



Impact Report

FISCAL YEAR 2024

October 1, 2023–September 30, 2024

Truah.org

OUR MISSION

T'ruah brings the Torah's ideals of human dignity, equality, and justice to life by **empowering rabbis and cantors** to be moral voices and to lead Jewish communities in advancing democracy and human rights for all people in the United States, Israel, and the occupied Palestinian territories.



OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

ORGANIZE



TRAIN



AMPLIFY



Rabbis and cantors reach millions of people through their public moral voices and through their leadership of Jewish communities. **We organize, train, and amplify the power of clergy** in order to create a Jewish community committed to human rights and rooted in Torah and tradition. With our rabbis at the helm, **Jewish communities are equipped to take collective action** to make change and to build strong relationships across lines of difference.

A LETTER FROM OUR CEO ABOUT OCTOBER 7

The year following October 7, 2023, was one of the most difficult years in modern history to be a rabbi, a Jew, or indeed a human being.

Looking back and knowing how much more death and destruction were still to come, I'm overwhelmed by conflicting emotions. In the face of enormous pressure from all directions, we held the line, insisting again and again that there is no military solution to this conflict and that all Palestinians and Israelis deserve to live in dignity and to have their rights protected. We insisted that one did not have to choose between the lives of Israelis and the lives of Palestinians.

Whether we were organizing groups of rabbis and cantors to lobby their elected officials, bringing clergy to visit *kibbutzim* in southern Israel and destroyed Palestinian villages in the West Bank, or holding protests outside the Israeli consulate in New York, we showed up with moral clarity. We made it clear that the safety of Israelis and Palestinians is bound up together, and the only future is a shared future.

Over and over again, we met the needs of the moment.

When people felt isolated, we brought them together.

When people didn't know how to put their conflicting emotions into words, we gave them language.

When they felt helpless, we made it possible to take action.

When they simply needed comfort, we offered Torah and Jewish prayer to meet the moment.



And so when I think back on this year, I feel not only sadness, but also pride and determination.

With courage, love, and a clear moral voice, T'ruah was at the ready, cutting through the polarization, and holding our chaverim as they held their communities through unimaginable grief, anger, and fear.

Now, as we face a second Trump administration and a slide into authoritarianism, as well as a Netanyahu government that has its sights on reoccupying Gaza, I am counting on the groundwork we laid in the first year of the war to help us meet the challenges ahead.

Today, we are doubling down on our commitment to mobilizing Jewish communities around our shared values and building a world animated by the Torah of justice and human rights for all people.

Thank you for your investment in a future we can all be proud of. Thank you for your investment in T'ruah.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Jill Jacobs".

Rabbi Jill Jacobs (she/her)
CEO, T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights



WE LIFTED UP THE HUMANITY OF **PALESTINIANS AND ISRAELIS**

Over the course of this year, T'ruah advocated for a negotiated ceasefire that would free the hostages, bring a surge of aid into Gaza, and end the war. **Over and over, we loudly rejected the binary that one must be either pro-Israeli or pro-Palestinian.**

Thousands of members of our community signed letters to the Israeli government as well as the Biden administration, urging Netanyahu's government to follow international humanitarian law and to put his people ahead of his political career.



When Netanyahu spoke in Congress and at the UN, we gathered hundreds of T'ruah community members, together with Israeli American partners, to pray and call for an end to the war, and to break through the zero sum thinking that demands we care only about the lives of Israelis or Palestinians.

We lifted up the voices of the hostage families, who were ignored by their government. We also brought groups of rabbis and cantors to meet with their Congresspeople and make it clear that American Jews wanted this war to end.

Time and again, T'ruah remained steadfast in our commitment to a shared future of dignity, equity, and justice for both Israelis and Palestinians.



WE BROUGHT RABBIS AND CANTORS TO **BEAR WITNESS**

For over 20 years, T’ruah has brought Jewish clergy and students to meet with Palestinian and Israeli human rights leaders, confront the harsh realities of the occupation, and to partner with those on the ground working toward a better future.

