

2024–2025

WILSHIRE SCHOOLS EAST

Annual Report





WILSHIRE SCHOOLS EAST

ERIKA J GLAZER EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER
of WILSHIRE BOULEVARD TEMPLE

BRAWERMAN EAST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
of WILSHIRE BOULEVARD TEMPLE



MESSAGE FROM

The Head of School



Dear Wilshire Schools East Community,

It has been an honor to continue leading Wilshire Schools East throughout the 2024–2025 school year. As I reflect on how far we have come and look ahead to the future, I am inspired by our ongoing growth, steady progress, and shared commitment to our school and community.

Our school theme, *Hineini*, defined as "Here I am," felt especially fitting. In a world that constantly asks us to be responsive and adaptable, this call reminded us to stay rooted in presence: for ourselves, for one another, and for our broader community. *Hineini* challenges us not only to show up physically, mentally, and spiritually, but also to move with intention, thoughtfulness, and purpose.

At Wilshire Schools East, our intentionally small scale fosters a close-knit, nurturing environment accomplished gracefully through our Multiage Model. Over the past year, we refined this model to maximize opportunities for learning and connection and created a resource to better communicate to our families the structure in our school. The goals, however, remained the same: to provide opportunities for our children to serve as both mentors and mentees, leading to intellectual partnerships and friendships that shift dynamically throughout their elementary school years.

From the Erika J Glazer Early Childhood Center through Brawerman East Elementary School, we now stand proudly united as Wilshire Schools East, a cohesive ecosystem of learning and joyful Judaism. Together, we provide a continuum of excellence that nurtures children from 18 months through Grade 6, ensuring that their earliest experiences are deeply connected to their ongoing academic and spiritual journeys.

Our school brings daily life to the historic Erika J Glazer Campus of Wilshire Boulevard Temple, and we draw strength and purpose from being part of this extraordinary community. Beyond our classrooms, we deepened partnerships with the Karsh Social Service Center and GenSpace, strengthening our students' connection to the broader neighborhood. These experiences, whether preparing food for those in need, gardening alongside elders, creating art together, or dancing through a Zumba class, expanded our children's understanding of responsibility, empathy, and belonging.

This year also brought unexpected challenges. The devastating wildfires that swept through Los Angeles displaced families and faculty, while air quality concerns tested our ability to maintain a safe learning environment. Yet even in difficulty, our community rose to the occasion. We welcomed preschoolers from the Resnick Early Childhood Center onto our campus, transforming every available indoor space into areas for play, creativity, and movement, from bounce houses and imagination playgrounds in the Audrey Irmas Pavilion to tricycles on Piness Auditorium Stage. We extended warmth to parents as well, opening workspaces on campus so they could remain close to their children. In these moments, our community lived our values by showing compassion, resilience, and care.

In direct response to parent feedback and our strategic vision, we also introduced a full-time School Counselor this year. This vital role supports friendship-building, conflict resolution, and coping strategies, while fostering collaboration between students, teachers, and parents. It is one of the many ways we continue to prioritize the social, emotional, and academic well-being of every child.

Through it all, our purpose has remained steady: to nurture independent, curious, and compassionate learners who believe in themselves and care deeply for others. As we move forward, *Kadima*, I am grateful for this community and energized for our future.

B'Ahava,

Gillian Feldman

Gillian Feldman
Head of School

MESSAGE FROM

The Parent Association Presidents



Karyn Pinsky Cohen
Brawerman East PA President

Jannelle Ross
Glazer ECC PA President

In several different settings throughout the year a question is asked in one way or another: *"What is most valuable to you as a parent at the ECC/Brawerman?"* The most prevalent answer is always: *"The community."* In the spirit of this year's theme, *Hineini*, our community showed up and created yet another amazing year at Wilshire Schools East.

The 2024-2025 school year was a great year where our Erika J Glazer Early Childhood Center (EJGECC) and Brawerman East Elementary School Parent Associations thoughtfully came together to create cohesive gatherings. The two Parent Associations (PA) kicked off the year with a wonderful Fall Social for all Wilshire Schools East parents. Held under the stars on the Siegel patio, it was a joyful evening that sparked new connections as families met for the first time and familiar faces reconnected.

The Jewish holidays always provide the perfect opportunity to instill rich Jewish traditions in our children. Both schools celebrated *Rosh HaShanah, Sukkot, Chanukah,* and Passover with fun, memorable activities supported by the PA. Kachol and Katom EJGECC classes created their personalized *Shabbat* boxes they will use for years to come—painting, gluing photos, and filling them with meaningful items. Our youngest students enjoyed our beloved Pajamarama Party, celebrating in pajamas with pancakes and a live performance by The BeatBuds. And of course, everyone got gloriously messy at our *Matzah* Factory! Speaking of messy, Granny Smith was the apple of choice at Brawerman's *Rosh HaShanah* apple and honey tasting. It won by a landslide as sticky fingers voted for their favorite apple on iPads at our coveted lunchtime event. Our *Purim* Carnivals are always a highlight of the school year—for both our students and our amazing parent volunteers! Brawerman East continued the cherished tradition of welcoming Brawerman West to our campus for a day filled with celebration, fun, and games. Not even the rain could dampen the excitement, as Brawerman moved their carnival to the parking structure and the Glazer ECC to the Audrey Irmas Pavilion. Everyone agreed—it was the best day!







