

2024-2025



ANNUAL REPORT

September 1, 2024–August 31, 2025



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

Message from the Soloway JCC Board Chair and President

This has been an encouraging year for the SJCC with continued strong membership and participation rates in our classes and programs, reflecting the important role the SJCC plays in the daily lives of people of all ages, and from all backgrounds.

Through our cornerstone programs including Ganon, Summer Camp, Fitness and Aquatics, we are proud to work alongside many partner organizations to continue to bring people together whether for programs or to mark important milestones and celebrations. We are building community and strengthening connections, fostering a sense of belonging that defines the SJCC. While the SJCC and our Campus partners work to maintain our welcoming space, security remains a priority so that everyone who comes to the SJCC is safe and feels comfortable.

We are pleased to see members and guests enjoying the recent updates to the ground floor which have made a meaningful difference in the experience for the many who use the SJCC. We are now turning our attention to updating the upper level and lobby areas, and we are deeply grateful to the donors of our Capital Campaign whose support has made this work possible.

Our heartfelt thanks to our Board of Directors and volunteers who work tirelessly to serve the SJCC and support its continued growth. Their dedication and commitment are instrumental in ensuring that the SJCC remains a thriving and welcoming place for all.

While the world around us continues to present challenges, the SJCC remains a cherished place and a welcoming haven for health and wellness, community, and connection. This will be an exciting year with the opening of Pizza Pita Prime in the café area and the continuation of renovations to our facility.

In 2026, we will celebrate an important milestone—75 years of the JCC serving the Ottawa community. We are proud to continue as a central gathering place for people of all ages and backgrounds, and we look forward to many more years of bringing our community together.



R. Greenstone
Randy Greenstone
Chair of the Board



Sarah Beutel
Sarah Beutel
President

Soloway JCC Highlights



The SJCC is the Centre of Ottawa Jewish life welcoming **over 3,800 members** and many other users who want to join and connect.

Hundreds of Hebrew and Russian speaking community members gather at the SJCC to enjoy performances by singers, comedians and a variety of entertainers in their native language.



More than 600 campers enjoyed an unforgettable summer at SJCC Summer Camps

Celebrations for Purim, Chanukah, Yom Ha'atzmaut and for the first time, Shabbat Dinners, **bring our community together under our roof.**



Thank you to the SJCC Board of Directors, 2025-2026

Officers

Randy Greenstone – Chair
Jack Shinder – Immediate Past Chair
Larry Hasson – Treasurer & Vice Chair
Karen Stanger – Secretary

Directors

Ari Aronson, Joseph Bokhaut, Harold Feder, Jon Fuller, Dana Shiff, Dorothy Stern

Thank you for your service as members of the Board of Directors of the Soloway JCC:

Ari Aronson, Dana Shiff, Karen Stanger

A Welcoming Hub for All Generations: Growing Membership and Community Connection

As members of our Jewish community seek safe, welcoming spaces to belong and connect, they continue to gravitate to the SJCC.

On average, 350 to 500 people came through our doors each day to use our facilities, participate in programs, or attend community events—resulting in over 125,000 visits throughout the year.

In terms of our membership, youth (ages 0–17) make up the majority of our members, followed closely by adults and seniors (65+), reflecting our strong multigenerational engagement. In the spring, we reintroduced our popular Bring a Friend for Free initiative. As word spread, members were bringing nearly 20 guests on the last Thursday of each month.

Nurturing Growth at Every Stage: Preschool Excellence, Enriching Camps, Youth & Teen Engagement, and Hebrew Programs

Ganon Preschool builds community: it's where young families meet and build connections that last a lifetime! Ganon continued to set the standard for excellence in early childhood education, nurturing a lifelong love of learning and laying the foundation for academic success with 76 children enrolled in the program. Preschoolers learned in English, French, and Hebrew, celebrated Jewish holidays, and explored the value of mitzvot through hands-on experiences such as collecting food for the Kasher Food Bank. In partnership with students from the Ottawa Jewish Community School (OJCS), children participated in the Reading Buddies program, joint Shabbat celebrations, and collaborative art classes. Once a month, preschoolers travelled across campus to Hillel Lodge for an Oneg Shabbat, fostering meaningful intergenerational connections.

