



YEAR IN REVIEW
2025



entwine

A Message From Our Leadership

Dear Entwine Community,

When young Jews are given meaningful opportunities to connect, learn, and take action, they build resilience and Jewish joy not only for themselves, but for the communities they are part of. Entwine exists to make that possible.

Entwine's 2025 unfolded amid heightened complexity for the Jewish community. Rising antisemitism, global instability, and deepening fragmentation shaped how many young Jews experienced community, belonging, and responsibility. Alongside this external reality, we also faced internal challenges that required us to rethink programs, reduce travel opportunities, and scale back staff capacity, all while remaining focused on what we know works, and creates real impact.

In 2025, JDC Entwine engaged young adults in **over 21,000 touchpoints** around the world. Through immersive global experiences, leadership development programs, and peer-led engagement opportunities, participants didn't just attend programs. They **built relationships, stepped into leadership, and carried what they learned back into their local Jewish lives.**

When young adults are empowered with tools and trust, they take initiative and bring Jewish community to life. In this document, you will read several stories of impact including:

- Students finding community while living abroad
- Young adults exploring global Jewish issues through the lens of JDC
- Alumni gathering peers in moments of need
- Leaders translating global learning into local action

Together, they tell a clear story. **Entwine is developing Jewish leaders and strengthening Jewish identity in young adults in communities across the world at a moment when that work is urgently needed.**

We are proud of what we accomplished in 2025, and equally confident in where we are headed. We are doubling down on the programs and pathways that are core to building resilience and Jewish joy, guided by evidence, experience, and the people at the heart of this work.

Thank you for your trust and partnership. We invite you to explore the pages that follow and see the impact you make possible.

With gratitude, **Andrew Belinfante & Sara Glazer** | Interim Co-Executive Directors
Robbie Mann | Entwine Committee Co-Chair
Analucía Lopezvoredó | Outgoing Entwine Committee Co-Chair
Jared Bierbach | Incoming Entwine Committee Co-Chair



Evan Majzner

A Note from Entwine's New Executive Director

As I step into the role of Executive Director, I do so with deep gratitude to Andrew and Sara for their steady leadership, care, and commitment to a thoughtful and seamless transition. I've had the privilege of listening to and learning from our team, alumni, supporters, and partners. One theme has come through clearly: **a deep and abiding belief in the power of Entwine's mission and impact.** Words like 'life-changing,' 'transformative,' 'eye-opening,' and 'responsibility' surface again and again, reflecting not only the experiences we create, but the sense of purpose they ignite.

At a time when so many young Jewish adults are seeking connection, meaning, and community, **I feel both honored and energized to join JDC Entwine at this pivotal moment.** I am excited to build on this strong foundation, and to partner with our remarkable team and stakeholders to usher in Entwine's next chapter **with purpose, ambition, and a deep sense of Jewish pride and responsibility.**

2025 By The Numbers

21,000+ Touchpoints

1,522 Participants

35 Countries Visited



Global Immersive Experiences:

531 young adults traveled
on multi-day immersive
travel experiences

Leadership Pipeline:

200 leaders trained



Local and Global Engagement:

3,975 touchpoints with
college students at home
and abroad

791 event attendees

166 alumni-led events



We Build Community

Entwine helps young adults find belonging beyond home. Through immersive experiences connected to JDC's work around the world, participants encounter Jewish life as it is lived and sustained across communities. These experiences create space for connection, shared identity, and mutual support. The relationships formed help participants feel grounded, build pride in their Jewish identity, and shape how they stay involved and take responsibility when they return home.

Insider Trips

JDC Entwine's Insider Trips are immersive global travel experiences that bring young adults into direct contact with diverse Jewish communities and JDC's humanitarian work around the world. Insider Trips offer unparalleled learning, cultural exchange, and connection as participants explore global Jewish life, engage with local leaders, and deepen their sense of global Jewish responsibility.

96% of Insider Trip participants felt like a part of a global Jewish community after their experience.

92% of Insider Trip participants reported building meaningful peer connections.

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“This trip helped me feel a sense of pride in being Jewish and a desire to strengthen my ties to my community and my culture. Before the trip, I felt distanced and a need to be quiet about my Judaism, and now I want to be loud and proud and involved!”

