



# Baltimore Jewish Day Schools

*Availability. Affordability. Excellence.*



# Diligently Teach Your Children | ושננתם לבניך

In 1917, when Baltimore's Yeshivath Torah Emunah Hebrew Parochial School (now known as Talmudical Academy, TA) opened with six students, the first Jewish day school outside of New York combining a rich Jewish studies program with a rigorous general studies requirement, few could have imagined Jewish Baltimore of today. Our diverse community now boasts nearly one dozen other accredited Jewish day schools, enrolling over 5,000 students, crowning Jewish Baltimore as a center of Jewish learning and excellence.

Robert Russel, long-time business and community leader, attended TA. Robert says, "TA had a strong impact on me that stays with me until today"

In 2012, it is a very tough time to raise children – economically, emotionally, socially and religiously, explains Zipora Schorr, head of Beth Tfiloh Dahan Community School. Jewish day schools, like other private institutions, have excellent academic curricula, but they go one step further. They provide a Jewish family for the parents and



the students who attend them. They teach the relevance of our Jewish traditions and ensure that Baltimore's Jewish future continues to thrive with unprecedented growth and dedication to Torah and its values.

Baltimore's Jewish day schools have shaped a generation of strong, knowledgeable and well-cultured leaders. Leading Jewish communal lay leaders attended Baltimore Jewish day schools, including Howard Tzvi Friedman, Yehudah Neuberger and Becky Brenner. Many of the nation's top teachers and rabbinical leaders, such as Rabbi Shmuel Kamenetsky, Dean of Talmudical Yeshiva of Philadelphia (Ner Israel), and well-known author and rabbi, Daniel Gordis (Beth Tfiloh) are graduates of local day schools. Some of the most successful professionals in the U.S. graduated from our programs – Dr. Joel Fleishman, first senior vice president of Duke University, and Ezra Dabah, CEO of Children's Place, for example, both graduated from TA.

*“Healthy, vibrant Jewish day schools are an essential ingredient to assuring the continuity and engagement of our Jewish community,” says Genine Macks Fidler, community volunteer, philanthropist and former day school student.*

# The Perfect Match

Five years ago, THE ASSOCIATED: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore and the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation had a dream to dramatically alter the availability, affordability and quality of day school education in the Baltimore community. With the signing of the first day school challenge, and through the generosity of our donors, an additional \$16 million was infused into our day school system between 2007 and 2012. Our dream became a reality.

- Children in our community are engaged in intensive Jewish learning.
- Families are able to enjoy the richness of our Jewish traditions.
- More educated, inspired, Jewishly-grounded leaders will emerge in our community for decades to come.

When the first agreement was signed, no one could have envisioned the collapse of the economy. No one could have foreseen that the number of families

receiving need-based scholarships at a school like Krieger Schechter Day School would rise from 25 percent to 40 percent nearly overnight. The Day School Initiative became a necessity for survival.

“So many families struggle to afford Jewish day school,” says Krieger Schechter’s Dr. Paul Schneider. “I hate to think what it would be like without the additional dollars from THE ASSOCIATED and the Weinberg Foundation.”



# Meet *The Steins*\*

Rachel and Richard Stein and their two children, David and Samantha, were a happy, well-adjusted Midwest suburban family. The children attended the local public school. Rachel, a successful lawyer, worked part-time while her husband supported the family through his architecture firm, overseeing some of their city's largest projects. Life was excellent - until three years ago; Richard was killed in a tragic accident and his family was left alone and unstable.

Rachel found a high-paying job in Baltimore and the family uprooted months after Richard's death in hopes of starting fresh. Sadly, like many others at her once-bustling firm, Rachel lost her job with the economic downturn. Feeling desperate and alone, she entered a deep depression and the children began struggling socially and in school.

"One of our parents recommended Rachel enroll her children in Beth Tfiloh and connect herself with the Jewish community," explains Zipora Schorr, head of school. "That parent gave BT an anonymous donation to get the Stein children started and since then, the children have been receiving financial aid. The family's life has changed."

The Steins found themselves in the Jewish infrastructure of the school and synagogue. Parents eagerly invited the



*David and Samantha*

*"Over 2,000 years ago, our ancestors established the principle that a Jewish education is not only a parental obligation, but is also a wider, communal obligation," explains local businessman Shlomo Spetner.*

*"I am proud to be a part of this glorious tradition by supporting the schools in our community."*

family for Shabbat meals and to share in their *simchas*. The children's emptiness was quickly changed to joy by the nurturing, caring environment of BT and love of Judaism and Israel.