With the ice already broken through events earlier in the year, our 4th Annual Comedy Night fundraiser brought the community even closer. Parents from Glazer ECC and Brawerman East gathered for an evening of nonstop laughter, filling the backyard with energy, joy, and a strong sense of connection—all in support of a great cause. The energy of the school year culminates in Sports Day. The excitement kicked off with the Opening Ceremony, where students discovered their team colors and teammates, and faced off in a spirited tug-of-war tournament, forming bonds across the school in preparation for a day of competition like no other. Meanwhile, our DK and TK classes prepared for *Kadima* and created their beautiful *Torah* covers.

Our school year is sprinkled with events and activities throughout, like those mentioned above, that our kids come to look forward to year after year. It's an honor to lead the Parent Association, to continue a tradition of involving parents in their childrens' school experience as well as driving this sense of community we all come to cherish. A heartfelt thank you to the many parents who help make all of these experiences possible. Our schools thrive because of our parents' active involvement—their time, energy, and ideas strengthen our community in countless ways.

GLAZER Early Childhood Center SPOTLIGHTS

BUILDERS OF JEWISH EDUCATION AWARD

Cheryl Winiarz has been a beloved teacher at Wilshire Boulevard Temple ECCs for nearly 20 years. This March, Cheryl was honored with the 2025 Simha and Sara Lainer Distinguished Educator Award for Early Childhood Educators, recognizing her passion for teaching and her deep commitment to our community.

With 42 years of experience in early childhood education, Cheryl has found her true passion at Wilshire Boulevard Temple—a place she calls home. She is continually inspired by the curiosity and creativity of her students and strives to create a joyful, engaging learning environment. We couldn't be prouder to congratulate Cheryl on this well-deserved recognition!



SENSORY SPACE

Thanks to the generous support of Annual Giving dollars, we were thrilled to open a new Sensory Room in our Early Childhood Center this year. Designed to support social-emotional regulation and sensory integration, this dedicated space offers children opportunities for small group work, individual exploration, and calming retreat. Equipped with a trampoline, LED light wall, foam pit, teepee, sensory table, and a magnet wall for ramp building, the room serves as a vital resource for developmental learning, meeting the unique needs of each child in a safe and stimulating environment.





TIKKUN OLAM

This year, our TK and DK classes embraced the value of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world) through hands-on service projects that positively impacted both our local and global communities. Each month, the children visited The Karsh Center to assist with food pantry sorting—eagerly sorting and bagging brussel sprouts, tomatoes, and carrots to be distributed to those in need. The Karsh Center, a community outreach partner of Wilshire Boulevard Temple, not only serves people across Los Angeles, but also acts as a learning resource for our students—offering regular, age-appropriate opportunities to give back and learn through service. These visits helped our children build empathy, responsibility, and a sense of connection to their larger community.

Inspired by *Tu BiSh'vat*, the students also took initiative to raise money to plant trees in Israel. They set up a lemonade and brownie stand outside the ECC, practicing early literacy by making signs, math skills by using a cash register, and important teamwork along the way. Their efforts raised $76—showing just how much can be achieved when kindness and collaboration come together.







EARLY LITERACY AND MATH SKILLS

At Wilshire Schools East, our Early Childhood Center embraces the *Reggio Emilia* philosophy, fostering a learning environment where curiosity and inquiry drive exploration. Through hands-on provocations, children engage in meaningful activities that spark questions and inspire theories. Early math and literacy skills are seamlessly integrated into this process, with Jewish holidays and traditions providing a rich context for learning. Whether it's counting the candles on a *menorah* during *Chanukah*, creating patterned and sequenced decorations for *Sukkot*, or adding up seats for our Passover *seder*, math concepts are woven into the children's play and intentional learning experiences. Literacy skills are also nurtured through storytelling, letter recognition, and interactive discussions that build vocabulary and communication. This approach nurtures both cognitive and linguistic development while fostering a deep connection to our Jewish rituals and traditions.





Brawerman EAST SPOTLIGHTS

KINDERGARTEN

Every morning in Kindergarten, we end our meeting with an open-ended question, inviting students to talk with one another, speak confidently in group settings, and witness the impact of their own words. We use phrases like “knee to knee, heart to heart” to guide students to face each other while speaking. We practice looking each other in the eyes and turn-taking. These moments create active listeners, curious communicators, and strong friendships—laying the foundation for a vibrant, connected classroom community.



1/2 VILLAGE

Our 1/2 Village Social Studies curriculum is enriched by the incredible involvement of our parents, who bring their careers into the classroom. Through engaging presentations and hands-on activities, students discover how reading, writing, and math are used in the real world. They have negotiated contracts like lawyers, taste-tested like food critics, explored apple science with a cider bar owner, and seen art come alive on fabric with a textile designer. Every visit sparks wonder, connects learning to real life, and makes the classroom buzz with excitement.









3/4 VILLAGE

In Innovation, our 3/4 Village students dove into the world of robotics with Mbot—an educational robot designed to enhance their logical thinking and design skills. After learning about circuits, motors, and sensors, students brought their Mbots to life. They programmed their robots to follow commands using a block-based coding app, similar to Scratch. Weeks of research and careful design paid off as students guided their robots through a tricky obstacle course, measuring distances and programming turns. It was an exciting hands-on experience that brought coding and robotics to life!



5/6 VILLAGE

Grades 5 and 6 students put their brand-new Test Kitchen to the test, combining science and cooking to explore a beloved dinnertime staple—mashed potatoes! Using the scientific method, they investigated whether boiling potatoes in salty water truly enhances their flavor and texture.