– Inside Argentina For Gen Z Young Adults



Hannah Sachs

“Throughout my life as an Asian Jewish adoptee people have questioned my Jewishness, often making me self-conscious and selective about the Jewish communities I engage with for fear of standing out or being rejected. At Entwine, I have never doubted my identity or my connection to the Jewish community. I feel like the pressure is off and I am able to be me: there is no expectation about how I express or practice my Judaism, and people embrace me as a whole person. Joining the inaugural JOCISM program to Brazil in 2019 was empowering because it was the first time I was in a predominantly and intentionally-curated Jews of Color space. I'm still in touch with many cohort members to this day, and I am constantly reminded of the richness and diversity of Jewish culture and identity around the world. Through Insider Trips and events, I was inspired to join the Entwine Council in 2024, helping to create the infrastructure for sustained collaboration to strengthen the global Jewish community.”

New York, USA



Brittany Ritell

“To me, community means a sense of belonging and connection with a group of people who have a shared set of values. I believe community also comes with the responsibility to create that space. Creating a successful community is a give and take. After leaving Jewish professional work in 2019, I was fairly inactive in my local community. ReJoint Bosnia & Croatia (an Entwine Insider Trip for alumni leaders) reminded me what I love about being part of the Jewish community – the immediate sense of connection you get with people you've never met before. I appreciated that this cohort was made up of Entwine alumni who wanted to reconnect and deepen their understanding of JDC's impact around the world. Living in Glasgow, Scotland, I don't often have access to a large group of young Jewish leaders anymore. Growing up in Northeast America as an active BBYO member and Brandeis alum, I feel that absence so strongly.

Glasgow, Scotland

After the ReJoint trip, I went to services at a local synagogue for the first time in almost eight years. My husband and I became members shortly thereafter. Once a month we attend Friday night services and a potluck dinner at the shul. It's been good to get involved again after such a prolonged break, and I'm grateful that my Entwine experience inspired me to reconnect.”



We Provide Opportunities

to Connect with Global Jewish Communities

As participants deepen their connection to Jewish life abroad, belonging expands into a broader sense of responsibility. Through exposure to JDC's work and partnerships around the world, young adults begin to see themselves as part of a global Jewish collective and better understand what it means to take responsibility for one another.

94% of Insider Trip participants reported feeling a special responsibility to help Jews in need around the world following their trip.

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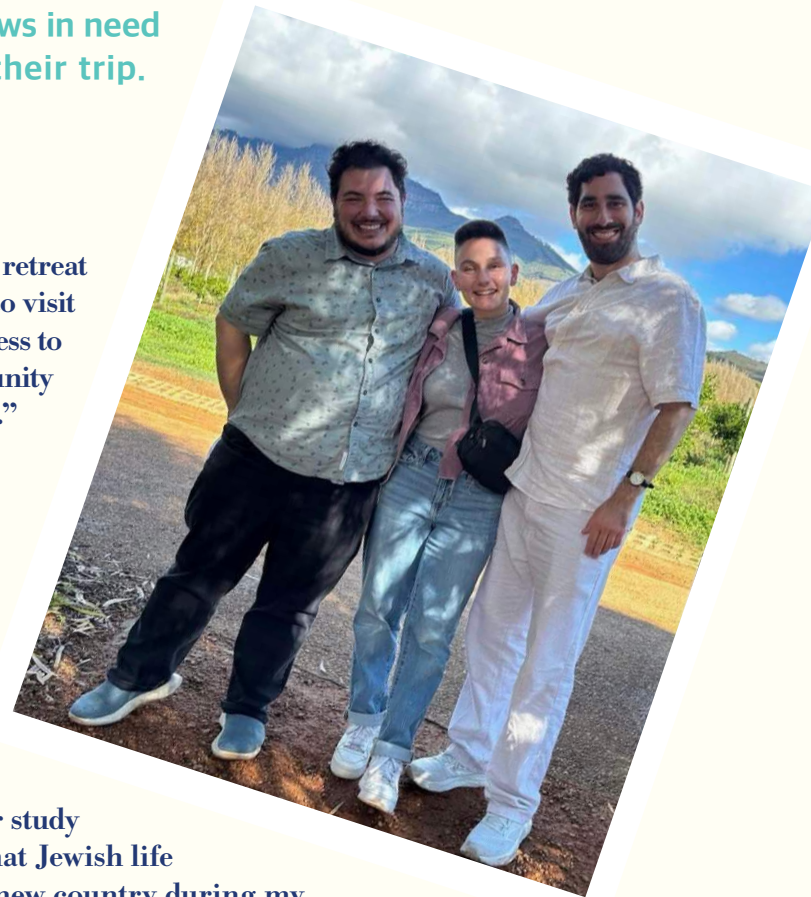
“Global Campus: Sofia, an immersive, multi-day retreat for study abroad students, was a great opportunity to visit a place I never considered traveling to. It gave me access to learn about and interact with the local Jewish community in a way I couldn't have experienced without JDC.”

