

# ANNUAL REPORT

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**September 1, 2021–August 31, 2022**

It was a difficult start to the fiscal year with pandemic shutdowns, reopening's with limited numbers and strict COVID mandates. But, despite how the year began, the Soloway Jewish Community Centre pushed through, welcomed back past members and new ones, filled class rosters in all departments and slowly, but steadily, got back to being the busy centre of Jewish life that we aspire to be. We continued to be an important part of the Ottawa community providing a place to socialize, be active and stay connected, (even if some of it was virtual), for all.

# Message from the SJCC Board Chair & President/COO

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This past year has been a year of growth and renewal as we create distance from the past two years of pandemic challenges. Our membership has grown and recovered to over 80% of our pre-pandemic membership totals. Our programs are once again operating at capacity. The Canon Preschool is full of the happy sounds of young children, our summer day camps and after school programs are once again bursting at the seams, our adult sports leagues are flourishing, Adult Education and Cultural classes are running, and our group fitness and aquatics programs are once again packed with participants. We are so pleased to be back to “normal” and so busy! We thank our entire community for supporting the SJCC during the pandemic and especially now that we see better days ahead. A special thanks to the Jewish Federation of Ottawa and Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation for their support during these challenging times.

We continue to invest in our facility. This past year we have completed the roofing project to replace or refurbish the entire roof, replaced the pool filters in the indoor swimming pool, and contracted to replace our HVAC units that are original to the building. We are thrilled today to announce phase 1 of interior renovations of our building that will result in a major refresh of all our locker/change rooms. We also hope you can join us on Sunday, June 11 when we dedicate the gym to our dear friend Jon Braun z’l. Jon (JB) played such an important role in influencing children and families that the naming of the gym as the Jonathan Braun Athletics Centre is an appropriate way to honour his efforts over 30+ years. Thanks so much to all our donors who made this possible.

The SJCC is the central address of the Jewish community. Our programs, services, and ability to serve the community in an inclusive, respectful, and professional way speaks volumes to the many dedicated volunteers and staff that help oversee this wonderful institution. Our ability to thrive has a direct impact on the quality of all our lives in our Ottawa community. Help us continue to thrive through your support as members and donors and the SJCC will be a beacon for many years to come.

**Jack Shinder,**  
Board Chair

**Barry Sohn,**  
President/COO



# From Toddlers to Teens

Thirty-five families with newborn babies registered for the **Shalom Baby** program. When they came to get their Welcome Bag at the SJCC all families were given a tour, introduced to the Ganon Preschool director and educated on all the great programs for young families.

**The Soloway JCC Ganon Preschool** was home to 70 children during the 2021-2022 school year. These children learned in English, French & Hebrew, celebrated Jewish holidays and got a wonderful introduction to school and to Jewish life.

A shift during the pandemic to more outdoor learning prompted the preschool to create an official outdoor classroom. With the help of a Jewish Federation of Ottawa MicroGRANT, Ganon was able to purchase the supplies needed for their *Gan Prachim* (outdoor classroom). Ganon opted in to the Canada Wide Early Learning Child Care Initiative making childcare more affordable for families in the coming school year.

It was a great summer at **SJCC Summer Camps**. Following on the heels of two pandemic effected seasons, summer 2022 was mostly back to normal with all groups at capacity and many with waitlists. Even though the province dropped the vaccine mandate, for the safety of our campers and staff, we required that everyone at camp show a proof of vaccination in order to attend.



More than 480 different campers (1007 registrations) spent the summer at Day Camp, Sports Camp and Specialty Camps bringing in a gross revenue of over \$450,000 for the summer. Camp filled up at record speed with almost all spots being taken during the SJCC Member priority registration period. Field trips and special guest visitors were once again part of the summer plans and we brought back the CIT program which welcomed 16 future SJCC Summer Camp counsellors over two, two-week sessions.

With Omicron making headlines in the winter of 2021 we were forced to shut down the second week of Winter Break Camp. February Break Camp numbers were lower than usual as families were still concerned, however, by the time March Break rolled around our one-week camp was full to capacity.

Fall **After School Programs** welcomed close to 80 children while winter programs had just over 70 participants. Spring saw a big dip in registration with only 40 children taking part in after school programs. The Red Cross Babysitting course returned with 10 future babysitters in each of the four classes.

The **Youth and Teen Department** teamed up with Kehillat Beth Israel for a hugely successful community wide B'nei Mitzvah celebration for all the kids who missed out during the pandemic.



# Educating our Community

Virtual literature and language classes as well as Melton courses dominated the **Adult Education and Cultural** programming year. Yiddish Conversation Circle and a Conversational Hebrew class (*Chug Ivrit*) ran continuously throughout the year.

