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**Special Two Year Edition**  
**School Year 2019-2020**  
**School Year 2020-2021**



## SHA ANNUAL GALA '21



### Congratulations to SHA's 2021 Graduating Class

Emmanuel Aguilar-Espinosa

Isaac Almo

Uriel Brontvain

Yedidiah Desmond

Paulina Gamel

Leah Gonzalez

Cohava Hassan

Perl Levitin

Mia Mehlman

Matan Michelson

Adina Newman

Eliana Newman

Ruben Owen

Amiel Robicsek

Noam Rosenfeld

Elianna Rothstein

Amalya Rubin

Benjamin Weichbrodt

# SHA ANNUAL GALA '20

Honoring  
Micol Rubin Bayer

Sunday, December 5, 2020

*Micol*  
DESIGNS



“Celebrity sighting!” That’s the word on the Street when Micol Rubin Bayer (’93) visits Seattle. Micol’s standing as a world renown Jewish artist is well-established. SHA knows Micol as an alumna whose work we are proud of. Her art adorns our campus and inspires us daily. Micol was the visionary for our breezeway “Galleria” and for our Early Childhood Wing’s mural. Both areas set the tone for our school – we are a Jewish value centered; art appreciating school.

The years that Micol was back here in Seattle as a SHA parent we all enjoyed her being part of our school community, well ensconced in the Seattle Sephardic community and always thinking of ways to move SHA forward; deepening connections to Israel, making room for student creativity and generously volunteering all the time! Micol’s reputation as an Art Educator comes together with her devotion to Israel and Zionism and has moved her to devote summertime to serve further our diaspora community through informal Jewish education.

It is SHA’s honor to honor Micol, a person who embodies the mission of our school and who has realized our greatest hopes and dreams for our alumni. SHA is grateful to Micol; her spirit, her talent and her generosity have enriched each of us. We know that just as our thoughts never stray far from Israel Micol’s though never strays far from SHA; always helping to move SHA forward. Micol truly Makes A Difference every single day!

Welcome Or Chen - Shinshinit - to SHA! SHA’s Shinshinit, comes to us from Be’er Sheva with a love of all things Israel! In high school Or Chen majored in Tanach & Torah She’Bal Peh and is a Bronfman Fellow.



## Congratulations to SHA’s 2020 Graduating Class

Joseph Daniel Alhadeff

Rose Clayman

Leah DeMetz

Jonathan Findley

Sofia Freedman

Sarah Greenberg

Hadassah Grossman

Ari Howard

Yasmin Jassen

Hardar Katsman

Jenna Kaufthal

Shoshana Menashe

Hannah Milner

Ben Naggar

Morrie Solam

Myer Swedlow

Judah Varon

# SHA ANNUAL GALA '19



## Honoring Aaron & Joanna Sandorffy

Sunday, December 8, 2019

הנדיב השלם הוא הנותן תדיר, הן רב או מעט, קודם שישאלו ממנו.

The truly generous man is he who gives frequently,  
whether much or little, before he is asked

Orchot Tsadikim 17

Joanna and Aaron ('85) are passionate third generation supporters of SHA and Jewish education. Aaron's mother, Henrika, graduated from the Talmud Torah (the precursor to SHA) and they are the proud parents of Bronya ('15), Simone ('18) and Markus ('24).

Joanna exemplifies school leadership serving as an SHA Board Trustee for more than 10 years on the Communications Committee, Executive Committee, and finally taking the mantle as Board President. Joanna is an active volunteer in both SHA and the broader Seattle Jewish community. Joanna is currently a Product Manager at Amazon working in the technology field for the past 25 years.

In addition to being an SHA alum, Aaron is an active volunteer for SHA, NYHS, and Congregation Shevet Achim. He served on the SHA board for the past 4 years and is currently Chair of the Committee on Trustees. Aaron is on the board of both NYHS and their synagogue, Congregation Shevet Achim. Aaron is currently a Product Manager at Facebook spending the past 20 years in advertising technology.