To test their hypothesis, students boiled two potatoes—one in salty water and the other in plain water—then pressed them down, coated them with malt vinegar, and baked them for 20 minutes. Their observations confirmed that dissolved salt moves from the water into the potatoes, seasoning them all the way through. They also discovered that salt breaks down pectin in the potato, allowing tiny starch granules to absorb water and swell, creating a creamy texture. This creative experiment showcased how the Test Kitchen serves as a dynamic space, turning a familiar kitchen staple into an opportunity for hands-on scientific discovery and innovative learning.

MAKERS FAIR

Ask any Brawerman East student about our Innovation Lab and you'll see their faces light up—it's a place where real sparks fly and bold ideas take off. From Kindergarten onward, our students develop resilience, tap into their creativity, and build confidence—all while exploring science, coding, design, and computational thinking.

At our 7th Annual STEAM Makers Fair last February, Brawerman East pulsed with energy—like a circuit fully powered. Students proudly showcased their learning in a vibrant, hands-on celebration that buzzed with curiosity and creativity. The Kindergarteners kicked off the night with a robot box puppet parade, cheered on by the entire school. From younger students swinging over spinning art stations that turned motion into mesmerizing patterns, to older students leading a video game-inspired escape room of their own design, the space was charged with discovery. A towering 10-foot LED robot even made a guest appearance, and alumni returned to host interactive STEAM booths, adding an extra jolt of excitement to the day.

The Makers Fair is more than just an event—it is a cherished tradition, and the culmination of weeks of hard work, creativity, and preparation by our students and educators, building anticipation and pride as the entire Brawerman East community comes together to celebrate innovation.

















Experiential Learning

Grade 4





Sacramento

Grade 4 students embarked on their first overnight adventure—a trip to Sacramento. Just as early pioneers ventured into new territories with curiosity and courage, these young explorers set out to discover the stories that shaped our state. Their journey brought history to life as they engaged in hands-on experiences—from exploring the Gold Bug Mine and witnessing a blacksmith at work to panning for gold and learning how it was extracted from quartz rock. A highlight for many was touring the town in a horse-drawn wagon. The Sacramento experience is a milestone in each student's growth. It deepens their understanding of California history while fostering independence and responsibility. It was an experience rooted in exploration and discovery, much like California's own journey.







Grade 5







Boston

Grade 5's Boston experience was a journey through time. They began in the early 1600s at Plymouth's Plimoth Patuxet Museum, where they stepped into the world of the indigenous and colonial people who built communities along the same shores. Then to the late 1600s with a visit to Salem's Gallows Hill Museum, where a theater performance brought the Salem witch trials to life. Students leapt into the 1700s, visiting the Old North Church and Paul Revere's house, riding a duck boat through Boston Harbor, and spending time at Lexington and Concord. Fast forward to the present day, students visited the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate, gaining insights into modern governance. The trip concluded on *Yom Ha'Atzmaut* with a powerful moment at the New England Holocaust Memorial, where students sang *HaTikvah*. It was an unforgettable experience for all who participated.









5/6 Village

El Capitan

Our Grades 5 and 6 students set out on a camping adventure to El Capitan Canyon in Santa Barbara—a short trip from home that felt like a world away. Surrounded by nature, they left behind everyday distractions to reconnect with each other and the natural world. They hiked scenic trails, explored tide pools brimming with marine life, and gathered around the campfire to cook dinner and roast s'mores under the stars. This elemental experience blended outdoor exploration with hands-on learning, fostering both personal and academic growth.











Grade 6

Israel Week

This year, our Grade 6 students could not visit Israel in person, posing the challenge of how to strengthen their bond with Israel without physically being there. Guided by our theme of *Hineini*, our Israel Engagement Specialist Elhanan Brown enthusiastically led an immersive alternative experience right here in Los Angeles.

Students viewed the Dead Sea Scrolls at the Reagan Library and embarked on scavenger hunts at the Skirball Cultural Center. They cooked Israeli foods, made music in drum circles, explored *Kabbalah* inspired by Tzfat, and placed personal notes in a replica of the *Kotel* they built themselves in the classroom. This week of learning and celebration left students with a lasting connection to Israel, a strengthened sense of Jewish identity, and bonds across campuses.



East Coast Trip

The Grade 6 East Coast trip brought classroom learning to life. This journey—packed with iconic sites across New York, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C—was about stepping into the stories students have studied throughout elementary school and asking big questions along the way.

Excitement was high as students reunited with their beloved tour guide Patrick and reflected on peaceful protest at the Peace Vigil outside the White House. At Mount Vernon, they asked difficult questions about George Washington's legacy and the lives of the enslaved people on his estate—conversations grounded in curiosity and a strong sense of justice. At the Holocaust Museum and Anne Frank Exhibit, students recognized the responsibility to carry on the stories of survivors.

Students visited the 9/11 Memorial—a somber experience and a powerful reminder of our nation's resilience. At Ellis Island, they revisited a topic first explored in Grade 1, now with a more mature lens, imagining the experiences and emotions of those arriving in a new country in search of safety, hope, and opportunity. And there was joy: spontaneous hallway laughter, a pretend birthday serenade, and a magical night seeing *Wicked* on Broadway.

This trip stretched students' thinking and sparked deep dialogue. They came away stronger, more confident, and inspired.