"How does one express the purest of gratitude for the amazing education and blessings that Beth Tfiloh bestowed on my children and my family?" says Mrs. Stein.

"I have connected to my Judaism and found happiness again primarily because my children have thrived at the school."

She continues, "I now know that everything happens for a reason. Perhaps it was meant to be that I should be forced to uproot my family to Baltimore so that I could have a Jewish community and my children could study at Beth Tfiloh."

*\*Names changed.*

# Meet *The Arnolds*

Naama Leia is the second daughter in a family of three children. Her middle school teachers at Bais Yaakov School for Girls say she demonstrates tremendous promise. She studies hard, but she also takes time to give back, helping with her younger brother, assisting friends that struggle academically and teaching ballet to Orthodox elementary school girls.

Naama says she would like to be a doctor.

In 2007, Naama's father, Shmuel, then a chief compliance officer at a high-end bank, was laid off. However, he and his wife, Shoshana, say that even as difficult as finances were, they didn't consider a public school.

"We knew we had to make it work, no matter what," Shoshana says. "A day school education is vital for our Jewish girls."

Shoshana says Naama, and their older daughter Elana, receive a stellar education at the day school. They learn Torah, of course, but not just what it says in the Bible. They study their heritage and the importance of *chesed*, helping others. For them, a Bais Yaakov education provides their daughters with a strong set of Jewish values and the ability to make smart decisions.

"I am so grateful for Bais Yaakov. The teachers are warm and if you need help, they assist you right away," Naama says. "I like to be able to focus on my studies, to learn in an all-girls school with children like myself."

The scholarship fund from THE ASSOCIATED and the Weinberg Foundation, says Shmuel, helped ensure they could continue to send their kids to Jewish day school during the period that he was out of work. Bais Yaakov, he explains, helps guarantee his daughters will become well-rounded, modest and respected Jewish women.



*Naama Leia*

*"Jewish day school education fosters future lives guided by the ethics and values embodied in Torah as well as a life of selfless activism," says Shoshana S. Cardin, internationally renowned leader, day school advocate and donor.*

# Transformation and *Transition*

Today, in 2012, Jewish identity building and engagement are a focal point of our Jewish community and its leaders. The 2010 Greater Baltimore Jewish Community Study revealed that young Jews are becoming increasingly disconnected from the organized Jewish community. Inter-marriage is on the rise – even in Baltimore – and fewer children are being raised Jewish. There is a risk that in the coming decades Jewish Baltimore's vibrancy could dwindle. Jewish day schools are not the only answer – we need strong Hillels on our college campuses, we require creative

programming for families with young children living outside the Jewish epicenter and we have to invest in Jewish camping and travel to Israel. But Jewish day schools are a critical element.

A study by the United Jewish Communities (now Jewish Federations of North America) found that those who attend a Jewish day school scored higher on almost all forms of Jewish identity than those who received no formal Jewish education. **Jewish day schools, along with Jewish camping and travel to Israel, are keys to maintaining a strong and vibrant Jewish community.**

**Today, we turn to you, the leaders of our community, to help us guarantee that day school remains a possibility for any Jewish family who chooses it. Through THE ASSOCIATED, you have the opportunity to invest today in the education of the youth who will ensure a strong and vibrant Jewish Baltimore tomorrow.**

Baltimore Jewish Day Schools	Founded	Enrollment	Fiscal Year 2012 Allocation	% of Students on Scholarships
Bais Medrash & Mesivta of Baltimore	1997	92	\$96,948	96%
Bais Yaakov School for Girls	1942	1,294	\$1,335,488	74%
The Day School at Baltimore Hebrew	1993	55	\$56,831	77%
Beth Tfiloh Dahan Community School	1942	726	\$753,700	34%
Bnos Yisroel of Baltimore	2002	369	\$367,834	53%
The Shoshana S. Cardin Day School	2003	46	\$58,467	58%
Krieger Schechter Day School	1981	365	\$418,160	37%
Ner Israel Rabbinical College	1934	902*	\$530,683	66%
Talmudical Academy of Baltimore	1917	788	\$794,830	59%
Torah Institute	1954	557	\$567,909	69%

