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Howard B. & Ruth F. Brin Jewish Arts Endowment Fund

Awards \$20,500 to support art with a Jewish theme.

Minnetonka – September 10, 2015: The **Howard B. & Ruth F. Brin Jewish Arts Endowment Fund**, of the Minneapolis Jewish Federation's Jewish Community Foundation, announced that it has awarded grants to the following recipients:

Bais Yaakov High School of the Twin Cities

To support the costs of producing a Jewish themed musical for women and girls at Bais Yaakov High School that contributes to the educational experience and fosters personal and spiritual growth for students through this arts experience.

Alan Berks

To support the completion and production of a humorous and poignant play about Jewish mourning ("sitting shiva") based on the playwright's own experience after his father died, a man whose values and attitudes were deeply informed by his Jewish tradition.

Rachel Breen & Alison Morse

To support the creation and production of *The Price of Our Clothes*, a collaborative project that will use visual art, poetry and storytelling to create connections and relationships between the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist fire that took place in New York City and the Rana Plaza Factory collapse that occurred in Bangladesh in 2013. The art project will link the tragedies, struggles and successes in the United States needle trades (won in large part by Jewish American immigrants in the 20th century) to the struggles and tragedies occurring overseas today as Americans outfit themselves with inexpensively produced clothing.

Illusion Theatre

To support the final development and premiere of *Walking Across Poland*, a new musical about a middle-aged man honoring his grandmother on the anniversary of her death (her "yahrzeit"), remembering back to a time when he was a young boy, exploring his cravings to understand his place in the world while learning the true story of his family's secrets.

Minnesota Jewish Theatre

To support the production of *The Twenty-Seventh Man*, a play based on the story of the same name by Nathan Englander and conveying the story of a real incident, "the night of the murdered poets," when on August 12, 1952, Jews in the Lubyanka Prison in Russia were executed, the event credited with marking the end of a Yiddish literary and artistic culture. The play looks at Stalin's brutal regime and the attempt to eradicate Jewish civilization by killing Yiddish writers.

Tamara Nadel

To support the creation of a dance work rooted in the Jewish poetry of Medieval Muslim Spain which expressed the soul's longing for the divine, interpreted through the South Indian classic dance form and Indian music of the Ragamala Dance Company. The piece bridges issues of faith and expression in different art forms featuring the performer Tamara Nadel.

TC Jewfolk

To support the "Everyone's a Critic: Fostering the Next Generation of Artists and Appreciators" project which is designed to cultivate an emerging generation of young Jewish artists and those who appreciate the arts. New articles exploring issues such as connections through the arts and expression of identity will be featured on the website of "TCJewfolk."

Howard and Ruth Brin understood the difficulties both artists and institutions experience in funding Jewish creativity. If anything, this difficulty is even greater than in their life-times.

Howard and Ruth were a very special and unique couple. **Howard B. Brin** (1919-1988) was a vital community leader, amateur violist, and archeologist who participated in the archeological dig at Masada, Israel. He chaired the committee of 300 lay leaders to plan for the new Minneapolis Jewish Community Center and served as its president from 1969-1972 when the building opened. **Ruth F. Brin** (1921-2009) wrote 13 published books including poetry, children's books, a memoir and a novel, and was also an editor, teacher, and nationally recognized Jewish liturgist. Her prayers appear in Reform, Conservative, and Reconstructionist prayer books. Together, Howard and Ruth Brin believed the arts are an essential way to enhance Jewish identity for both the artist and the Jewish community. The fund is now a memorial to this vital couple.

The Howard B. & Ruth F. Brin Jewish Arts Endowment Fund serves to encourage artistic creativity within a Jewish context. The Fund is meant to aid a broad range of individual artists and institutions in creating and producing works with a Jewish theme. It is the funders' intention that these artistic endeavors would reach both Jewish and general audiences within Minnesota, with a possible reach to the upper Midwest. (The upper Midwest is considered to be Minnesota, Iowa, western Wisconsin, and the Dakotas.) The arts experience is broadly defined and grants may be given for music, dance, literature, theatre, visual arts and film as long as the projects are not for commercial use. Emphasis is given to applications from individual artists and agencies within the Minnesota artistic and Jewish communities.

The Jewish Community Foundation of the Minneapolis Jewish Federation allows donors to fulfill their philanthropic goals by establishing funds and administering grants with the support of trained professionals at the Minneapolis Jewish Federation.

For more than 80 years, Federation has worked with people and partners across the globe to build a vibrant, inclusive and supportive Jewish community. We nurture Jewish life and learning, help those in need and build connections with Israel and Jews around the world.

For more information on the Minneapolis Jewish Federation and our work go online to: www.jewishminneapolis.org or see our work live, in real time by visiting www.mapyourimpact.org.