Purim

Purim at Wilshire Schools East is a celebration of courage, joy, and turning the ordinary upside down in the most wonderful ways! From our 18-month-olds to our 12-year-olds, everyone buzzes with excitement as they come to school in costume. The day is made truly special by our Parent Association volunteers, who transform our campus into festive carnival experiences for the children.

For our Brawerman East students, the celebration is made even more meaningful by welcoming our friends from Brawerman West! The day is packed with excitement—from lively carnival games and baking delicious *hamantaschen* to assembling *mishloach manot* bags for the Karsh Center. A highlight of the day is when our Grade 5 students proudly read from the *Megillah*, sharing the inspiring story of Esther's perseverance with the entire school community. It's a vibrant day of joy, togetherness, and giving back for our elementary students.

Our Glazer ECC children spend the weeks leading up to their carnival learning the story of *Purim*, talking about Esther's bravery and beauty (inside and out), baking *hamantaschen* with parents in their classrooms, and exploring the holiday's symbols through multisensory learning. Providing children with this foundation makes the celebration a lasting memory for even our youngest students.















WILSHIRE SCHOOLS EAST SPOTLIGHTS



Buddy Program

The school-wide buddy program is a great big tree of friendship and leadership that takes root between Brawerman East and the ECC. All year long, ECC students and their Brawerman East buddies bond through hands-on activities. By spring, our Kindergarteners—yes, Kindergarteners!—had blossomed into confident role models. In May, they hosted a heartwarming publishing party, reading aloud to the DK class the books they had written about their Kindergarten adventures—from first-day nerves to favorite places on campus, with advice like, "Be happy!" Kindergarteners took questions and compliments from their ECC buddies. The older students practiced guidance and empathy; the younger ones gained inspiration and courage for what lies ahead, all while forming valuable connections across campuses, like crossed branches that support and strengthen the tree as a whole.

Matriculation

We are proud to share that the graduates of the Class of 2025 are attending the following secondary schools this fall:

Abraham Joshua Heschel Day School

Campbell Hall

Milken Community School

We are excited to see how our newest alumni soar in the next leg of their educational journeys!





Students from our recent graduating classes have received multiple acceptances into top Los Angeles secondary schools including:

- Abraham Joshua Heschel Day School
- The Archer School for Girls
- Brentwood School
- The Buckley School
- Campbell Hall
- Chadwick School
- Crossroads School for Arts & Sciences
- Episcopal School of Los Angeles
- Geffen Academy at UCLA
- Harvard-Westlake
- Marlborough School
- Milken Community School
- Oakwood School
- Pilgrim School
- Tree Academy
- Westridge School
- Wildwood School
- Windward School

Mazal Tov to the Brawerman East Alumni CLASS OF 2019!



They are attending the following colleges and universities:

Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo
Elon University
Israeli Air Force's Technological *Atuda* Program
Lewis and Clark College
Los Angeles Valley College
University of Miami
University of Oregon
University of Southern California

Brawerman East Class of 2019 *Shabbat*

Brawerman East honored the Class of 2019 with an alumni *Shabbat* filled with nostalgia and warmth to celebrate their high school graduation. The alumni returned to their Brawerman home with their families for a special honor and blessing, and were able to reconnect with friends and former teachers. This *Shabbat* highlighted memories from their time at Brawerman East and the profound impact the school has had on shaping their identities. It was a beautiful occasion to reflect on the past and celebrate the enduring bonds within the Brawerman community.





Brawerman East CLASS OF 2019 Alumni Spotlights



TALIA ZIPKIN

During high school at Windward School, Talia pursued her interests in the performing arts, education, and science. She was the lead singer in Speed Limit–a rock cover band; she was a member of the Chromatics–the Windward Honors Vocal Ensemble, with whom she had the opportunity to perform at Carnegie Hall in New York; and she was a member of the Advanced Tap Ensemble at the Colburn School. During her junior and senior years, Talia served as a consultant in Windward's Center for Writing and Rhetoric, assisting younger students in the writing process. One of her critical essays received a Regional Gold Key from the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards and she received the Windward Senior Award in mathematics. Talia participated in the National Student Leadership Conference for biotechnology at UC Berkeley. For her senior year capstone, she completed a year-long research project utilizing the gene-editing tool, CRISPR.

Talia will be attending the University of Southern California, majoring in Biology with a focus in Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology.



ELIJAH NASSERI

At Campbell Hall, Elijah was an active and engaged member of the school community, participating in a wide range of extracurricular activities. He was involved in the Chess Club, Baking Club, Jewish Club, and Middle Eastern and North African Club, among others. He also dedicated time to service, volunteering with Maker Inc., a nonprofit organization that supports foster youth. Elijah was recognized for his academic excellence by making the Campbell Hall Dean's List in both his freshman and senior years.

In addition to his campus involvement, Elijah volunteered with the American Jewish Committee, where he led the Los Angeles cohort on a visit to Washington, D.C. to meet with political leaders and advocate against antisemitism across the United States.

He will be attending Elon University, where he plans to major in Business Operations.



JESSE WINTNER

Throughout high school, Jesse immersed himself in the world of music, education, and service. He attended several arts-focused schools, including LACHSA (Los Angeles County High School for the Arts), Hamilton High School's Music Magnet AMPA (Academy of Music And Performing Arts) program, and Interlochen Arts Academy (Boarding Arts High School). At these programs, he balanced academic success with musical excellence, earning Honor Roll recognition as well as being an active member of multiple bands. Jesse's talent as a jazz percussionist has been recognized with multiple "Best Soloist" awards at jazz festivals across Southern California. Outside of school, Jesse dedicated time to teaching music to children at an after-school program, helping young musicians learn to play and write music from the ground up. He also volunteered at the Special Olympics and Make Good Inc., worked as a music curator for hospitality spaces, and cared for dogs with LA Pet Care.