Joanna and Aaron lead by example - demonstrating to their children and the larger community the importance of service to build a strong and vibrant Seattle Jewish community.

# MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL

Fall 2021

Dear SHA Family,  
Agreed; we have all lived through unprecedented experiences this past year and a half. We shall yet see how it will be remembered and historicized. For now, the story that SHA can tell might be reflected best in the words that begin the classic novel "A Tale of Two Cities" by Charles Dickens,



*"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair."*

On one hand, the sweeping community of human beings worldwide has suffered tremendously, the Jewish world has had tragic losses and here in Seattle and at SHA we have experienced pronounced hardship. Our private family lives, our work lives and our shared communal life were all shaken to the core – and tested. At SHA we have together worked hard to keep our children's education consistent, exceptional and meaningful. At this point we are all feeling a sense of relief, a degree of satisfaction and a tentative hopefulness for the year to come.

This "Annual Report" reflects the progress over **two** years. 2019 – 2020 the year of "Seeing 2020", which was interrupted abruptly on March 12<sup>th</sup> - Shushan Purim, when the decision was made to pause in-person school learning on account of the Covid-19 pandemic, words that at that time were strange and novel to most of us. Until mid-March we had been experiencing a delightful year. A robust year. A festive, fun and successful Gala honoring Aaron and Johann Sandorffy, remarkable academics – here is the slide created to show our broadly diverse subject areas --

### Seattle Hebrew Academy Mission Statement:

An Early Childhood through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Modern Orthodox Jewish Day School

We provide our students, families and community a school of excellence,  
founded on love of God & Torah and inspiring academics  
within an atmosphere of Kavod HaTalmid, student dignity.

We develop students of character and integrity  
through the pursuit of Torah knowledge and secular studies,  
connection to the State of Israel and  
commitment to our Ashkenazic and Sephardic heritage.

We prepare future generations to lead lives of service and mitzvot  
and to perpetuate our Torah and traditions in Seattle, Israel and worldwide.



# MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL

All was going well and then...I will never forget the moment I heard for the first time that there was a pandemic spreading across the world with an early case here in Kirkland – WHAT?! SHA had no choice – we quickly snapped into action. Compelled to pivot to Distance Learning for the balance of the year we did our best to continue classroom learning, mark Jewish calendrical celebrations and commemorations, graduate the Class of 2020 all the while supporting and addressing the brand new raw emotional needs of students, staff and parents. Despite the challenges, we managed to record in our ongoing chronicle of academic excellence, SHA's Timeline of Education Growth," the following achievements for the year 2019-2020:

## Seeing 2020

- o Responsibility Centered Discipline
- o Geometry in MS
- o Values Mural Hallway
- o Teachers' College Phonics Curriculum K-2
- o SEL: Haring Institute & School Counselor
- o MS Boys Tefilah
- o Rosh Bet Midrash YU
- o MaFEACH Fellows Program
- o LS Hebrew Kriah Curriculum
- o LS Hebrew Kriah Curriculum
- o Extended Day – 5:30 pm
- o Art Installation Behar Library
- o I-TalAm 1-4
- o Kiln & Pottery Wheel
- o Judaic and Art Integration
- o DISTANCE LEARNING!

As this year for the books came to a close it was remarkable to hear students and teacher alike reflect on the year and similar express the surprising sentiment – “this was the best year ever.” They absolutely are an object lesson of the teaching from Pirke Avot:

Ben He-He said: According to the labor is the reward.

**בן הא הא אומר לפום צערא אגרא**

It truly was a year where SHA was able to **MAKE A DIFFERENCE**. Despite all the obstacles SHA students grew intellectually, emotionally and religiously. Here is this past year 2020—2021's installment in our Timeline of Educational Growth.

