

CHARTING *the* COURSE



ANNUAL
Report
2024

Interest-free Loans
for Higher Education

0%
INTEREST
LOANS

**\$2.1 million to
473 students
in 2024**

For full
lending stats,
see pages 3-4.



BRANDON H.

HOMETOWN
Charlotte, NC

**FLORIDA
ATLANTIC
UNIVERSITY**
Charles E Schmidt
College of Medicine
M.D. Class of 2026

*my***JELF**story

“

JELF has taken significant stress off the already tumultuous pressure of financing medical school and I am forever grateful for the help that they have provided me!”

PROFESSIONAL TEAM

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Jenna Leopold Shulman

Chief Operating Officer

Cathy Miller

Chief Development Officer

Josh Schaier

Director of Loan Program

Sandra Bass

Senior Development Officer

Miriam Friedman

Alumni Engagement Manager

Brian Kaplan

South Florida Engagement Manager

Amy Wait

Administrative & Financial Coordinator

Jenifer Lieberbaum

Operations Manager & Executive Assistant

Jody Vane

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Emily
Sauerteig
BOARD
CHAIR

Dear Friends,

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with immense gratitude for the unwavering support of our JELF community. Each year, the Jewish Educational Loan Fund stands as a pillar of hope, ensuring that Jewish students across our region have the financial support needed to pursue their educational dreams. Thanks to you, JELF continues to break down financial barriers and empower Jewish students to build brighter futures.

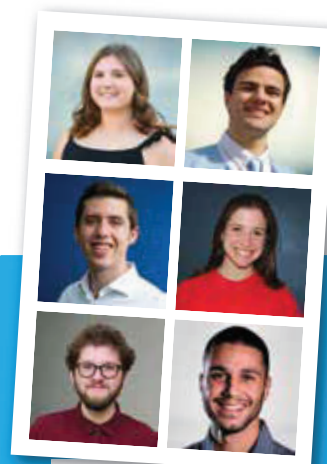
In 2024, we witnessed the transformative impact of our interest-free loans, helping more students than ever before. Behind every number in this report is a story—of perseverance, ambition, and the power of education to change lives. From aspiring doctors and engineers to future teachers and changemakers, JELF recipients are shaping the world in ways that honor our shared values and commitment to giving back.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to expanding our reach and deepening our impact. The **rising cost of education makes JELF's mission more critical than ever**, and with your continued partnership, we will ensure that financial need never stands in the way of a student's potential.

Thank you for being an essential part of JELF's journey. Your generosity is not just an investment in education—it is an investment in the future of our Jewish community.

With gratitude,

Jenna Shulman *Emily Sauerteig*
Jenna Leopold Shulman Emily Sauerteig
Chief Executive Officer Board Chair



A POWERFUL Conversation ON ANTISEMITISM

In September 2024, six JELF recipients participated in a live discussion about their experiences as Jewish students today. **LISTEN HERE.**



