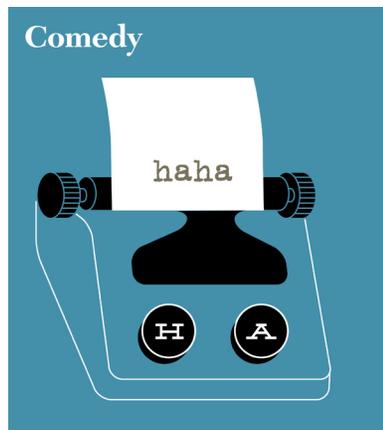
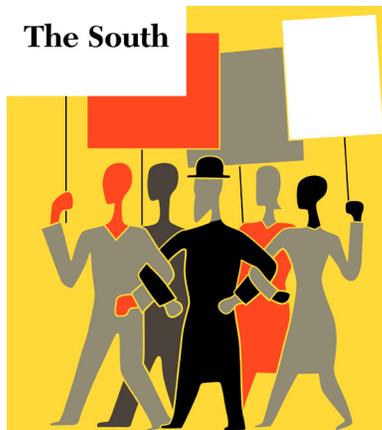
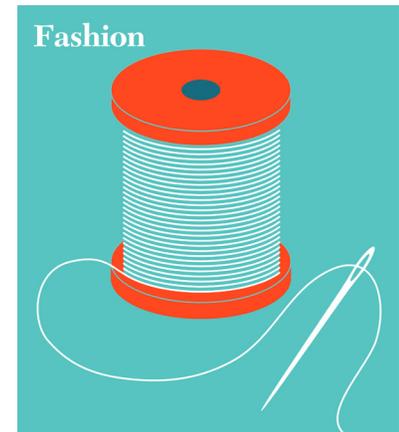
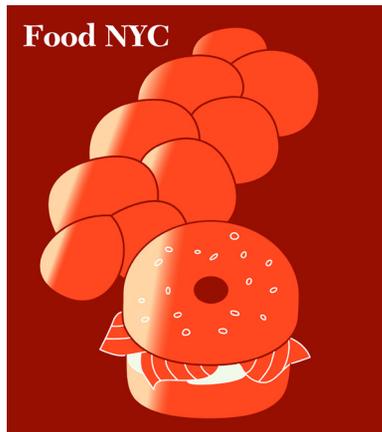
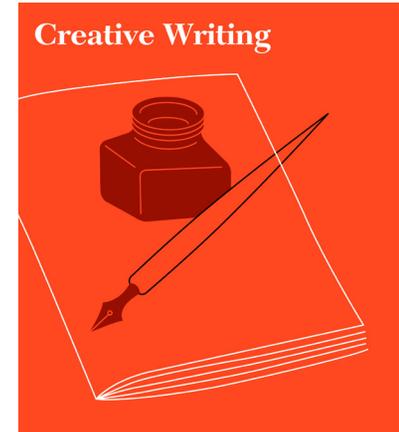
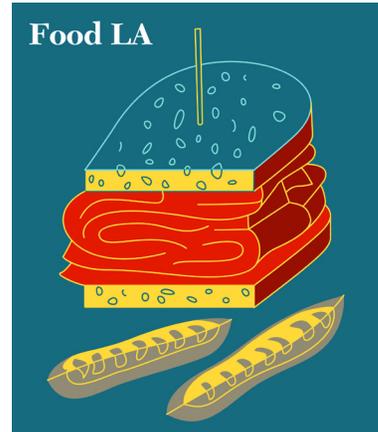


# TENT

ENCOUNTERS WITH  
JEWISH CULTURE



**AFTER TENT:  
An Evaluation of Ongoing Impact  
on 2013 & 2014 Alumni**

**Tobin Belzer, PhD  
March 2015**

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## About Tent

Tent: Encounters with Jewish Culture – a program of the Yiddish Book Center – was designed to provide opportunities for Jewish young adults to participate in weeklong immersive educational workshops focused on diverse aspects of Jewish culture. The program was developed with the understanding that cultural expression and consumption are significant forms of Jewish identification among young adults, a population that remains largely underserved by Jewish organizations. By providing a Jewish lens through which to explore topics and themes of interest to young adults (such as comedy, journalism, theater, and food), the Yiddish Book Center designed a program that uses culture as a gateway to Jewish involvement and self-reflection.

Each workshop brings together up to 20 individuals in their 20s and early 30s for encounters with practitioners (such as comedians, writers, editors, chefs, curators, and actors). Participants also take part in activities like live performances, writing and acting workshops, and communal cooking. Additionally, each week includes educational sessions, during which scholars contextualize the theme of the week within the broader context of Jewish culture and history. In total, 227 young adults participated in the first two years of Tent.

To amplify the conversation sparked during Tent, a multi-faceted approach to alumni engagement was developed. Each month, alumni receive an email pointing them to “The List,” which includes information about five ways to engage with Jewish culture, including books, podcasts, restaurants, shows, and music. During the 12 months following their participation, alumni receive up to \$150 to partake in the offerings from The List. Through a micro-grant program launched in 2014, four grants were awarded to alumni in Los Angeles, Portland, New York, and St. Louis. The funding supportings their efforts to bring together groups of people in their local communities to continue the conversation that began during Tent.

### **With the workshops and alumni activities, Tent aims to:**

- **Encourage and enable participants to more fully integrate their Jewish identities with their creative interests**
- **Increase their understanding of the role of Jewish creativity and thought in the broader culture**
- **Engender their interest in diverse forms of Jewish engagement and expand their knowledge of local, national, and international opportunities for involvement**
- **Broaden their social and professional networks of Jewish peers**
- **Expand their understanding of meaningful and authentic expressions of Jewishness**
- **Empower them to engage with their peers in reflection and discussion about the diversity of Jewish expression**

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# Organizational Partners

During the 2013 pilot of Tent, three sessions – Comedy, Creative Writing, and Theater – were planned by the Yiddish Book Center and implemented in: Los Angeles, Amherst and New York, respectively. In 2014, Tent was expanded to 9 workshops in 4+ cities.\* In the program's second year, the Yiddish Book Center supported 8 partnering organizations in the planning and implementation of the following workshops: 1) Comedy, 2) Comics, 3) Fashion, 4) Food: LA, 5) Food: NYC, 6) Journalism, 7) Museums, and 8) The South. The ninth session, Creative Writing, was again hosted by the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, MA.

## 2014 Program Hosts

### Comedy

- Silverlake Independent Jewish Community Center  
Los Angeles

### Comics

- Columbia University's Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies  
New York

### Creative Writing

- Yiddish Book Center  
Amherst

### Fashion

- A Bit off the Top: An Initiative of Federation CJA  
Montreal

### Food: LA

- Skirball Cultural Center  
Los Angeles

### Food: NYC

- The Center for Jewish History  
New York

### Journalism

- Tablet Magazine  
New York

### Museums

- The Jewish Museum  
New York

### The South

- Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life  
Multiple Southern States

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\*A tenth session about music was initially planned but was not ultimately implemented.

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# Evaluation Overview

The current evaluation builds on the foundation of knowledge that grew out of the evaluation of the 2013 pilot programs, which was conducted to inform and enhance the program's process of implementation and to explore the variety of potential impacts. The second year of Tent provided a unique opportunity to conduct a semi-longitudinal study of participants' perceptions of the impact of Tent over time.\* To this end, surveys were administered to 2013 Tent participants one year after their participation in the pilot and to 2014 Tent participants six months after their workshops.\*\*

This report presents findings about alumni's perceptions of the impact of their participation on their knowledge, attitudes and behaviors based on data gathered from follow-up surveys. Program related documents and outputs related to The List were also analyzed. Additionally, information about alumni's demographic characteristics and Jewish backgrounds was collected via immediate post-program surveys. Response rates to both surveys were high: between 93 and 98 percent.

