

MAKOM: Creative Downtown Judaism

Annual Report 2016

A Space to Call our Own

With the generous support of Rochelle Rubinstein, Makom was able to move into our own storefront space in March. The timing was right for having a space of our own as it allows:

- **Makom's office staff to have a communal space where they can work side-by-side to improve efficiency and communication.**
- **A meeting place for Makom Afterschool teachers to gather, to learn, and to access classroom supplies.**
- **More flexibility for hosting a wider variety of events and programming.**
- **Greater visibility in the community.**
- **Stability of knowing where to find Makom!**

Makom Afterschool

	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
Number of sites	2	3	3
Students enrolled	27	59	56
Number of teachers	3	6	13

Makom Afterschool

This year, the 3 locations are:

- **Lord Lansdowne PS (Spadina and College)**
- **Palmerston PS (Bathurst and Bloor)**
- **Regal Road PS (Davenport and Dufferin)**



Makom Afterschool

With input from expert educators in the field and from its students and their families, the current school year is following a new structure.

The focus of learning for all days is Hebrew and Jewish knowledge, accomplished through Hebrew immersion and experiential learning.

Makom Afterschool

Monday and Wednesday	Required core days	Hebrew and Jewish literacy, including Jewish values and traditions and Hebrew conversation, reading, writing, and vocabulary
Tuesday	Arts and Music	Visual arts, music, drama
Thursday	Movement and Sports	Yoga, sports, games, Israeli dance
Friday	Hands-on Jewish Enrichment	Making Jewish food, learning songs, stories, crafts, exploring Shabbat and holidays

Makom Afterschool Leadership Council

A voluntary steering committee of parents, which supports and advises Makom's Director of Education and Family Programming.

- **Meets monthly throughout the year.**
- **Participated in strategic planning and supporting program growth, surveying currently-enrolled families, recruiting new members, and hosting information sessions for prospective families.**
- **Assisted with grant writing, website development and other initiatives as they arose.**

We are very grateful for such active and supportive engagement from the parents!

Makom Afterschool Grants

We have had great success securing grant funding for Makom Afterschool and other children's programming. For Afterschool:

- **Headway Enrichment Grant (Legacy Heritage Fund)**
- **WOW! Grant (UJA, Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Education)**
- **Experiential Education Grant (UJA, Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Education)**

Makom Families

- **Provide experiential programs, education, and community for Jewish and interfaith families with young children**
- **Connect families with children in Makom Afterschool to broader Makom community and organization**
- **Approx. 1 program/month**
- **Grant for Family Programs – PJ Library: Plug into PJ (UJA, Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Education)**
- **PJ Plus Parent + Tot (2-3 years old) on Sunday mornings at Makom**

Makom Camp

- **Introduced in the summer of 2015.**
- **18 children enrolled this past summer.**
- **Runs the last week of summer, after most camps are finished.**
- **Incorporates Jewish and Hebrew content into full days of outdoor activities, arts and crafts, and other recreational programming.**

Director of Education and Family Programming

Rabbi Emma Gottlieb



NEW!

Shabbat Services

We continue to grapple with Friday night services and the best approach to ensuring we provide a space for the spirited, meaningful services that have been so central to Makom, but for which attendance is unpredictable and volunteers are often hard to find.

Over the past year, we have tried different approaches:

- **Having services more frequently**
- **Having services less frequently**
- **Ensuring that Makom services and Annex shul services do not overlap**
- **Holding joint services with Annex shul**
- **Making a sign-up sheet through google docs so people can identify when and what they can do to support services.**

Holidays

Our most popular holiday services continue to be:

- **Rosh Hashanah**
- **Yom Kippur**
- **Purim**
- **Tishah be-Av**

Holidays - HHD

We had our highest-ever attendance at High Holiday (HHD) services this year, with around 270 participants, including approximately:

- **190 adults**
- **10 teens**
- **70 children**

Holidays - HHD

This year, we also ran a variety of options for families with children:

- **Childcare provided throughout adult services.**
- **Children's programming, led by Makom Afterschool educators, to explore the meaning of the holidays through engaging, thoughtful, and fun activities.**
- **Family services, led by Rabbi Julia Appel, included prayers, songs, and stories to meaningfully engage adults and children together.**

With so many people participating in these services, this will be an area that we'll be refining for the coming years.

Financial Report

Partnerships

Having our own space has allowed us host more 'happenings' in partnership with those in the community. Some recent examples:

- **NEYSHEV: Meditation Series w/ Aviva Chernick**
- **Contemplative Havdalah + Meditation w/ Rabbi Yoel Glick
(organized with Tzvika Aviv)**
- **Learn to say Shema like a Kabbalist w/ Prof Joel Hecker
(organized with Tzvika Aviv)**

What Awaits in 2017??

- **Increased transparency - Financial Auditor**
- **Greater financial sustainability - Makom Membership**
- **Expanded offerings:**
 - **B'nei Mitzvah Class/Youth Group**
 - **Adult Hebrew Class**

Acknowledgements

- **Very special thank you to:**
 - **Outgoing Board Members**
 - **Leora Jackson, Secretary**
 - **Neil Hirsch**
 - **Alex Taub**
 - **Makom staff**
 - **Rabbi Aaron Levy, Founder and Executive Director**
 - **Rabbi Emma Gottlieb, Director of Education and Family Programming**
 - **Anya Laskin, Administrative and Marketing Coordinator (part-time)**
 - **13 teachers for Makom Afterschool (all part-time)**

Fentster

- **FENTSTER** (meaning "window" in Yiddish) is a new exhibition space in Makom's storefront window.
- **Fentster** presents rotating, site-specific installations of contemporary art connected to the Jewish experience.

CURATOR: Evelyn Tauben