



RUACH Reports

November 2018 Newsletter, Issue #3

Sherman Park Arts Festival

In April 2018, RUACH and a wonderful array of community partners launched the inaugural Sherman Park Arts Festival (SPAF). The theme, *Diverse Roots, Common Ground*, highlights the rich diversity and deep connection felt by residents and businesses within the Sherman Park community. The Festival included two main events—a Community Arts Day and a Community Concert—as well as a series of well received outreach activities.



Children painting pictures at the SPAF Community Arts Day

The Community Arts Day was held on April 22 at the Mary Ryan Boys & Girls Club. Over 100 families, friends, and neighbors, most from the Sherman Park area, were in attendance. Attendees visited various stations led by artists, all of whom live or work in the Sherman Park community, to enjoy arts and crafts ranging from Asian fan making to drawing zentangle patterns. They also worked from an artist-created lesson plan to create artwork that illustrated and celebrated our diversity and commonalities.

The Community Concert took place on May 2, at the start of the Jewish celebration of Lag B'Omer, in Ascension - St. Joseph Hospital's Klieger Auditorium, and was attended by a diverse audience. The concert headliner was Jason McKinney, a world-renowned bass-baritone and Milwaukee native with ties to the Sherman Park community. It also featured music by The Paul Spencer Band, spoken word by TRUE Skool, Inc. artists, and drumming performances by students from 53rd Street and Sherman Multicultural Arts Schools.

Prior to the concert, Mr. McKinney visited various sites throughout the Sherman Park community for brief performances of his repertoire. He sang for students, seniors, police officers and other guests. [Learn more in this jsonline.com article.](#)

The success of the inaugural Sherman Park Arts Festival is the happy result of a community partnership between RUACH and Ascension – St. Joseph's Hospital, the Mary Ryan Boys & Girls Club, Congregation Beth Jehudah, Sherman Park Community Association, Sherman Park Association of Religious Communities, Fifty-Third Street School, Sherman Multicultural Arts School, Bethel-Bethany United Church of Christ, Milwaukee Police Department District 7, and others.



Jason McKinney performing before school children

Sincere thanks go out to our Sherman Park Arts Festival generous donors: Bader Philanthropies, Gene and Ruth Posner Foundation, Herb Kohl Philanthropies, Jewish Community Foundation of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation, Bert & Patricia S. Steigleder Charitable Trust, Greater Milwaukee Foundation, Bader Philanthropies, Bud and Sue Selig, and Milwaukee Public Schools.



Spirit of RUACH Reception

On May 31, RUACH held a "Spirit of RUACH" Donor Appreciation and Tribute Reception in appreciation of donors who contributed \$100 or more during the fiscal year, and to recognize three most deserving honorees who beautifully exemplify the spirit of RUACH.

The 2018 Spirit of RUACH honorees are Dr. Patricia Ellis, Harriet McKinney-Mandelman and Ascension – St. Joseph Hospital. In acknowledgment of the Sherman Park Arts Festival, and its goal to celebrate the community, all three honorees were chosen for their longstanding connection and impactful commitment to the Sherman Park community.



2018 Spirit of RUACH honorees: (L-R) Dr. Patricia Ellis, Harriet McKinney-Mandelman and Dr. Steve Ragatz, representing Ascension-St. Joseph Hospital

2017-18 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

RUACH continues its work in reaching into the Greater Milwaukee community to offer quality music and arts programming to underserved populations. In an effort to strengthen its connection to the Sherman Park community in 2017-18, RUACH focused its music and arts programming in schools and youth organizations located in the Sherman Park neighborhood. In addition, RUACH also continues to be committed to providing regular and excellent programming to its core partners, Yeshiva Elementary School and Ovation Communities. Below are highlights from RUACH's programming during the 2017-18 year:

RUBIN SHARPE TRIBUTE SERIES

Through the Rubin Sharpe Tribute Series (RSTS), RUACH, in partnership with the Jewish Home and Care Foundation (JHCCF), brings free, high-quality performances and lectures to the Greater Milwaukee community and Ovation Communities. In 2017-18, the RSTS hosted a Yiddish and Chanukah music concert by "The Flying Dreidel Brothers," featuring Adam Margolis, Avi Gelfman and Guy Fiorentini; a Jewish and folk-themed classical music concert performed by violinists Alexander 'Sascha' Mandl and Jeanyi Kim, accompanied by pianist Stefanie Jacob; a Klezmer and Sephardic Music Melava Malka performance by "The Flying Camels," featuring Adam Margolis, Linda Siegel, Rick Aaron and Guy Fiorentini, joined by Ouri Marciano, which was followed by an interactive kumzitz (a Jewish musical get-together); and a pre-concert talk entitled "Ears on the 20th Century: Listening Beyond Beethoven," followed by a musical performance of selections by several 20th century greats, including Bartok, Bloch and Shostakovich, featuring violist Wendy Richman and pianist Stefanie Jacob.



