Executive Summary

For nearly 110 years, Young Judaea has been America’s leading Zionist youth movement. The 2018 Alumni Study provides strong inferential evidence that, over the years, Young Judaea has been, and continues to be, influential in producing alumni who are highly engaged in Jewish life and Israel.

1,937 alumni completed the survey. The following is based on the US sub-sample (1,599), setting aside the many Young Judaeans who have made Aliyah to Israel, as well as the few others living outside the US. The study found:

90% of those married have a Jewish spouse

95% consider “love of Israel” to be essential or important in their lives

93% attended a Passover seder in the past year

42% of those with school-age children have sent them to Jewish day schools

"We can infer that Young Judaea programming has been critical to building a committed and connected core of Jews in North America and Israel. The Young Judaea endeavor may hold instructive lessons for American Judaism at large."

Professor Steven M. Cohen

For the full survey data, visit www.youngjudaea.org/alumnistudy
On almost every indicator, when compared to "adjusted" (highly-affiliated Conservative & Reform Jewish) respondents to the 2013 Pew Portrait of Jewish Americans Study, as well as to all American Jewish respondents to the Pew Study, Young Judaea alumni score significantly higher.

- **90%** Have a Jewish Spouse
- **93%** Attended Passover Seder
- **86%** Attend High Holiday Services
- **81%** Gave to Jewish Cause Last Year

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YJ alumni and "love of Israel" in their lives:

- 95% of YJ alumni consider it essential to their lives.
- 23% consider it important.

82% Spend Significant Time in Israel

- 12% now live in Israel.
- 28% have visited Israel three or more times since YJ.
- 42% have lived in Israel for six or more months since YJ.

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Alumni report that Young Judaea has had a strong influence on their key personal and communal attitudes and values:

- On Their Relationship with Israel: 89%
- On Their Jewish Identity: 83%
- On Their View of the World: 82%
- On Their Social Action Involvement: 68%

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Almost 75% of Young Judaea alumni have sent or plan to send their children to Jewish camp (almost 50% to Young Judaea camps), about twice the national average.

42% of Young Judaea alumni have sent their children to Jewish Day School, twice as many as the 21% of Young Judaea alumni who themselves attended Jewish Day School as children.

Teen children of Young Judaea alumni are more than 3x as likely to travel to Israel as Jewish teens nationally.

Rates of inmarriage among children of alumni far exceed the national average for the recently married non-Orthodox (71% vs. 28%).
On almost every indicator, when compared to "adjusted" (highly-affiliated Conservative & Reform Jewish) respondents to the 2013 Pew Portrait of Jewish Americans Study, as well as to all American Jewish respondents to the Pew Study, Young Judaea young adult alumni score significantly higher.

74% of young adult YJ alumni say being Jewish is very important, compared to 47% of comparable Pew respondents and 36% of general Pew respondents of the same age.

92% of young adult YJ alumni are emotionally (very or somewhat) attached to Israel, compared to 81% of comparable Pew respondents and 61% of general Pew respondents of the same age.

59% of young adult YJ alumni say most of their close friends are Jewish, compared to 35% of comparable Pew respondents and 24% of general Pew respondents of the same age.

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"With the exception of synagogue and Jewish organizational membership, any difference between the respondents in the 1998 survey and 2017 survey were not substantively significant. The parallels are particularly impressive given the many changes in the American Jewish community in the last 20 years."

Professor Steven M. Cohen

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