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

- o In-Person Learning September 1
- o Creation of Outdoor Campus
- o Optional Distance Learning
- o Teacher Coaching for Enrichment
- o Hebrew Reading & Assessment
- o DEI Focus & Arts Grant
- o Student Led Initiatives
- o Musical Instrument Instruction
- o Spelling Curriculum: Literacy
- o YU Student Teachers
- o Scope Sequence Hebrew Vocabulary
- o Weekly Nature Walks
- o Intensified SEL

May we be collectively blessed with a better year ahead . A year of renewal and recovery, advancement and enhancement and the growth of growth of our shared Torah lives,

*Rivky Pappas Kestemik*

Head of School

## WELCOME TO NEW FAMILIES

### 2019

Alford Family  
Barr and Ash Family Ben-Meir Family  
Clayman and Bounlutay Family  
Dershowitz Family  
Gottesman Family  
Kimelfeld Family  
Owen Family  
Podolsky Family  
Schiffmann and Acher Family  
Sytman Family  
Szuchmacher and Dresdner Family  
Weistroffer and Barrueta Family

### 2020

Barenboim Family  
Cohen and Yurovsky Family  
Feit Family  
Gravante and D'Jaen Family  
Hirshenzon and Merromy Family  
Monsowitz Family  
Moore and Soll-Morris Family  
Oshlag Family  
Rosen Family  
Tilson Family  
Weg and Steinberger Weg Family  
Wiegat Family  
Yin and Gove-Yin Family

**With Gratitude to the Jewish Federation of Seattle  
for the Ignition Grant playground “Exuberant Radiance Mural”  