*Former JELF Recipient

JELF Loans Awarded by Community

		2022		2023		2024		
COMMUNITY		# STUDENTS	\$ LOANED	# STUDENTS	\$ LOANED	# STUDENTS	NEED	\$ LOANED
TOTALS		396	\$1,931,235	438	\$2,025,000	473	\$3,354,897	\$2,158,564
FLORIDA	BOCA/ DELRAY BEACH	47	\$233,710	46	\$248,842	50	\$359,645	\$262,408
	BROWARD	40	\$224,086	45	\$236,223	48	\$336,080	\$215,438
	GAINESVILLE	1	\$7,470	1	\$4,000	2	\$15,670	\$9,000
	GULF COAST	0	0	0	\$0	1	\$2,918	\$2,918
	JACKSONVILLE	8	\$42,528	4	\$14,500	9	\$66,204	\$38,988
	MIAMI	29	\$153,868	38	\$180,039	45	\$324,523	\$226,914
	NAPLES	0	0	3	\$18,800	4	\$28,778	\$24,756
	ORLANDO	13	\$58,798	20	\$82,348	21	\$138,810	\$85,432
	PALM BEACH	16	\$71,363	19	\$93,994	16	\$107,019	\$82,337
	PENSACOLA	1	\$1,500	1	\$5,000	1	\$6,718	\$6,718
	SARASOTA-MANATEE	3	\$16,750	6	\$32,242	7	\$45,651	\$36,360
	TALLAHASSEE	1	\$5,000	2	\$9,500	2	\$16,136	\$8,500
	TAMPA	16	\$70,512	13	\$48,862	18	\$124,244	\$77,404
GEORGIA	ATLANTA	124	\$593,614	134	\$596,540	136	\$998,957	\$598,562
	AUGUSTA	3	\$17,500	1	\$4,500	1	\$6,498	\$6,000
	SAVANNAH	5	\$23,654	3	\$18,772	2	\$13,696	\$8,620
NORTH CAROLINA	ASHEVILLE	3	\$17,194	3	\$14,500	3	\$21,882	\$14,500
	CHARLOTTE	13	\$48,591	17	\$78,446	19	\$134,598	\$88,002
	DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL	10	\$50,171	8	\$39,500	8	\$55,769	\$33,005
	GREENSBORO	13	\$65,568	16	\$78,620	10	\$65,084	\$42,445
	RALEIGH-CARY	16	\$67,226	18	\$61,472	27	\$191,353	\$95,400
SOUTH CAROLINA	CHARLESTON	8	\$35,000	8	\$29,722	8	\$64,570	\$34,430
	COLUMBIA	4	\$23,628	9	\$44,094	11	\$68,009	\$51,890
VIRGINIA	RICHMOND	6	\$29,300	6	\$30,098	9	\$62,391	\$43,527
	ROANOKE	1	\$3,220	0	\$0	1	\$5,474	\$1,000
	TIDEWATER	8	\$39,043	10	\$58,928	6	\$38,069	\$25,460
OTHER COMMUNITIES*		7	\$31,941	7	\$25,500	8	\$56,151	\$38,550

*Includes students who reside in the five-state region but not in one of the above partner communities.

Faith in the Future

THE JUDITH AND AARON ALEMBIK ENDOWMENT FUND



A \$1 million gift honoring the late Aaron Alembik will provide critical funding to the children of Jewish clergy.

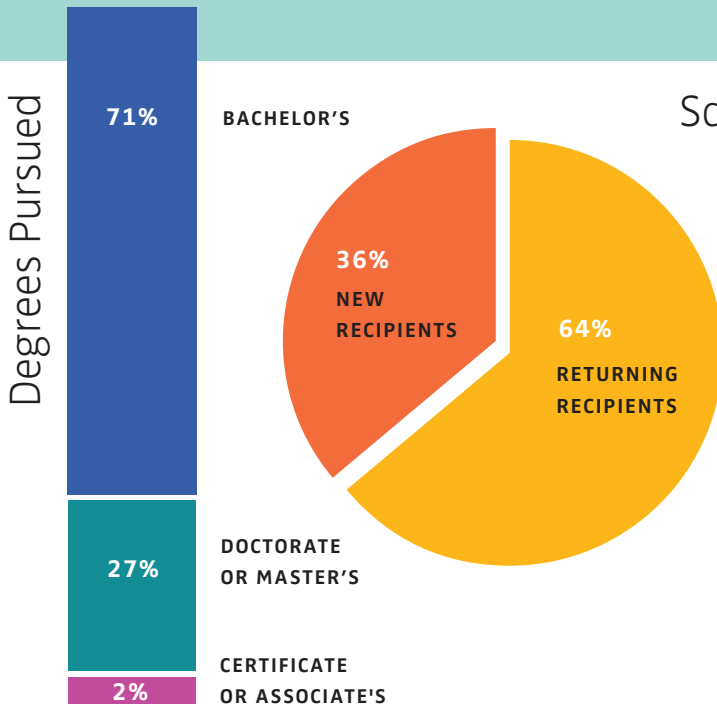
As a Holocaust survivor who built a successful legal career in the U.S., Aaron and his wife, Judith, also an attorney, always prioritized education. Now, their family is paying that commitment forward. **"Rabbis and cantors are central to our Jewish communities,"**

says son Gary Alembik. "This endowment honors their contributions by helping their children access the education they deserve, and it is our lasting legacy of gratitude."