The evaluation of Tent 2014 also included an implementation-oriented component. Following each session, a memo was submitted based on findings derived from post-program surveys and interviews with administrators and scholars. This enabled modifications to be made as the program unfolded.

## Data Collection Methods\*\*\*

### Immediate post-program surveys

- 163 responses from 167 participants
- 98% response rate

### Follow-Up Surveys with 2013 alumni (One Year Later)

- 56 responses from 60 participants
- 93% response rate

### Follow-Up Surveys with 2014 alumni from five of nine workshops (Six Months Later)

- 91 responses from 95 participants
- 96% response rate

### Document review

- DIY Grant Reports
- Alumni Directory
- The List
- Session schedules

### Outputs

- Usage rates from The List

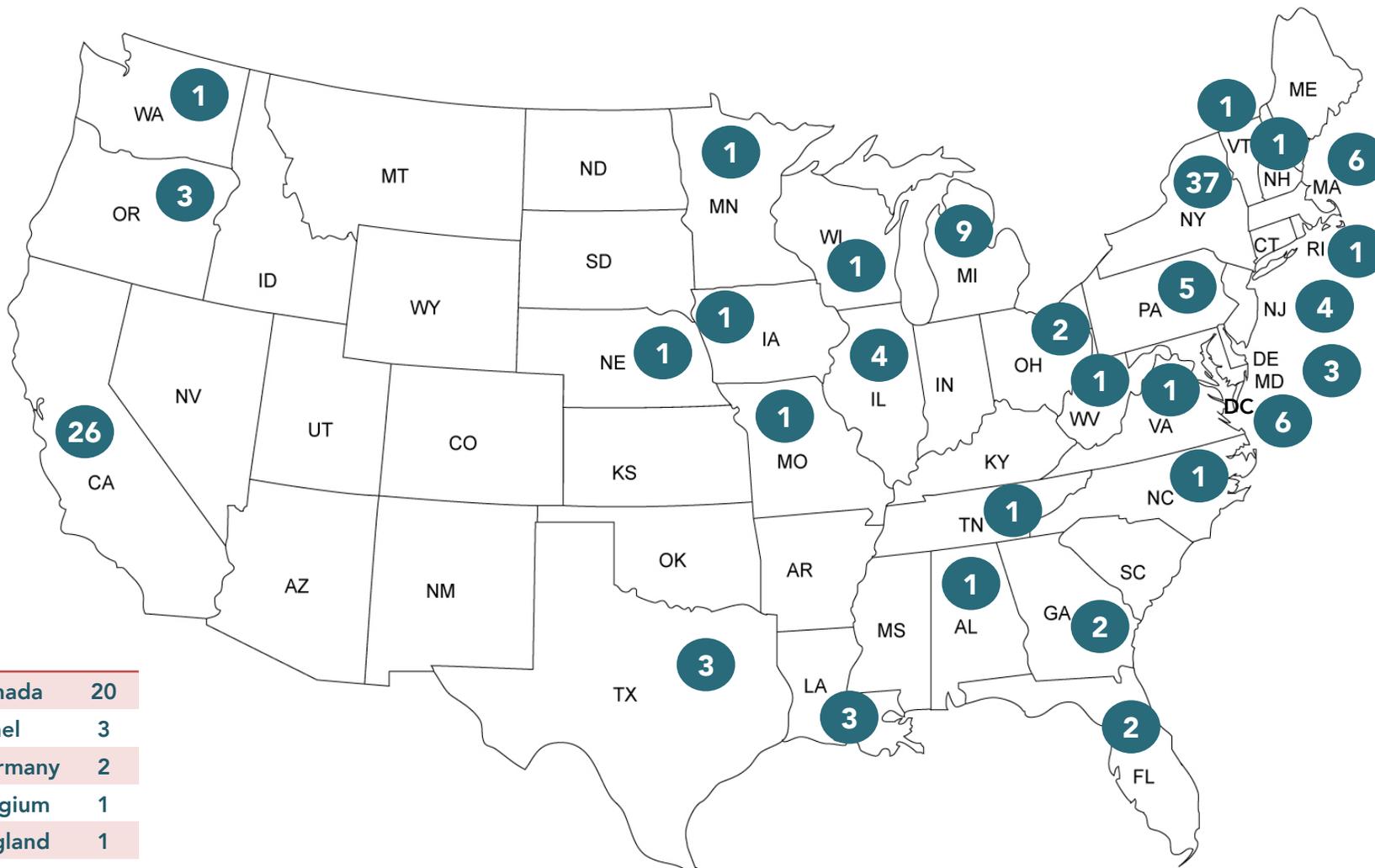
\* A longitudinal study typically involves repeated observations over long periods of time — often many decades. In this study, 'semi-longitudinal' refers to the abbreviated timeframe.

\*\* Due to time constraints, semi-longitudinal survey data was collected from individuals who participated in 5 of the 9 workshops in 2014.

\*\*\* Every respondent did not answer every survey question; the number of responses to particular questions is indicated throughout the report (when applicable).

# Geographic Location (N=158)

Respondents hail from 29 states and seven countries outside of the U.S. The largest percentage of respondents came from New York (23%) California (16%), and Canada (13%). While the majority of participants came to Tent by way of the Northeast (where 5 of the 9 workshops were hosted), the West, Midwest, and South were also well represented.



Canada	20
Israel	3
Germany	2
Belgium	1
England	1
Norway	1
Sweden	1
<b>Total:</b>	<b>29</b>

NY	37
CA	26
MI	9
DC	6
MA	6
PA	5
IL	4
NJ	4
OR	3
LA	3
MD	3
TX	3
FL	2
GA	2
OH	2
AL	1
IA	1
MN	1
MO	1
NE	1
NC	1
NH	1
RI	1
TN	1
WA	1
WV	1
WI	1
VT	1
VA	1
<b>Total:</b>	<b>129</b>

# Demographics

As in most arenas of non-Orthodox Jewish life (where women and girls typically outnumber their male counterparts), Tent attracted more women than men.\* Like others in their generation, the Jewish young adults who participated in Tent (who range in age from 19-33), are actively using social media to construct personalized networks.\*\*

## More women than men participated:

59% identify as women



33% identify as men

(8% identify as other or did not respond)

## They are active on multiple social networks:

89% use Facebook

67% use Twitter

63% use LinkedIn

68% use Google+

## They range in age from 19 to 33:

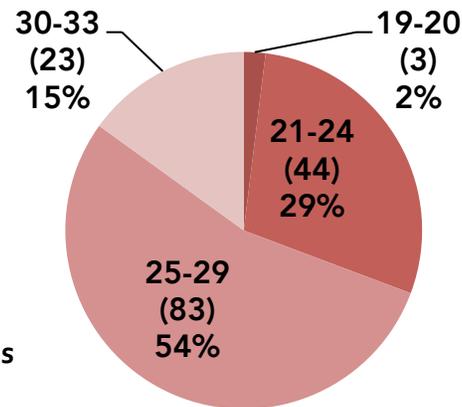


Exhibit 1  
Respondents' Ages  
(N=153)