In Fiscal Year 2024, **T’ruah brought over 50 rabbis and cantors** to recovering *kibbutzim* in southern Israel and the Nova Festival site, as well as to East Jerusalem and the West Bank, to connect with impacted families, to process with one another, and to take stories home that would mobilize their communities to work for a thriving shared future.

“T’ruah organized this delegation [to Israel and the West Bank] — together with J Street — because the public conversation about the war has become so polarized. We can help shape the future — we can change the story honoring the victims of October 7 and their families by shaping a story where peace is possible.”



RABBI ELLIOTT TEPPERMAN,
BNAI KESHET, MONTCLAIR, NJ

WE BROUGHT MORAL CLARITY TO THE FIGHT AGAINST ANTISEMITISM

As Jews faced new levels of open bigotry, T'ruah supported our chaverim in confronting the frightening experiences of threats, harassment, and even violence.

T'ruah created opportunities for Jewish clergy to **gather, learn, and support each other.**

We also led **high-level antisemitism trainings** for human rights organizations, educational institutions, and government officials, and reached over 1,100 members of the public with Right to Be's **Bystander Intervention Training to Stop Antisemitic Harrassment**, developed in partnership with T'ruah.



T'ruah equipped clergy and the public to navigate complexity with a new flagship resource — Criticism of Israel and Antisemitism: How to Tell Where One Ends and the Other Begins **— as well as a new edition of our** A Very Brief Guide to Antisemitism, **updated for the post-October 7 era.**



WE CUT THROUGH THE POLARIZATION

When divides got wide, we leaned in close. Throughout this year, we saw unprecedented division both within the Jewish community and outside of it. Wherever possible, **T'ruah cut through the noise, rejected binaries, and put relationships first.**

With many **interfaith partnerships** suffering after October 7, T'ruah supported our rabbis to hold onto and deepen **local partnerships**. As we face new threats under the second Trump administration, it is essential for Jews to partner with other vulnerable communities to fight bigotry together.

We convened **rabbis on college campuses** facing unimaginable challenges to serve the full breadth of their student bodies in tumultuous environments.

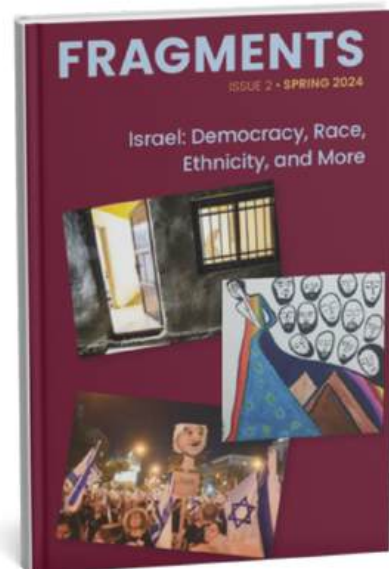
We produced practical resources for clergy struggling to hold together their **fractured communities** and find common ground in the shared value of *b'tzelem Elohim*, the Divine spark in every human being.

WE GAVE RABBIS AND CANTORS THE TOOLS TO BE **MORAL LEADERS**

We convened Communities of Practice of rabbis and cantors facing similar challenges to dig into the most pressing issues facing their rabbinate – including anti-racism, antisemitism, Israel and Palestine, and movement chaplaincy.

We published the second issue of “Fragments” on the pressing topic of Israel: Democracy, Race, Ethnicity, and More.

Thousands in the T’ruah community used (M)oral Torah, our weekly parsha commentary that serves as a treasure trove of meaningful human rights Torah.



“This [Dismantling Racism Inside and Out] Community of Practice helped me get out of my comfort zone and engage in my local community in ways I would not have otherwise.”

– RABBI JEREMY SIMONS, CONGREGATION BET HAVERIM, DAVIS, CA

WE ARE BUILDING LOCAL POWER ALL OVER THE MAP

This year, T'ruah took our local organizing to a new level, connecting progressive Jewish clergy with their peers, investing in local clergy leadership, and mobilizing Jewish communities in key cities on our campaigns.