He is continuing his musical journey at Indiana University Bloomington's Jacobs School of Music.

Wilshire Schools East Leadership



Gillian Feldman
Head of School
Wilshire Schools East



Floryn Rosenberg
Director
Glazer ECC



Danielle Sebring
Principal
Brawerman East



Meredith Meroney
Director of Admissions
Wilshire Schools East



Erin Jacobs
Director of Operations
Brawerman East



Randi Moss
Director of Student Success and Special Programming
Brawerman East

Wilshire Boulevard Temple Schools Leadership



Naomi Reem
Executive Director of Education



Rebecca Spain
Director of Advancement



Jayme Zahavi
Associate Director of Advancement

MESSAGE FROM

Rabbi Joel Nickerson



Rabbi Joel Nickerson
Senior Rabbi

In our ancient texts, we find a powerful response when individuals are called to action: "*Hineini*—Here I am." This simple declaration has profound implications, especially in today's complex world. When Moses stood before the burning bush, when Abraham was tested, when Samuel heard his name called, they each answered *"Hineini,"* signifying not just physical presence but complete readiness to engage, to serve, to lead.

At Wilshire Schools East, the spirit of *Hineini* isn't merely this year's theme—it's the essence of our educational philosophy. Our students learn to show up with their full selves, to face challenges with courage rather than retreat with uncertainty. They develop the confidence to declare "Here I am" when confronted with opportunities to repair our fractured world.

To our dedicated teachers and administrators who embody *Hineini* daily in their unwavering commitment to our children: *todah rabah*, thank you. And to our community whose generous support sustains this extraordinary school: your presence and partnership demonstrate the true meaning of *Hineini*.

Wilshire Boulevard Temple Clergy



Cantor Lisa Peicott
Senior Cantor



Rabbi Steven Z. Leder
Rabbi Emeritus



Rabbi Elissa Ben-Naim



Rabbi David Eshel



Rabbi Susan Nanus



Cantor Kerith Spencer-Shapiro



Rabbi Joel Simonds



Rabbi Hannah Elkin



Rabbi Leah Fein



Rabbi Leah Lewis



Cantorial Intern Aliya Stuart



Rabbinic Intern Jeff Silverstein

WILSHIRE SCHOOLS EAST

Grandparents

We are thrilled to thank our Wilshire Schools East Grandparents for their generous support of our 2024-2025 Annual Giving Campaign. Grandparents enrich our school community, fostering purposeful connections across generations. By connecting *l'dor v'dor*, from generation to generation, we create a deeper, more personal understanding of the world around us. We look forward to the expansion of this cherished giving program, enhancing the school experience, and adding additional layers of love and joy to our Wilshire Schools East extended family members.

Debi and Andy Chesler *(Leo '23, Lily '25, and Marley Feldman)*

Bonnie and Brian Glaspy *(Elliott Berger)*

Christine and John Glaspy *(Johnny and Darra Glaspy)*

Carole Goldberg *(Ezra Lobato)*

Adrian and Larry Miller *(Julia and Charlie Miller)*

Jeremy Williams and Karen Saeki *(Blair Meroney)*

Steven Sax *(Daisy Dorenfest)*

Julie and Steven Shifrin *(Daisy Dorenfest)*

Judith and Lester Turner *(Ruby '24 and Annabelle Klein)*

Betsy Quick *(Aubrey Villasenor)*













Fundraising & Engagement



Rebecca Spain
Director of Advancement

Jayme Zahavi
Associate Director of Advancement

What a year it's been! We are thrilled to share that we surpassed our Annual Giving Campaign goal by over $175,000. This remarkable achievement reflects the strength, generosity, and dedication of our Wilshire Schools East community.

When the devastating fires in Los Angeles impacted many of our Wilshire Boulevard Temple families, our community responded with unwavering support and unity. Moments like these remind us why investing in our schools is so vital—it ensures we have the resources to support one another and sustain our community through difficult times.

A huge thank you to our Annual Giving Committee for their hard work and leadership. And, of course, we are so grateful to everyone in our community who contributed—current parents, alumni families, grandparents, and faculty. Your commitment truly makes a difference.

RAISED MORE THAN
$377,000
for our Annual Giving Campaign
to help pay operational costs, update the school's facilities, enhance programming, and provide professional development opportunities for our staff

HOSTED AN
alumni *Shabbat*
for the Brawerman East Class of 2019 graduates

20 families
joined the Giving Circle by donating gifts of
$5,400+
to Wilshire Schools East's Annual Giving Campaign

MORE THAN
$25,000
from Wilshire Schools East grandparents and alumni families

PROVIDED
daily hot lunch
for all Wilshire Schools East faculty and staff

HOSTED
Lunch and Learn for grandparents
about the holiday of *Yom Ha'Atzmaut* with Senior Cantor Lisa Peicott and Rabbi Leah Lewis

Bus transportation made possible
by the Downtown Management Co., Inc. and Karyn and Marc Cohen in honor of the late Josef Hellen.