To learn more, visit
jelf.org/clergy



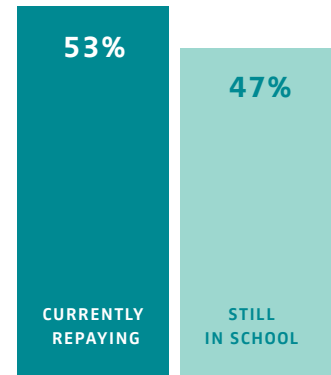
2024 Student Demographics



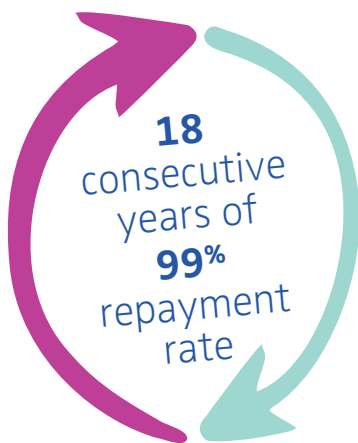
With only **24%** of JELF students having a 529 or other college savings plan, there's a pressing need to help more families plan ahead for the future.

JELF by the Numbers

In 2024, JELF managed an outstanding loan portfolio of **\$11.8 million** to **1,379 students**.



TOTAL RESOURCES



JELF collected \$960,000 in loan repayments

\$1.8 million raised from unrestricted donor contributions

JELF's investment fund \$4,938,618 as of 12/31/24

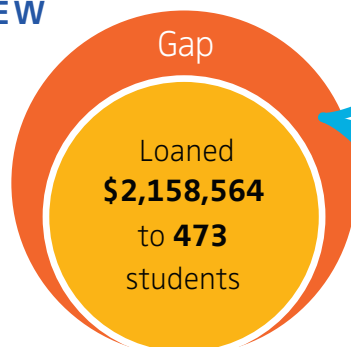
INVESTING IN IMPACT

TOTAL COST TO OPERATE JELF \$1.2 million

includes program expenses, marketing, operations, fundraising, and loan portfolio management

2024 LOAN REVIEW

Total amount needed by all JELF applicants \$3,354,897



JELF was unable to fund the remaining gap of \$1,196,333 or 35% of the total need.

JELF IS CONSISTENTLY RATED FOUR-STARs BY



Local JELF Administrators

JELF partners with 25* Jewish agencies to administer its loan program at the local level. All applicants participate in a personal interview, allowing JELF to better understand students' financial challenges.

	Ruth & Norman Rales Jewish Family Services, Inc. SOUTH PALM BEACH, FL	Jaclyn Tureff Wendy Goodman
	JELF (Jewish Educational Loan Fund) BROWARD, FL	Megan Hershenson Bari Goldberg
	Jewish Council of North Central Florida GAINESVILLE, FL	Linda Maurice
	Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Services, Inc. GULF COAST, FL	Gail Allen
	Jewish Family & Community Services JACKSONVILLE, FL	Hilary Bettman
	Jewish Community Services of South Florida MIAMI, FL	Gareth Fink
	Jewish Federation of Greater Naples NAPLES, FL	Renee Bialek
	Alpert Jewish Family & Children's Service of Palm Beach County N. PALM BEACH, FL	Olivia Tartakow Cindy Beadle Rita Martinez
	Shalom Orlando ORLANDO, FL	Lisa Wayne
	Pensacola Jewish Federation PENSACOLA, FL	Rabbi Joel Fleekop, Temple Beth El
	The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee SARASOTA, FL	Kim Adler Carly Zenker
	Temple Israel TALLAHASSEE, FL	Stefanie Posner
	Tampa Jewish Family Services TAMPA, FL	Bev Tannenbaum
	JELF (Jewish Educational Loan Fund) ATLANTA, GA Heidi Geller Bobbie Griff Jennie Medeiros	Melissa Perlmutter Suzanne Saunders- Prado
	Jewish Community Center and Federation of Augusta AUGUSTA, GA	Jennifer Wood
	Savannah Jewish Federation SAVANNAH, GA	Sam Friedman
	Jewish Family Services of Western North Carolina ASHEVILLE, NC	Carrie McGuire
	Jewish Family Services of Greater Charlotte, Inc. CHARLOTTE, NC	Rachel Green Sara Scheibner
	Jewish For Good DURHAM - CHAPEL HILL, NC	Shoshana Funk
	Greensboro Jewish Family Services GREENSBORO, NC	Marcia Cross
	Raleigh - Cary Jewish Family Services RALEIGH, NC	Lauren Primato
	Jewish Family Services of Greater Charleston CHARLESTON, SC	Miriam Jones
	Columbia Jewish Federation COLUMBIA, SC	Jennifer Dearing
	Greenville Jewish Federation GREENVILLE, SC	Courtney Tessler
	Jewish Family Services RICHMOND, VA	Teresa Baldwin
	Roanoke Jewish Federation ROANOKE, VA	Court Rosen
	Jewish Family Service of Tidewater TIDEWATER, VA	Michelle Walter

* Visit jelf.org/lja
for a complete list.