In the spring, children embraced experiential learning in the Gan Prachim (outdoor classroom), planting and tending to vegetables and flowers in their garden. Most students in the OJCS Senior Kindergarten class for the 2024–2025 school year are proud graduates of the Ganon Preschool.

SJCC Summer Camps had six hundred campers who enjoyed an unforgettable summer at Day Camp, Sports Camp, and Specialty Camps. Specialty Camps, Senior Sports Camp, and the CIT program expanded capacity, using more space on the Campus to enable more of our youth to enjoy an SJCC Camp experience. Eighteen



Specialty Camps were offered, with new programs such as Cooking and Art proving especially popular alongside perennial favourites like Basketball.

Dedicated staff, innovative programming, and a strong Judaic focus continue to bring families back year after year. New for summer 2025, the introduction of a Head of Ruach enriched camp life by infusing Jewish and Israeli spirit through activities, songs, and dance.

The SJCC provided financial assistance to 33 children from 20 families, ensuring that all Jewish children in our community had the opportunity to experience a summer at our camps.

Over 40 children from OJCS and other schools participated in our Just 4 Kids – After School Care, ten of whom joined for the first time. After School activities included a senior dance class which was back after a few years, and art. The always popular Karate class ran at full capacity. Weekend programs like Home Alone and Babysitting were well received.



Celebrating Community, Culture, and Connection to Jewish Life and to Israel

The SJCC serves as a vibrant hub of Jewish life in Ottawa—a welcoming space where people of all ages come together to celebrate, commemorate, and connect. Through partnerships with local organizations, we ensure that Jewish life in our community is inclusive and meaningful.

The SJCC held its first Family Shabbat Dinner in early February with 11 families joining for Friday night prayers, crafts, Shabbat songs and dinner.

In collaboration with PJ Library and the Ganon Preschool, the SJCC welcomed more than 200 community members to a joyful children's Chanukah party. In March, costumed families filled the gym for the Ottawa Summer Camps Purim Carnival, presented in partnership with SJCC Summer Camps, Camp B'nai Brith Ottawa, and Camp Gan Israel.

Teen engagement continued to thrive through JOY Ottawa, a collaborative initiative of the SJCC, NCSY, Torah High, JSY, USY, and FROSTY. Over March Break, more than 85 teens came together to celebrate Purim at Tailgators.

Adult holiday programming had more than 200 partygoers enjoying an adults-only Chanukah celebration with food, music, and dancing. Purim once again brought the 19+ community together to celebrate for a festive night at the SJCC.

In the summer, in partnership with Camp B'nai Brith Ottawa and Momentum Canada, the SJCC welcomed Nova Music Festival survivor Yuli Reiter, who shared her powerful story of resilience with a packed Social Hall.

Thanks to the generosity of many in our community and beyond, The Ottawa Community Mikvah (housed in the SJCC), underwent a major renovation making it a beautiful new space for ritual purification.

The Chanukah Gift Fair was another success with over 600 people coming to the SJCC to shop from more than 35 vendors and prepare for the holiday.

Together with the Embassy of Israel in Canada, the Vered Israel Cultural & Educational Program and the SJCC commemorated Yom Hazikaron, Israel's National Day of Remembrance, with more than 300 community members, dignitaries, and the Israeli Ambassador in attendance. This moving ceremony was followed by a community-wide Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration, transforming the Social Hall into an Israeli shuk complete with a Krav Maga demonstration and Israeli folk dancing.

The Israeli Film Festival featured four award winning films which screened to over 500 movie goers. The festival was kicked off by Sarah Vered z"l and the Israeli Ambassador, with the screening of feature film, *The Ring*.

The Vered Israel Program hosted a slew of Hebrew and Russian performers throughout the year including comedians, musicians and speakers. Special guests Danni Bassan, Yohay Sponder, Yossi Gavni, Vladi Blayberg and Alexey Ivaschenko enriched our cultural offerings, providing our Hebrew and Russian speakers the opportunity to enjoy live performances in their native languages.