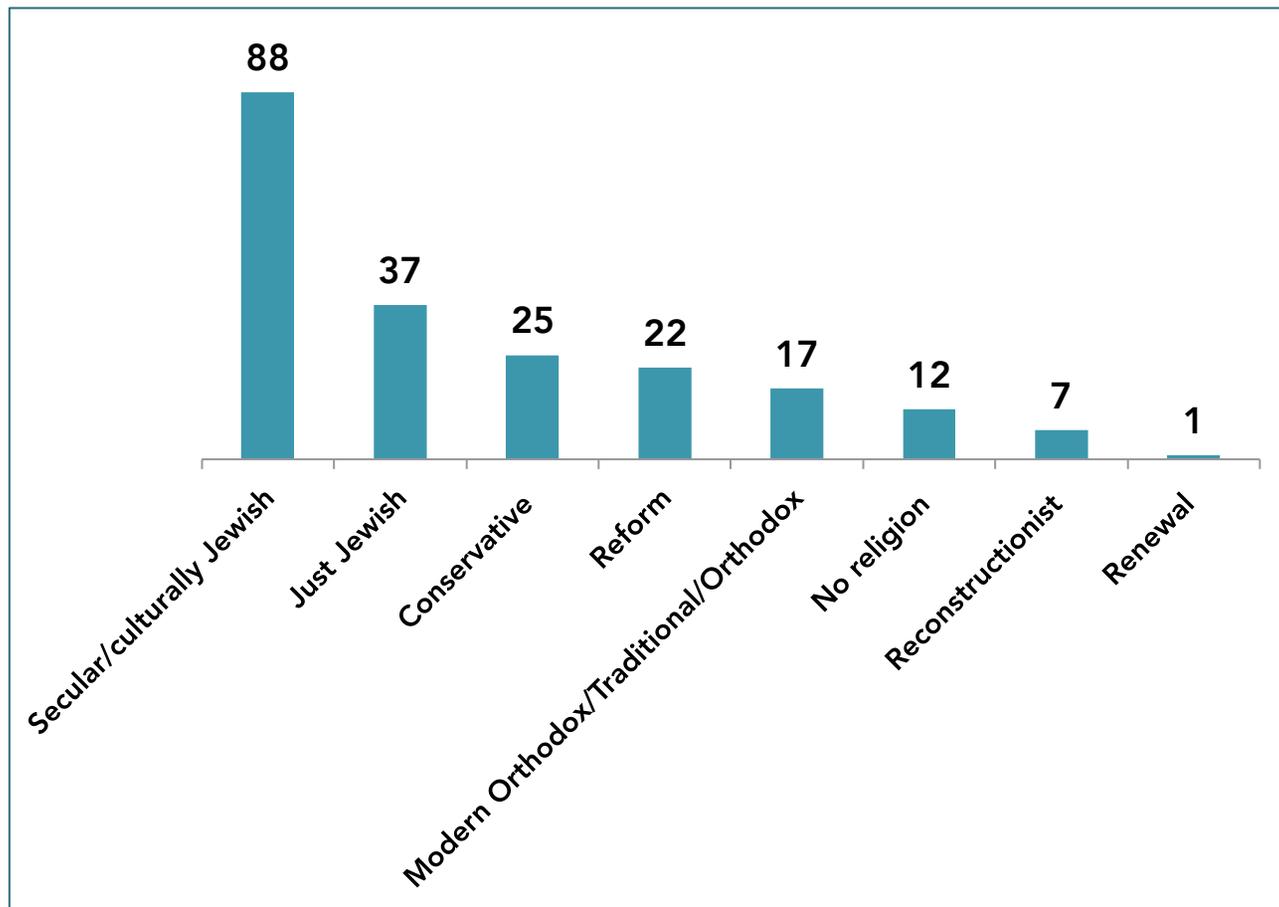
\* Fishman, Sylvia Barack and Daniel Parmer, *Policy Implications of the Gender Imbalance among America's Jews, American Jewry's Comfort Level: Present and Future*. American Jewish Committee (AJC), Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs (JCPA), 2010: 181-189.

\*\* Rainie, Lee and Barry Wellman, 2012, "Networked: The New Social Operating System," MIT Press, April.

# Jewish Identification

140 respondents identify as Jewish and 16 do not. (Another 13 did not respond). Of those who identify as Jewish, most characterized themselves in non-religious terms: 137 identified as “secular/culturally Jewish,” “Just Jewish,” and/or “No religion.”\* In doing so, respondents placed themselves squarely within the rising population of American adults who are religiously unaffiliated.\*\*

Exhibit 2  
Respondents’ Jewish Identification  
(N=140)

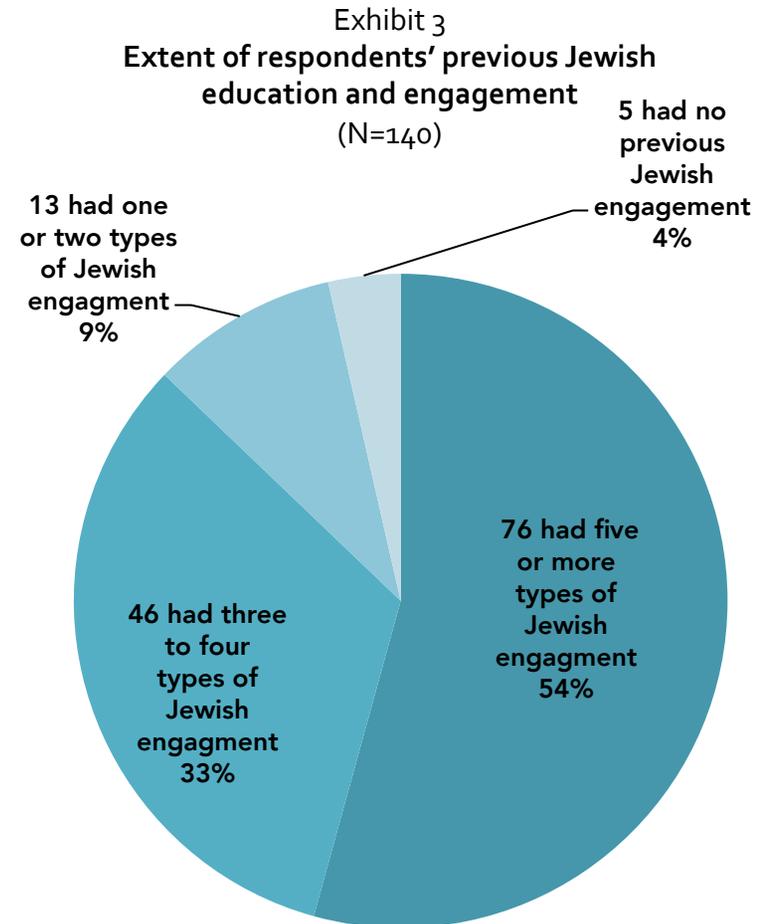
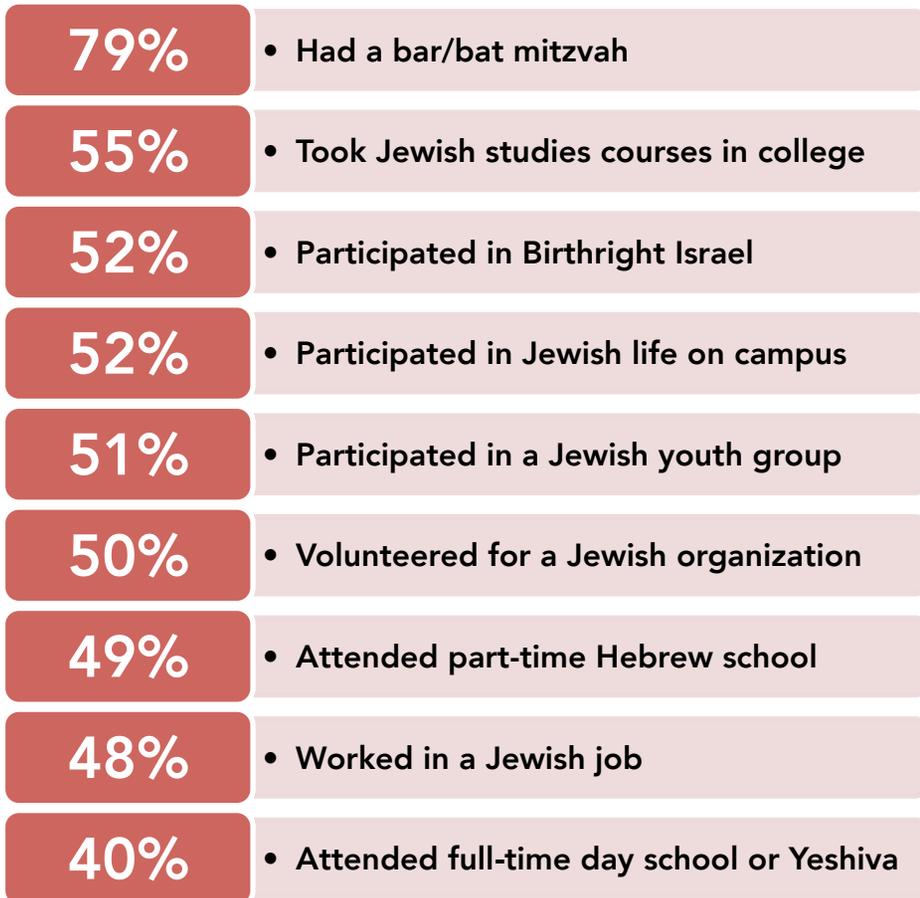


