

JEWISH PARENT ACADEMY

10 Years of Impact

Alumni Survey Report | 2026

Survey of JPA Alumni Across 9 Active Chapters

Bergen County NJ · Brooklyn NY · Five Towns NY · Livingston/Short Hills NJ · Manhattan NY
North Shore Long Island NY · National (Online) · Palo Alto CA · Walnut Creek · Westchester NY



Executive Summary

Within a decade, Jewish Parent Academy (JPA) has created something rare: a program that transforms Jewish parents into informed, confident, and deeply connected participants in Jewish life. This report presents findings from a survey of 70 JPA alumni conducted in early 2026, spanning all active chapters across the United States.

The results are compelling. Across every dimension measured — Jewish knowledge and identity, family engagement, philanthropic behavior, community connection, and leadership — JPA alumni demonstrate outcomes that speak directly to the organization's mission: raising a generation of Jewish parents who are equipped, inspired, and motivated to transmit Jewish heritage to their children.

Key Findings at a Glance

98% Place Jewish news in historical context	97% Feel responsibility to invest in Jewish life	92% Part of parent community for Jewish education	86% Jewish network grew through JPA
82% Confident discussing Jewish history	80% Comfortable discussing Israel	66% Connected to other Jewish organizations	59% Give more to Jewish causes since JPA

The survey reveals that JPA's impact extends far beyond the classroom. Alumni report richer family conversations, stronger Jewish identities, increased charitable giving, and meaningful connections to the broader Jewish community. Their children are more engaged in Jewish education and youth programming. And a significant proportion of alumni have stepped into lay leadership roles — seeding the next generation of Jewish communal life.



About This Study

Methodology

This report is based on an online survey distributed to JPA alumni in early 2026. The survey was designed to assess the program's impact across five domains: Jewish identity and knowledge, family and parenting, community engagement and philanthropy, leadership, and overall program experience. Responses were collected from 70 participants across all nine active JPA chapters plus the online program.

Respondent Profile

The respondent pool reflects a broad cross-section of the JPA community, with alumni who joined the program as recently as 2026 and as far back as 2016.

Characteristic	Detail
Total Respondents	70
Gender	63% Female · 36% Male · 1% Prefer not to answer
Age Range (majority)	40–49 (51%) · 50–59 (44%) · 30–39 (3%) · 60+ (1%)
Years Joined JPA	2016–2026 (full decade represented)
Most Represented Year	2025 (16%) · 2024 (13%) · 2023 & 2021 (11% each)
Primary Program	JPA Cohort (semester-long program): 89% of respondents
Sessions Attended (past 12 months)	2–4 sessions: 34% · 5–10: 25% · 10+: 20% · At least once: 20%

Chapter Location	Respondents
Brooklyn, NY	27
Manhattan, NY	18
Online	17
New Jersey (Livingston / Short Hills)	13
Five Towns, NY	7
Palo Alto, CA	7
Bergen County, NJ	5
North Shore Long Island, NY	5
Westchester, NY	4

Section 1: Jewish Identity, Knowledge & Confidence

JPA's central educational mission is to equip Jewish parents with the knowledge, context, and confidence to engage meaningfully with Jewish history, thought, and current events - and to pass that engagement on to their children. The survey findings in this section represent the program's most significant area of documented impact.

Historical Literacy and Contextual Awareness

Near-universal agreement was found on measures of historical literacy and contextual awareness:

98%

Report that JPA helped them place news about Jewish life and Israel within a broader historical context - and see their family's story as part of the larger Jewish historical narrative.

98%

Feel emotionally connected to the resilience of past Jewish generations.

100%

Express pride in Jewish contributions to Western civilization, sciences, and culture.

89%

Report that their pride in being part of the Jewish people has deepened as a result of JPA.

83%

Actively explored Jewish historical sources, lectures, or cultural materials on their own after attending JPA — a strong indicator of independent, self-directed learning.



Confidence and Engagement

JPA alumni demonstrate markedly increased confidence in their ability to engage with Jewish topics in social, civic, and family settings:

92%

Agree that their understanding of Jewish history informs their opinions on contemporary Jewish issues.

89%

Feel better equipped to answer their children's questions about Jewish history and heritage.

82%

Feel confident engaging in conversations that involve Jewish history.

80%

Feel comfortable navigating questions about the modern state of Israel.



These findings are particularly significant in the context of the current moment. As antisemitism rises and Jewish communities face increasing pressure to articulate and defend their identity and connection to Israel, JPA alumni emerge from the program meaningfully better equipped to do so.

