

JDS Alumni

Dear Alumni and Alumni Families,

As I reflect on our achievements from the past year, it's with immense pride that I share the remarkable growth and transformation at JDS. From finding a new home for JDS, to increased enrollment, to a comprehensive marketing study and rebrand, our strides have been monumental. But our commitment to our students and families goes beyond numbers and structures; it's about cultivating a Jewish learning environment where every student feels empowered to explore, grow, and contribute meaningfully.

Your continued involvement as alumni and alumni families provides a bridge between the past and the present, ensuring that JDS continues to grow while upholding the Jewish values that have always defined us. You remain an integral part of our community, shaping the narrative of our achievements and aspirations.

Meghan Kimpton
Head of School

We'll Miss You, Martin!

Our December 8 Kehillah was a bittersweet day as our community wished farewell to Martin Cartagena, longtime head of the JDS maintenance crew, all-around handyman, and dear friend to students and families. Generations of JDS students and families gathered to celebrate Martin with tributes, stories, photos, and memories. Martin will always be part of our JDS family!



Enrollment Reaches New Milestone

This fall, JDS celebrated a milestone in enrollment; 100 students joined us for the 2023–2024 school year, a 20% increase from last year. We're grateful to families for entrusting us with their children's education, and we're dedicated to providing an enriching and supportive environment that encourages project- and inquiry-based learning rooted in Jewish values.

If you're interested in enrolling your child at JDS, please contact admissions@jds.org.

Welcoming Israeli Families

After October 7, JDS welcomed 13 Israeli students into our community, and we were humbled and honored to be able to open our school and hearts to these visiting families. Our students and teachers embraced our new Israeli learners, fostering a global exchange of knowledge and reinforcing the shared bonds that connect us as Jewish global citizens.



JDS Students Support Israel

After hearing about the devastating news in Israel, students knew they needed to get involved. A JDS alumni parent started a clothing drive for the IDF soldiers, and Blue Villagers facilitated the collection process. Together, JDS students collected nearly 400 pounds of clothes.

Blue Villagers also collected money for Magen David Adom. Students worked collaboratively to teach the school about the cause and raise money for the organization. As a class, they put on a bake sale and craft fair with Israel-inspired crafts. Together, they raised over \$1,000!

Preschool to eighth grade students wrote letters to IDF soldiers, which were delivered to the front lines. They wrote notes of peace and messages of encouragement, thanking the soldiers for keeping our land of Israel safe.

JDS students have demonstrated the value of tikkun olam by participating in our culture of compassion and fostering a sense of responsibility to repair the world.

Class Notes

Class of 1996

JDS Board President **Sarah Castoriano** joined past JDS Head of School Maria Erlitz at a Samis-sponsored professional development event last spring.



Class of 2000



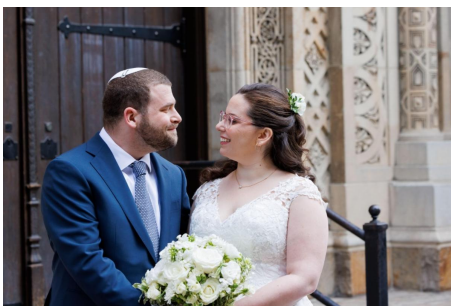
Sarah Constantine, Greta Spear, Perri Erlitz, Talya Gillman, and Alyssa Zupnick participated in Jewish Family Services' holiday basket making.

Class of 2001



David and Michelle Bayley welcomed baby Bowen Neville Allen Bayley on September 25, 2023. Mazel tov!

Class of 2005



Mazel tov to **Adam Gillman**, who married Leah Silver in New York City on November 12.

Class of 2006



In June, **Josh Sloan** and his wife Haley welcomed their twins, Albert and Millie.



Nicki Sherr and her husband Ari welcomed their third baby, Leni, in September. Gabe and Noa are so in love with their little sister already!

Class of 2007

Mazel tov to **Ahbra Franco**, who married Alvin in Los Angeles!

Congratulations to **Jacob Goren** on his marriage!

Class of 2011

Domi Edson received his Master's degree in jazz performance and is currently a full-time bass musician living in Denver, CO. On November 24, Domi released his new album, "A Jazzy Hanukkah." The album features his trio's interpretations of many Hanukkah songs in a classic jazz style, all of which he learned at JDS! You can check out his album on all streaming services.

Class of 2014

Hannah Morris is an associate marketing manager for Slate Magazine. She fondly remembers celebrating holidays at JDS. Yom Ha'atzmaut was her favorite. It was such a joyful day full of so many fun activities, specifically dancing and baking pita.

Gabe Rosenbloom recently moved from Boston back to the Seattle area and is currently studying to become a sommelier. In the next month, he'll be heading to South Australia to work a grape harvest with Seppeltsfield Winery.

Class of 2015

Aaron Greenstein recently graduated from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. and is now living and working in Salt Lake City. He is in a product manager role within open banking at Mastercard, tasked with building a new payment method, leveraging new technologies, and managing client demands. He loves the work and is very excited to ski this winter!

We'd love to hear from you!

We value our alumni and want to hear about what's happening in your lives. Share your travels, accomplishments, simchas, and news with us, and let us know if you would like to be featured in our class notes!

[Share Your Story](#)

Join Us!

In the neighborhood on Friday mornings?

Pop over to JDS and join us for Kehillah! All alumni, alumni families, and prospective families are invited to join us to sing, enjoy some coffee, and welcome Shabbat. **The next Kehillah will be on March 1.** See you then!



Pop-In & Play

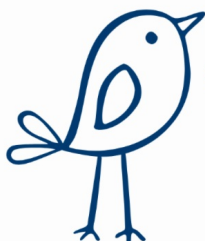
Tu B'shevat

JDS Campus

Sunday, January 21st

10:00-11:00 am

Questions: wleberman@jds.org





Save the date!

**SUNDAY,
MARCH 10, 2024**

Embassy Suites Downtown Pioneer Square
Doors open at 4:30pm

FORMAL
INVITATION TO
FOLLOW

QUESTIONS?

Email auction@jds.org
or call 425-460-0242