\* Respondents could select all that apply, and most indicated that they identify with multiple categories.

\*\* Funk, Cary and Greg Smith. "Nones" on the Rise: One-in-Five Adults Have No Religious Affiliation. Pew Research Center. 2012: 7.

# Jewish Backgrounds (N=139)

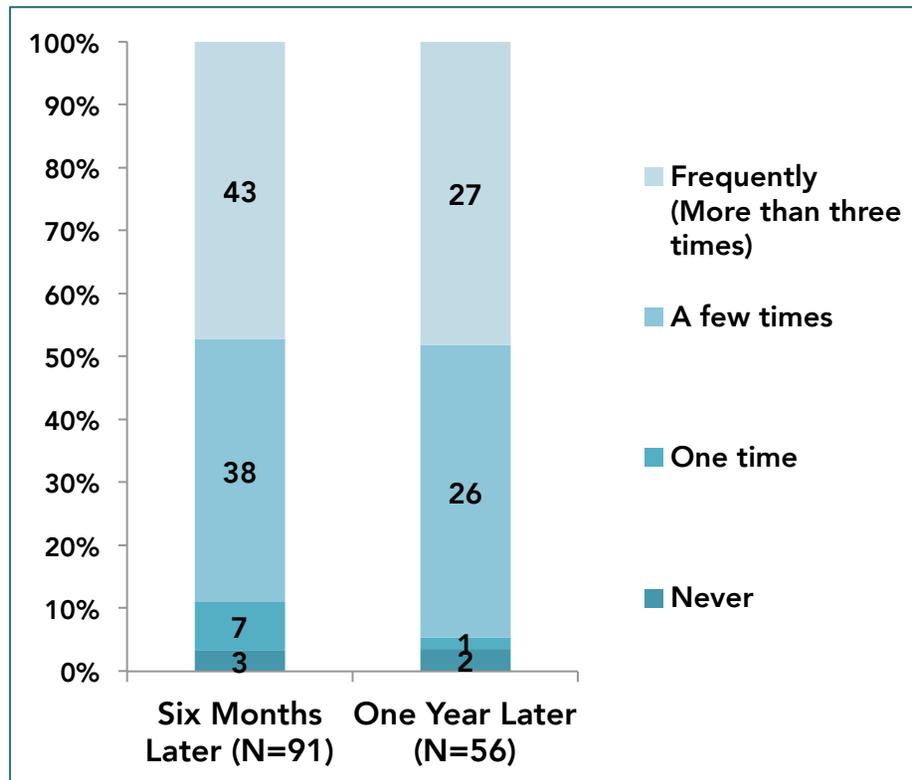
Though a sizeable number of Jewish respondents do not identify with a denomination, most have experience with multiple forms of Jewish education and involvement. 76 alumni have experienced five or more of the below types of Jewish engagement, 46 have experienced three to four types and 13 have experienced one or two of these. In contrast, just 5 of the Jewish alumni have no such previous experiences.



# Multiple Impacts

Tent affected alumni in multiple ways. Respondents identified numerous positive shifts in their knowledge, attitude, and behaviors, which they enthusiastically attributed directly to their participation in Tent. They described changes to their thinking, social networks, professional trajectories, interests and motivations, self understanding, and sense of Jewish community. Both immediately after their participation and in retrospect, alumni from both years described Tent in very positive terms. Respondents have been proactive ambassadors of Tent: almost every respondent said they have recommended the program repeatedly.

Exhibit 4  
Extent to which respondents have recommended Tent (by year)



## A 2014 Museum alumna described how Tent motivated her ongoing interest and involvement:

“It’s the one program I participated in where I am eager to see what happens next—what new Tent programs there will be, what my peers are up to, what’s being discussed on the alumni page, what’s on the List, etc. This is still relevant and of interest six months later.”

