

Mandel Foundation makes historic \$60M gift

Mandel JCC camps to benefit from largest gift ever made to a North America JCC

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The Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Supporting Foundation has made a \$60 million grant to the Mandel Jewish Community Center of Cleveland in Beachwood that will go toward expanding the JCC's reach and impact with its camps by renovating Camp Wise and creating a year-round Jewish Youth Hub at its campus in Beachwood.

According to a news release, the grant is the largest gift ever made to a Jewish community center in North America and is the cornerstone of a \$75 million capital initiative.

The grant is structured as a 4:1 community challenge. The Mandel Foundation will contribute \$4 for every \$1

that is donated by the community, which will provide an opportunity to create a prolonged and multiplied impact of philanthropy on the local level with a goal of securing the future of Jewish life in Northeast Ohio, according to the release.

"Our mission is to invest in leadership and excellence, and there is no higher priority than the future of our youth," Jehuda Reinharz, president and CEO of the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation, said in the release.

"Investing in the Jewish camp experience is among the most effective things we can do to ensure Jewish continuity. This partnership creates an opportunity for children to discover that being Jewish is joyful, relevant, and theirs to own for life."

The initiative will help to expand the Mandel JCC's ability

to serve over 1,300 campers each summer by building a year-round "town square." The grant will allow all day camps to be consolidated to the Beachwood campus and the site will be transformed into a 12-month Jewish Youth Hub. A newly built climate-controlled fieldhouse will be a primary feature and provide a year-round resource for youth sports and wellness, while also acting as a secure place for the community to gather. The campus will also house a reimagined theater and a premier aquatics center.

With the donation, Camp Wise in Claridon Township, the third oldest overnight camp in the United States, will have its aging infrastructure replaced. The camp, founded in 1907, will build all-new camper cabins with in-unit bathrooms,

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Mishkan Or honors Rabbi Nosanchuk's retirement, two years as a congregation

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Peace was flowing like a river on April 26 as Congregation Mishkan Or in Beachwood gathered to celebrate its second anniversary and express sincere gratitude to Rabbi Robert A. Nosanchuk, founding senior rabbi.

Nosanchuk, who formerly led Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple, had been an integral part of Fairmount Temple's merger with The Temple-Tifereth Israel to form Congregation Mishkan Or two years ago. Shortly afterward, he announced that he would mark his 25th year of his

congregational rabbinate and 16 years in Cleveland by retiring Jan. 1, 2026, to take advantage of what he considered "bonus time" as a cancer survivor.

The success of the new Reform Jewish congregation, which has roots going back 180 years, was a hallmark of Nosanchuk's career and the focus of his remarks during the 90-minute celebration.

"I love being part of this community, a 'dwelling place of light' we had the chance to make in Cleveland called Mishkan Or," he said, referring to the name's meaning.

The afternoon served as both a look back

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▲ Founding Rabbi Emeritus Robert A. Nosanchuk reminisces about his career, including being founding senior rabbi of Congregation Mishkan Or in Beachwood. | Photo / Mariana Edelman, Photography & Design

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