In our cluster cities, **in-person peer-to-peer support** was extremely important this year, as chaverim processed a complex political moment. T'ruah brought together groups of rabbis and cantors in the **Bay Area** and **Massachusetts** to workshop navigating interfaith partnerships,

addressing antisemitism, and **holding on to their values during the Israel-Hamas war.**

Our rabbis and cantors also helped power **local campaigns**, including as a moral voice pushing for a bill to end solitary confinement in California and a moratorium on new prisons in Massachusetts.

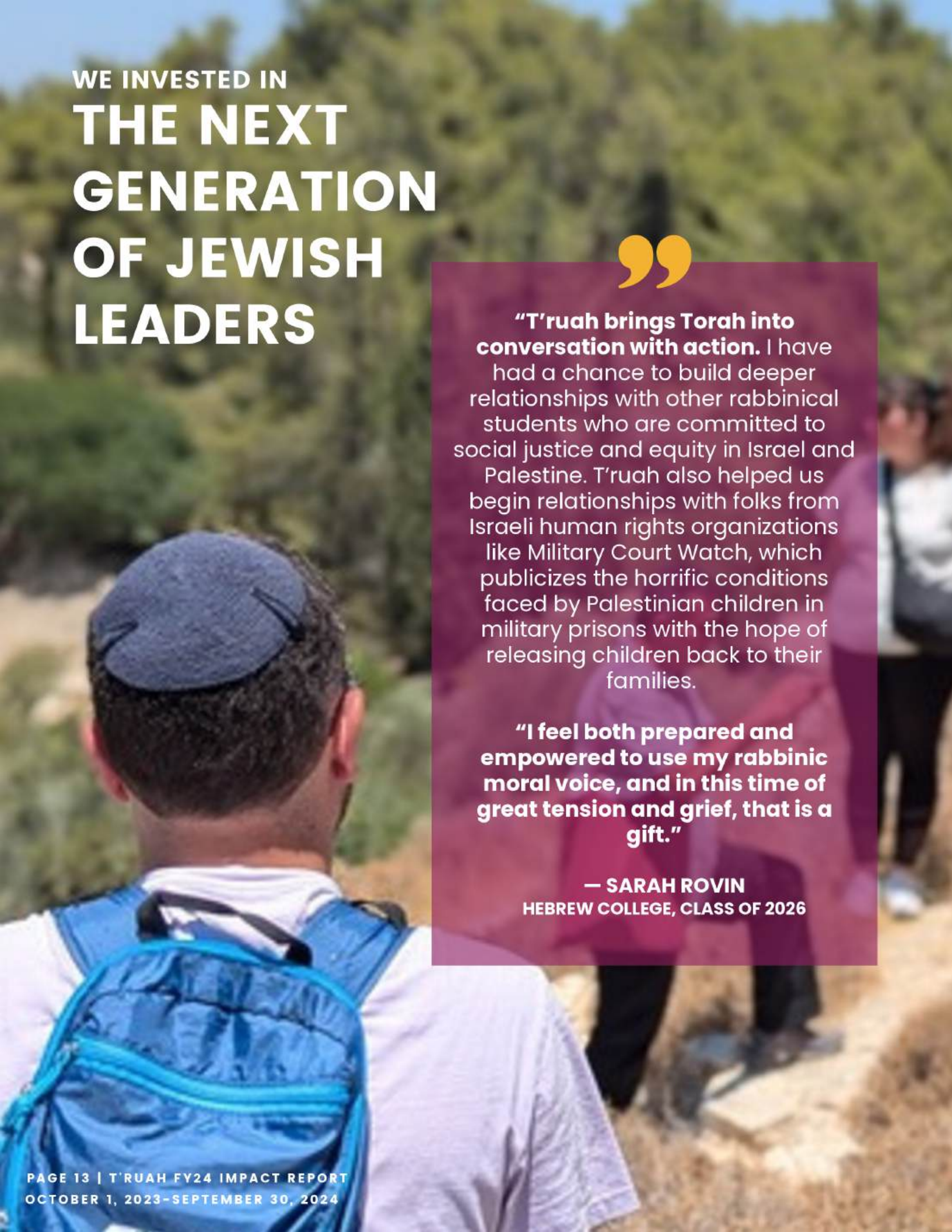
Finally, we ensured that **Members of Congress heard from rabbis and cantors** who want a better future for Israelis and Palestinians, bringing 11 groups of Jewish clergy to lobby their federal representatives.