by artists Barry Johnson and Moses Sun**



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**This is our best effort at a fully inclusive list. Please forgive any errors or omissions and call 206-323-7933 x 301 with any corrections**



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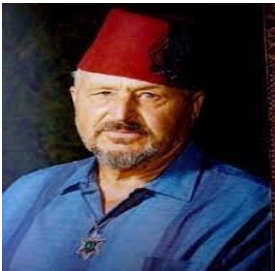
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*In appreciation of the Samis Foundation.*  
*We are abundantly grateful for the support and continuous contribution that enable us to realize our vision and mission of providing an excellent education to our children.*

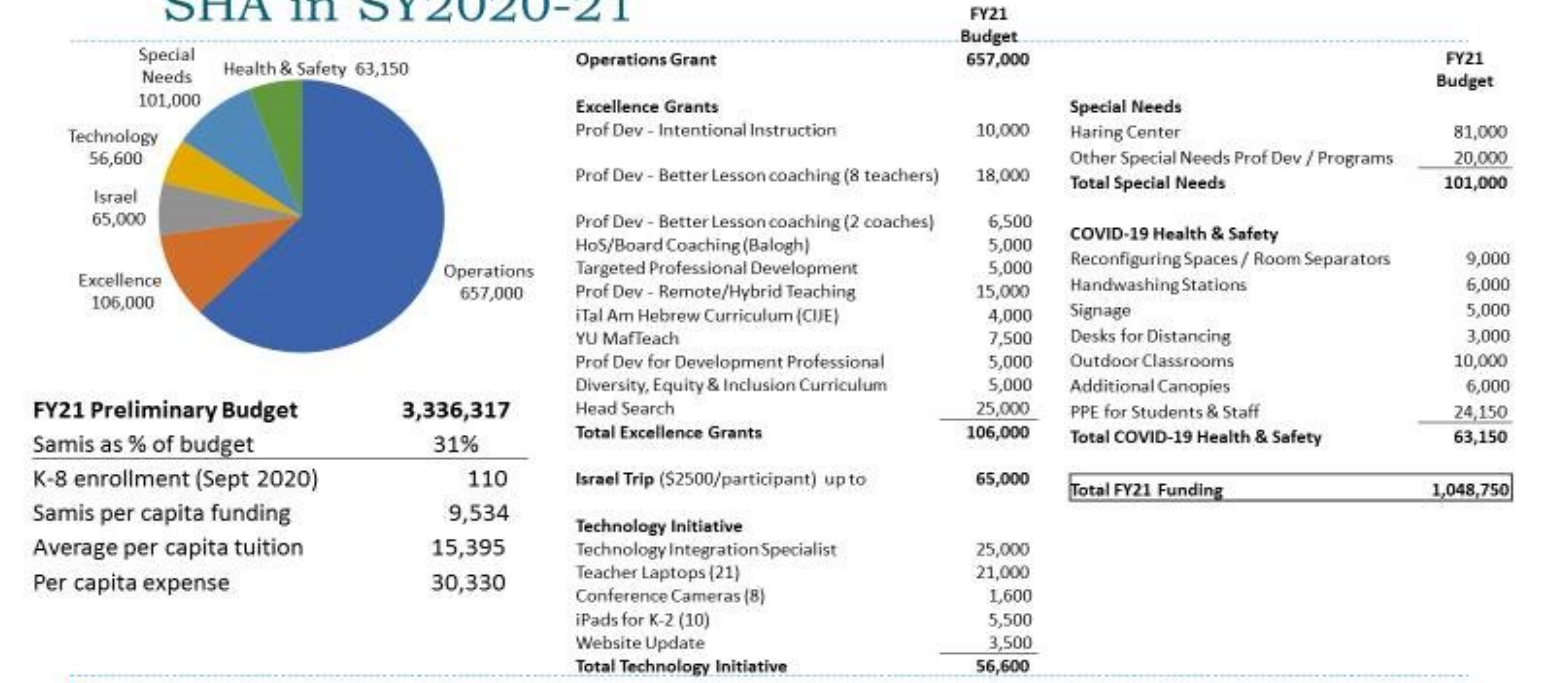
*During his lifetime, Sam Israel believed in giving back. Born in 1899 in the Sephardic community of Rhodes, he and his family immigrated to Seattle in 1919. Shortly after arriving, founded a series of successful shoe repair businesses in downtown Seattle, eventually landing a contract to repair shoes for the United States Army. Sam invested his earnings in real estate amassing a significant portfolio of properties and assets currently valued at approximately \$180 million. Sam Israel established the Samis Foundation and appointed 18 lifetime trustees to govern the Samis Foundation. The Foundation continues Sam Israel's legacy through its support of Jewish education locally, and six program areas in Israel.*