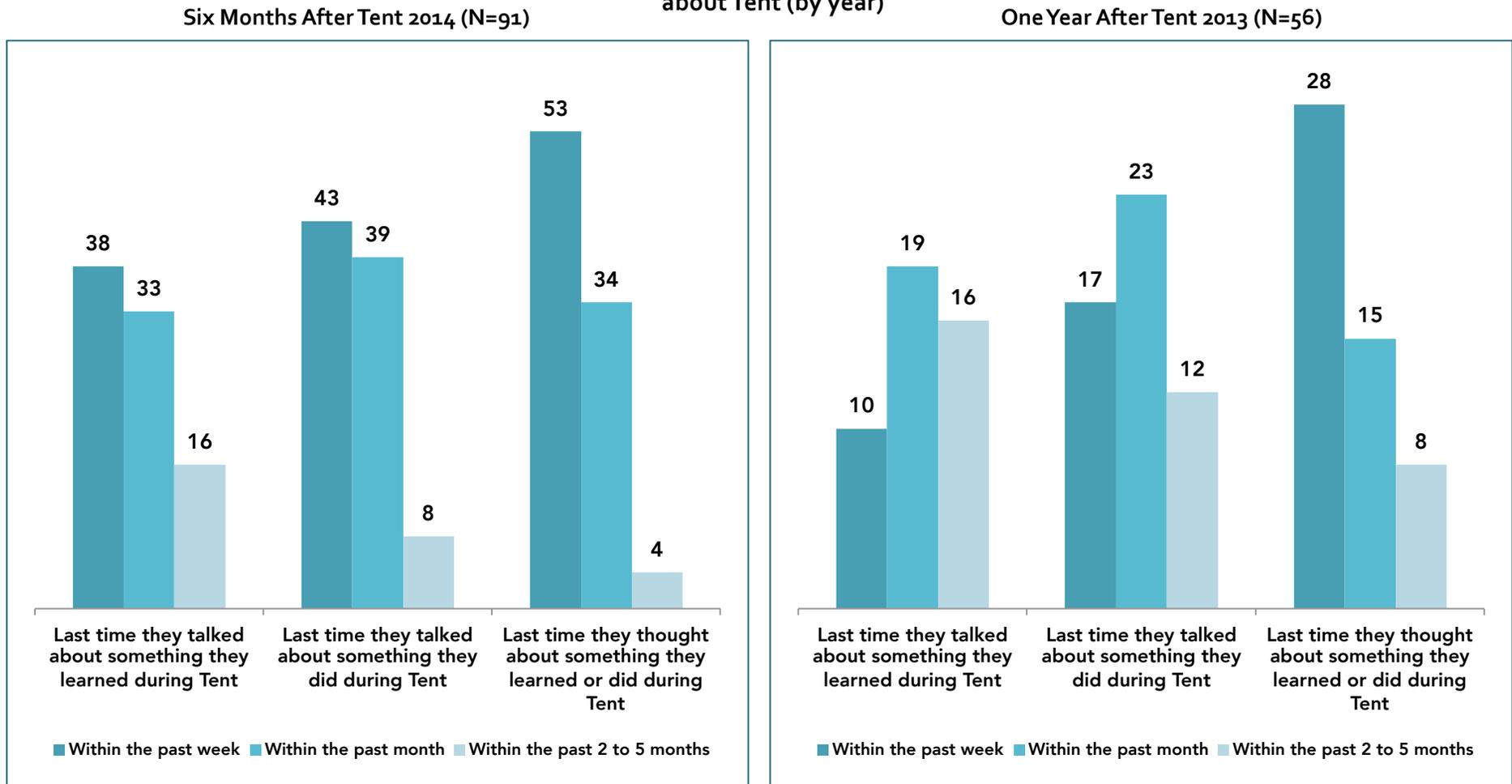
## A 2013 Theater alumnus commented on Tent’s unique contribution to both individual participants and the Jewish community at large:

“There is no other program for young Jewish adults so intelligently planned, so moving (the confluence of ideas from such diverse perspectives within Jews and Judaism, and yet so harmoniously discussed), so fun as Tent. It has certainly changed me, added to my thoughtfulness, my openness, my conscientiousness about my work and what mark I am making with it. I see it changing the Jewish world too.”

# Continued Salience

Long after they participated, alumni continue to reflect on and share their experience. Tent has remained very much on the minds of respondents: six months and one year later, more than half of alumni indicated they have thought about Tent within the past week. Notably, alumni from 2013 continue to think and talk about Tent at about the same rates as those who participated six month ago.

Exhibit 5  
Extent to which respondents have thought about Tent (by year)

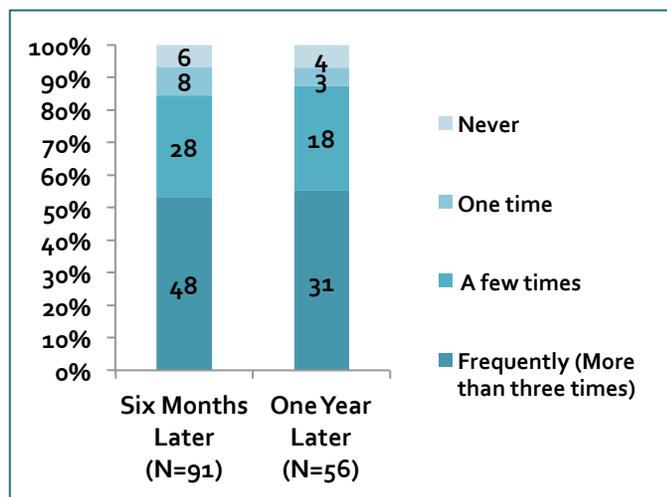


# Engagement with Jewish Culture

Almost every respondent has consulted The List and 62% have received funding to partake in its offerings. Alumni are visiting the list repeatedly, and non-alumni have also discovered the resource: The List is accessed an average of 457 times per month. The same percentage of respondents from each year (68%) have shared The List beyond the Tent community; recommending something they learned about from The List to people who did not attend.

Alumni from both 2013 and 2014 are engaging with the Tent community in multiple ways: they have attended events, discovered new restaurants, read books, and downloaded resources. They appreciate the resource, which allows them access to Jewish cultural products, exposes them to new opportunities, and motivates them to continue to engage Jewishly.

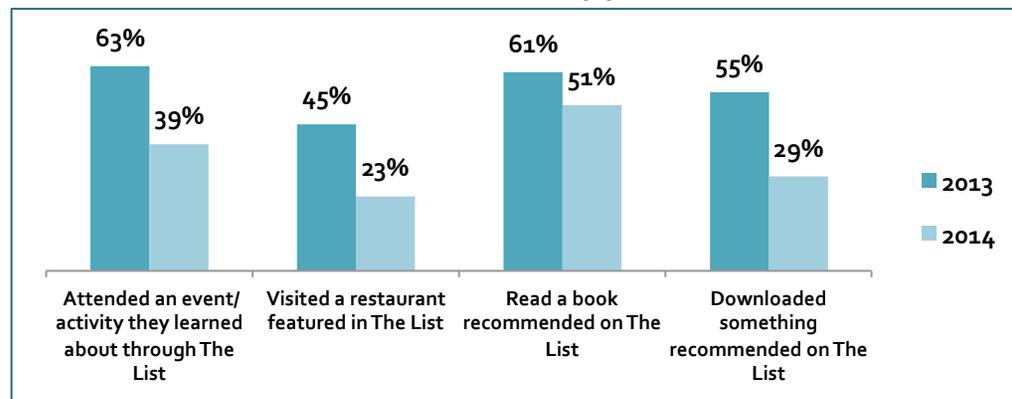
Exhibit 6  
Number of times alumni have followed a link from Tent: The List (by year)



“The List encourages me to try to new things. ... I’ve tried Jewish cuisine in NYC as a result of the List, hosted Passover Seder, used many recipes from the Balaboosta cook book, read *Angels in America*. ... I absolutely LOVE The List.”

- 2013 Theater alumna

Exhibit 7  
Ways in which respondents have engaged with The List (by year)



“For me, having access to The List has been the most significant aspect of Tent, since I can’t usually buy stuff like that.”

