

TELLING THE STORY OF OUR

Next Chapter

APR
2026

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Strengthening the future of Jewish
education through our four strategic pillars

INCLUDED INSIDE:

A PERFORATED
SEDER COMPANION

OUR 4 PILLARS:



FUNDING LIAISON



LEARNING SUPPORT



PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT



TEACHER SUPPORT

att

Associated
Talmud Torahs
OF CHICAGO ועד החינוך דשיקאגו



A Message from our CEO

Dear ATT Family,

Mitzrayim is more than just the name of a place.

The Maharal explains that the word shares a root with metzarim, narrow boundaries and constrictions. Mitzrayim represents a state in which potential is confined, where growth is stunted against limits that seem fixed and immovable. Redemption begins only when the metzarim, the constrictions, are widened or removed, allowing the Jewish people to emerge from constraint to possibility, from restriction to opportunity.

This insight speaks powerfully to the work of education. Every child has limitless promise. Yet that promise unfolds only when given the space to develop. Teachers and schools labor each day to help students move beyond what is narrow and limited toward what is expansive and possible. And when educators are strengthened and supported, the borders that hold students back begin to open, and growth becomes possible in ways that might once have seemed unattainable.

This is the work of the ATT. By working closely with our schools and supporting the educators within them, we help widen the horizons in which they operate. When we strengthen schools and teachers, we in turn elevate our students and help them reach greater heights. Through meaningful partnerships with schools, and focused growth with teachers, we strive to strengthen the environments in which our children learn and develop.

As we enter The ATT's Next Chapter, we remain guided by a clear vision: to expand our relationships with our schools and our educators so that our children can reach their fullest potential. When the metzarim widen for those who teach our children, the future of our community grows stronger with them.

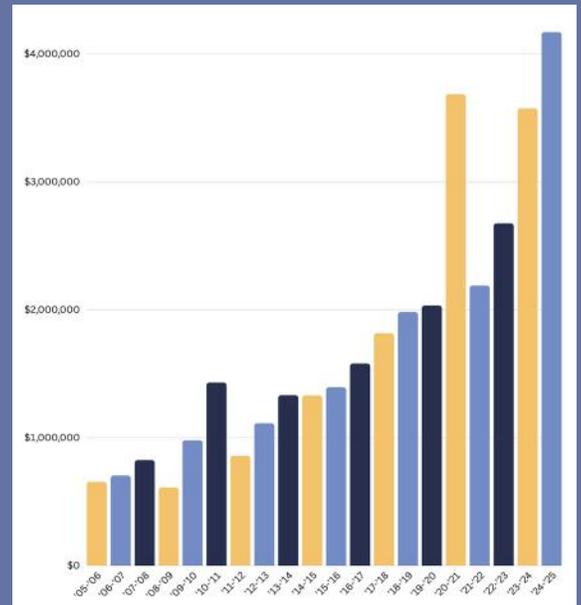
With warm regards,

Rabbi Phil Karesh
Chief Executive Officer
Associated Talmud Torahs of Chicago

Expanding Resources for Jewish Schools

To date, the ATT has secured more than \$40,000,000 in services to support our children, teachers, and schools, including over \$4,000,000 for the most recent school year.

For more than thirty years, ATT has invested in building sustainable partnerships that strengthen Jewish education across Chicago. Through careful advocacy, collaboration with public agencies, and deep knowledge of evolving regulations, these efforts have resulted in significant access to resources that directly support students, educators, and classrooms. This growth reflects a long-term commitment to strengthening Jewish education.





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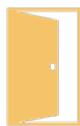
New Initiatives in Professional Development



ATT Launchpad

Ready, Set, Teach!

ATT Launchpad is a yearlong professional development cohort designed for educators within their first three years of teaching. Through a summer boot camp and monthly sessions, participants gain practical tools for classroom management, instruction, and professional growth while building a supportive network with peers across ATT schools. This program helps new teachers start strong and develop lasting confidence in the classroom.



OpenDoors@ATT

Opening Classrooms. Strengthening Practice.