Thanks to generous support from our Annual Giving campaign, our Glazer ECC faculty had the opportunity to attend the Builders of Jewish Education (BJE) Conference in March. For Sophie Shpall, the experience was especially impactful:



Attending the BJE Conference was a meaningful and inspiring experience as an early childhood teacher. A session on supporting children with diverse needs provided practical tools that I was able to implement immediately in the classroom. Another memorable highlight was a workshop on Israeli dance for preschoolers. It resonated deeply with me, reminding me how movement, memory, and Judaism are beautifully connected through dance. As an educator early in my career, it was incredibly inspiring to learn from experienced professionals and feel part of a larger community of Jewish early childhood educators. The conference gave me valuable strategies and renewed passion that I brought back to my classroom.

Endowment

Brawerman (East and West combined) currently has more than $10 million in cash and legacy pledges.

A robust endowment is an essential component for independent schools in a landscape of rising tuition costs and scholarship requests. It also allows us to support families and areas of need for Brawerman during times of crisis. This fund is a source of long-term support for the school. The principal is invested and the yearly interest may be used to:

- Provide financial assistance
- Stabilize tuition
- Retain and recruit faculty
- Fund programs

Both Annual Giving and Endowment are critical to Brawerman's success:

- Annual Giving raises funds from all school families every year for current use
- Endowment provides for the future

Endowment gifts of $25,000 and above leave a lasting legacy. They are honored with a place on our permanent legacy walls at both campuses, and are recognized in the Brawerman East and Wilshire Boulevard Temple publications. Donor opportunities designated to endow special programs at the school are available.

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE



Margo Freedman, Rochelle Glucksman, Stefanie Lipson, Joli Altshule, Kara Slater, Jessica Rosenberg, Brad Slater

Not Pictured: Gretchen Klein and Marsha Levin

CHAMPION
$1,000,000+

Geri and Richard Brawerman (z"l)
Dana and Richard Pachulski
Talia and Jason Rimokh
The Shirken Family

LEADER
$500,000 – $999,999

Goldhirsh-Yellin Foundation, *in Memory of Bernard and Wendy Goldhirsh*

BUILDER
$100,000 – $249,999

Joli, Andrew, Liv, and Winston Altshule
Nadine Breuer Retirement Event
de Toledo Family Scholarship Fund
Rochelle and Jacob Glucksman
Gretchen and Jon Klein
The Lipson Family
The Silber Family Foundation
The Sklaver Family

BENEFACTOR
$50,000 – $99,999

The Joseph Alexander Foundation
Brodyn, Skylar, and Georgia Bana
Goldstein and Fridman Families
The Heald Family
Alison and Ben Levine
Charlotte and Rick Offsay
Anthony Pritzker Family Foundation
The Samuel Family
Payam, Pegah, Kyle, Leah, and Jaden Shahian
The Ullendorff Family

SUPPORTER
$25,000 – $49,999

Abrams Family Foundation
The Alpern Family
Allison and Larry Berg
Abigail, Reuben, Lev, and Eden Berman
The Berman Family
Brawerman Alumni Association Fund
Brawerman Parent Association
Nadine and Steve Breuer
Robin and Elliott Broidy
Lynette and Derek (z"l) Brown
Demetra and Ari Chazanas
Shelly and Mike Cohen and Fran and Joel Parker, *in Memory of Sylvia and Mayer Gutman*
The Essey Family
Sherri and John Fogelman
Julie Monkarsh Gadinsky
Suzanne and Jacob Gehl
Bill and Janet Glucksman
Margo E. Freedman and David B. Goldman
Robin and William Haber
Lonnie Levi Israel
Opal and David Judaken
Marsha and Fredrick Levin
Marcia and Doug Mankoff
Fred and Sharon Monempour
Lauryn Harris and Greg Pimstone
Orit and Nadav Ravid
Michelle and Marc Rosenbach
Caleb Rosenblum '16 and Micah Rosenblum '21
The Rosman Family, *in Memory of Lily and Don Rosman*
The Sabet Family
Lauren and Anton Schiff
Kara and Brad Slater
Caroline and Robby Soofer
Amy and Jeffrey P. Straus
The Waters Family
Betty and Ross Winn

2024-2025

Annual Giving Campaign

Raised $377,046

Wilshire Schools East's Annual Giving Campaign raised more than $377,000, exceeding our initial goal of $200,000. $182,000 went toward Wilshire School East's operating budget, while the remaining amount was used for supplemental expenditures.

The funds raised during the Annual Giving Campaign are vital to supplement the annual operating budget and enable Wilshire Schools East to continue growing. Our robust community giving invests in our facilities, education specialists, professional development for teachers and administrators, and enhanced programming for our students.