– Global Campus Participant

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“Being a Global Ambassador in Florence, a semester-long community building opportunity for study abroad students, made me more curious about what Jewish life looked like in other places. Every time I visited a new country during my semester abroad, I found myself wanting to learn more about the local Jewish population, how they practice, what their history is, and what community looks like there. It became a way of understanding the places I traveled through a deeper, more personal lens.”

– Spring Global Ambassador



Ralph I. Goldman Fellowship

Eryn Sarkin

2025 RIG Fellow

The Ralph I. Goldman Fellowship is JDC's premier leadership opportunity, awarded to one exceptional young leader per year who is committed to impacting the global Jewish world.

Eryn Sarkin, 2025 RIG Fellow, traveled the globe, engaging firsthand with JDC's humanitarian work. During that time, she learned that leadership isn't about knowing all the answers up front — it's about being curious enough to listen, ask the right questions, and take effective action. She served in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, England, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Japan, Portugal and South Africa.

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“My journey, from a war-disrupted stay in Israel to South Africa, Brazil and Japan, has been my clearest education yet in how to adapt to global challenges while keeping impact at the center. This work grounded my understanding of JDC's mission: that Jewish responsibility is not confined by identity lines. It taught me that leadership, at its most honest, is the willingness to stand with people whose lives may look nothing like ours and to act as though their dignity is inseparable from our own.”

“If this year has taught me anything, it's that we each have a role in shaping the world that comes next.”



Lisbon, Portugal

We Empower Alumni

to Serve, Give, Gather, and Learn

From a giving circle in Bosnia to crowdfunding for JDC Georgia, alumni are proving that global Jewish responsibility is something lived, not just learned. Entwine equips alumni with the skills, knowledge, and relationships to translate their experience into meaningful action. Through assiyah (taking action), alumni carry Entwine's values into their local communities and become catalysts for connection, resilience, and joy.

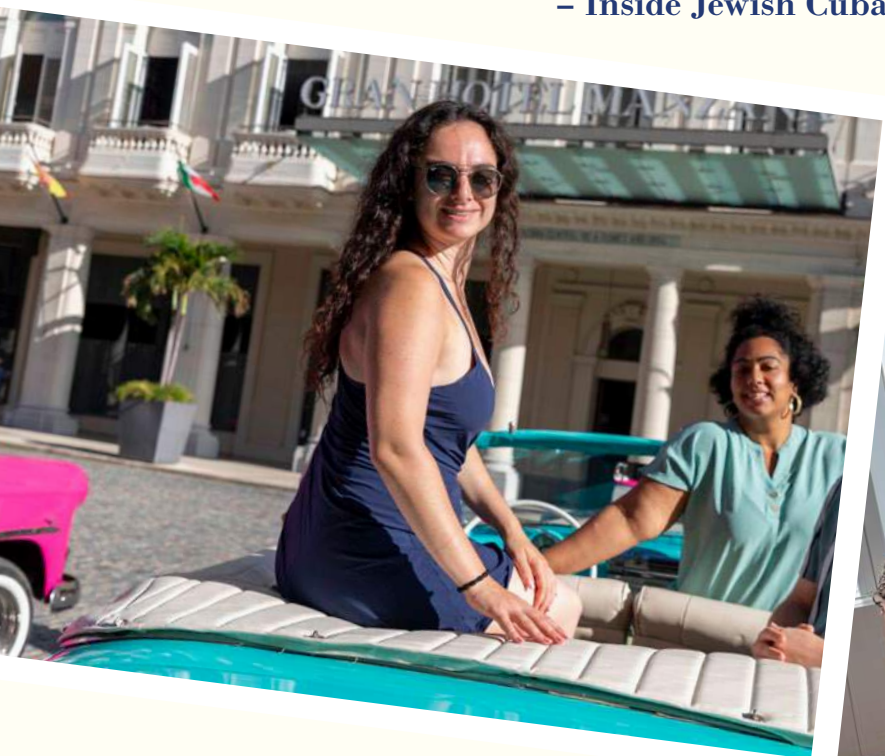
96% of Insider Trip participants felt inspired to increase their involvement in their local Jewish community following their trip.