OpenDoors@ATT creates structured opportunities for educators to visit peer classrooms across the network, observe targeted instructional strategies, and grow together. Purpose-driven and non-evaluative, this initiative promotes collaboration, highlights internal expertise, and encourages continuous improvement by allowing teachers to learn directly from one another in real classroom settings.

To learn more, please email Mrs. Elise Glatz at eglatz@att.org.



Collaboration to Support Every Learner: Adaptive Schools

When educators collaborate with clarity and purpose, students benefit. This year, REACH, ATT's partner in meeting the needs of struggling learners, brought the Adaptive Schools Foundation Seminar to Chicago Jewish day school leaders. Developed by Thinking Collaborative, LLC, the training focuses on the "how" of collaboration, equipping leaders with concrete strategies to strengthen team culture and sharpen professional dialogue. Forty-five leaders from 11 schools and four partner organizations came together to reflect, practice, and grow. As one participant shared, "The experience was incredibly meaningful and practical. I feel equipped with strategies I can use in meetings and that teachers can use with students, helping everyone pause, think more deeply, and engage more meaningfully." By strengthening collaboration among educators, Adaptive Schools strengthens leadership and supports more responsive learning for every child.

Elevating the Next Generation through an Elevated Night

Based on the Teachings of the Maharal Mi'Prague

Rabbi Phil Karesh

Yetzias Mitzrayim was not only a historical event but a formative process in the development of the Jewish people. The Pesach Seder mirrors that journey from exile toward redemption. As we move through its stages on the Seder night, we do more than just remember the past. We elevate the next generation by telling the story of our ancestors and guiding them to discover their place within the future of the Jewish people.



Kadesh

Maharal: Kiddush establishes kedusha as the foundation of the Seder. Redemption begins with recognizing our identity even before action, defining who we are before anything unfolds.

Share at the Seder: The Seder begins with a focus on kedusha to remind us that in order for us to strive toward geulah, redemption, we must first know who we are.



Urchatz

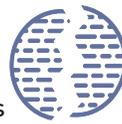
Maharal: Washing prepares a person as a worthy vessel. With washing, we remove what is extraneous or impure so something holier can emerge.

Share at the Seder: Before moving forward, we pause to prepare ourselves, showing that growth begins with a proper preparation of removing impurities and distractions. This simple step of preparation enables everything that follows.



Karpas

Maharal: Karpas disrupts the normal order of a meal. Geulah begins when familiar patterns shift and awareness awakens.



Yachatz

Maharal: Breaking the matzah reflects incompleteness. Galus, exile, is only a partial existence, and redemption moves steadily toward wholeness.

Share at the Seder: We break matzah to acknowledge that redemption starts from something unfinished. Growth is not about perfection, but instead about improving imperfections.



Maggid

Maharal: Through speech, that which is hidden is revealed. By recounting Yetzias Mitzrayim, the past becomes present and opportunity for redemption is renewed.

Share at the Seder: As we share the story of our ancestors, we are not only remembering history but bringing it into the present. Speaking about Yetzias Mitzrayim, with all of its detail, allows each generation to see themselves as a part of our history, and therefore worthy of redemption in the future.



Rachtzah

Maharal: This second washing marks ascent to a new level, teaching that growth requires renewed preparation - even after we have taken strides in our growth.

Share at the Seder: After Maggid, we wash again, reminding us that every new level we achieve demands fresh preparation for what comes next.



Motzi

Maharal: Bread represents completion through human action, from wheat to matzah, revealing the deep partnership between Hashem's creation and engagement with His creations.

Share at the Seder: Motzi reminds us that redemption involves partnership between Hashem and human effort. We begin with that which Hashem provides, and complete our partnership with Him when we grow from that which He provided.



Matzah

Maharal: Matzah expresses essence without expansion, reflecting a recognition of reality without haughtiness.

Share at the Seder: Matzah's simplicity draws attention to that which is essential. Before growth expands outward, it begins with clarity about the character traits that Hashem imbued within us.



Maror

Maharal: Bitterness recalls the formative power of exile, shaping a people through the crucible of exile.