*Connie Kanter is the Chief Executive Officer of Samis Foundation as of March 2019. She served as a Samis Board Member from 2010 to 2019, as Grants Committee vice-chair, and on the Finance and Audit, and Planning Committees. Prior stepping into her role as Samis CEO, she was the CFO/ Sr. VP, Finance and Business Affairs at Seattle University. Connie has served in a variety of leadership positions in the Jewish community including the boards of Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle, Kline Galland Center, and Seattle Hebrew Academy. She was a member of the UJC Young Leadership Cabinet and Wexner Heritage Program.*



**Over \$1m Samis Grants for SHA in SY2020-21**



Samis grants approved – does not reflect actuals

# SEEING 2020



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SHA's Annual Fund Raised \$659,631.02

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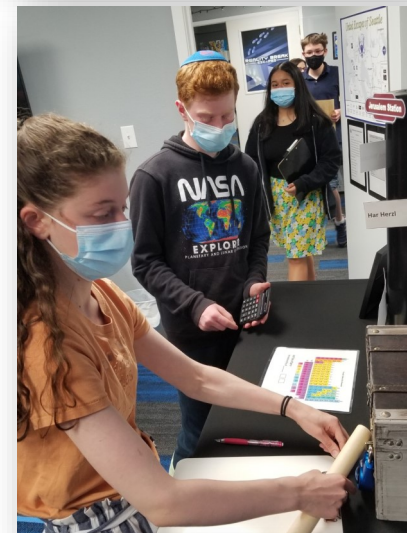
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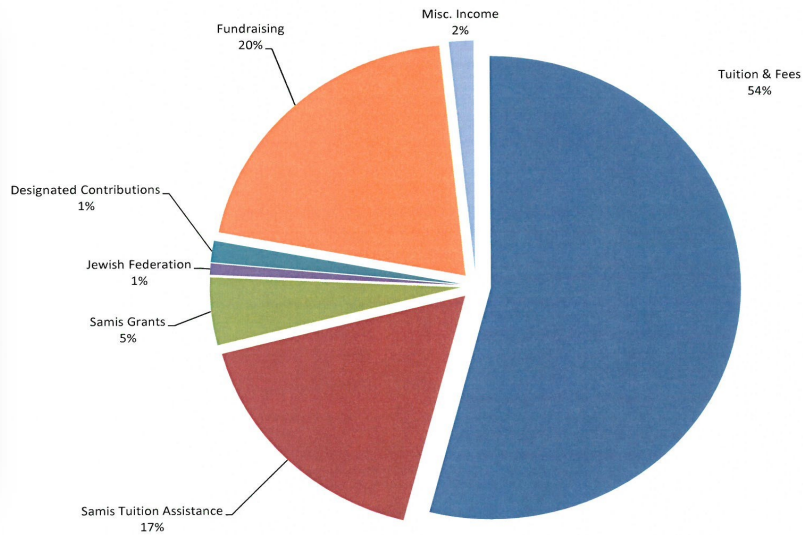
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Mr. and Mrs. Albert Amon  
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Mrs. Harriet Bass  
David Bass  
Ms. Judy Bookman  
Jean Boldor  
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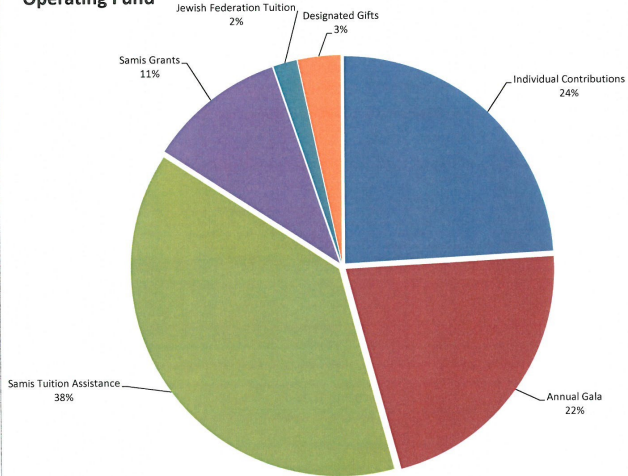




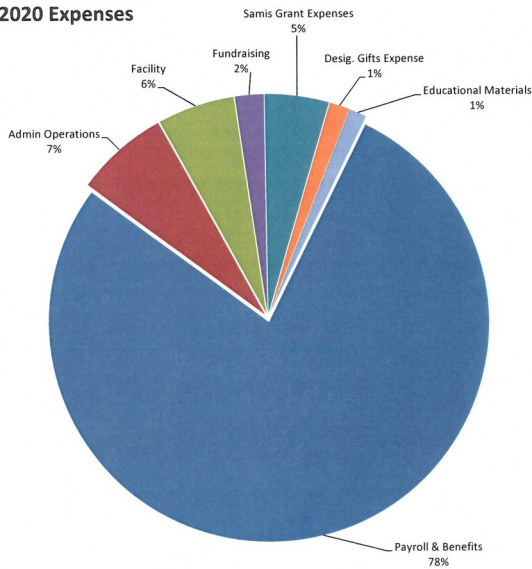
2019-2020 Income



2019-2020 Giving by Type Operating Fund



2019-2020 Expenses



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Michal Jacoby  
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Phillips  
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This is our best effort at a fully  
inclusive list. Please forgive  
any errors or omissions and  
call  
206-323-7933 x 301  
with any corrections.