*Enrollment numbers as of December 2011 and includes grades K-12; scholarship information is most recent available.*

*The \$2.1 million core allocation to day schools from THE ASSOCIATED Annual Campaign in combination with THE ASSOCIATED/Weinberg Day School Initiative constitutes approximately 10 percent of each school's annual budget.*

*\*Includes post high-school students*

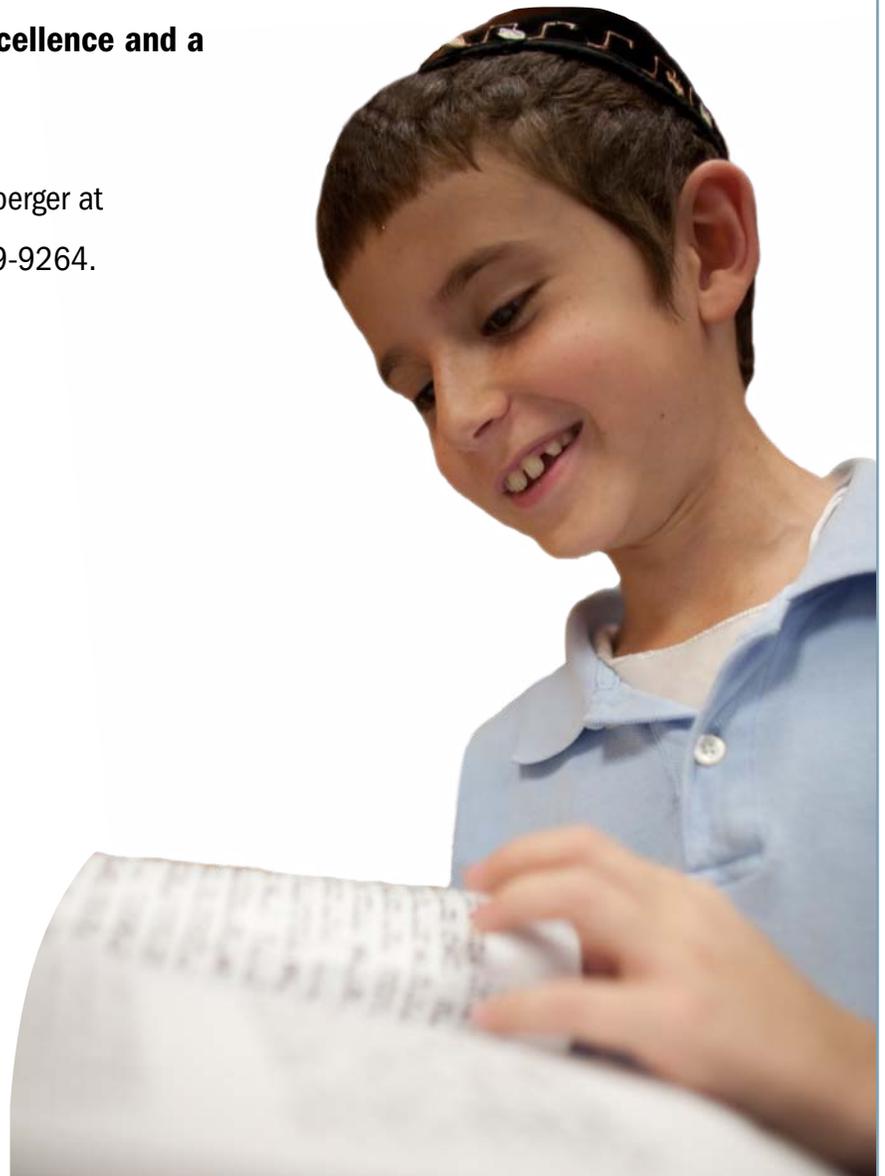
*“The single, strongest factor that increases identification with the Jewish community is day school attendance,” says Paul Volosov, businessman and day school donor.*



# Make a Gift for Our *Jewish Future*

**Your transformational gift will help ensure Jewish Baltimore continues to develop a day school learning environment focused on academic excellence and a commitment to community.**

For more information, contact Abe Wasserberger at [awasserberger@associated.org](mailto:awasserberger@associated.org) or 410-369-9264.



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## DAY SCHOOL INITIATIVE

Making day school education more  
affordable for Baltimore's families



THE ASSOCIATED



The Harry and Jeanette  
Weinberg Foundation, Inc.