- 2014 Comics alumnus

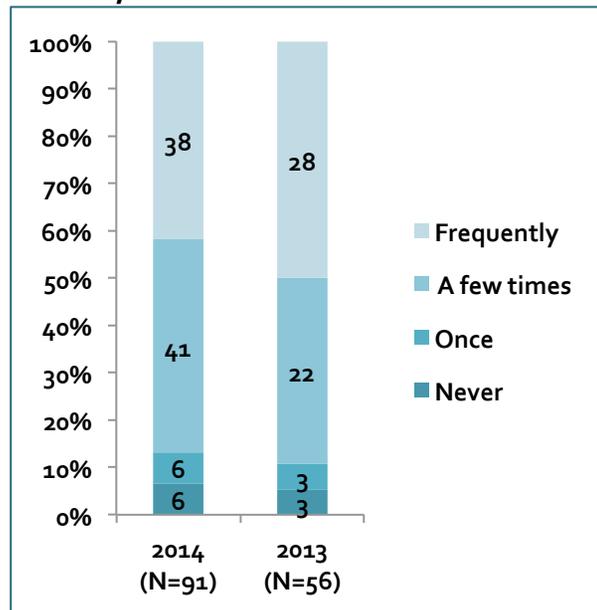
“Because of The List, I’ve tried to be more conscious and intentional about attending local Jewish theater performances and other Jewish arts and cultural events. I’ve been trying to visit museums more, and thinking more about the cultural function of museums. I decided to buy Geltfiend sweaters (from the December Tent List) as Hanukkah gifts for my husband and me, and the sweaters sparked lots of great conversation with family, friends, and strangers.”

- 2014 Museums alumna

# Ongoing Communication

The majority of respondents from both years have been in contact with other Tent participants at least once: they have spoken to, emailed, or texted one another frequently or a few times. Most have also connected with a fellow Tent participant in person. They have remained connected individually and as micro-communities. They continue to support one another in their creative endeavors and create opportunities for collaboration. The described how their peers “influence,” “motivate,” and “enrich” them in both personal and professional ways.

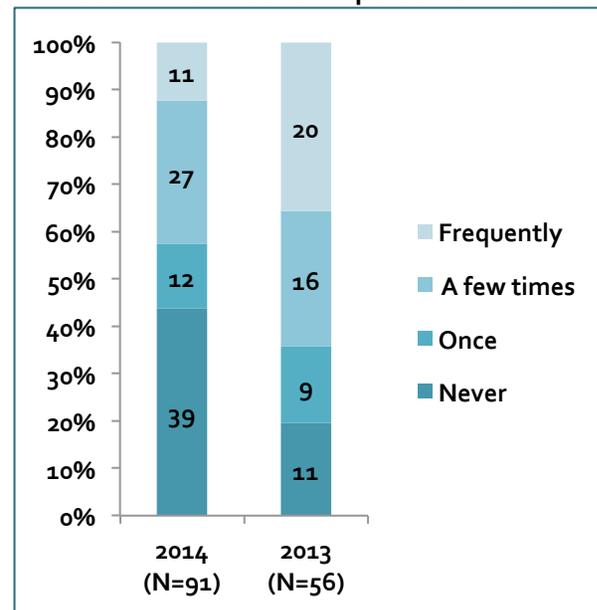
Exhibit 8  
Extent to which respondents have spoken, emailed, or texted with one another since Tent



“Tent was a phenomenal experience that had intensely positive ripple effects for me. I wouldn't trade it for the world. The sense of Tent community still persists, as I invite all my NYC Tent family to see my shows and try my best to make it to theirs.”

- 2013 Theater alumnus

Exhibit 9  
Extent to which respondents have seen one another in person since Tent



“Our Tent Creative Writing group speaks really often— whether to set up a Google-Chat writing group or getting together for lunch or whatever. Someone comes out with a book or a reading or wins some award and we support each other. It's really special.”

- 2014 Creative Writing alumna

“Most significant to me were a few of the friendships I made, enriching connections that will add to my life and my work (and one of them lives in my area, as happy chance would have it!).”

- 2013 Theater alumnus

“Tent motivated me to visit Chicago to see a fellow Tent participant and to participate in a 30 poems in 30 days challenge with several Tent participants.”

- 2014 Creative Writing alumnus

“Tent influenced my decision to specifically seek out and grow my relationships with a few, select classmates whom I really enjoyed meeting at Tent and whom I collaborate and work with now.”

- 2013 Comedy alumna

# Deepening Relationships

Since they participated, alumni from both years have continued relationships that developed during their Tent workshops. Almost every respondent has ongoing friendships from the experience. 64% (36) of alumni from 2013 and 65% (59) from 2014 identified connecting with like-minded peers as one of the most significant aspects of their Tent experience. A 2013 Comedy alumna articulated the sentiments of many when she wrote about the importance of making and maintaining connections with her Tent colleagues (see below).

Almost every respondent has remained in contact with one or more people they met during Tent. More than one-third from each year has remained in touch with 4 or more of their fellow participants. Alumni from both years continue to feel a strong sense of connection with their peers from Tent: the majority feels very or moderately connected to their fellow Tent participants. Only a small minority feels no sense of connection to their fellow alumni.

Exhibit 10  
Number of participants with whom respondents remain in contact beyond Facebook (by year)

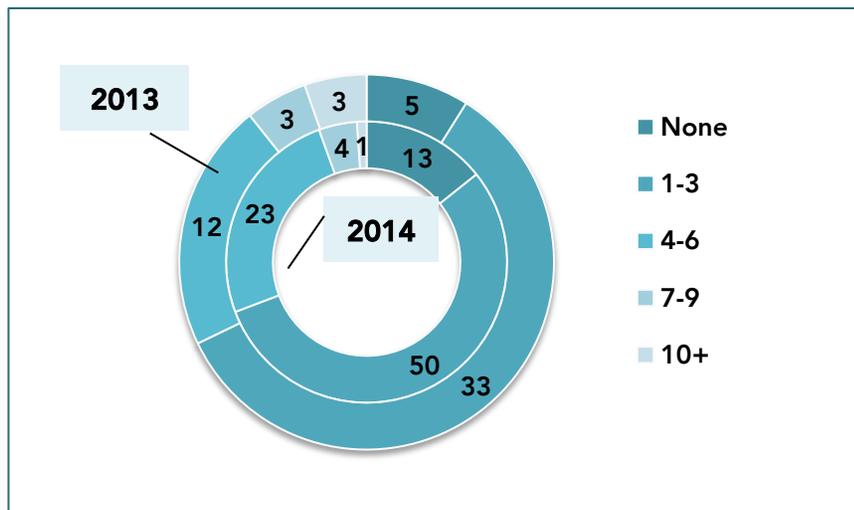
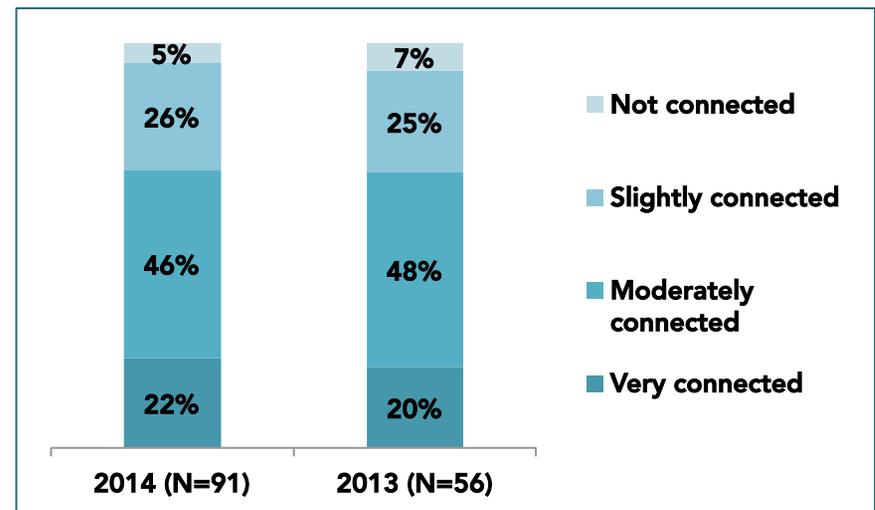