In partnership with the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, Vered Israel hosted an October 7 memorial service at the Infinity Convention Centre which brought together more than 1,500 community members.

Inspiring Lifelong Learning & Cultural Connection: Adult Education, and a Thriving Community Library

A wide array of Adult Education and Cultural Programs bring people together to learn, socialize and engage. People came to the SJCC to learn a new language, enjoy films, try their hand at art and be part of insightful lectures from a variety of experts.

The Florence Melton School of Adult Education classes continue to thrive under the leadership of Rabbi Garten, a favorite among the participants. Classes included the Jewish calendar and major Jewish holidays, History of Hatred: The Ever-Present Threat of Antisemitism and Zionism.

The **Ottawa Jewish Business Professionals Network** made its debut welcoming over 50 people to the SJCC to schmooze and hear from keynote, local recruiter, Sari Cantor. The program has continued to meet monthly, bringing in different speakers for each session.

Israeli Folk Dancing was introduced and now attracts 20+ dancers on a weekly basis. The dancing continued into the Spring when Israeli party band, The Funkeys filled our social hall with their upbeat tunes.

Between September 2024 and August 2025, Greenberg Families Library patrons checked out a total of 2966 materials (up from 2730 the previous year) and acquired 286 new books.

Aside from being a quiet place to sit and read, the library was a hub of activity hosting Temple Israel's FROSTY group for a teen craft session, welcomed children for monthly Crafternoons and taught adults Paper Quilling and other crafts as part of Carlies Creations. In partnership with PJ Library our Library hosted PJ Our Way sessions as well as Babies & Bagels.

Professor Gefen Bar On-Santor lead a Book Club, and local authors including, Mark Hect, Marina Zilbergerts and Rob Wolfe came to speak about their works.

Plans began to take shape for a Jewish Book Festival which came to fruition in October 2025. The three-day event hosted 180 book enthusiasts who enjoyed author talks, workshops and a marketplace.



Health & Wellness: Building Strength, Community and Well-Being

Our modern fitness centre and dynamic group fitness schedule continue to keep our community healthy, active and connected. In a welcoming and supportive environment, teens, adults and seniors rely on our programs and facilities to stay fit and feel their best.

This year, we introduced Mat Pilates and Nordic Pole Walking. Nordic Pole Walking quickly gained momentum, with 15 participants enjoying invigorating and social walks through the neighbourhood. Responding to strong demand, we added a second Rehabilitative Functional Fitness class to accommodate more than 45 members eager to participate.

In February, 75 members took part in our Heart Month Cardio Competition, challenging themselves over two weeks to walk, run, bike and row while striving to beat their personal bests.

Our indoor saltwater pool continues to be a draw for our members and a reason to join. Lap swimmers, aquafit enthusiasts and those just looking to splash around keep our pool busy at all times.

Approximately 1300 children learned to swim at the SJCC over the course of the year and throughout the summer - our Day and Sports Campers have daily swimming lessons.

The outdoor pool got a new heater, and the basin was refinished, giving it many more years of life.

Many of our community youth have their first job experiences at the SJCC. Whether as lifeguards and swim instructors, or after-school or camp councillors, the SJCC is a hub for young people all year round. The SJCC Aquatics Department employs 50 lifeguards many of whom learned to swim at the Centre and took their advanced aquatics programs here to become certified lifeguards.

Pickleball continued to grow with three courts consistently in use. A professional pickleball coach offered lessons which were well received by our members and has remained ongoing.

The Jewish Men's Basketball League (JMBL) battled it out on the hard court once a week with seven teams throughout the season. Rosters were full and we ran a spare-list allowing those on the waitlist an opportunity to get in on the fun. The Jewish Men's Hockey League (JMHL) had a great season with upstart Team Blue winning the championship in their second year in the league.

