the Development Office at 561-470-5000 ext. 225.

KATZ HILLEL DAY SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the following donors of \$360 and above to the 2018-2019 Campaign (includes designated gifts)

KETER TORAH

Crown of Torah \$50,000+

Jewish Federation of
South Palm Beach County
Daniel & Caroline Katz
KHDS PTA
Alexander & Yochi Mitchell

GOMLAY TORAH

Benefactors of Torah \$25,000-\$49,999

Better2Write Grant
Cheryl Kari Golden Memorial Fund
Anita Katz

MEYASDAY TORAH

Founders of Torah \$10,000-\$24,999

Daniel & Liora Adler
Eli & Orlie Cohen
Eli & Laurie Epstein
Benjamin & Cara Freedman
Bruce Gendelman Insurance Services
Chanoch & Rachel Harow
Paul & Caryn Sherman

AMUDAY TORAH

Pillars of Torah \$5,000-\$9,999

Daniel & Emely Aghion
Anonymous
Anonymous
CenterState Bank
Seth & Kimberly Frohlich
Avi & Laura Greenbaum
Jani-King
Jewish Day School Partnership
King David Divine Kosher Catering
Daniel & Bruria Kodsí
David Markowitz & Sara Levine
Rabbi Yehudah Potok & Shira Loewenstein
Elan & Juliana Rosenblat
Jason & Eva Saka
Joe & Shira Sharp
Larry D. & Deborah Silver
Gil & Lysee Stein
Joshua & Stephanie Stern
Teddy & Phyllis Struhl
Toshiba
Ashi & Chava Weisstuch

SHOMRAY TORAH

Guardians of Torah \$2,000-\$4,999

Sal & Leslie Abady
Chaim & Debbie Abramowitz
Thomas & Elsa Adler
Gil & Shari Bloom
Harry & Shelly Bloom
Rabbi Josh & Simone Broide
Jerry & Jeanne Cohen
Chayim & Michele Dimont
Michael & Toby Eleff
Murray & Basheva Goldberg
Shlomo & Chaya Goldman
Glen & Rosa Golish
Moshe & Shari Hirth
Noam & Jill Kaminetzky
Jean Katz
David & Sharona Kay
Gloria Kaylie
Rabbi Jonathan & Jennifer Kroll
Evan & Ilana Landau
Philip & Jennifer Landau
Robert & Linda Levy
David & Joyce Muller
Michael & Jill Rose
Todd & Michelle Slesinger
Rabbi Mordechai & Hadassah Smolarcik
Teddy & Linda Struhl
Jackie & Rachel Tripp
Neal & Bonnie Weinreb
Marcel & Nadia Wikler
Young Israel of Hollywood-Ft. Lauderdale
Michael & Risa Zimmerman

MAYEERAY TORAH

Enlighteners of Torah \$1,000-\$1,999

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Lisa Kaufman Bensmihen
Steven & Rebecca Berkeley
Bienenfeld, Lasek & Starr, Inc.
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Checkwriters
Class of 2019 B'nai Mitzvah Fund
Aaron & Sarah Cohen
Leeor & Alana Cohen
Meyer & Laura Cohen

Sandy & Barbara Cohen
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Hannah Frank
Akiva & Mimi Friend
Rabbi Efreim & Yocheved Goldberg
Jeffrey & Naomi Gross
Grove Kosher Market
Lynn Hahn
Naftali & Shani Herrmann
Sheldon & Lorna Hills
Yanki & Lauren Hofstatter
Jules L. & Dorothy M. Kamsly
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Zev & Sheva Kipperman
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Rubin Obstgarten Family Foundation
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Amy Tarlowe
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Arye Adest
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CHAVERIM continued
Friends \$360-\$999

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Dorothy Wizer
Jeffrey & Fay Wolkowicz
↳ Dor L' Dor Society (Grandparents)



We appreciate the efforts of our political advocacy group, Teach Florida, for their role in securing funding from the State of Florida for Katz Hillel Day School and our families. In 2018/19 alone, KHDS received over \$924,741 from various State programs.