86% of Insider Trip participants felt empowered to get more involved with volunteerism and service, locally and globally, following their trip.

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“One formative aspect of the trip for me was collecting donations to bring to the Cuban Jewish community. I normally wouldn't organize a donation drive, but I posted in various social media groups and received a large community response, which was heartwarming and made me feel more connected to my local community.”

– Inside Jewish Cuba Trip Participant



Alumni Campaign

Each year, the Entwine Alumni Campaign activates our alumni community to live out the value of arevut through philanthropic giving, channeling shared responsibility back into transformative global Jewish travel and learning for the next generation.

The 2025 Alumni Campaign reached a total of \$80,000, made possible by contributions from more than 130 donors in the Entwine community and generous matching support from JDC donors. Together, this support reflects a powerful expression of the shared commitment to showing up for each other and for Jewish communities around the world.

Nick Schiff

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“I joined my first Entwine Insider Trip to the UAE at a moment when campus antisemitism left me feeling isolated and unsure where to turn, and I was looking for community with other Jews my age. The trip gave me deep friendships, emotional grounding, and unexpected hope especially learning about how the UAE, a deeply religious Muslim country chooses tolerance, protects Jewish life, and models partnership between faiths. I returned home steadier and more confident, and now I mentor Jewish students, advocate with fellow faculty, and wear my Jewish star proudly, even when it feels risky. In 2026, I'll also serve as an Entwine Community Representative, helping other young Jews find the same sense of belonging and purpose I found.”

New York, USA

“As a historian, I see history repeating, and it's important for us to push back. I see Entwine as doing that by strengthening communities of young Jews here and around the world.”

We Develop The Next Generation of Jewish Leaders

By identifying, cultivating, and investing in values-driven leaders, Entwine strengthens the Jewish world's capacity to meet today's challenges and tomorrow's opportunities. Our alumni represent a growing network of leaders prepared to carry Jewish life forward with intention and care.

88% of Insider Trip participants felt inspired to speak about and advocate for global Jewish causes following their trip.

71% of Insider Trip participants were inspired to take on new leadership roles in their local Jewish community following their trip.

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“My experience shifted my perspective on leadership. Rather than focusing solely on leading within the Jewish community, I aspire to be a Jewish leader who reaches outward – educates, welcomes questions, and helps build understanding across boundaries. I want to serve as a bridge between Jews and non-Jews, creating space for connection, curiosity, and shared respect.”

– Insider Trip Alum



Community Representatives In Memory of Max Mann

Entwine's Community Representatives serve as ambassadors for global Jewish engagement within their local communities. In 2025, Entwine trained 26 alumni to advance awareness about global Jewish causes within their communities by hosting events, coordinating volunteer opportunities, and sharing JDC's work.

Lauren Lewis

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“As part of Entwine's Community Representatives program, I hosted a soap-making event in London, designed to bring Jewish nonprofit professionals together. The event enabled participants to build community locally while engaging people in conversations about JDC, global health and hygiene. The Community Reps program gave me the support and platform to design an intentional event that connected people through shared purpose and global Jewish responsibility.”



London, England

“Being a part of this cohort reinforced how meaningful local spaces can be in strengthening my connection to global causes.”

Thank You

We are pleased to recognize the supporters and partners who contributed \$5,000 or more to Entwine in 2025.

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Anonymous

Michael and Etta Barry

Birthright Beyond

Penny and Harold Blumenstein

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The Milton A. and Roslyn Z. Wolf
Family Foundation

JDC Entwine is grateful for your support in 2025, enabling JDC Entwine to reach thousands of young Jews and develop the next generation of Jewish leaders who are committed to global Jewish responsibility.

We are especially thankful to our Board members for their generosity, leadership, vision, and steadfast support throughout 2025. Their guidance continues to shape Entwine's impact and ensure our ability to respond to the evolving needs of Jewish communities around the world.

Entwine is deeply grateful for the generosity of our individual donors and foundation partners, alongside the sustained commitment of Entwine alumni.



If you have any questions about your recognition, please contact
Elissa Katz, Development Officer at Elissa.Katz@jdc.org.