Exhibit 11  
Extent to which respondents continue to feel connected to their fellow Tent participants (by year)

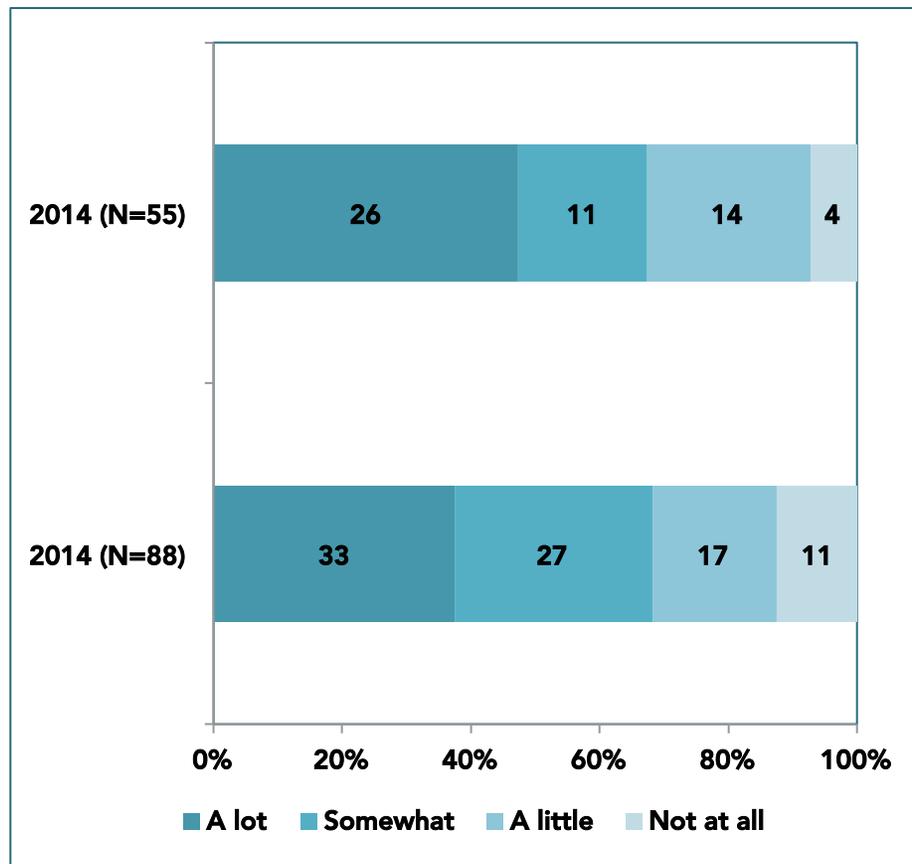


“The most significant aspect of my Tent experience was getting the chance to be in a group of like-minded, creative, engaging, and passionate young Jews whom I felt a lot in common with, based on my career and profession. That was very valuable and the relationships I’ve made and the experience we shared will keep us connected for a long time.”  
- 2013 Comedy alumna

# Broadening Networks

Tent increased alumni's interest in connecting with Jews more broadly. Alumni have expanded their networks beyond the Tent community: 63% of respondents from 2013 (35) and 48% from 2014 (44) said they introduced people they met during Tent to their other friends and colleagues. Additionally, many alumni said they feel more connected to their local Jewish communities because of Tent. This was the case to varying degrees for 69 of the 91 respondents from 2014 (79%) and for 40 of the 56 respondents from 2013 (76%). 63% of alumni from each year agreed or somewhat agreed with the statement: **"Because of my Tent experience, I feel like part of a Jewish community in a way that I didn't before."**

Exhibit 12  
Extent to which Tent increased respondents' desire to connect with Jewish peers/colleagues (by year)



*"I decided I wanted to meet more creative Jews. It wasn't enough just to be friends with Jews—I wanted to build relationships with other creative Jews who inserted Yiddishkeit into their work."*

- 2014 Journalism alumna

*"I recently joined JDate, and I think having spent time with Jewish peers at Tent influenced my desire to seek out Jewish peers more actively in my social life."*

- 2013 Creative Writing alumna

*"I met some incredibly wonderful friends in my Tent and every few weeks I find myself meeting Tenters from different tracks. They become new, close family."*

- 2014 Journalism alumna

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# Increasing Understanding of Jewish Diversity

Tent provided an inclusive and pluralistic environment where Jews from different backgrounds had the opportunity to interact with one another without judgment. For many, this exposure increased their understanding of the diversity of Jewish expression. Many commented about the power of interacting with Jews who are different from themselves and reflected about how the experience motivated them to think about their own Jewish identities and choices regarding Jewish expression and involvement.

“I learned an immense amount from my Tent peers who engage in Judaism differently than I do. It was enlightening to hear what being Jewish means to people from all different backgrounds and it reminded me that there are numerous choices in how we engage with Judaism.”

- 2013 Creative Writing alumna

**93%** of all alumni said Tent increased their sense of connection to the Jewish people (to varying extents).\*

“I really loved Tent, a lot more than I thought I would. Initially I had been excited as the week drew near, but also hesitant — I was afraid it would make me feel like an outsider for not being Jewish ‘enough’ or that I would be guilty for not practicing, but none of that happened, and I loved how inclusive Tent was of folks all across the Jewish spectrum.”

- 2013 Creative Writing alumna

“Being in the Yiddish Book Center was very impactful, but maybe the most significant thing was learning about and interacting with the Reform, Conservative, and other non-Orthodox branches of Judaism and learning more about their Jewish experience in the States.”

- 2014 Creative Writing alumnus

**78%** of all alumni agreed (to varying extents): “Because of my Tent experience I have a stronger sense of connection to my Jewish heritage/identity.”

“I grew up living in a place with few Jews, and not long after my experience at Tent, I moved to another place in which I am the only Jewish person in my community. My experiences at Tent and the people I continue to keep in touch with over the internet help me to feel less alone. It encourages me to continue considering what a/the ‘Jewish experience’ means or is and how it is that my life might be one of many kinds of Jewish experience.”

- 2014 Creative Writing alumna

“The most significant aspect of my Tent experience was reinforcing that there is always a seat for me in the Jewish community socially, professionally, leisurely, romantically, and spiritually.”

- 2013 Comedy alumnus

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\* Based on a four-point Likert scale

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# Changing Behaviors

Tent participants described the many ways their experience motivated them to make different choices about their Jewish lives. Some described how they more proudly identify as Jewish and feel more connected to the importance of their Jewish identities. Others were motivated to participate in additional Jewish programs and develop their local Jewish networks. Still others said Tent motivated them to attend synagogue and increased their interest in participating in Jewish rituals.

“I’m more likely to identify myself as Jewish to non-Jewish friends.”  
- 2013 Creative Writing alumna

“It led me to do Birthright. It led me to be more in touch with my artist and Jewish self and I hope to someday get to do something similar again to enlighten me even more.”  
- 2013 Theater alumna

“Tent taught me that I need to continue to deepen and explore my relationship to the Jews in my community of L.A. It is very helpful to have a professional and personal community of fellow Jews, especially in a large city, and the support and camaraderie that we shared as a group really bonded us together.”

- 2013 Comedy alumna

**80%** of all alumni agreed (to varying extents): “Because of my Tent experience I have a stronger sense of connection Jewish history and culture.”

**69%** of all alumni agreed (to varying extents): “Because of my Tent experience I have a stronger sense of connection to Jewish customs and traditions.”

