



2022
2023

Annual Report

September 1, 2022-August 31, 2023



The Soloway JCC is a beneficiary agency of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa

Message FROM THE **Soloway JCC** **Board Chair** AND **President/COO**

Much has happened this past year in our return to normal and post-pandemic activities. Membership numbers are now comparable to our pre-pandemic totals. Our *Capital Campaign* has raised just over \$4,000,000 with infrastructure projects completed and renovations to the interior building already under way. New equipment was purchased for the Fitness Centre in September. Saturday/holiday openings began this past summer and the results have been positive with hundreds of members utilizing facilities, swim lessons, and group fitness classes on those days. Programs are running at capacity in all departments.

Security has been and continues to be a pressing issue since the events of October 7. We are grateful to the Jewish Federation of Ottawa and Ottawa Police Services for their support in ensuring a safe environment for SJCC members and Campus users. In short, the SJCC is well utilized with thousands of members participating in a wide range of programs and facilities usage every week.

The SJCC continues to serve as the central address of the Jewish community while building bridges with the community at large. Our programs, services, and facilities serve the community well. We thank the many staff and volunteers who are so committed to making sure the SJCC functions at a high level meeting the needs of our community. We look forward to a bright future in serving our community for many years to come.



Jack Shinder



Barry Sohn

Jack Shinder
Board Chair

Barry Sohn
President/COO

Nurturing Growth: From Early Years to Teens

The **Ganon Preschool** had 75 children enrolled for the 2022-2023 school year. These children spent their days learning in English, French and Hebrew, made latkes at Chanukah, dressed up for Purim, snacked in their sukkahs in the fall and got a wonderful introduction to school and to Jewish life.

In the spring the preschoolers began to take advantage of their *Gan Prachim* (outdoor classroom) and had fun getting their little hands dirty and learning about the world around them.

Ganon became part of the Canada Wide Early Learning Childcare Initiative, making child care more affordable for families.

SJCC Summer Camps had a stellar summer with most groups filling up within days of opening registration. Between Day Camp, Sports Camp, and Specialty Camps we saw 1665 registrations for 520 different campers, bringing in net revenue of \$250,000. The interest in our summer camps far exceeds the space available to create more groups and expand our program. After Camp Care was once again part of the camp program giving kids an extra 1.5 hours of camp fun when the day was done.

Financial assistance was provided for children whose families were not able to afford the full cost of camp.

At the end of the school day the SJCC welcomed 5-10 year olds for **After School Care** and a wide variety of programs giving kids a chance to be active and creative. The programs, once solely filled by OJCS families, began to attract more neighborhood families who took advantage of our sports, lessons and Break Camps.

In January 2023, for the first time since the pandemic, the SJCC began offering birthday parties.

The Home Alone and Babysitting courses in partnership with Safety Tree took place on Sundays throughout the year, and were well attended by 9-11 year old community members.

JOY Ottawa, a **teen programming** initiative made up of BBYO, SJCC, NCSY, Torah High, JCU, USY and FROSTY had around 30 to celebrate Chanukah at KBI despite a snowstorm and an uptick in COVID cases. For Purim, JOY rented out a theatre for a film and megillah reading for 50.



Expanding Horizons: A Year of Enriching Adult Education & Cultural Programs

The **Adult Education & Cultural Programs** roster was packed with a variety of programs in all areas, most in person with a hybrid option.

The Challah Prince, in partnership with the Ottawa Jewish Community School, and with the help of a JFO MicroGrant kicked off the fall. Over 40 community members gathered at the SJCC to learn how to make challah that was a work of art. The online presentation, *The Legacy of Janusz Korczak*, attracted 50 people to their computer screens. In partnership with the Greenberg Families Library and The Ottawa Jewish Archives, the program focused on Ottawa's Leon Gluzman, a "Korczak Kid," and how that experience shaped him into the businessman and community leader that he would later become.

The SJCC Adult Cultural & Educational Program ran a pilot program for Hebrew speaking children. The four-week initiative ran from April 30 to May 28 and far exceeded expectations with 46 children taking part. *Hakibbutz*, a leadership program modelled after the Israel's *Ha'Tzofim* is the first social enterprise in Ottawa for Hebrew speaking children.

More highlights of the Adult Programming year include *The Humans of Tel Aviv* Photo Exhibit made possible with the help of JFO Microgrants, a presentation by the Ottawa Memory Clinic on *Understanding Alzheimer's Disease* which hosted 55 people in June. Literature classes by Gefen Bar-On Santor on such topics as Israeli Literature, Canadian Indigenous Literature and Non-Ashkenazi Israeli Literature, were a hit with community members.