“Only T’ruah could pull together a meeting that powerful — where Jewish communal leaders with real communal clout were pressing for a negotiated ceasefire and asking Members of Congress to be bolder.”



RABBI YOSEF BERMAN,
NEW SYNAGOGUE PROJECT,
WASHINGTON DC

A young man with a blue kippah and a blue backpack is walking on a path, seen from behind. The background is a blurred natural setting with green foliage.

WE INVESTED IN THE NEXT GENERATION OF JEWISH LEADERS



“T’ruah brings Torah into conversation with action. I have had a chance to build deeper relationships with other rabbinical students who are committed to social justice and equity in Israel and Palestine. T’ruah also helped us begin relationships with folks from Israeli human rights organizations like Military Court Watch, which publicizes the horrific conditions faced by Palestinian children in military prisons with the hope of releasing children back to their families.

“I feel both prepared and empowered to use my rabbinic moral voice, and in this time of great tension and grief, that is a gift.”

— SARAH ROVIN
HEBREW COLLEGE, CLASS OF 2026



“This work as Rabbinical Student Organizer has only encouraged me to further pursue **organizing and justice as central pillars of my future rabbinate.**

“In having one on ones with my peers, I learned more about their own rich backgrounds in organizing and justice work, how their vision of justice has impacted their path to the rabbinate, and their priorities during this fraught moment. I learned about their different experiences in their current professional roles, their questions about the future of the American Jewish community, and our place in it as future clergy committed to justice work. **I am grateful to them for sharing their stories with me, and I am eager to continue growing the skills I have honed with T’ruah.”**

— MAX DAVIS
T’RUAH’S RABBINICAL STUDENT ORGANIZER
HEBREW COLLEGE, CLASS OF 2026



WE MOBILIZED FOR THE RIGHTS OF **IMMIGRANTS**

Through public statements, actions, and lobbying elected officials, T'ruah urged the Biden administration to focus on real solutions to our asylum crisis that would not betray our moral or legal commitments.

In February, rabbis joined T'ruah and HIAS at the southern border to bear witness to the human rights issues affecting asylum seekers.

Rabbis crossed from El Paso into Ciudad Juarez and re-entered the U.S. on foot; they met elected officials, local faith leaders, and human rights advocates; and they visited migrants in shelters and detention centers on both sides of the border.

These rabbis brought their learning home, educating, empowering, and mobilizing Jewish communities around the U.S. to be powerful voices for immigrant rights.

"When visiting the border with T'ruah, it became clear that more militarized and restrictive border policies will most certainly pave the way for more chaos and violence here in the U.S. As Jewish leaders, we understood our obligation to share what we learned with others, through the lens of our religious tradition.

"T'ruah is founded on a conviction that while physical security is necessary, ultimately we best protect Jews by advancing human rights and democracy for all people."