ENDOWMENT FUNDS

*Lorraine Blumenthal Friedman
Endowment Fund*

*Eleanor M. & Herbert D. Katz Family Foundation/
Thomas O. & Elissa Katz Library Fund*

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Scholarship Fund*

*Michael & Amy Schiffman
Endowment Fund*

*Tobie & William Wiener
Endowment Fund*



**A special
thank you to the
Jewish Federation of
South Palm Beach County
for their ongoing
generosity and support
of KHDS families
needing
tuition assistance.**

*We apologize if we have inadvertently omitted or misspelled your name.
Please contact the Development Office at 561-470-5000 so that we may make the appropriate corrections.*

EVERY PARENT CAMPAIGN Thank you to all of our Every Parent Campaign (EPC) participating families. This annual fundraising effort provides every KHDS family with the opportunity to donate and 'give back' to our school with a gift of tzedakah, regardless of their financial situation, as everyone is acknowledged equally. Every dollar counts and families can give any amount they are comfortable with, based on their own personal circumstances. Our annual goal is to reach 100% participation in this critical effort to raise scholarship funds in support of Jewish education.

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 Frederic & Nathalie Abitbol
 Samuel & Naomi Abramovitz
 Daniel & Liora Adler
 Daniel & Emely Aghion
 Joseph & Lillian Aharon
 Anonymous
 Anonymous
 Eytan & Elizabeth Austein
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 Ari & Cara Beim
 Avraham & Elana Belizon
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 David & Laurie Birnbaum
 Gil & Shari Bloom
 Rabbi Rael & Aliza Blumenthal
 Ariel Bornstein & Natalie Zilban
 Myra Brandwein
 Rabbi Josh & Simone Broide
 Mark & Jessica Butler
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 Srulie Chametsky & Marisa Weg-Chametsky
 Toviah & Ora Charm
 Eli & Orlie Cohen
 Aaron & Sarah Cohen
 Albert & Esther Cohen
 Lance & Robyn Cohen
 Leeor & Alana Cohen
 Noach & Frumah Cohen
 Joseph & Shira Cohen
 Todd & Naomi Cohn
 Levi & Shira Cohn
 Arye & Taliya Corbett
 Akiva & Miriam Daum
 Brian & Jodi Deichman
 Chayim & Michele Dimont
 Richard & Penina Dorfman
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 Ovadia Roni & Moriah Elias
 Eyal & Faigie Elkoby
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 Robert & Rachel Fellman
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 Menashe & Jamie Frank
 Ben & Cara Freedman
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 Eric & Chanie Friedman
 Seth & Kimberly Frohlich
 Joel & Melissa Fuchs
 Joshua & Yael Geller
 Avi & Shevi Genuth
 David & Maxine Gill
 Shlomo & Chaya Goldman
 Howard & Claire Goodman
 Rabbi Josh Grajower
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 Leonel & Marilyn Harari
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KHDS STATS

537

Students
Enrolled

98

Faculty &
Staff

\$326,290

Grant
Funding
Received

\$1,787,998

Scholarship
Assistance
Awarded

152

Families
Receiving
Financial
Assistance

297

Students
Receiving
Financial
Assistance

BE A SCHOLAR AND GIVE OF YOUR TIME AND WISDOM!



The Scholar Society is a great way for our grandparents and community members to get involved while sharing their wisdom with KHDS students. There is no cost to join and we simply ask you to have a direct impact on our future generations by sharing some of your work and life experiences with our students or volunteering to participate in a class activity.

Contact dvora@dwpalaw.com for more information about joining our Scholar Society

As part of the middle school KAR²E program, nine of our Scholar Society members (pictured below) participated in a Career Panel for 8th graders on March 13, 2019. Thank you to **Dvora Scher**, Scholar Society Chair, for coordinating the speakers and implementing the program. Students were divided into two groups and each group had the opportunity to participate in a Q&A session with the scholars, who included grandparents and community friends. We thank the following scholars for sharing their career experiences and wisdom with our students and hope that it was as meaningful to them as it was to us:

- Dr. Sara Brudnoy** – Ph.D. in Chemistry
- Eli Famely** – Computer Programmer
- Herschel Gelbart** – Mattress Producer
- Dr. Alan Rosenthal** – Sports Medicine
- Murray Rubin** – Pharmacist
- Dr. Robert Schultz** – Pediatrician
- Dr. Ira Schwartz** – Professor of Microbiology
- Dr. Neal Weinreb** – Hematologist/Oncologist & Genetic Researcher
- Helen Wurm** – Teacher



We also extend thanks to the **Grove Kosher Market** for donating refreshments for the reception and to **Rabbi Yehudah Potok, Dr. Jordana Carmel** and **Mrs. Rina Lanner** for their help to make this program possible.