Enhancing Community Engagement AND Programming: Greenberg Families Library's Makerspace Initiative and Author Events

The **Greenberg Families Library**, thanks to the JFO's Innovative Capacity Building Fund grant was afforded over \$4000 to set up a Makerspace. The goal of the new initiative was to increase the library's ability to offer relevant and interesting programming. New programs included Cheers to Art in partnership with the Adult Program Department, where adults had a chance to create interesting and fun art projects. In January 2023, the library hosted three drop-in sessions for patrons to demo the new makerspace and to create with the new machines.

Together with the Shoah Committee and the JFO, the Library hosted author Dr. Jake Newsome to speak about his book, *Pink Triangle Legacies: Coming Out in the Shadow of the Holocaust* during Holocaust Education Month. The event attracted 55 community members. In April, Israeli author Jonathan Dunsky delivered a virtual talk for 27 attendees.

**Total
Circulation
Count**

2,647

**Total
Books
Acquired**

382

Celebrating Israeli Culture: Highlights from the Vered Israel Cultural & Educational Program

The **Vered Israel Cultural & Educational Program** brought the Israeli Film Festival to the SJCC for the first time. Three award winning Israeli films played to full audiences with approximately 250 tickets sold over the duration of the festival.

The Chanukah Gift Fair was back with 27 vendors set up in the social hall to showcase their wares to a steady flow of shoppers.

Yom Hazikaron, in partnership with the Embassy of Israel, hosted 200 community members plus dignitaries to pay tribute to fallen Israeli soldiers and victims of war. On the heels of this somber ceremony was a community wide party in honor of Israel's 75 birthday. The *Yom Ha'atzmaut*

celebration welcomed hundreds of revelers who enjoyed the carnival in the gym, dined on falafel and danced to Israeli music. The celebration also included a screening of *The Future of Israel and its Defenders*, an optimistic documentary that celebrates Zionism.

In August the Vered program hosted a group from IVOW (Israel Victims of War) and organization that supports young teens from families who have been affected by war. The 100 Israeli teens had a great time playing in the SJCC outdoor pool and the gym.

Shalom Baby Program

17 Bags handed out to families with newborns



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

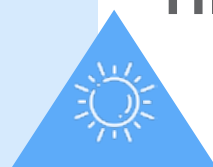
Chanukah Gift Fair

27 Vendors showcased at the 2022 fair



SJCC Summer Camps

520 Different campers had an unforgettable summer experience



Purim Carnival

300 Community members enjoyed the festive carnival.



Chanukah Celebration

200

People joined the celebration with SJCC, Ganon Preschool, and PJ Library.





Health & Wellness: Fitness and Athletics Thrive at SJCC

Group Fitness Classes were back in full swing, and members were excited to get back to their favourite, in-person classes. Monday and Wednesday evening aquafit classes were added back to the schedule and a new class, Shine Dance proved to be a hit.

Personal Training revenue, teens in the Fitness Centre and Yoga class attendance all increased over the course of the year.

After a slow couple of years, the **Aquatics** Department once again ran instructional swim lessons at full capacity. Summer Camps added lessons back to the schedule, increasing the need for lifeguards. At its peak, the aquatics department employs around 50 lifeguards, many who are community members who learned to swim and received all their qualifications at the SJCC. Private Swim Lessons were made available to SJCC Members only.

The fastest growing racquet sport in the world, is also the most popular pastime in the SJCC **Athletics** department. Pickleball has gone from three times per week to four with requests for more gym time. Each time slot is full with new players joining all the time.

The Jewish Men's Basketball League added a seventh team. All team rosters were full and the games were competitive and exciting. There are four dedicated teams in the Jewish Men's Hockey League with Team Black taking the 2023 Championship Title. When one of the leagues long standing teams stepped down, the community stepped up and was able to fill a roster prior to the start of the season.

Youth of all ages used our gymnasium to hone their basketball skills. Whether it's a pickup game or organized drills, our gym is always a hub of activity. And, when the gym is not being used by our members, it is a source of revenue with Ottawa Sports & Social Club and Coach Brown renting the space for their own programs.