RABBI NANCY KASTEN
T'RUAH BOARD MEMBER



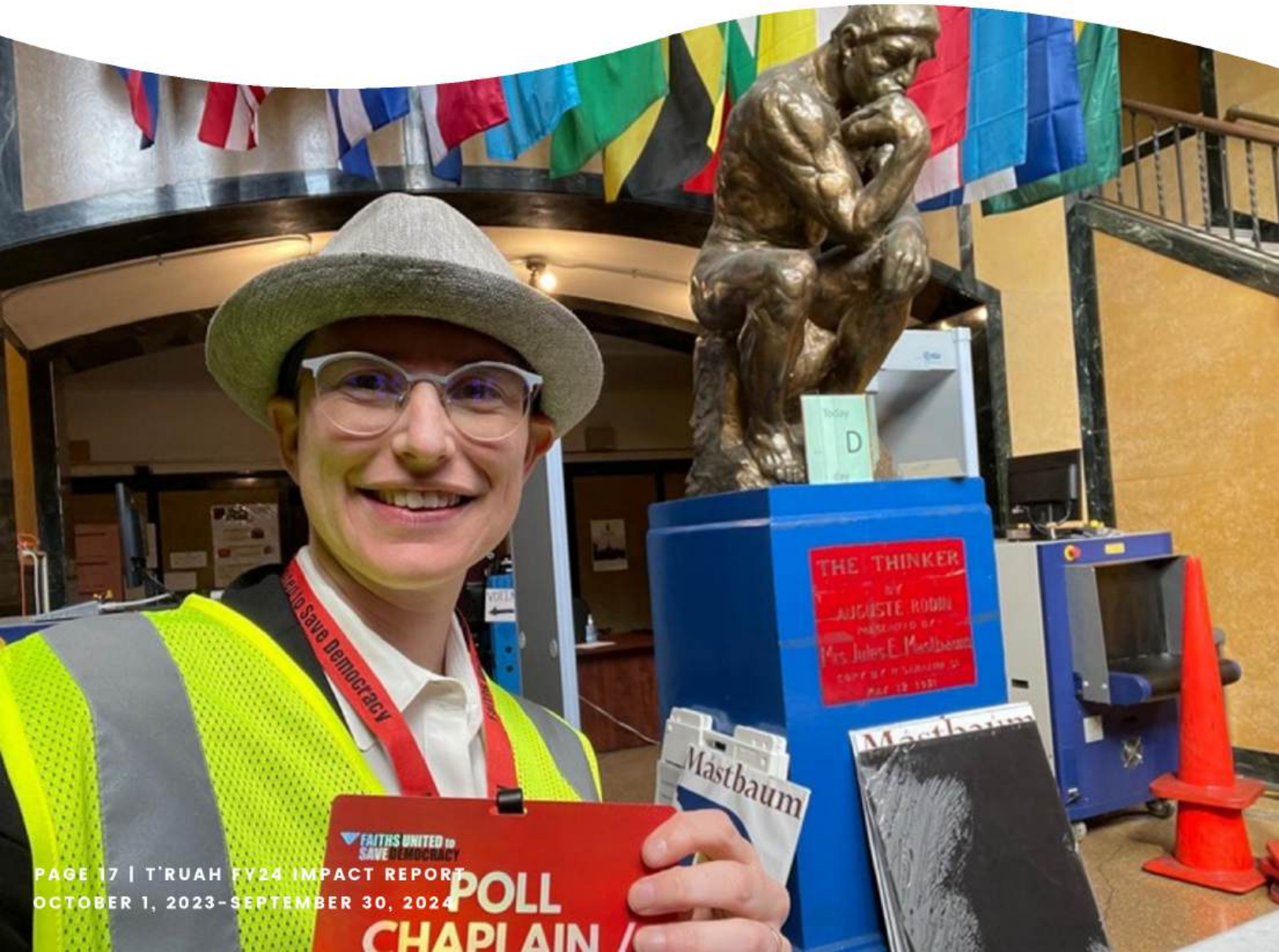
WE DOUBLED DOWN ON OUR FIGHT FOR **DEMOCRACY**

With a historic election fast approaching, we began the process of recruiting **76 rabbis, cantors, and lay people as poll chaplains to de-escalate tensions at the polls and help ensure a free and fair election.**

They prepared to deploy to nine battleground states as part of a

multi-faith initiative that aimed to provide a reassuring presence, promote calm, and uphold voters' rights.

We also recruited **nearly 200 Jewish poll workers to help reduce the nationwide shortage** and make it easier for everyone to exercise their freedom to vote.



FINANCIALS

\$3,541,329*

TOTAL REVENUE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR

WE RAISED...

\$1,799,613

IN TOTAL INDIVIDUAL GIFTS.