KATZ HILLEL PTA

KHDS would like to acknowledge the PTA for its generosity. You may know about all of the programs and events that PTA runs throughout the school year (and even over the summer months), but what you may not know is that the PTA has been a major financial supporter of KHDS as well. Below is a list of just some of the wonderful things PTA has made possible for KHDS and our students:

Sata-PTA Pool	\$100,000
Middle School Apple/MAC Lab	\$80,000
Makerspace	\$65,000
Sunshades	\$45,000
Aunt Jessie's Playground	\$25,000
School Computers	\$15,000
Soundproofing Gym	\$15,000
Scoreboard	\$10,155
Learning Garden	\$5,000
Charles Scher Teacher's Discretionary Fund	\$4,000
Gym Equipment	\$4,000
Teacher Appreciation Breakfasts	over \$3,500 annually
Picnic Tables and Benches	\$3,377
Bounce Houses	\$3,300
Popcorn & Slushie Machines	\$2,500
Aunt Jessie's Playground	
Water Fountain	\$2,267
Filtered Drinking Water Fountains/ Bottle Filling Stations	\$2,200
Digital Camera	\$2,048
Trophy Case	\$1,755
Shahs Gemara, In Honor of Daniel & Caroline Katz	\$1,550
Ari (KHDS Mascot)	\$827
Keyboard for Onegs	\$750
Annual Sponsorship for Parent-Child Golf Outing	
Annual Tribute Committee membership for Annual Journal Dinner	
Annual Faculty Gift	



...and much, much more!

Thank you to the amazing PTA Board of Trustees and volunteers who dedicate their time and resources to make all of PTA's programs and generous funding possible.

CAMP RUACH'S 7TH SUMMER OF FUN

As the school year came to an end, Camp Ruach kicked off its 7th summer of fun on June 17, 2019. Camp Director **Cara Beim** took the reins of the Torah-minded camp which offers a vast array of fun filled activities for children age 2 through 6th grades. "Campers participated in competitive sports, art, dance, science, Zumba, parsha, art, Kidokinetics, waterslides, gymnastics, yoga, kickboxing and karate," noted Mrs. Beim. "Swim programs were also offered in our beautiful 2,500 square-foot outdoor SATA-PTA Pool," she added. Campers began each day with Tefillah and Torah learning with the amazing chinuch staff. A warm and loving environment is provided for all of the campers by the caring and wonderful counselors who also serve as role models for the entire Camp Ruach family. Special thanks to **Elizabeth Austein, Amy Horowitz, Rabbi Chaim Lanner, Gwenn Lerman, and Rabbi Akiva Wolk** for their amazing leadership, vision and RUACH!



SURVEY SAYS, "AMAZING EVENT!"

What a trip it was as we went back in time to 1989 in honor of the school's 30th Anniversary and our esteemed honorees, **Rabbi Josh and Simone Broide**. The event, which took place on January 8, 2019, at B'nai Torah Congregation, also paid tribute to **Dr. Neal and Bonnie Weinreb**, who received the Helen Cohan, z"l, Dor L'Dor Society Award, and seven faculty members for their dedicated service to KHDS: **Cheryl Mirsky and Judy Weinstock** for 26 years and **Coach Moishe Aquart, Jodi Deichman, Devorah Kahan, Robin Noble and Sheri Siegel** for 13 years.

Thank you to our amazing co-chairs, **Sal & Leslie Abady, Ari & Cara Beim, Eli & Orlie Cohen** and **Noam & Jill Kaminetzky** for their time and efforts on this event. We also thank our Tribute Committee and everyone who participated, whether through a donation, placement of a journal ad, or attendance at the event. This event, our major fundraiser of the year, raises the much needed funding for scholarship aid, which we award to over 50% of our families.

Perfect weather allowed for guests to enjoy the alfresco cocktail reception complete with a surprise flash mob performance. An 80s themed photo booth captured memories, and attendees received a KHDS 30th Anniversary Rubik's Cube with their place card upon arrival. Thank you to **Joe Sharp and Veeta Abramchik** for designing the deco display, to **Deborah Young** for helping with decor, and to **Elise Cohen** for her assistance with graphic design. Everyone also received a "We Love The Broides" pin (courtesy of **Michael and Risa Zimmerman**) and an Ad Journal which highlighted KHDS' history and featured our honorees and well-wishes. Thank you to our FRD team who helped with solicitation of ads and Tribute Committee members to make this a successful fundraiser.