ALLOCATION OF ANNUAL GIVING FUNDS

51%

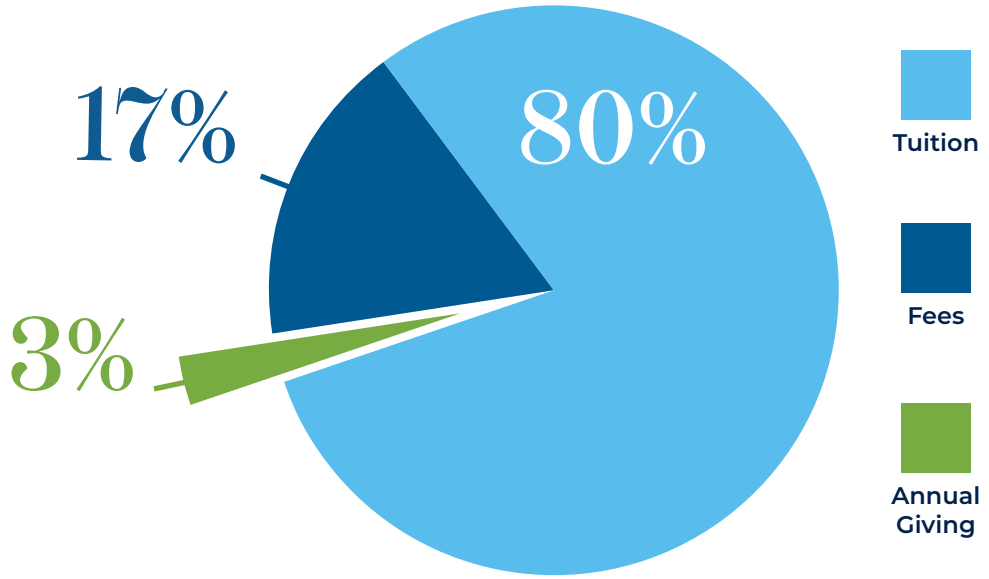
SUPPLEMENTAL EXPENDITURES

- Professional Development
- Specialists & Additional Teachers
- Enhanced Programming
- Student Technology (new laptops/iPads)
- Facility Updates

49%

OPERATING BUDGET

IMPACT OF ANNUAL GIVING FUNDS ON TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE



Annual Giving Campaign

2024-2025

Wilshire Schools East reached 72% participation from families and surpassed our financial goal!

We raised $377,046 to help pay operation costs, enhance student curriculum, update the school's facilities, provide professional development opportunities for our staff, and so much more.



ANNUAL GIVING COMMITTEE

Joanne Kaplan, Bethany Grabiec, Jessica Lewensztain, and Julie Gerber

NOT PICTURED: Chloe Beckerman, Ali Krug, Jessica Mackenzie, Daniel Miller, Kate Villasenor, and Tali Weiss

WILSHIRE SCHOOLS EAST

Giving Circle

BENEFACTOR

$25,000+

Karyn and Marc Cohen
Downtown Management Co., Inc.
Susie and Brad Krevoy
Alex Kargher and Danielle Sebring

PILLAR

$18,000-$24,999

Robert M. Beren Family Foundation
The Shah Family

LEADERSHIP

$10,000 – $17,999

Lee and Emily Eisenberg
Claire and Brian Goldsmith
The Kaplan Family
Carol and Avi Klein
Autumn and David Konheim
Ben and Jannelle Ross
Tali and Jordan Weiss

PATRON

$7,200 – $9,999

Bethany Grabiec and Matthew Jacobs
Jan Kunesh

PARTNER

$5,400 – $7,199

The Gerber Family
Julia Kramer and Zachary Kaplan
Lindsey Goldburg and Alec McMordie
Jessica Mackenzie and Daniel Miller
Bess Kargman and Matthew Orlando

Every effort is made to ensure accuracy. If you find an error contact Jayme Zahavi at jzahavi@wbtla.org.

Annual Giving Campaign

2024-2025

SUPPORTER
$3,600-$5,399

Anonymous
The Hardt Family
Jodie and Greg Kay
Carly and Kevin Klein
Lindsay and Peter Lenavitt
The Lewensztain Family
Stephanie and Brian Mau
Anna and Brett Seidler
Amy and Jacob Weber
Sarah and Adam Wolfe



FRIEND
$1,800-$3,599

Anonymous (4)
Helena and David Bloch
Ali and Teddy Bressman
Jessica Dombroff
Laura Paterson and Jason Farkas
Naomi Reem and Ronen Gilat
Carole Goldberg
Karen Hart and Daniel Henderson
The Hill Family
Naomi Klein
The Lobato Family
Meredith and John Meroney
Adrian and Larry Miller
The Nathanson Family
Amy Ephron and Alan Rader
Doreen and Dan Tenenblatt
Jenny and Paul Tennen
The Turbow Family

DONOR
UP TO $1,799

Anonymous (12)
Arina Faynshteyn and Roi Abarbanel
Erinn and Adam Alcabes
The Bahremand Family
Dafna Ben-Gera
Lemor and Tomer Benito
The Berger Family
Tova and Teddy Blum
The Blum/Harari Family
Maia and Matteo Borghese
Shira and Andrew Bragin
Tiana Hertel and Gregory Caplan
Debi and Andy Chesler
Arlo Cohen, *Class of 2028*
Rachel Fleischer and Blake Collins
Michal and Stav Davis
Auriane Desombre
Aimee Sax and Drew Dorenfest
Cole Ettman and Shlomi Hillel Ettman
Gillian and Adam Feldman
Nicole and Adam Feinberg
Stefanie Hagen and Aaron Feuer
Lauren and Brian Flanagan
Lexi Freund
Joy Schwartz and Tim Gaylord
Bonnie and Brian Glaspy
Christine and John Glaspy
Laura Stampler and Maurice Goldstein
Rachel Jacobs and Andrew Grossbart
Luke Heller
Leah Hochman
Alexis Holland
Luis Honorato
Laura and Karl Hussey
Erin Jacobs
Aliya Stuart and Mack Kary
Noa and Josh Keimach
Lindsey and Terry Leonard
Deanna and Justin Letter
The Levin Family
Jessica and Josh Lewis
The Love Family
Curran McIntyre
Jordyn Ostroff and Zachary Michaels
Randi and Patrick Moss
Amanda and Nicholas Nesbitt
Marlee Nesser
Liz Stahl and Chris Nilsson
The Nishita Family
Melissa Opper and William O'Donnell
Jonah Philips
Eran Pick
Nathalie and Daniel Raijman
Hili and Nadav Rakocz
Floryn and Daniel Rosenberg
Jill and Ira Rosensweig
Jessica Rosner
Jeremy Williams and Karen Saeki
Gil Saraf
Natalie Saraf
Steven Sax
Lisa and Camran Shafii
Julie and Steven Shifrin
Joanne Nabielsky and Emilio Smeke
Rebecca Spain
Sophie and Josh Stein
Casey and Evan Sypek
The Talty Family
Nancy and Israel Tanenbaum
Ariana Urbont and Billy Taylor
Stephanie and Michael Todd
Judith and Lester Turner
Rebecca and Fred Udell
Cody Vann
The Vietor Family
Kate and Spencer Villasenor
The Vogel Family
Jayme Zahavi
Julie and Jonathan Zoerb