"I have become the kind of Jew I always wanted to be — proud, confident, informed, passionate, engaged, observant in a non-Orthodox way. And, as a consequence of my own transformation, I created a Jewish home based on Jewish pride and values."

"I became more confident in our 'why.'"

"I've been quite active in Jewish life prior to JPA, but it helped to reignite the thirst for learning and doing more."

Section 2: Family Life & Jewish Parenting

A defining feature of JPA's model is its focus on parents as the primary agents of Jewish transmission. The survey confirms that JPA's impact travels home with its participants — reshaping family conversations, holiday observance, and children's Jewish engagement.

Conversations at Home

77%

Report discussing Jewish history with their children more often than before JPA.

80%

Say their children show curiosity or pride about Jewish history as a result of family conversations.

92%

Feel they are now part of a community of parents committed to bringing Jewish education into family life.



What Families Are Saying

"Gave us tools, encouragement and ideas to discuss with and instill in our kids."

"JPA learning brought Judaism to dinner table discussions."

"We started celebrating Jewish holidays."

"We started to read more, started to do Shabbat every Friday. JPA did bring us closer together as a family."

"Having more knowledge allowed me to have deeper and better conversations about Judaism and Israel with my children."

"It helps me be a strong Jewish influence — to have my children carry our people's collective memory in their own generation and beyond."



Children's Jewish Educational Engagement

Respondents' children participate in a wide range of Jewish educational and communal experiences, reflecting the broader Jewish engagement of JPA families:

Jewish Program / Activity	% of Respondents Reporting
Jewish education programs (Tikvah, etc.)	26%
Jewish advocacy organizations (Club Z, etc.)	30%
Jewish youth groups (BBYO, JSU, CTeen, etc.)	29%
Jewish clubs or organizations on campus	35%
Jewish summer sleep-away camp	24%
Jewish summer day camp	21%
Jewish Sunday / Hebrew school	18%
Jewish day school (K–12)	14%
Jewish preschool	11%

Section 3: Philanthropic Impact

A key goal of this study was to assess whether JPA participation translates into increased philanthropic engagement with Jewish causes. The findings suggest a meaningful shift — both in the frequency of giving and in participants' internalized sense of philanthropic responsibility.

Charitable Giving Patterns

The vast majority of JPA alumni are active donors to Jewish causes. Among survey respondents:

Giving Frequency	% of Respondents
Give regularly to Jewish charities (5+ donations/year)	42%
Give occasionally (2–4 donations/year)	44%
Rarely give	12%
Prefer not to say	2%

JPA's Effect on Giving Behavior

59%	Report giving MORE to Jewish causes as a direct result of their JPA participation — including 15% who give significantly more or more frequently.
67%	Agree that JPA increased their awareness of the need to give to Jewish and Israel-related causes.

A Deep Sense of Philanthropic Responsibility

Beyond behavioral changes in giving, JPA alumni show a profound internalized sense of responsibility:

97%	Agree: 'I have a responsibility to invest in my Jewish life and my children's Jewish lives.'
97%	Agree: 'I have a responsibility to support Israel.'
92%	Agree: 'I have a responsibility to support Jewish charities.'

Community Response to October 7th



Following the Hamas attacks of October 7, 2023, JPA alumni demonstrated a significant surge in giving across all categories of Jewish philanthropy:

Category of Giving	% Who Increased	% Who Increased Significantly
Giving to Israeli causes	82%	29%
Giving to Jewish organizations	73%	21%
Giving to Jewish educational initiatives	59%	15%

These figures suggest that JPA's educational foundation — particularly its emphasis on Jewish history, resilience, and the connection to Israel — prepared alumni to respond to crisis with both understanding and generosity.

Section 4: Community Engagement & Leadership

JPA is designed not only to educate individual parents but to build a community — and through that community, to strengthen the broader Jewish organizational ecosystem. The survey confirms that JPA is succeeding on both fronts.

Connecting to the Jewish World

86%

Report that their Jewish network has grown through participation in JPA.

66%

Report that JPA connected them to other Jewish organizations and communities, including AIPAC, UJA, JCC, Chabad, Club Z, and local synagogues.

77%

Say that JPA encouraged them to participate more actively in other Jewish institutions and events.

67%

Say JPA made them more active in advocating for Jewish people and combating antisemitism.

64%

Say JPA made them more active in Israel-related learning or advocacy.

Leadership Development

JPA serves as a meaningful pipeline for Jewish communal leadership. Among respondents:

62%

Say that JPA encouraged them to consider or take on lay leadership roles in Jewish initiatives or communal organizations.