In the 80's themed ballroom the program and entertainment were brought to a whole new level! **Daniel Adler** led a beautiful rendition of The Star Spangled Banner and Hatikvah, and **Cara Beim** represented the co-chairs with her welcome and tidbits of school and 80's historical fun facts. A school promotional video produced by **Gila Stern/MMP USA, Inc.** featuring the faces of KHDS was shown.

The original song "The Power of Hillel," featuring **Sal Abady, Ari Beim, Avram Belizon, Rabbi Josh Broide, Eli Cohen** and **Noam Kaminetzky**, was performed on one stage, while faculty honorees joined in on the opposite stage.

Participants enjoyed their meals while **Avi Frier** hosted the KHDS edition of the "Family Feud" and attendees faced off against one another in a contest between the left and right sides of the room. Thank you to all of the parents who participated in advance with our "survey" for "The Feud."

Then the feature video tribute presentation was shown as **Rabbi Josh and Simone Broide** went "Back To the Future" to save the school thanks to "**Doc**" **Neal and Bonnie Weinreb's** time machine golf cart. The video culminated with a live-streamed entrance into the ballroom by the Broides (oh so Hollywood!). We thank **Rabbi Broide** for the creative story line and **Shlomi Boxer** for video production.

Daniel Katz, KHDS President, presented the Broides with their well-deserved award, followed by a special tribute to **Helen Cohan, z"l**. Helen's daughter, **Cara Freedman**, then presented the Helen Cohan, z"l, Dor L'Dor Society Award to Dr. Neal and Bonnie Weinreb.

The Faculty Dedication Awards were then presented by administrators **Rabbi Yehudah Potok, Chayim Dimont** and **Hadassah Smolarcik**.

A memorial tribute to faculty member and parent, **Mrs. Dannie Grajower, z"l**, by **Hadassah Smolarcik**, followed.



PHOTO CREDITS: DAVID STEINBERG

2018-2019 TRIBUTE COMMITTEE

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 Jackie & Rachel Tripp
 Neal & Bonnie Weinreb
 Ashi & Chava Weisstuch
 Marcel & Nadia Wikler
 Young Israel of Hollywood-Ft.
 Lauderdale
 Michael & Risa Zimmerman

Rabbi Yehudah Potok shared closing remarks and his vision for the school prior to the conclusion of the "KHDS Back To the Future" film, and the message that "the future is up to us" was clearly conveyed. Special thanks to everyone whose time and commitment made this event a great success!

5TH ANNUAL PARENT-CHILD GOLF OUTING TEES OFF

It was beautiful weather for KHDS' 5th Annual Parent-Child Golf Outing, which took place on Sunday, May 19, 2019, at Boca Lago Country Club. This event raised over \$49,000 for the school's Scholarship Fund while offering a great afternoon of rouch and fun for everyone.

Thank you to our 5th year outing Chair, **Dov Hochner**, and all of the volunteers who worked together to make this a successful event: **Joshua Bernten, Alexandra Cohen, Orlie Cohen, Sandy Cohen, Sarah Cohen, Jacob Freedman, Aiden Harow, Ami Harow, Rachel Harow, Shaindi Hochner, Daniella Kaminetzky, Jill Kaminetzky, Jennifer Rosen, Michael Rosen, Tzippi Rosen** and **Mort Schwartz**. Special thanks to **Veeta Abramchik, Orlie Cohen, Sandy Cohen, Carmi Gross** and **Joe Sharp** for going above and beyond and for their help behind the scenes!

The afternoon started off poolside with "Links on the Links" hot dog bar catered by **King David Divine Kosher Catering** (also our generous hat sponsor!), and snacks and beverages generously donated by **Jay Holstein/Global Vending**. Cool and refreshing shaved ice was available from the **Kona Ice Truck**, generously sponsored by **Shraiberg, Landau & Page, P.A./Phil & Jennifer Landau**. Participants were protected with the sunscreen generously donated by **Dr. Eli Cohen** and security services provided by **IGS Security USA** and **Eyal Cohen**. Participants all received goody bags (thank you to **Greta Baum** of **Green Circle Promo** for assisting with merchandise) that included our sponsored swag. Luckily we didn't need to take out the umbrella, generously sponsored by **Hercules Roofing, LLC/Gil & Lysee Stein**, but we did, however, make good use of the golf balls, generously sponsored by **CenterState Bank**, and the golf towels, generously sponsored by **Jani-King**. Thank you to our official paparazzi, **Jill & Daniella Kaminetzky**, who captured the memories of the day. View all the photos on our website!

