

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

APRIL 11, 2024, 7:00 pm

1. Call to Order – Jack Shinder welcomed everyone to the SJCC Annual General Meeting and called the meeting to order.
2. D’var Torah
Rabbi Teitelbaum delivered the D’var Torah.
3. Greetings from Jewish Federation of Ottawa
Karen Palayew offered greetings from the JFO.
 - Congratulated Barry Sohn on his 15 years as SJCC President/COO
 - Touched on the importance of the Jewish superhighway and the role of the SJCC in our community
4. Approval of Minutes – April 7, 2023 Annual Meeting – Jack Shinder
Jack, made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2023 AGM. Seconded by Mike Aaronson, the vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
5. Financial Overview
Mark Gruner presented the financial overview.
Total revenue: \$4,809,322
Total expenditures: \$4,628,554
6. Appointment of Auditors – Mark Gruner
It was moved by Randy Greenstone, seconded by Jordan Masson that Ginsberg, Gluzman, Fage & Levitz be re-elected as auditors for the Soloway Jewish Community Centre for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2024. Vote was unanimous. Motion Carried.
7. The Grossman-Klein Family Teen Leadership Awards
Presenter: Gail Lieff, SJCC
Awarded to: Anneke Goodwin and Benjamin Leinwand

Gail touched on some of Anneke’s accomplishments.

- Anneke has dedicated several summers as a counselor at SJCC Summer Camps, PD Day Programs, and Break Camps and after school she walks children from the OJCS to their swim lessons at the SJCC. Anneke’s volunteerism extends to Purim and Chanukah Celebrations for the SJCC, Tamir, and PJ Library.
- In Spring 2023, Anneke was part of The March of the Living. Upon her return, Anneke shared her life-changing experiences by contributing to newsletters for the JFO and the Centre for Holocaust Education and

Scholarship (CHES). Her dedication continued as she volunteered at the CHES exhibition on the Kindertransport at City Hall.

- She volunteers with Awesome Ottawa, is Co-Chair of Nepean High School's Relay for Life, volunteers for the West Byron Avenue Annual Pumpkin Walk, Student Council representative, Nepean co-president, LINK Leadership Group

Gail touched on some of Benjamin's accomplishments.

- Benjamin is a grade 12 student at Sir Robert Borden High School who is committed to leadership, community service, and advocacy. Over the past two years, Ben has been Co-President and then President of the Jewish Cultural Club at SRB.
- Volunteered at the JFO's Mitzvah Day, and worked as a camp counselor at SJCC Summer Camps. Ben is an active participant in NCSY and volunteers at synagogue community events.
- In a powerful video distributed to all SRB students in grades 7-12, he emphasized the Jewish Cultural Club as a "safe space" for Jewish teens. Met with SRB and OCDSB leadership to educate them on the realities of anti-Semitism at school, advocating for the well-being of Jewish students. Ben's addressed the audience at the 2023 Holocaust Memorial event and attended International Holocaust Remembrance Day with Mayor Mark Sutcliffe

Anneke accepted her award.

Benjamin was unable to attend.

8. The Ben Karp Volunteer service award

Presenter: Barry Sohn

Awarded to: Allan Shefrin

Barry touched on some of Allan's accomplishments.

- Allan Shefrin has been a member of the SJCC Board of Directors for an impressive 13 years. Born and raised in Winnipeg, Allan has strong Jewish values and a deep connection to the Ottawa community.
- A Pediatric Emergency Physician at CHEO, Allan makes it a priority to contribute to the Jewish community.
- Allan's journey with the SJCC began in 2011. In 2020, he assumed the role of Chair of the Board, just before the Covid-19 shutdowns began. Allan's leadership was instrumental in guiding the SJCC Board and staff through these tumultuous times.

Allan accepted his award

9. The Sharon Koffman Memorial Athletic Award

Presenter: Barry Sohn

Awarded to: Morgan Shusterman

Barry touched on some of Morgan's accomplishments

- Morgan is a member of the Cape Breton University Capers Women's hockey team in Sydney, Nova Scotia where she is in her second year of the Bachelor of Emergency Management program.
- Before heading east, Morgan received the Mary Lou Zywicki Bursary, a testament to her well-rounded excellence. Additionally, she earned the Les Banks Bursary in 2022 for her outstanding volunteerism, community participation, and leadership. Her commitment to humanitarian efforts was further recognized in 2018 when she received the Sir Robert Borden High School Humanitarian Award.
- Throughout the current school year, Morgan actively engaged in the Kraft Hockeyville festivities at the Canada Games Complex at Cape Breton University. As an ambassador for the hockey team, she participated in various events, contributing to the vibrant spirit of the university community.

Morgan was unable to attend. Her mother Hana accepted on her behalf.

10. Staff Service Recognition – Barry Sohn

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

Itzel Tovilla – 5 years

Sarah Foster – 5 years

Jody Weir – 5 years

Patrice Berdowski – 15 years

Brittany Halfpenny – 15 years

Carla Gencher – 25 years

11. Remarks: Barry Sohn

- Talked about his time leading the SJCC as President and COO noting that this would be his last AGM in the position.
- Thanked staff, volunteers and the board.
- Noted the continuing importance of the SJCC's partnership with the JFO

12. Report of the Nominating Committee – Allan Shefrin

The Nominating Committee presented the slate of officers:

Jack Shinder - Chair

Mike Aronson - Vice Chair

Randy Greenstone - Vice Chair

Larry Hasson - Treasurer
Karen Stanger - Secretary
Allan Shefrin - Immediate past Chair

Allan Shefrin asked for a motion to approve the slate; seconded by Sabina Wasserlauf. Motion carried.

13. Remarks of the Chair—Jack Shinder

- Ending his second year as chair
- Thanked the staff and board members
- Talked about changes to the center. This included change to opening on Shabbat/select Jewish holidays
- Noted the important role that the SJCC plays post October 7, 2023
- Thanked Barry Sohn for his 15 years of service as SJCC President/COO and welcome Sarah Beutel as she begins to step into that role

14. New business

Attendees were asked if there was any additional business. There was not.

15. Adjournment

Jack Shinder moved that the meeting be adjourned.

Meeting was adjourned