We celebrated the Jewish community of Saint John, NB, learned about Proportional Representation, and about the Vancouver School of Yiddish Translators, all of which were very well attended.

Winter Melton classes were added to the program roster for the first time and in June we introduced “A Taste of Melton” a series of one-time, free lectures which acted as a gateway to the traditional classes.



The library spearheaded a three-part Zoom program in collaboration with the Ottawa Jewish Archives called ‘From the Ashes of the Holocaust: The Journey of Sefer Torah 1336.’ Each lecture featured a speaker that touched on different aspects of the Sefer Torah that is housed in the Greenberg Families library. Over eighty people attended all three programs.



## The Greenberg Families Library

partnered with the Shoah Committee and the Jewish Federation of Ottawa for an author talk with Judy Batallion where she discussed her book *Light of Days* for 114 participants as well as a documentary screening and Q&A for *Passage to Sweden* which drew in close to 100 people.

The Library teamed up with the JFO once again in the spring for Rise Up: Ottawa Jewish Women Talk Inspiration and Innovation. The event, in celebration of International Women’s Day hosted more than 100 attendees virtually.



**Over the past year  
the library loaned a  
total of **2,596** items,  
and acquired  
**467** books**

# Connecting to Israel

The Vered Israel Cultural & Educational Program delivered a mix of in-person and virtual programs throughout the year. They formed a new partnership with Beit haAm for an online Israeli Music series and together with JNF Canada offered virtual tours of Israel and other programs.



Vered hosted a virtual hamantaschen bake with Chef Ilan for Purim and a virtual ceremony for Yom Hazikaron. Yom Ha'atzmaut was celebrated on a much smaller scale than usual with an in person Israeli Folk Dance workshop.

The Israeli Film Festival showcased five films and had over 800 views. And more than 100 people laughed along with Israeli Stand Up comedian Ilya Axelrod.

In the summer Vered welcomed IVOW (Israel Victims of War) an organization that supports Bar and Bat Mitzvah age children of families in Israel who have been affected by war, military service or terrorism. One hundred Israeli teens enjoyed an afternoon at the SJCC playing in the gym and swimming in our outdoor pool.



## Jewish Holiday CELEBRATIONS

### **120 families**

joined The Vered Israel Cultural & Educational Program at Mountain Orchards for an afternoon of apple picking in preparation for Rosh Hashanah.



### **120 Chanukah Activity Baskets**

were sold in partnership with PJ Library, containing do-at-home Chanukah activities in lieu of an in-person celebration.



### **40 Teens**

gathered for the joint teen youth group Purim Party.



### **27 local vendors**

were part of the Virtual Chanukah Gift Fair.



### **25 Teens**

celebrated Chanukah in partnership with Kehillat Beth Israel

# Keeping our Community Healthy and Well

Members continued to tune in online to take part in their favorite classes and once our doors opened, classes took place in person with limited capacity. By spring, personal trainers began to see more clients and our fitness centre became a popular place for the high school crowd to exercise.

Private and Semiprivate swim lessons in our **indoor saltwater pool** had close to 500 registrations while Advanced Aquatics classes trained 200 future lifeguards.

Our **outdoor pool** opened in the summer and for the first time was available to SJCC Members only which led to a spike in summer memberships. Kehillat Beth Israel hosted a Saturday afternoon outdoor pool party.

The Athletics Department welcomed back the JMBL (Jewish Mens Basketball League) and saw many players returning from pre-pandemic. The hockey league was back at the Bell Sensplex.

Pickleball dominated the gym two afternoons a week with more new players discovering the game on a weekly basis. When the gym wasn't busy with Pickleball, basketball players of all ages came together for games of pickup.



## The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Ottawa Celebrity Sports Dinner

The Ottawa Celebrity Sports Dinner was back after missing just one year. The event featuring golf legend, Jack Nicklaus, welcomed around 500 guests, a much smaller event than in past years, yet still brought in significant funds for the SJCC.



# You Belong HERE!

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With all the uncertainty surrounding the pandemic, it was a difficult time to maintain memberships. Our doors reopened in January 2022 with limited capacity in the building, a mask mandate and all entering were required to show their proof of vaccination. In March 2022, after the province dropped the vaccine mandate, the SJCC kept the rule in place through the summer, giving our members who were concerned, peace of mind.

