



2023 IMPACT REPORT

Fostering Jewish identity through authentic experiences, building bridges between communities and encouraging all to be their best selves.



JCC AT A GLANCE

117

Years in the Rochester Community



1,569
New Members



300 Hanukkah
Party Guests



388 Swim Lesson
Participants

325

New Donors



21 Films Featured in the
Ames Amzalak
Rochester Jewish
Film Festival



1,500
Marshmallows
Roasted



7,300 TYKEs
Attendees



178 Challahs
Served at
Shabbat Sing



\$100k+ in
Scholarships

THE
WILLIAM AND MILDRED LEVINE
BUILDING



30 Teens
Traveled to Israel



2,500 Personal
Training Sessions

LOUISIANA JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER



HELLO

2023 was a year of recommitment to our Jewish values, values that are grounded in building and supporting our community and strengthening mutual understanding across Rochester. We embraced our Jewish roots, and we amplified profound Jewish connections for each generation. We welcomed a wide-array of community-centered Jewish organizations.

The JCC enriched thousands of lives—from babies to bubbies—in such diverse ways. We are so proud of what we were able to achieve in 2023, which included the following:

- We fostered Jewish identity through experiences that spanned generations—from community-wide Purim and Hanukkah events to a concert featuring Rick Recht to Loaves of Love. We partnered with the Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester, Jewish Family Services, Jewish Senior Life, Chabad, and other local synagogues as we welcomed the entire Jewish community to the JCC to experience the many tenets of Jewish life.
- We strengthened understanding and empathy between the Jewish and Israeli community and the community-at-large through sharing *Survivors*, *the Play* which teaches the chronological history of the Holocaust to school-age children. We hosted our Understanding Israel series and featured a community installation on our bridge walkway to express love and support for Israel.
- We expanded our campus as a place for all. We welcomed new friends like Draper Dance Center for Education and Fox's Deli here alongside Lifespan, Rochester Regional Health, EnCompass, Brickyard CrossFit, Temple Emanu-El, and the Rochester Fringe Festival. In partnership with the Town of Henrietta, the JCC secured a significant grant from NYS to master plan our 100+ acres of land along the canal. More to come on this exciting project in 2024!

Each donor, corporate sponsor and foundation provided much-needed support to allow us to serve our community, and we would not have been able to deliver our mission without your generous backing. We are excited to continue to build the team, programs and spaces that will ensure generations will continue to experience our JCC community in 2024 and beyond.



Josh Weinstein
CEO



Howard Cohen
JCC Board President

We are so grateful for the wealth of Jewish family programming at the J! Our family has had SO much fun engaging with other families and learning about holidays through music classes, Shabbat dinners, and all kinds of other events. The atmosphere is fun and welcoming every time, and we always look forward to coming back!

– Abby R.



GIVE

We wouldn't be here without you. In 2023, so many community members made thoughtful and impactful gifts that allowed us to remain vibrant.

The power of our donors giving is transformational. **In 2023, we received donations totaling \$4.4 million from over 1,000 treasured donors** and were proud to welcome **325 new donors** to the JCC. Your support inspires the community to participate in giving back. However you contributed, your generosity had an impact.

CIRCLE SOCIETY

Your unrestricted gift of \$1,000+ is essential as it funds the most urgent needs, including overhead costs required to keep our center running. These funds supported early childhood education, arts and theater programs, and fitness and wellness classes for our thriving community. In 2023, our 102 members of the Circle Society gave more than \$525,000.

ANNUAL FUND

Your annual unrestricted commitment allows us to create connections and meaningful moments that bring the entire community together. Your support impacts every program. Every service. Every member. Every day.

PROGRAM SPECIFIC

There is a program or service for everyone at the JCC. From Jewish festivals to campers spending the summer making life-long memories at Camp Seneca Lake to community members enjoying live performances with CenterStage. Your support ensures our programs thrive today and for generations to come.



Being a part of *Survivors* and the JCC CenterStage community has brought a happiness and meaning to my life that I am forever grateful for. I look forward to working with my peers every day and learning more about our community's Survivors as well as having conversations with my safta, a Survivor herself, about her experiences and how we see the world now.

– Sarah M.

Below, Sarah with her safta (grandmother), Lea Malek.

Right, Sarah performing as Lea in *Survivors, the Play*.



SURVIVORS



APPLAUD

A warm round of applause for Arts + Culture programs and shows, captivating over 20,000 audience members throughout 2023! Your generosity ensures that these exceptional programs can be maintained and grown for years to come.

Highlights in 2023 included:

- CenterStage had an entirely SOLD OUT run of *Ragtime, the Musical*. This sweeping musical portrait of early twentieth-century America featured a diverse cast and crew of over 70 local performers, directors, designers, and artists.
- Actor Ronnie Marmo (*Criminal Minds, General Hospital*) brought us his edgy biographical play, *I'm Not a Comedian...I'm Lenny Bruce*, directed by multi award-winning actor and director Joe Mantegna.
- Our newly rebranded Lane Dworkin Authors + Innovators Festival featured almost 600 attendees at Brighton High School to see author Mitch Albom in conjunction with our CenterStage performance of his work, *Tuesdays With Morrie*.
- TYKEs entertained and enriched our young ones with a tour of the solar system on the magic school bus, a trip underground to a rock concert with the naked mole rats, and a dance party with giraffes in the jungle.
- Filming has wrapped up on our documentary of *Survivors, the Play* which is also continuing tours to area schools to help ensure the stories of the Holocaust are never forgotten.