The Jr. Golf Clinic gave everyone a chance to brush up on their long and short game prior to the shotgun scramble. Over 70 golfers teed off for 9 holes of play (or close to it) while our shirt sponsors, **Toshiba**, opted for the adult 18-hole track.

Although no one won the Mercedes Benz convertible or any of the Hole-in-One prizes, generously sponsored by **Regency Leasing**, everyone had fun trying. Thank you to our generous Hole-In-One Sponsors for their continued support: **BEX Realty/Teddy & Phyllis Struhl** and **Bruce Gendelman Insurance Services**.

The day concluded in Boca Lago's beautiful newly renovated dining room and guests enjoyed a delicious buffet, once again catered by **King David Divine Kosher Catering**. We also thank the **KHDS PTA** for the use of their fun (and gigantic) games during the dinner.

RECAP OF THE WINNERS FROM THE AWARDS CEREMONY

PUTTING CONTEST:

Boys: **Mordy Abed**
Girls: **Miri Wolk**

LONGEST DRIVE (EAST & WEST COURSES)

Men: **Rotem Carmel & Yechiel Rosman**
Women: **Phyllis Struhl**
Boys: **Sruli Sharp & Elie Rosman**
Girls: **Ettie Sharp**

CLOSEST TO THE PIN (EAST & WEST COURSES)

Men: **Scott McKissack & Yechiel Rosman**
Women: **Amy Eisinger**
Boys: **Sruli Sharp & Avi Rosman**
Girls: **Ettie Sharp**

All of the child participants also received a trophy. Thank you to our raffle donors – here are the lucky winners:

- Rabbi Philip Moskowitz:** Golf swag generously donated by **Cesars Golf Rentals**
- Elie Rosman:** Golf swag generously donated by **Cesars Golf Rentals**
- Nesanel Ringelheim:** Golf swag generously donated by **Cesars Golf Rentals**
- Jojo Cohen:** Foursome of golf generously donated by **Boca Lago Country Club**
- Jason Schulman:** Cinnaholic gift certificate generously donated by **Todd & Naomi Cohn**
- Yechiel Rosman:** Ramona's Café gift certificate generously donated by **Ramona's Café**
- Tani Kay:** \$25 Ditmas gift certificate generously donated by **Ditmas**
- Edan Carmel:** \$50 Century Grill gift certificate generously donated by **Century Grill**
- Evan Landau:** 5-hour network assessment generously donated by **Greenlight Tek/Carmi Gross**
- Ross Berger:** Cafe Joe Keurig Whole Bean Coffee Package (\$199 value) generously donated by **Aron & Penina Schoenfeld**
- Carmi Gross:** 4 tickets to a Florida Panthers Game generously donated by **Jonathan & Elana Rackman**
- Benjamin Abed:** 4 tickets to Aquatica (\$251.28 value) generously donated by **SeaWorld Parks & Resorts Orlando**
- Joe Sharp:** 4 tickets to SeaWorld (\$425.96 value) generously donated by **SeaWorld Parks & Resorts Orlando**
- Eliyahu Goldwasser:** \$1,000 gift certificate to **Jay Feder Jewelers** generously donated by **Yisroel & Devorah Feder**
- Rabbi Yehudah Potok:** Laser Nail Treatment gift certificate (\$1,150 value) generously donated by **Dr. Jay Seidel**
- Rick Dorfman:** Laser Nail Treatment gift certificate (\$1,150 value) generously donated by **Dr. Jay Seidel**

KHDS
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TEE SPONSORS
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TOWEL SPONSOR
Jani-King

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Rabbi Gershon Eisenberger
Rabbi Efraim Goldberger • Rabbi Josh Grajower
Rabbi Yosef Kassarfa • Rabbi Ari Mirzoeff
Rabbi Phillip Moskowitz • Rabbi Yehudah Potok
Rabbi Matan Wexler • Rabbi Akiva Wolk

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HOLE-IN-ONE PRIZE SPONSOR
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FACTS
Gallagher



KINDERGARTNERS DON'T STOP ACHIEVIN'

By: Emely Aghion

After many months of practice, the big day arrived on June 6th as 34 students represented the Kindergarten Class of 2019. The culmination of a year full of growth and achievement, the Loewenstern Cafetorium was buzzing with excitement from the graduates' families and friends waiting with anticipation for the most talked about, and adorable, program of the school year. Principal **Chayim Dimont** welcomed the guests and with **Chaim Parchi** at the piano, the procession began.