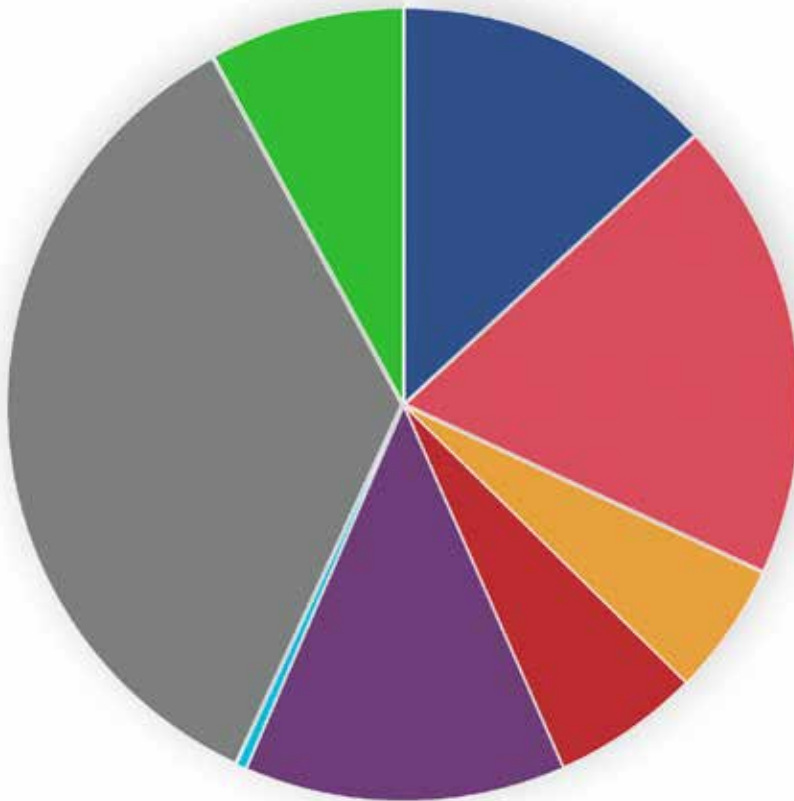


Membership started to steadily increase with the largest jump being in the young adult category (age 18-29) for 12-month memberships and Youth (up to 17) for three-month memberships. While seniors remained our second highest membership cohort since reopening, we have become increasingly popular with younger community members.

# Financial SUMMARY FY22

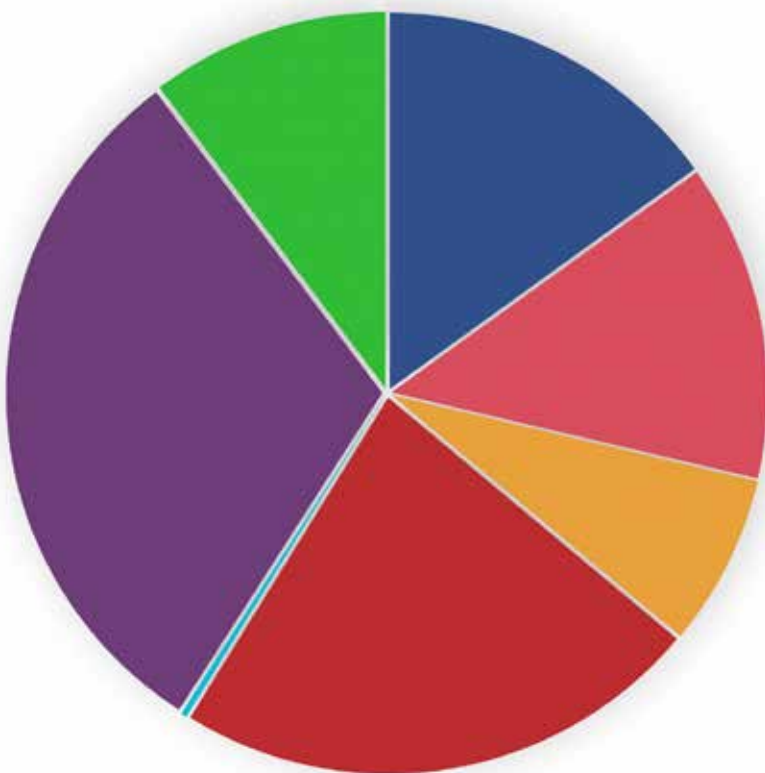
Total Revenue	\$4,013,978
Total Expenses	\$3,959,839
Less Amortization	\$265,511
<b>Net Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$211,372</b>

## Revenue FY22



<b>Communal Funding</b>	\$527,198
<b>Fundraising &amp; Revenue Development</b>	\$755,392
<b>Government Assistance</b>	\$216,765
<b>Health and Wellness</b>	\$241,997
<b>Memberships</b>	\$527,529
<b>Other</b>	\$15,670
<b>Programs</b>	\$1,409,560
<b>Room Rentals &amp; Recoveries</b>	\$319,867

## Expenses FY22



<b>Administration</b>	\$596,423
<b>Health and Wellness</b>	\$539,144
<b>Memberships and Marketing</b>	\$292,746
<b>Occupancy Expenses</b>	\$900,963
<b>Other Expenses</b>	\$10,221
<b>Program Expenses</b>	\$1,213,836
<b>Revenue Development</b>	\$406,506