WILSHIRE SCHOOLS EAST ALUMNI

The Levin Family *(Emily '18)*
The Love Family
(Naomi '19 and Josh '21)
The Nishita Family
(Melia '18)
The Vogel Family *(Gavin '18 and Dorothy '22)*



Thank you

to the entire Wilshire Schools East community for your generosity!

We deeply appreciate your support and commitment to this campaign. We could not have succeeded without each and every one of you.

WILSHIRE SCHOOLS EAST

GLAZER CAMPUS

3663 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90010
(213) 835-2125

WILSHIRE SCHOOLS EAST ADMINISTRATION

Gillian Feldman, *Head of School, Wilshire Schools East*
Floryn Rosenberg, *Director, Glazer ECC*
Danielle Sebring, *Principal, Brawerman East*
Meredith Meroney, *Director of Admissions, Wilshire Schools East*
Erin Jacobs, *Director of Operations, Wilshire Schools East*
Randi Moss, *Director of Student Success and Special Programming, Brawerman East*
Rebecca Spain, *Director of Advancement, WBT Schools*
Jayme Zahavi, *Associate Director of Advancement, WBT Schools*

WILSHIRE BOULEVARD TEMPLE LEADERSHIP

Donna S. Nadel, *Executive Director*
Naomi Reem, *Executive Director of Education*
Douglas Lynn, *Associate Executive Director*
Toby Neiman, *Associate Executive Director*
Karim Merzian, *Chief Financial Officer*
Andrew Levey, *Chief Human Resources Officer*
Erinn Alcabes, *Director of Institutional Advancement*

For information on how to to support Wilshire Schools East, contact Rebecca Spain at (424) 208-8944 or rspain@wbtla.org.

in partnership with JFEDLA
is this the updated logo?
BJE Builders of Jewish Education

WILSHIRE BOULEVARD TEMPLE CLERGY

Rabbi Joel Nickerson, *Senior Rabbi*
Cantor Lisa Peicott, *Senior Cantor*
Rabbi Steven Z. Leder, *Rabbi Emeritus*
Rabbi Elissa Ben-Naim
Rabbi David Eshel
Rabbi Susan Nanus
Cantor Kerith Spencer-Shapiro
Rabbi Joel Simonds
Rabbi Hannah Elkin
Rabbi Leah Fein
Rabbi Leah Lewis
Cantorial Intern Aliya Stuart
Rabbinic Intern Jeff Silverstein

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Deborah Dragon, *President*
Jeff Cohen, *Vice President*
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Abbi Hertz
Charles Hirschhorn
Jean Kaplan
CJ Laffer
Jessica Lewensztain
Fern Topas Salka
Steve Seigel
Adam Sher
David Wimmer
Robin Zucker
Fredrick Levin, *Counsel*

Honorary Board Members
Howard M. Bernstein, Audrey Irmas, Julie Miller, Richard Pachulski

BRAWERMAN MISSION STATEMENT

We provide an unparalleled educational experience rooted in Jewish values—inspiring innovative thinking, empowering responsible leadership, and honoring individuality within a nurturing community.

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTERS MISSION STATEMENT

The Early Childhood Centers of Wilshire Boulevard Temple build strong bodies, minds, and spirits beginning at a very young age. Our primary goals are to develop each child's self-esteem, promote positive feelings toward learning, and to encourage social interaction within a Jewish nursery school setting.

2024-2025 EDUCATION & SCHOOL GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE FOR WILSHIRE BOULEVARD TEMPLE SCHOOLS

Claire Goldsmith, *Chair*
Lauryn Harris-Pimstone, *Vice Chair*
Deborah Dragon
Rebecca Jonah
Avi Klein
Jessica Lewensztain
Sara Morris
Kevin Neustadt
Lynn Wagmeister
Betty Winn

BRAWERMAN WEST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

of WILSHIRE BOULEVARD TEMPLE

11661 W. Olympic Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90064
Phone: (424) 208-8934

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTERS

of WILSHIRE BOULEVARD TEMPLE

GLAZER FAMILY
EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER
3663 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90010
Phone: (213) 835-2125

MANN FAMILY
EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER
11661 W. Olympic Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90064
Phone: (424) 208-8900

RESNICK FAMILY
EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER
11960 Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90049
Phone: (310) 472-1255