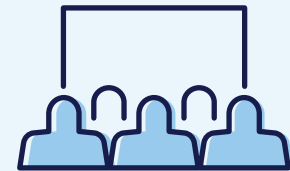
**6,350 Authors + Innovators
and Film Festival
Attendees**



**12,000 CenterStage
Attendees**



**7,300 TYKEs
Attendees**



**Survivors, the Play
toured 18 Schools**

(Ragtime is) the best show I have seen in Rochester in a long time. So profound and such amazing talent.

– Kathy E.

Hitmakers, Rock vs. Disco was an absolute blast. I had trouble staying in my seat. I wanted to jump up on stage and join you!!!

– Jennifer B.

Saw Tuesdays With Morrie last night. Very moving play with two dynamite performances. JCC continues its tradition of high quality theatre.

– Richard K.



SMILE

In 2023, JCC classrooms and camps were filled with the sounds of children exploring, learning, laughing, and making memories that will last a lifetime. From our infants to teens, we are committed to providing a nurturing, safe environment where children can grow, thrive, and become the remarkable people we know them to be.

CAMP SENECA LAKE

- 98% of our families said that camp created an ambiance and atmosphere where their child was proud to be Jewish, and 96% said that camp created the feeling that they're connected to the larger Jewish community.
- We opened Em's Place, a mental health and wellness studio designed for fostering camper and staff well-being.

WOLK CHILDREN'S CENTER

- Our new Senior Director of Early Childhood and School-age Education formed a collaborative administrative team bringing our licensed programs under a strategic plan, increasing efficiency and the quality of operations.
- A new full-time Jewish educator brought fresh enthusiasm into Wolk's classrooms by immersing the school into joyous Jewish literacy, multi-sensory learning experiences, and school-wide celebrations all based around our monthly Jewish-values curriculum.

SUMMER DAYS AT THE J

From our youngest campers entering kindergarten to our middle school campers and Leaders in Training, their summer experiences included new activities, building social and emotional skills and friendships, weaving Jewish values into daily programming and welcoming Shabbat as a camp-wide community highlight.



**310 Jewish Enrichment
Activities**



800+ Walks at Wolk



**270 CSL Campers
108 Staff**



**First of Its Kind
CSL Wellness Studio**

CSL is a special place. The strengths of camp are almost too numerous to mention. The ability for a child to forge life-long friendships, develop their own identity, resolve conflicts away from their parents, and get an abundance of physical activity are only some of the benefits CSL can offer.

– Emily G.



THRIVE

We continued to provide opportunities for every member of our community to lift their mood and enrich their lives by participating in programs or activities that make them happy.

This past year was the busiest ever! Our members connected with each other, learned skills, had fun and fostered community in lots of creative ways.

- Lifespan hosted 500+ events, including Bagels and Coffee every Monday and Wednesday and the always popular art series. In partnership with Rochester Regional Health, a plant-based potluck was held monthly.
- The JCC offered two new programs, Women Who Lift and Girls Who Lift, to help females feel more comfortable and knowledgeable with strength-training. We delivered over 2,500 personal training sessions, helping members get stronger and more agile.
- We continued our efforts to support the community with Brighton Food Cupboard food drives and assembling Kindness kits for distribution to those in need throughout the community.
- Rochester Regional Health hosted a weekly Lifestyle Health + Wellness series every Wednesday, with experts sharing their experiences and knowledge to improve members' lives.



**7,497 Puzzle Pieces
Assembled**



**600 Hours of Weekend
Child-watch**



**2,400 Cookies Consumed
by TYKEs Attendees**



**388 Unique Swim
Lesson Participants**

Watching my six-year-old son in the pool during his lessons with Kallia, I get very emotional. With her warmth, humor, patience, and expertise, she has eased him past his anxiety, transforming the pool into a place to enjoy instead of fear. In just over a year, he has gone from being afraid to put his head underwater to wearing flippers and jumping through a hula hoop into the deep end! Through their weekly interactions, I have watched his confidence and his joy skyrocket. As I hear him telling her all about dragons and dinosaurs in the water, I smile, knowing Kallia is the key who has unlocked his potential.

— Katie A.



L'CHAIM

The JCC expanded its Jewish footprint, creating additional entry points to Jewish life in the Rochester community. From hosting Shabbat dinners, to providing yoga on Shabbat, to singing and movement programs for our youngest members, to single gender swim and Zumba classes.

By offering a variety of opportunities, the JCC is meeting the needs of our diverse constituency.

- Family programming partnered with PJ Library and Chabad to bring the community together for fun and education, including Summer Family Movies Under the Tent and Summer Evenings at the Splash Pool, All Aboard the Rosh Hashanah Express, Hanukkah Decorating, Babyccino, Loaves of Love for Israel and Hanukkah Legoland.
- Offered our active older adult community educational programming, such as Introduction to Hebrew Reading, and learning opportunities with local rabbis.
- Invited the community to join us for holiday celebrations including Open Tent Shabbat, the Annual Purim Carnival, and Lights, Peace and Latkes—featuring Rick Recht.
- Welcomed the ShinShinim to the JCC where they shared their personal stories to bring Jewish culture to life. This included weekly visits to preschool classrooms and a new program for school-aged children: Israeli Games + Culture.
- After the tragedy on October 7, the JCC supported the Israeli people with initiatives that included the creation of our Peace Bridge, an Understanding Israel series, 100 Days in Captivity demonstration, and memorial for fallen Israelis.



**245 Songs at
Shabbat Sing**



**23 Shabbat
Services at CSL**



**300+ Guests Enjoyed
the Community
Hanukkah Celebration**



3 Visiting ShinShinim

THANK YOU TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

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° Circle Society Member

z¹ Of Blessed Memory

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