In January 2025, the athletics department teamed up with Challenger Soccer Club to offer Parent & Child Soccer, a fun and engaging soccer program designed to build skills, confidence, and a love for the game. Parent & Child Multi-Sport with Matty was a great way to introduce kids to a variety of sports and give parents a chance to bond with their kids.

When our gym is not being used by our members it is used by our long-time partners Ottawa Sports and Social Club (OCCS) and Coach Brown Basketball.



Fundraising Successes

The Ottawa Celebrity Sports Dinner welcomed special guest, Canadian Basketball Legend, Steve Nash. Top sponsors were treated to a VIP reception in a luxurious tent outside the venue. The event raised more than \$360,00 for the SJCC and was an unforgettable evening for close to 700 attendees.



Thank you to our Ottawa Celebrity Sports Dinner Sponsors who help support the Soloway JCC



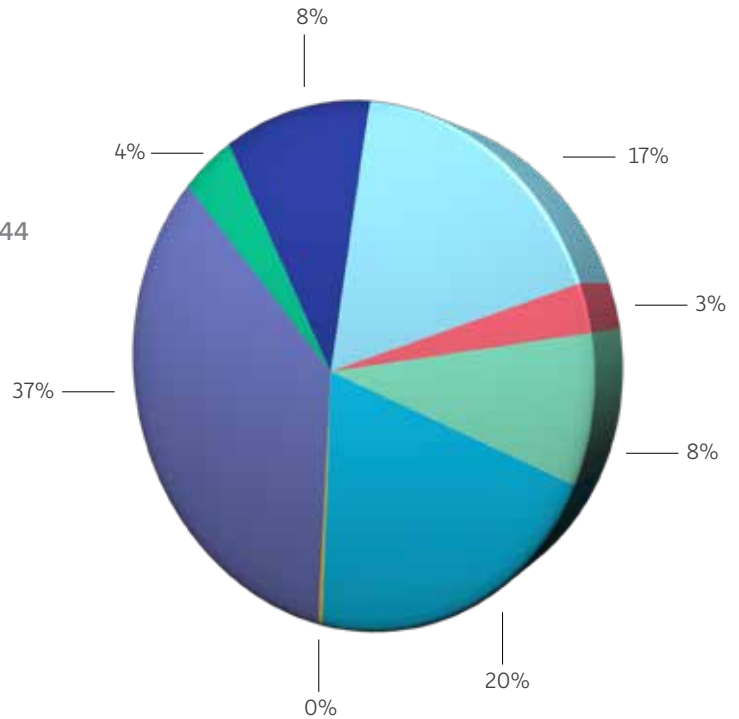
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| Activox | DanCan | Huntington Properties | Preston Hardware |
| Adelphia Flooring | Daniel Fernandez | Infinity Centre | RBC |
| Alti Construction | Dickie & Lyman | JBPA | Recruiting in Motion |
| Ambico | Emond Harnden | JLPO Plumbing | Regionex |
| Arnon | EQ Homes | Jonas Restoration | Rogers |
| Arthur J. Gallagher | European Glass | Kelly Santini | Saickley Properties |
| Astro | FCI Group | KPMG | Serco |
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| Crowe BGK | Hobin Architecture | Ottawa Pool Works | Yegendorf Rashid |
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Financial SUMMARY FY25

Total Revenue	\$ 5,545,037
Total Expenditures (includes Amortization)	\$5,846,859
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$301,822)
Add Back Amortization	\$379,805
Operating Net Surplus (Deficit) Excluding Amortization Expense	\$77,983

Revenue FY25

- **Communal Funding** \$576,895
- **Fundraising and Revenue Development** \$941,544
- **Amortization of Deferred Capital** \$145,898
- **Health and Wellness** \$456,001
- **Memberships** \$1,118,265
- **Other** \$16,828
- **Programs** \$2,060,136
- **Room Rentals and Recoveries** \$229,470



Expenses FY25

- **Administration** \$764,403
- **Health and Wellness** \$1,040,508
- **Memberships and Marketing** \$451,449
- **Occupancy Expenses** \$968,891
- **Program Expenses** \$1,721,290
- **Revenue Development** \$520,297