The Flying Camels (L-R) Guy Fiorentini, Adam Margolis, Linda Siegel, Ouri Marciano (vocalist) and Rick Aaron

YIDDISH MUSIC SERIES

The Yiddish Music Series—another partnership between the JHCCF and RUACH—continues to be a popular and successful concert series for Ovation Jewish Home residents. The concerts are free and take place on Sunday mornings in the Helen Bader Memory Center. They are usually led by multi-instrumentalist Adam Margolis, who is joined by fellow musicians including: flutist Rick Aaron, bassist Guy Fiorentini, percussionists Avi Gelfman and Linda Siegel, violinist T.J. Hull and clarinetist Leon Cohen.

NACHAS RUACH

Once each year, RUACH hosts Nachas RUACH, a showcase of music and art performed and created by Yeshiva Elementary School (YES) students over the course of the school year, mainly through RUACH programming. In the 2017-18 school year, 4th grade girls, plus girls who participated in the recorder after school program, performed under the direction of Mrs. Rochel Leah Fox. The showcase also included a performance by the 5th grade YES girls choir and select soloists and performances by YES and Torah Academy of Milwaukee young women.

RECORDER PROGRAM

Yeshiva Elementary School's 4th grade boys, 4th grade girls, and girls taking part in the after school program, participated in a multi-month recorder music program utilizing the *Recorders Play Jewish Music* method book, a recorder instruction book which was written by Mrs. Marty Fox and produced by RUACH. Under the direction of Mrs. Rochel Leah Fox, students learned the recorder basics and how to play some popular Jewish songs. At the end of the school year, the girls showed off their new recorder skills at Nachas RUACH.

"I never would have been able to learn the recorder with Jewish songs that we sing in our home without RUACH. Thank you, RUACH"

~ Shira Esther Ordan, Yeshiva Elementary School,
5th grade girls class

PROJECT: VITAL (Values in The Arts & Life)



Trees created by schools participating in Project: VITAL on display at the Community Arts Day

The Project: VITAL theme was inspired by the "Growth Mindset" theory. Growth Mindset is the notion that through hard work and persistence, people can always develop and improve their skills, despite initial limitations. This notion is in contrast to the "Fixed Mindset," in which people believe that there is a limit to their abilities and skills, and that after a certain point, one has reached their capacity to grow and improve. Judaism teaches that we must always strive for growth and improvement.

This year's theme was interpreted in art through the depiction of trees. Students from 53rd Street School, St. Catherine's Catholic Elementary School, Sherman Multicultural Arts School, Yeshiva Elementary School and the Mary Ryan Boys & Girls Club, all located in the Sherman Park area, painted trees on large panels on which they placed words, letters, and artwork to inspire and freely express the things they enjoy, love and hope for. These panels were displayed at the Sherman Park Arts Festival's two main events — the Community Arts Day and the Community Concert.

RUACH'S RECORDER PROGRAM

NOW PLAYING: RECORDERS PLAY JEWISH MUSIC

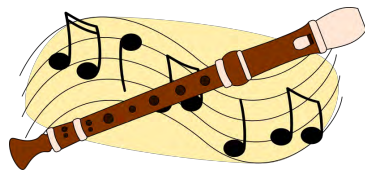


RUACH and author-educator Marty Fox have teamed up since shortly after RUACH began in 2004, to author a method book for the popular children's instrument, the recorder. Portable, inexpensive, and easy-to-learn, the recorder offers an ideal medium for learning music--but not just any music in the case of the RUACH book!

What's special about this book is that it features entirely *Jewish* music, as opposed to typical selections like 'Hot Cross Buns' and 'Mary Had A Little Lamb.' This offers an opportunity for Jewish students to be exposed to their own heritage and pick up the instrument more easily, and for students who are not Jewish to be exposed to a different culture.

Funding for *Recorders Play Jewish Music* came from Bader Philanthropies, Potawatomi Hotel and Casino's Heart of Canal Street program, and the National Endowment for the Arts. The book has been taught at several local schools, including Bader Hillel Academy, ALBA School, and Yeshiva Elementary School.

To learn more about *Recorders Play Jewish Music*, [click here](#) to read an article that was published in *The Wisconsin Jewish Chronicle*. If you would like to sponsor publication of the book or order copies, contact Joshua Richman at joshua@ruachmilwaukee.org.



THE JOY OF LEARNING TO PLAY RECORDER

By Shira Esther Ordan,
Yeshiva Elementary School, 5th grade girls class



When I was in 4th grade, Mrs. Fox came to teach my class how to play recorder. We used the Jewish music book which her mother-in-law wrote for RUACH. This book was fun to use because we knew most of the songs we were playing. We learned how to hold a recorder and play the notes. We ended up playing well enough that we could harmonize and have a concert at the Nachas RUACH year-end event.

I liked the first lesson, taught by Mrs. Fox's mother-in-law, because it just so happened that she had been my older brothers' music teacher when we lived in Los Angeles!