**46%** of all alumni said their Tent experience motivated them to attend an event sponsored by a Jewish organization (to varying extents).

“My desire to go to temple has increased, and I have since wanted to come back to the synagogue on the UWS, but I live in Brooklyn, so it is very hard to do. I also keep an eye out for Jewish actors, writers, and directors and how they were able to achieve success.”

- 2013 Theater alumna

“I had a super Jewish (interfaith) wedding because Tent helped me reaffirm the importance of my Jewish identity.”

- 2014 Museums alumna

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## Continuing to Learn

Tent motivated respondents to continue their learning about Jewish history, traditions, and customs. Tent influenced some alumni's decision to pursue related graduate level education and shaped others' thinking about what research topics they want to pursue.

"Tent influenced my decision to study Yiddish, which I see being a rich part of my personal and artistic life going forward! The first Yiddish books I bought, I purchased during my week at the Yiddish Book Center."

- 2013 Creative Writing alumnus

"It was one of the most important experiences I've ever had. I am in Vilnius, Lithuania, currently studying Yiddish for the next 3 weeks. I don't think I would've been 'brave' enough to come out here without my experience in the Tent program. It was incredibly positive and has given me the strength I needed to reach out to others and form stronger connections with fellow Jews."

- 2014 Comics alumna

**63%** of all alumni said their Tent experience motivated them to read books or articles related to the theme of their Tent session to varying extents.

**53%** of all alumni agreed to varying extents: "Because of my Tent experience, I have spent more time learning about Jewish history, traditions, and/or customs."

"For five years prior to Tent I was an educator and costumed interpreter at [a Jewish museum]. Now I am a student at the Harvard School of Education pursuing a master's in the arts in education. Tent solidified my desire to learn more, become a student, and keep Jewish arts organizations on my radar."

- 2013 Theater alumna

"Tent has influenced the topic of my MA thesis and my area of expertise at university. I do deal a lot with Holocaust studies now and have also applied to a conference on the Holocaust and comics studies. I am also about to plan/organize a conference of Judaism with a former Tent participant."

- 2014 Comics alumna

"I am pursuing graduate options in Judaic studies in large part due to people and ideas connected to Tent."

- 2013 Creative Writing alumna

# Influencing Professional Choices

Respondents mentioned the influence of Tent on their career trajectories and on the focus of their work. Several Tent alumni have since pursued positions in Jewish organizations. Some have adapted Tent’s pedagogical style in their own teaching. Others have utilized the valuable professional network that Tent engendered. Still others mentioned how their experience motivated them to incorporate more Jewish content into their creative work.

**29%** of all alumni said their Tent experience contributes to an occupational change to varying extents.

“I now work as an editorial assistant at [a publishing house], which specializes in publishing and promoting literature that pertains to the American Jewish experience.”  
-2013 Creative Writing alumna

“I made a big career change to the Jewish nonprofit world, which is something I never thought I would. [Tent] was definitely a part of the decision to be open to applying to the Jewish communal world. I felt that Jewish communal work had more of a power to build a community than the theatre jobs I had, which is why I made the switch. Possibly, a job I’d like to hold one day will be a combination of the two (Jewish community and theatre).”  
-2013 Theater alumnus

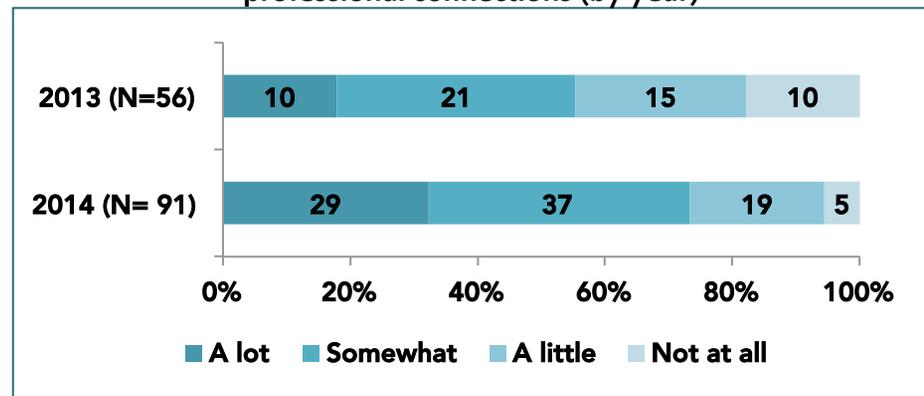
“I am currently hosting a professional development two-day seminar for new employees (20-somethings) at my company and considered Tent’s programming when determining the itinerary.”  
-2014 FoodLA alumna

“Because of Tent, I incorporate more Jewish elements into my writing, and, career-wise, those incorporation have been immeasurably successful.”  
-2013 Theater alumnus

“I’m the Jewish Cultural School director and a teacher in a synagogue school, and Tent gave me a vision for how the program could be. ...I’ve worked to make the monthly group activities more Tent-like opportunities for fun learning, engagement, and building relationships. ...and so far it’s been a real success!”  
-2014 Museums alumna

“The Facebook group is a good resource for me professionally. I can see what other people are up to, which inspires collaboration, and even promote my own work.”  
-2013 Comedy alumnus

Exhibit 13  
Extent to which Tent helped respondents make useful professional connections (by year)



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## Concluding Thoughts

The opportunity to explore the impact of Tent over time contributed valuable insights to our understanding of the program's lasting effects on participants' knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors. As the current evaluation shows, Tent has accomplished many of the objectives that have continued to elude countless other programs meant to engage unaffiliated Jewish young adults. The Yiddish Book Center has created an immersive, experiential, educational experience that is culturally based, content-rich, and authentically inclusive. As a result, Tent is successfully attracting and continuing to engage members of this population.

Since issue salience is one of the most significant drivers of survey responses, the high response rates alone strongly indicate the continued significance of Tent on alumni's lives from the outset of the evaluation. The complete findings illustrate that Tent has encouraged and enabled participants to more fully integrate their Jewish identities with their creative interests. The program has increased young adults' understanding of the role of Jewish creativity and thought in the broader culture and motivated them to continue to learn. Tent sparked participants' interest in discovering new modes of Jewish expression and continues to make Jewish culture accessible and attractive to them. Since they participated, alumni have been actively deepening and broadening the social and professional networks sparked by Tent. Exposure to peers who express their Jewish identities in diverse ways motivated many to reflect on their own identities and to explore new modes of social, professional, creative, intellectual, and even religious involvement. *Other young adult engagement efforts would surely benefit from understanding and applying some of the key elements that have contributed to Tent's success in its first two years:*

### **Tent: Encounters with Jewish Culture –**

1. Meets young adults where they are, providing Jewish context and community based on topics and themes that are already of interest
2. Provides a theoretical and practical balance between the particular and the universal, which is consistent with participants' largely cosmopolitan sensibilities
3. Recognizes that young adults have an important contribution to make to Jewish cultural life and actively supports them in their creative endeavors
4. Enables participants to be active agents in the processes of learning and creative expression and motives them to continue in those efforts beyond the workshop
5. Provides emotionally affective experiences that engender participants' sense of connection to their cultural heritage
6. Creates opportunities for participants to engage with top scholars and leaders in their fields
7. Supports participants in the development of professionally and socially beneficial networks
8. Curates non-judgmental opportunities to engage with Jews from different backgrounds, providing deep encounters with Jewish diversity that foster significant self-reflection
9. Harnesses alumni as ambassadors of the program