

Dear Silver Academy Friends,

I want to share with you all about a project that began last year when Shari Dym asked me to join her in creating Silver Academy's Giving Circle.

A Giving Circle pools the intellect and resources from a group of like-minded individuals to make an impact on the world.

To join Silver Academy's Giving Circle, a person had to have once attended The Silver Academy or the Yeshiva, although matriculation through graduation was not a requirement. There was a minimum contribution to join, though members were welcome to donate more. Each member was eligible to vote only once, regardless of contribution.

Last year, we had three virtual meetings. First, we established our mission and discussed goals. We then reviewed grant requests, and finally, we voted on the allocation of funds.

Our Mission Statement became the following:

“The members of the Alumni Giving Circle are grateful for The Silver Academy education that has shaped us into the adults we are today. In coming together, we aim to ensure the legacy of Rabbi David L. Silver and his teachings for future generations.”

The establishment of the Giving Circle was shared with the teachers and staff at Silver and within the Harrisburg Jewish Community. We asked for grant requests and received three.

At the 2018 Silver Academy graduation ceremony, I was pleased to report that our inaugural alumni giving circle was able to support, in part, all 3 of the requests, as well as establish a donor advised fund within the Jewish Community Foundation in the hopes that this fund will grow as our Silver Academy Alumni Giving Circle grows from one circle into many circles, as more alumni join the mission.

The following is what we were able to support last year:

- The Musical Theatre program was given 3 scholarships for students to participate in the school's musical theatre production.
- The science program was awarded a new microscope. Mrs. Gaughan had requested two microscopes; a member of the circle personally contributed funds for the second microscope.
- Our third grant was awarded to PJ Library in Harrisburg. We were able contribute funds towards a matching grant for additional programming in Harrisburg. PJ Library programs spread the good word of the Silver Academy to folks within Harrisburg and the larger region.

If the mission of the Silver Academy's Giving Circle resonates with you, please email me at alumni@silveracademypa.org. I look forward to another successful Giving Circle campaign and can't wait to see what opportunities will come forward for us this Spring! We look forward to beginning with our first virtual meeting in mid-February.

Lara Novak