WHICH WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY

2,060 DONORS WHO MADE
6,045 DONATIONS.

135+ PEOPLE

BECAME MONTHLY DONORS.

\$408,627

WAS RAISED FROM OUR ANNUAL GALA.

\$1,030,054

CAME FROM INSTITUTIONAL DONORS.

AND

\$70,190

WAS EARNED INCOME.

TOTAL NET ASSETS

FY23 \$1,185,148

FY24 \$1,519,258

*The revenue/expense totals reflected here are from our FY24 Financial Audit, which uses GAAP accounting principles.

EXPENSES

IN PROGRAM, FUNDRAISING, AND ADMINISTRATIVE CATEGORIES



TOTAL EXPENSES
FY24 \$3,207,219

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 Rabbi Allan Lehmann and Joanne Schindler
 Dr. Lisa Schneier
 David Nachman and Amy Schulman
 Stephen Segal
 Alan Feldman and Carol Seitchik
 Joan Shayne
 Michele Alperin and Steven Sheriff
 Leah Sherman
 Dr. Lawrence Bailis and Dr. Susan Shevitz
 Rabbi Jodie Siff
 Rabbi Steven Sirbu
 Shoshana Elkin Waskow and Michael Slater
 Sarah Sokolic
 Cantor Rachel Stock Spilker
 Alan Spillert
 Nancy and Charles Stanton
 Dr. Lisa Happ and Dr. Stephen Stein
 Judy and Jack Stern
 Rabbi Danielle Stillman
 Betty and Donald Stone
 Sandor and Faye Straus
 Lynne Sachs and Mark Street
 Lenore Meyers and Mark Sugarman
 Dr. Howard Sumka
 Rabbi Nancy H. Wiener and Judith Tax
 Patricia Thompson
 Rabbi Rachel Timoner
 Rabbi Shifrah Tobacman
 Hamlin Wade
 Victor Goldberg and Pat Waldeck
 Rabbi Michael Rosenberg and Rabbi Miriam-Simma Walfish
 Roberta Wall
 Rabbi Deborah Waxman
 David Behrman and Vicki Weber
 Adam Weisberg
 Rabbi Josh Whinston
 Jackson Wilmot
 Wolin Family Tzedakah Fund
 Lorraine Wulfe
 Richard Young
 Shira Zemel
 Rabbi Lina Zerbarini
 Rabbi Shawn Zevit
 Dr. Marla and Philip Zipin
 Rabbi Henry and Barbara Zoob
 Elana Zuber
 Lama Rimawi and Bilal Zuberi

“As someone who supports T’ruah and benefits from its work, I embody the power of this community to uplift and embolden over 2,300 clergy in raising our voices like the ancient shofar, sounding urgency and possibility in the fight for human rights.



RABBI SARAH REINES
TEMPLE EMANU-EL,
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

“Every contribution echoes far beyond its source, amplifying our collective message to countless thousands in sanctuaries, streets, and hearts across the world, creating change that is immediate and immeasurable.”



CONCLUSION

This year was full of challenges we couldn't have predicted in our wildest nightmares. But at each moment, T'ruah stepped in, so our rabbis and cantors never stood alone.

As the brutal war between Israel and Hamas fundamentally fractured our communities and indeed the entire world, as antisemitism rose globally, and as we faced a contentious presidential election, the ripple effects of which will impact the future of our democracy and generations of vulnerable communities, rabbis and cantors turned to us for moral clarity, guidance, and concrete support.

We showed up in full force with courage, know-how, and rabbinic moral backbone to cut through the polarization and meet those needs in stride. Whether we're bringing clergy to the southern border or to Israel and Palestine, convening clergy for communities of practice, empowering rabbis and cantors to lobby their elected officials, showing up for incarcerated people and immigrants, or providing tools and resources for courageous leadership in a time of unthinkable upheaval, T'ruah remains committed to amplifying the rabbinic moral voice, to standing taller, going deeper, getting louder, and fighting harder in the years to come.

**You make it possible.
Thank you for standing behind T'ruah.**



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