38%

Report that they have taken on at least one formal Jewish lay leadership role since their involvement with JPA

Leadership Role	% of Total
Joined a JPA local organizing committee	14%
Volunteered at JPA events	14%
Taken leadership in a Jewish school, synagogue, or community project	11%
Joined the JPA Board	8%
Joined board/leadership of another Jewish organization	6%
Started or co-founded a Jewish group or initiative	5%
Taken volunteer leadership in a non-Jewish setting	3%

Section 5: Program Experience & What Participants Value

Understanding what participants find most valuable helps explain JPA's impact and inform its continued development.

Most Influential Aspects of JPA

Program Element	% Citing as Most Influential
Access to high-caliber speakers	77%
Quality of education and learning content	74%
Community building	64%
Networking with like-minded Jewish parents	47%
Connecting to other Jewish organizations	17%
Opportunities for lay leadership and volunteering	12%

The primacy of speakers and educational content reflects JPA's commitment to intellectual rigor. Community building and networking — cited by nearly two-thirds and nearly half of respondents respectively — confirm that the social dimension of the program is nearly as valued as the learning itself.

Ongoing Engagement

Alumni remain highly active in JPA programming. In the past 12 months alone, 80% of respondents attended two or more JPA sessions, with 45% attending five or more. This sustained engagement speaks to the quality of programming and the strength of the community JPA has built.

Participant Voices

"It is a wonderful organization that truly cares about building Jewish communities and making people connect with their ancestral history and heritage. It definitely impacted me and my family."

"JPA introduced me to high-caliber speakers that led me to buy books on topics I was interested in and continue learning. Other participants shared experiences and stories that allowed me to learn about programs and opportunities my kids were able to join as well."

"Great experience overall — thank you to the founders and organizers. The cohort meetings were well-spaced and meticulously organized."

"I want to thank JPA and its amazing leaders for creating this wonderful organization which in such a short time has become vital to the Jewish community."

Section 6: Additional Findings

Social Connection and Belonging: Beyond education, JPA consistently delivers a sense of belonging that participants describe as rare and meaningful. Respondents repeatedly cited the relationships formed through JPA as among the program's most valuable outcomes.

"Love the community and friendships made as an adult in my 40s. It's a wonderful, like-minded, wholesome community — helping and supporting one another."

"We hosted several JPA families in our home for Shabbos, which strengthened our sense of belonging within the community."

"I met a lot of new people and feel very connected to the community."

Religious Practice and Observance: A notable subset of respondents described changes in religious practice as a result of JPA participation — including adopting or deepening Shabbat observance, beginning to celebrate Jewish holidays, and, in one case, beginning to observe Jewish practice for the first time.

"We started observing Shabbat a bit more often and explored volunteering with JFCS."

"We started celebrating Jewish holidays."

"Started observing Judaism."

Participant Demographics and Longevity: The survey reflects participation across a full decade of JPA programming. A significant portion of respondents joined in the most recent years (2024–2025), suggesting healthy growth in the program's reach. The presence of alumni from as early as 2016 who remain engaged with JPA events and programming speaks to the organization's ability to retain long-term community members.

Geographic Reach: Respondents represent nine distinct JPA communities across four states (New York, New Jersey, California, and Connecticut) and an online national cohort — demonstrating the model's adaptability and geographic scalability.

Conclusion

The findings of this survey paint a clear and compelling picture: Jewish Parent Academy is delivering on its mission with documented, measurable results.

JPA alumni are more knowledgeable, more confident, and more engaged with Jewish life than they were before the program. They are having deeper conversations with their children, giving more to Jewish causes, connecting to a broader community of Jewish organizations, and stepping into leadership roles. They feel more equipped to face the challenges of this moment — from rising antisemitism to the need to articulate a proud, informed connection to Israel.

Perhaps most importantly, they are doing what JPA was designed to help them do: raising the next generation of proud, informed, and committed Jewish families.

As JPA looks toward national expansion — from 9 to 27 communities and from 75 to 300 cohort participants — this survey is clear and strong evidence of the success of our program and warrants further robust investment and support. The model works. The outcomes are measurable. The community is ready.

JPA at a Glance: 10 Years of Impact

- 98% feel connected to the larger Jewish historical narrative
- 97% feel a personal responsibility to invest in Jewish life and support Israel
- 92% feel part of a community of parents committed to Jewish education
- 82% feel confident discussing Jewish history in social and civic settings
- 82% increased giving to Israeli causes following October 7th
- 66% connected to other Jewish organizations through JPA
- 38% have taken on at least one Jewish communal leadership role since JPA