2024

Gatherings

WINE & CHEESE EVENING

Alpharetta, GA
Oct. 29, 2024



Co-Hosts
Maynav
Golomb and
Charla
Weinsier

JELF recipient
Sophia Charyton
with Board Chair
Emily Sauerteig



Falon and Josh Elbaz,
JELF recipient, along
with fellow recipient
and Board Member
Jane Sandler

Board Member Joshua
Videlefsky with JELF
recipients Katie and
Dr. Brandon Estroff,
and longtime supporter
Brad Kirschner

COCKTAIL PARTY

Tampa, FL
Nov. 12, 2024

Event Chair
Dori Marlin, CEO
Jenna Shulman
and Event Chair
Michael Silver



JELF recipient
Ezra Bershadski
with Dr. Judy
Genshaft



YOUNG PROFESSIONALS HAPPY HOUR

Alon's Bakery, Atlanta, GA
May 7, 2024



Drs. Stephen and
Marianne Garber
with Garber Honor
Roll Recipient and
past Board Chair
Rob Rickles



Rachel Ramaglia,
JELF recipient
and event speaker



Koonin Award
Recipients
Richard Peretz
and JELF recipient
Ilana Lind with
Eydie Koonin
(center)

148TH ANNUAL MEETING

Temple Sinai, Atlanta, GA
Feb. 4, 2025

Mazel Tov!

THANK
YOU TO
OUR
EVENT

sponsors



Sisters in success our JELF story

HOMETOWN
Richmond, VA

**CHRISTOPHER
NEWPORT
UNIVERSITY**
B.S. Accounting
+ Finance
M.S. Clinical Mental
Health Therapy

Raised by a single mother in Richmond, VA, sisters Arielle and Alexis B. always dreamed of higher education—but financial constraints made that dream uncertain.

Thanks to JELF's support, both were able to attend Christopher Newport University without the overwhelming burden of student debt.

For Alexis, JELF's help meant she could double major in accounting and finance, immerse herself in extracurriculars, and land a full-time job at the Federal Reserve upon graduation.

Arielle, empowered by the financial relief, excelled in her studies, graduating at the top of her honors program and continuing on to pursue a master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Therapy.

Arielle's goal? To provide low-cost, if not free, therapy for Jewish students in need.

Arielle is grateful for JELF's support:

"From the bottom of my heart, thank you for allowing me to follow my dreams. I fully intend to give back to JELF to help future scholars like me pursue higher education."

Because of JELF, the sisters are not just achieving their goals—they are paying them forward.



ARIELLE &
ALEXIS B.



Hebrew Orphans' Home
stood from 1889 - 1948.

Learn more
about JELF!
jelf.org



**OVER 100
YEARS OF
COMMITMENT
TO EDUCATION
& JEWISH
COMMUNITY!**

HIGHER EDUCATION BY THE NUMBERS

\$37K

The average student loan debt
for a four-year degree, potentially
leaving graduates strapped
for decades.

60% vs. 19%

Since 1980, college costs
have risen over 60%, while
young workers' wages have
only increased 19%.

20 years

The average loan borrower
takes this long to pay off
their federal student loans –
if they ever do.

40 million

Americans with
student debt, with
20% of borrowers
already in default.

**ONLY
20%**

Just 1 in 5 Jewish
families open
college savings
plans, leaving
students struggling
when tuition
comes due.

**NEARLY
60%**

of students say
financial stress delays
graduation or forces
them to drop out.

**DECLINING
enrollment**

Financial concerns are the top
reason students skip college.



JELF changes lives
for Jewish students –
providing a means to make
higher education possible
without the lifelong
burden of debt.

**THANK YOU FOR
HELPING MAKE THIS
POSSIBLE.**