



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 7, 2016

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**MOVING TRADITIONS NAMED ONE OF AMERICA'S  
TOP 50 INNOVATIVE JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS**

*Eleventh Annual Slingshot Guide Highlights the Best of the Thriving Jewish Nonprofit World*

**JENKINTOWN, PA** – For the tenth year, Moving Traditions has been named one of North America's top 50 innovative Jewish organizations in the eleventh annual Slingshot Guide. The Guide has become a go-to resource for volunteers, activists and donors looking for new opportunities and projects that, through their innovative nature, will ensure the Jewish community remains relevant and thriving. Slingshot 2016 was released today.

Selected from among hundreds of finalists reviewed by 93 professionals with expertise in grant-making and Jewish communal life, the Guide said of Moving Traditions:

There are other youth programs for Jewish teens, to be sure, but none follow an ongoing mentorship model that engages teens to look at and explore the tough issues that define their lives now, including gender identity (programs and curricula for LGBT youth are in progress), peer pressure, gender equity and work-life balance. With the help of Moving Traditions, more teens are growing into adulthood with confidence, a sense of community and an enduring commitment to being a part of the Jewish community, however they identify themselves.

Organizations included in this year's Guide were evaluated on their innovative approach, the impact they have in their work, the leadership they have in their sector, and their effectiveness at achieving results.

“Moving Traditions is proud to be selected for the guide again this year, and we're honored to be a part of the community of innovative organizations included in the Guide that continue to create positive change for the Jewish future,” said CEO and Founder Deborah Meyer.

Moving Traditions was also selected for the third time as one of 19 Jewish organizations featured in the women and girls supplement to the Slingshot Guide, published for its third and final year.

The organizations included in the Guides are driving the future of Jewish life and engagement by motivating new audiences to participate in their work and responding to the needs of individuals and communities – both within and beyond the Jewish community – as never before.

Stefanie Rhodes, Executive Director of Slingshot, which publishes the Guide, said, “*Slingshot’s* work is to help Jews find, fund and connect to meaningful, exciting experiences in Jewish life. After 11 years, the book remains relevant because it continues to highlight organizations doing exceptional work, serving as the trailblazers for what is possible and inspiring all of us. Whether we look to the guide for funding ideas, best practices or trends in Jewish life, it remains a resource for all of us, providing tremendous hope for our collective future. Returning to our original model of 50 organizations made this year more competitive than ever before, resulting in an extraordinary snapshot of the field.”

Sarah Rueven, Slingshot board chair, agreed, “Innovation is a critical component of today’s Jewish community. Slingshot is highlighting the work of organizations that strengthen Jewish life by making it more relevant to our generation. We are inspired by projects that help people connect with the Jewish community in ways that both feel fresh and honor our traditions. The eleventh edition of *Slingshot* is the most compelling and diverse guide yet. Readers will learn about valuable new projects and gain insight into the emerging needs in Jewish life, as identified by our community’s top leaders.”

Being listed in the Guide is often a critical step for selected organizations to attain much needed additional funding and to expand the reach of their work. Furthermore, the Guide is a frequently used resource for donors seeking to support organizations transforming the world in novel and interesting ways.

### **About the Slingshot Guide**

The Slingshot Guide, now in its eleventh year, was created by a team of young funders as a guidebook to help funders of all ages diversify their giving portfolios to include the most innovative and effective organizations, programs and projects in North America. The Guide contains information about each organization’s origin, mission, strategy, impact and budget, as well as details about its unique character. The Slingshot Guide has proven to be a catalyst for next generation funding and offers a telling snapshot of shifting trends in North America’s Jewish community – and how nonprofits are meeting new needs and reaching new audiences. The book, published annually, is available in hard copy and as a free download at [www.slingshotfund.org](http://www.slingshotfund.org).

### **About Moving Traditions**

At Moving Traditions we believe that when Judaism promotes self-discovery, challenges traditional gender roles, and celebrates a diversity of voices, it has the power to move our teens, our communities, and Judaism forward. Through our field-tested programs *Rosh Hodeshand Shevet Achim*, Moving Traditions creates experiences that inspire Jewish teens to openly explore fundamental questions of identity and society. For more information, visit us at [www.movingtraditions.org](http://www.movingtraditions.org).

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