# Thank You!

Thanks to Our Generous Donors 2019-2020.  
SHA's Annual Fund Raised \$554,000

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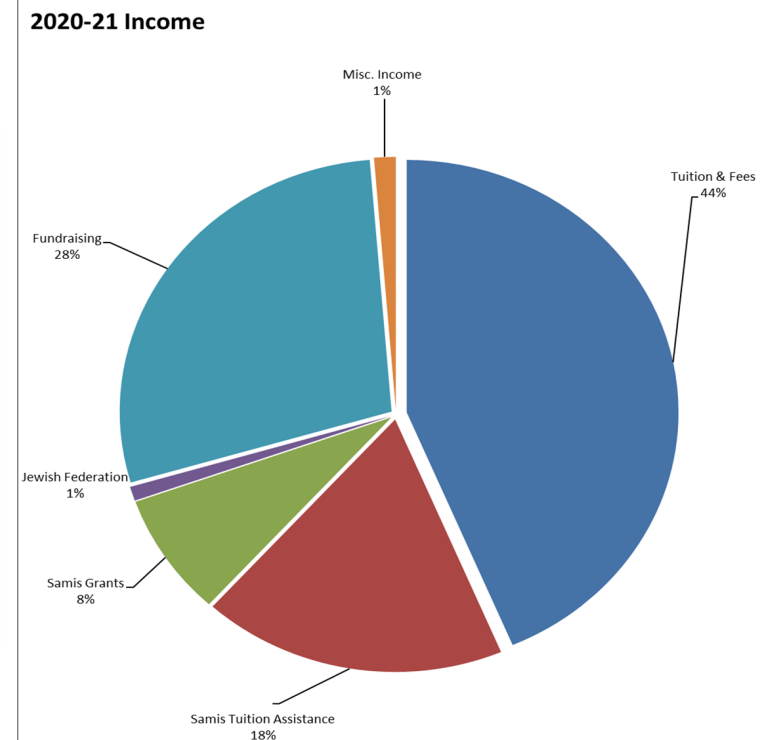
Yoni Ahdut  
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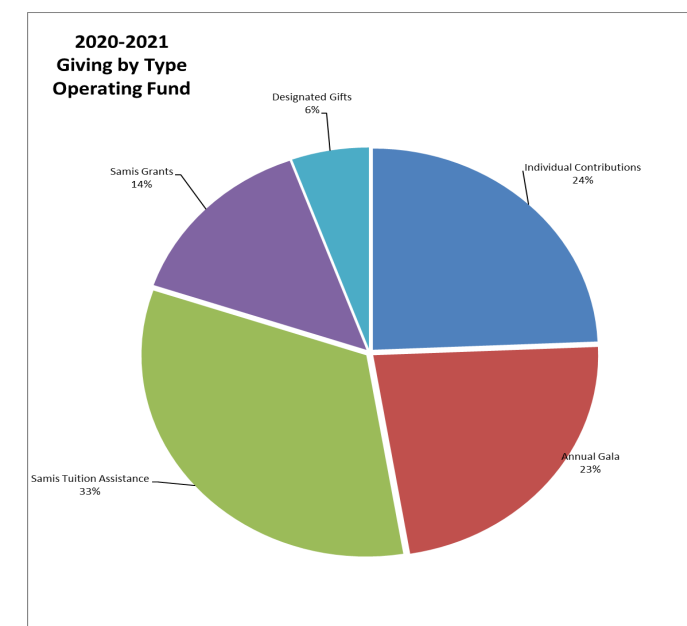
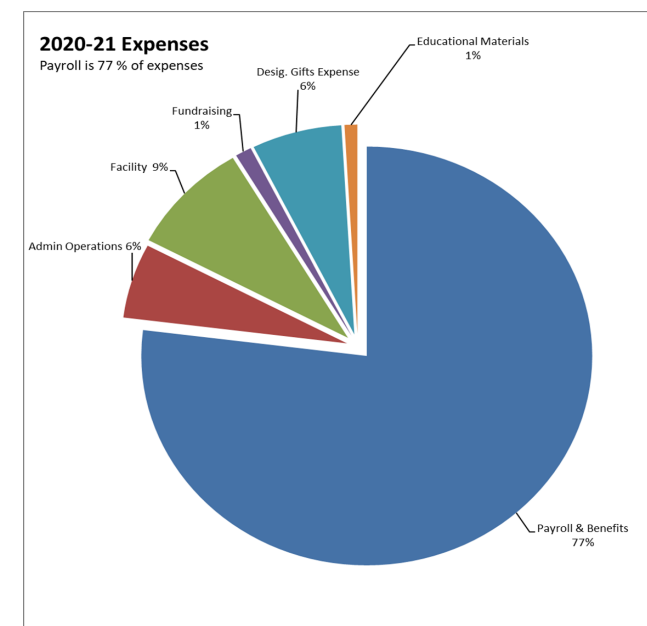