Outfitted in their blue and white caps and gowns, pairs of children marched down the aisle settling at their place on the stage. Beginning with *Hatikvah* and the *National Anthem*, the children delighted the audience with several songs in Hebrew and English. Included in the performance was a parody rendition of a Journey song, *Don't Stop Acheivin'* written by **Gwenn Lerman**, *Tfillah* by Ofra Chaza, *Elokim Sheli*, and a special version of *A Million Dreams*. The graduates were then called up by Mr. Dimont to receive their diplomas. The wonderful Kindergarten teachers, **Gwenn Lerman, Tami Gerlitz, Ofra Strugano, and Sheri Siegel** were presented with beautiful flower arrangements and a gift from the class as a token of appreciation for their tireless efforts throughout the year. The children exited the stage in pairs, and sat at the feet of the audience while they watched a short video montage of their baby pictures and their time together this year. Our new Head of School, **Rabbi Yehudah Potok**, then greeted and blessed the children while sharing *divrei Torah* and words of inspiration for the coming year. Along with their guests, the children then enjoyed a celebratory reception with a light breakfast and of course, cake!

The theme of the event, *Dreams and Prayers*, was showcased throughout the room. The backdrop of the stage displayed a large 3-D artwork of the Kotel adorned with students and their actual prayer notes tucked into the stones, while the cutout silhouettes of each child holding a balloon stating what they daven for, lined the side of the auditorium. Along the back wall, a beautiful photograph of each student was displayed, capturing the essence of their smile. Underneath each photo was a banner revealing the answer to what they want to be when they grow up. Each graduate received a gorgeous yearbook photo generously taken by **Caroline Katz** in a beautiful frame artistically decorated by **Lisa Pinkis**, as well as the book, *The Night Before First Grade*, by Natasha Wing.

The décor and reception were beautifully organized by the Kindergarten Graduation Committee of parent volunteers led by the wonderfully talented **Shari Haik and Ilana Landau**. Others included **Emely Aghion, Sara Bienenfeld, Dani Burack, Rebecca Kinzbrunner, Maren Mayer, Reina Mendelson, Elisheva Schwarzman, Penina Schoenfeld, and Marissa Weg-Chametsky**. Special thanks to **Elise Cohen** and **Risa Kahane** for their help putting together the Kindergarten graduation invitations and diplomas. Our sincere appreciation goes out to the maintenance staff for all their help setting up the room. This most memorable graduation during KHDS' 30th Anniversary would not have been a success without the generous efforts of **Risa Kahane, Veeta Abramchik, Joe Sharp, Chayim Dimont** and the entire KHDS staff.



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THE TWENTY-FIRST EIGHTH GRADE COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

By: Naomi Abramovitz

The excitement was palpable: parents clutching bouquets and trying to surreptitiously snap candid; girls crowding the mirrors for last minute hair and make-up adjustments, and boys trying in vain to hide any trace of emotion in order to look "cool." Opening night on Broadway? The Academy Awards? Even better: the stage was set at Zinman Hall to witness 71 amazing and accomplished students graduate from their beloved KHDS, at the school's *Twenty-First Eighth Grade Commencement Exercises*.

The Ceremony officially began with a stately processional punctuated by much cheering and clapping, as parents snapped photos and video of their smiling, shining graduates.

Head of School **Rabbi Yehudah Potok** opened the proceedings by revealing a talent previously unknown to most of the parent body: a great singing voice! He then proudly led both the American and Israeli National Anthems, prior to his address. Rabbi Potok particularly thanked the graduating class for welcoming him to KHDS so warmly during what was their final year at the school, but his first. He then recognized with appreciation the seniors from the community who came to support the graduates they worked with on the *Better Together* and *Names, Not Numbers* programs. After highlighting a long and impressive list of KHDS accomplishments from the past year, Rabbi Potok recognized faculty and staff, alumni, and made special mention of families whose last child was graduating, many of whom had been part of the KHDS family for decades! Rabbi Potok then directly addressed the graduates advising them to live an honest life, to be lifelong learners, not to judge others, and to be active in whatever communities they find themselves. He expressed confidence that the core Jewish values the graduates learned at KHDS would serve them well throughout their entire lives.