Honoring our Friend Jon Braun z"l

Four years following the loss of our friend and colleague, Jon Braun we were finally able to properly honor his memory. Over 200 friends of JB gathered at the SJCC Sunday, June 11 for a memorial ceremony and to see his name at centre court. Thanks to the generosity of several community members who together contributed over \$800,000, the SJCC athletics programs and facilities were officially named the Jonathan Braun Athletics Centre. The event was also an opportunity to officially unveil plans for the renovations to the locker rooms scheduled for Spring 2024.



Membership Growth and Enhancements: A Year of Achievements

Soloway JCC Member numbers continued to increase throughout the year surpassing our pre-pandemic numbers. We averaged over 100 individual memberships per month over the course of the year with youth memberships consistently taking the lead. Our fitness centre and basketball court have made us a popular after school spot for neighbourhood high school kids.

In June 2023 the SJCC, for the first time in the history of the Ottawa JCC, began operating on Saturdays. Members were excited to be able to come in for a workout and a swim on Shabbat. And, many chose to renew based on the new hours.

After months of planning and training Amilia launched in August 2023 giving our members and users an opportunity to purchase membership online for the first time. The new online registration system and building access software came with some growing pains but ultimately was a positive step in the right direction for the Centre.



Success AND Progress: Fundraising Highlights

Despite a last-minute cancellation of our special guest, and a quick pivot to replace him, the **25th Annual Ottawa Celebrity Sports Dinner** was a resounding success with three Hall of Fame football greats at the helm. Buffalo Bills alumni Andre Reed, Bruce Smith and Thurman Thomas sat down with first time host James Duthie for an unforgettable evening which raised more than \$315,000 for the SJCC.

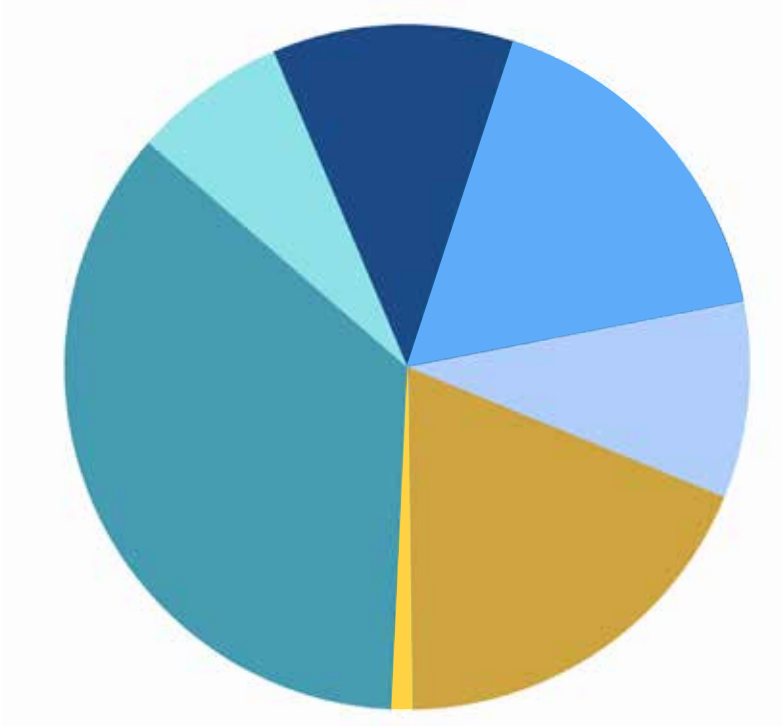
The **Renewing Our Promise Capital Campaign** switched into high gear raising \$4,000,000 of our 5 million goal and plans began to come together for renovations to our 25-year-old facility.



Financial SUMMARY FY23

Total Revenue	\$4,809,322
Total Expenses	\$4,628,554
Less Amortization	\$283,298
Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$(102,530)

Revenue FY23



- ▶ **Communal Funding**
\$549,291
- ▶ **Fundraising & Revenue Development**
\$811,904
- ▶ **Health & Wellness**
\$446,993
- ▶ **Memberships**
\$893,965
- ▶ **Other**
\$44,703
- ▶ **Programs**
\$1,715,065
- ▶ **Room Rentals & Recoveries**
\$347,401

Expenses FY23



- ▶ **Administration**
\$666,762
- ▶ **Health & Wellness**
\$714,516
- ▶ **Memberships & Marketing**
\$362,453
- ▶ **Occupancy Expenses**
\$1,075,514
- ▶ **Other Expenses**
\$8,899
- ▶ **Program Expenses**
\$1,450,713
- ▶ **Revenue Development**
\$349,697