

**SOLOWAY JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRE OF OTTAWA
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM
April 6, 2021, 7:00 pm**

1. Call to Order – Allan Shefrin welcomed everyone to the SJCC Annual General Meeting and called the first ever zoom AGM to order.

2. D'var Torah
Rabbi Garten gave the D'var Torah. He referred to the failed Bar Kochva rebellion and how the Temple was destroyed by the Romans. Jews were expelled from Jerusalem and name of Judea erased. Rabbi Garten cited *Pirkei Avot* about serving for duty and not for compensation. In the Jewish community our powerful sense of obligation and duty is our primary motivation. We all share the Jewish message and same values. He wished us all a better year ahead.

3. Greetings from Jewish Federation of Ottawa
Andrea Freedman, President and CEO, brought greetings from the Jewish Federation of Ottawa. She described how this was a year of challenge and sacrifice. She said that the JCC is the heart of the Jewish community. The leadership and hard work of Barry Sohn and the Board have ensured that the organization remains critical and important to the community and has a bright future ahead.

4. Approval of Minutes – Jan 29, 2020 Annual Meeting – Allan Shefrin
It was moved by Allan Shefrin, seconded by Mike Aronson, that the minutes of the Jan 29, 2020 Annual General Meeting be approved as presented. Motion carried.

5. The Grossman-Klein Family Teen Leadership Awards
Presenter: Gail Lieff, SCC
Awarded to: Miriam Braiter and Benjamin Shapiro

Miriam "MiMi" Braiter

Mimi is a grade 11 student at Sir Robert Borden High School and is President of A Ripple Effect, an organization that pairs volunteer youth with children in need of friendship and support. Mimi has been part of this important program since its inception, over three years ago, and was a member of the board prior to moving into her current position.

In her role as President, Mimi, supports Rabbi Mendelsohn in all aspects of the program and spends her time coming up with activities for the children and their families, organizing fun team building events for the volunteers and planning and promoting fundraising events like the Fun Run, which went virtual for this year. Mimi works directly with three families on a weekly basis, connecting online to do crafts and other activities with the kids. As a "big sister" to these children, she provides them with love, confidence, skills, and a much-needed break from

whatever difficulties they are facing. She has also recruited a number of teens to the program and continues to build the organization.

She has been part of Mitzvah Day, lent a helping hand to last year's Israeli Women's Night at the SJCC and was the Team Captain for her Relay for Life team at SRB.

An accomplished athlete, in her younger years, Mimi took part in a number of Jon Braun's z"l after-school sports programs at the Soloway JCC. After outgrowing the programs she became a volunteer helping JB with floor hockey a couple of times a week. She is a competitive golfer and has been a volunteer coach at Rideau View Golf Course where she spent much of the golf season helping out with the children's learn-to-golf programs and at golf camp.

Benjamin Shapiro

A grade 11 student at Sir Robert Borden High School, Ben has spent more than 200 hours over the past few years at the Ottawa Kosher Food Bank, stocking shelves, preparing items for distribution, shopping for supplies and helping out on distribution days. He has co-chaired the Jewish Federation of Ottawa telethon, along with his family and, is a regular JFO and Mitzvah Day volunteer. In his graduating year at the Ottawa Jewish Community School, Ben was President of the OJCS Student Council and the recipient of the Sarah Lithwick Greene Student Leader Award from Hillel Lodge.

In addition to his hours of volunteer service in the Jewish Community, Ben also dedicates his time to the community at large, logging over 40 hours with the Conservative Party of Canada's local party candidates over the past year's election. He has been a silver medalist honour roll student at SRB with a yearly average of over 90%, is a DECA Participant (a high school club that prepares emerging leaders for the business field post-high school), he was awarded a leadership seminar opportunity at SRB for outstanding leadership qualities and was invited to apply for the upcoming Duke of Edinburgh's International Award recognizing young people's achievements in Canada.

Ben spent three weeks in the Andes and Amazon regions helping to build schools for underprivileged children. A well-accomplished young man, Ben is the son of Nikki and Michael and brother to Neilah, also a Grossman-Klein Teen Leadership Award winner.

6. Financial Overview

Inga Dobrijevic, Treasurer, presented the financial overview.

Total revenue: 3.7 million

Total expenditures: 3.5 million

7. Appointment of Auditors – Inga Dobrijevic

It was moved by Inga, seconded by Gail Lieff that Ginsberg, Gluzman, Fage & Levitz be re-elected as auditors for the Soloway Jewish Community Centre for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2021. Motion Carried.

8. Remarks: Barry Sohn

Barry acknowledged that this is a unique AGM and year, of which we were closed 60% of the time and lost 1.6 million in revenue. Prior to pandemic we were doing exceptionally well with more than \$300,000 for sports dinner and \$1,000,000 a year in memberships. He thanked the JFO emergency campaign for their help, as well as SJCC board, Maxine Miska and staff for their efforts. Barry mentioned the one year of anniversary of Jon Braun's death. He also congratulated Roslyn Wollock on her retirement. The SJCC will re-engage in capital campaign, which was temporarily put on pause due to the pandemic, with the goal of reaching \$5,000,000.

9. Staff Service Awards – Barry Sohn

Barry Sohn thanked all his staff for their accomplishments and their hard work. He noted the following milestones:

Gail Lieff – 30 years

Maxine Miska – 20 years

Mali Atias – 15 years

Pam Rosenberg – 10 years

10. Report of the Nominating Committee – Mike Aronson, past chair

The Nominating Committee presented the slate of officers: Allan Shefrin, Chair; Michael Aronson, Immediate Past Chair; Jack Shinder, First Vice-Chair; Ryan Goldberg, Second Vice-Chair; Inga Dobrijevic, Treasurer, and Michael Levitan, Secretary. Michael Aronson asked for a motion to approve the slate; seconded by David Glick-Stal. Motion carried. Michael thanked retiring directors Rabbi Garten and Dan Palayew.

11. Remarks of the Chair—Allan Shefrin

Allan spoke about how Jon Braun was the heart and soul of the JCC, how much he is missed and that we will continue his work and always remember him. Allan congratulated the award winners. He spoke about how COVID disrupted all plans and that we are in difficult and unpredictable times. Although revenue has significantly decreased, many of our departments are still delivering great programs such as the Melton School, the Ganon Preschool, and JCC of Ottawa Summer Camps. The SJCC will work on implementing the next stage of the strategic plan and restart the capital campaign in the post-pandemic world. Rebuild and renew.

12. Adjournment

Allan Shefrin moved that the meeting be adjourned.