After recognizing and applauding all KHDS Board members in attendance, Board President **Daniel Katz** was called upon to speak. In a sweet tribute to Mr. Katz's dedication to the school community, the entire graduating class rose as he made his way to the stage. In an address that was both visibly emotional and humorous, Mr. Katz stressed the vital importance of helping others at every opportunity. He noted that this year's graduates were the 13th class he and **Morah Hadassah Smolarcik** had escorted to Israel, and he thanked her for her steadfast enthusiasm each year. He also noted that this was the first year the trip included a visit to Mount Hermon, which required special access. Mr. Katz revived the memory of looking out from the mountain into Syria. He recounted a time when many Syrian villagers fled into Israel and were welcomed with open arms, despite being at war. Mr. Katz noted that the instinct of Israelis to extend help and welcome to the very people with whom they were at war should serve as an example to the graduates of how helping others in need is always the right thing to do.

Next, the Yearbook Editors took the stage. **Judah Frohlich** explained that this year's Yearbook was dedicated to the memory of their beloved, inspirational and uniquely witty teacher **Mrs. Dannie Grajower, z"l**. He expressed the sentiment that every graduate, as well as many audience members, felt: that Mrs. Grajower is sorely missed, and was a unique person that will never be forgotten. **Ariella Mayer** then thanked her fellow graduates, on behalf of all the editors, noting that they had enjoyed learning so much from their peers. Ariella also thanked the residents of Sinai Residences who participated in the *Better Together* program, noting that the student-participants gained invaluable knowledge from their time together. Finally, **Rebecca Adler** thanked by name an extensive and varied list of students, faculty, staff and administrators who had helped take the Yearbook from a collection of ideas to the beautiful hardcover volume that each graduate will treasure for a lifetime.

After thanking the KHDS PTA, the Editors called upon PTA President – and mom of a graduate – **Mrs. Rachel Harow** to address the class. Mrs. Harow noted that she had literally



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watched this amazing group of children grow up, and was feeling quite emotional – with the caveat to her son that she would decidedly NOT cry and embarrass him! With just a sheen of tears in her eyes, Mrs. Harow explained that the PTA's goal is to enrich the children's school experience. She then detailed the PTA's many myriad projects and accomplishments, including that, to date, it had raised and invested back into the school more than \$500,000. Mrs. Harow then announced that the PTA's final gift to this group of students would be a Sidur for each graduate.

Rabbi Potok followed, extending heartfelt thanks to **Mrs. Caroline Katz** for her professional quality portraits of each graduate. The portraits not only grace the Yearbook, but also serve as keepsake sign-in boards gifted to each student. Then, always eagerly anticipated, Rabbi Potok introduced the annual masterpiece video produced by **Rabbi Dr. Mordechai Smolarcik**, and thanked him for once again creating such a beautiful and moving piece, this year entitled "Our Students Speak," which featured each graduate speaking about their most meaningful memory from KHDS.

After the video, a ripple of excitement raced through the Hall, as the big moment had arrived: the presentation of diplomas. Once each child crossed that stage, they were officially High Schoolers! Morah Hadassah dispensed diplomas and hugs to the girls, and Rabbi Potok handed out diplomas and handshakes to the boys, often to the amusement of the crowd as some boys struggled to remember the "take with your left, shake with your right" protocol. Daniel Katz assisted in handing out the diplomas to all the graduates, and got his fair share of handshakes, and hugs, from the boys. After all the degrees had been conferred, Rabbi Potok once again congratulated the graduates, and reminded them that KHDS would always and forever be their home.

The jubilant recessional was remarkable in that not one of the girls tripped on their height record-breaking stilettos while descending the risers and stairs! The reception was the final segment of the well-run, joyful evening. Thank you to **Jill Kaminetzky** for her attention to every detail in planning this milestone event. The graduates signed each other's poster boards, posed for endless Instagramable photos, and cried at being parted, even just for the summer in most cases, while the families sighed in happiness with a hint of wistfulness at the swift passage of time.

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