Share at the Seder: We taste maror to remember that our struggles play an active role in shaping our identity. Difficult experiences are an integral part of growth.



Korech

Maharal: Matzah and maror together reveal that completeness comes from uniting opposites.

Share at the Seder: Hillel combined matzah and maror to teach that freedom and struggle can coexist. Redemption is not the absence of challenge, but the ability to hold both realities as we grow.



Shulchan Orech

Maharal: The role of a Jew is to elevate the physical world, revealing holiness in the mundane.

Share at the Seder: As we eat this special meal, remember that holiness is not separate from everyday experience. It is our responsibility to elevate the everyday experience to a higher level.



Tzafun

Maharal: The hidden afikoman reflects aspects of geulah that unfold quietly and remain concealed.

Share at the Seder: The afikoman is hidden to remind us that some parts of our future growth are beyond what we can perceive. Not everything meaningful is revealed at once. Instead, the decisions of today lead to new manifestations tomorrow.



Barech

Maharal: Blessing transforms our involvement in the physical world into spiritual awareness by recognizing that Hashem has provided all of our needs.

Share at the Seder: Birkas Hamazon invites us to pause after the meal and to recognize where our blessings come from. Gratitude awakens within us a deep connection to Hashem.



Hallel

Maharal: Praising the miracles of our past reveals the divine intervention that brought us to today.

Share at the Seder: Through Hallel, we elevate our storied past into an evening of praise, recognizing Hashem's presence in both past and present.



Nirtzah

Maharal: The Jewish people have now passed through remembrance, gratitude, and praise. Only then can our Seder be considered whole and fitting.

Share at the Seder: At the conclusion of the Pesach Seder, having navigated all of the prior stages, we ask Hashem that our Seder be accepted, to bring us one step closer to the ultimate geulah.

יהי רצון מלפניך שיבנה בית המקדש במהרה בימינו ושם נעבדך בראה כימי עולם וכשנים קדמוניות.

Partners in Jewish Education

The people and partnerships shaping ATT's Next Chapter



Meet the Associated Talmud Torahs Team

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Rabbi Avrohom S. Moller
Superintendent of Education

Judy Biber
Office Manager

Arielle Blivaiss
Marketing Manager

Sandy Cohen
Administrative Assistant

Jessica Elzinga
Literacy Coordinator

Chani Friedman
Government Programs Liaison

Elise Glatz
Director of Professional Development

Rabbi Yoni Gold
Director of Data Strategy & Instructional Excellence

Malkie Goldberg
Administrative Assistant

Shimon Greenland
Development Associate

Aviva Needle
Grants Manager

Shayna Rosenberg
Marketing/Communications Coordinator

Sabrina Schapira
Director of Human Resources

Sharon Schwartz
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Elissa Staiman
Bookkeeper

Katherine Vitello
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REACH Leadership

Julie Gordon
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Pessy Alvayor
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Jessica Cohen
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Ida Crown Jewish Academy

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Lubavitch Girls High School

Philip and Rebecca Esformes Cheder Lubavitch Girls School

Seymour J. Abrams Cheder Lubavitch Hebrew Day School

Yeshiva Ohr Boruch/The Veitzener Cheder

Yeshivas Tiferes Tzvi



ATT and REACH partner with the JUF to serve our community

Here's What We Do

The ATT supports our Chicago Jewish day schools in four core areas, strengthening the entire educational ecosystem.



Funding Liaison

Bringing resources into our schools



Learning Support

Helping every child thrive



Professional Development

Investing in the growth of our educators



Teacher Support

Providing essential services



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Your support helps us write the ATT's Next Chapter.

ADVERTISE TO OVER 4,000 HOMES IN THE ATT MAGAZINE.

We are pleased to offer a new opportunity to connect with the Jewish community through the ATT Magazine. Published three times a year in fall, winter, and spring, it is displayed in 35 local shuls, delivered to over 4,000 homes

and shared by email with more than 4,400 readers. Businesses and organizations are invited to share their company, product or event with this broad community audience. For more details, please visit: att.org/advertise.