**SAMIS**  
FOUNDATION

and



**The Jewish Federation**  
OF GREATER SEATTLE





## SHA's Sunshine Awardees!

**Kerri Stern - 2020 Recipient**  
Director K-8



Capable and expert, spirited and hard-working; Kerri brings a vivacious can-do boldness to everything she takes on. And we, at SHA deeply appreciate her every day. As Director of K-8, Kerri energetically mentors teachers, meets with parents, engages with students and spearheads innovation, creativity and growth in our K-8 school program.

From the minute you encounter Kerri, you know that you are with a person who is devoted to children, learning and authentic engagement with education. Kerri's interactions with students are what truly set her apart; a combination of respect, honesty and good humor – indeed the magical keys to all-things child centered.

**Rebecca Angel Feuer ('93) - 2021 Recipient**  
Director EC & Building Operations



Versatile, capable, insightful and dedicated are attributes that come swiftly to mind when thinking about Seattle Hebrew Academy's Early Childhood Director, Rebecca Angel Feuer. Rebecca is an inspiring leader. When confronted with the Covid-19 pandemic last spring, Rebecca stepped up and became our SHA Covid expert – managing, organizing and directing our response with expertise, commitment and an unwavering approach of how to navigate each bump in the road as it arose. There are few people who can at once be serious and strategic, and enduringly likeable! Rebecca's keen people skills and deep care for students, teachers, parents and the community drive her towards excellence and courageous leadership.

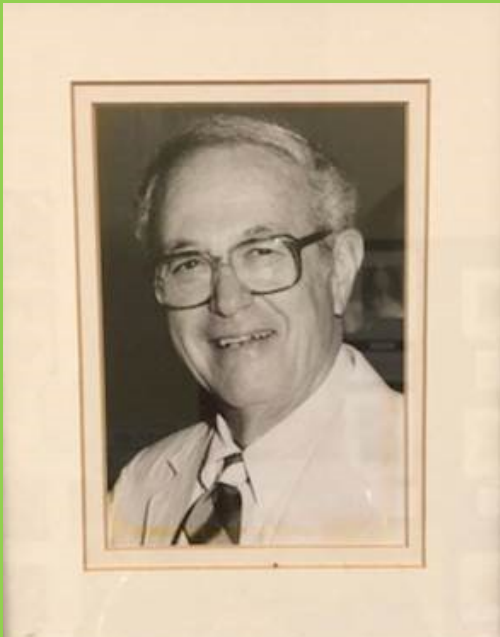
SHA was able to truly Make A Difference this year with in-person learning for all grades, five days a week.

In Memory & In Gratitude

J – Z Education Foundation  
Supporting SHA & NYHS

Thank You  
Mr. Jack Greenberg z"l

*A visionary community leader  
with an unbounded love for Jewish day school  
education & the State of Israel*



ANNE ISRAEL z"l

רבות בנות עשו חיל, ואת עליית על כלנה:



*SHA is honored to be a recipient of a portion of Anne Israel's estate. Her generosity is an inspiration and an example to live by.*

Anne Varon Israel, the daughter of Turkish immigrants Isaac and Behora Rebecca Varon, learned from her parents the importance of – and the need to support – Israel, the synagogue, Jewish education, and the Jewish community. She loved attending Shabbat and holiday services and was pleased that her nieces and nephews received a Jewish day school education.

She cherished her family, and her family cherished her. Auntie Anne was satisfied with her life and was a very happy and contented person. She was more concerned with the welfare of others than her own. She had a very good sense of humor.

In her later years, when her eyesight and hearing failed her, she maintained her happy and pleasant disposition, and throughout her life she always greeted people warmly.

Pirke Avot asks, "Who is rich? He who is happy with his lot." This sums up Anne Varon Israel's essence.

-Luci Varon, niece