In 5th grade, we had an after school recorder club, and we continued to advance in our skills. Because it was an after school class, we had girls from different grades, too. We learned even more songs and again, played at a Nachas RUACH concert held at Yeshiva Elementary School.

I come from a very musical family. I do a lot of musical activities like piano lessons and summer music camp. The recorder class was a great opportunity to expand my musical experience even more.

I never would have been able to learn the recorder with Jewish songs that we sing in our home without RUACH. Thank you, RUACH.



In August, RUACH received a surprise gift of \$2,500 from Potawatomi Hotel & Casino's Heart of Canal Street program (HOCS). In celebration of the program's 25th anniversary, 10 organizations were randomly selected from a pool of over 100 organizations who were entered in the 2018 HOCS random drawing program.

In 2015, RUACH's name was drawn in the grand drawing, and the organization received \$31,051.43, some of which helped to fund RUACH's pilot Recorder Program.



(L-R) Devorah Fisher, Nicole Carver, Joshua Richman surrounded by Potawatomi Hotel and Casino staff



A MESSAGE FROM THE RUACH BOARD PRESIDENT AND CO-PRESIDENT

On September 1, 2018, RUACH, Inc. embarked on its 15th year of providing arts enrichment, rooted in Jewish values, through performances, classes, and other special endeavors, to Milwaukee's diverse and underserved populations. Relative to its size, RUACH's impact on the community is huge, and it only continues to grow. Our constituencies recognize the unique value and quality of our programs for students, adults, and seniors.

Cultural diversity represents a core value of RUACH programming. Last year, working with public schools and other community institutions, RUACH expanded its arts and values education initiative, Project: VITAL (Values In The Arts & Life), and launched the very successful Sherman Park Arts Festival. Sherman Park, a neighborhood whose diversity is renowned, is where RUACH was conceived, and is the nucleus of inspiration for our organization's mission.

Thanks to our core partners—Yeshiva Elementary School (YES) and Ovation Communities—RUACH is providing music and arts through recorder classes, choirs, drum circles, theater productions, visual arts classes and performances to hundreds of children and older adults.

Each year we have been able to build on our prior success because of the many public and private donors who support our mission. We feel extraordinarily fortunate to have an outstanding Board of Directors, who are experts in business, nonprofits, schools, music, finance, and other professionals. We are united to help our small but mighty organization achieve its financial and programmatic goals year after year. Our strategic vision is not only to strengthen our current work, but to branch out and impact more of the Greater Milwaukee and Jewish communities by providing music, arts education, and entertainment ...with a SPIRIT that RUACH can uniquely provide.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Behrendt

Elizabeth Behrendt
RUACH Board President

Jay Frank

and Jay Frank
RUACH Board Co-President



THANK YOU, RUACH DONORS!

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This list includes donations and commitments between 9/1/2017 and 8/31/2018. It represents our best efforts to be complete and accurate. Please contact RUACH Operations Manager Nicole Carver at nicole@ruachmilwaukee.org or 414-367-4890 to correct any inaccuracies, or to make changes in your listing.

RU-ACH

n'roo-akh/ a Hebrew word meaning spirit, wind, or breath



Project: VITAL: Students from St. Catherine's Catholic Elementary School working with seniors at Capitol Drive Lutheran Church's Senior Center

About Us

In its fourteen years of existence, RUACH has grown to provide creative arts opportunities, set against a Jewish backdrop, to diverse Greater Milwaukee residents.

Over time, RUACH has extended its impact to include music, visual arts, dance, creative writing, and theater programming for a variety of Jewish and at-large constituencies, particularly economically and ethnically underserved populations, including youth and the elderly. RUACH has become a collaborative organization, partnering with many local organizations and artists at venues such as schools, assisted living facilities, community centers and arts facilities.

Mission

RUACH awakens creativity through arts enrichment rooted in Jewish values and the rich cultural diversity of Sherman Park. RUACH's performances, classes and other innovative programs uplift and unite underserved communities throughout Greater Milwaukee.

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RUACH's programs are made possible by the generosity of foundations, corporations, government entities, and individuals just like you.

Consider making a gift to RUACH to help us continue to fulfill our mission and reach even more people with our high-impact programs.

To make a gift, mail a check to the address below, made payable to RUACH, [donate online here](#) or call Executive Director, Joshua Richman, at 414-367-4891.

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services and products or to make a donation.

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Visit us at: www.ruachmilwaukee.org

or

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UPCOMING MAJOR EVENTS:

December 5, 2018—Simply Tsfat Concerts

3:00 p.m.—Ovation Sarah Chudnow

7:30 p.m.—Rubenstein Pavilion @ Ovation Chai Point

March 31, 2019—Community Arts Day

2:00 p.m.—Mary Ryan Boys & Girls Club

Watch for upcoming information about the late spring production of Hans Krása's Holocaust children's opera, *Brundibar*.