

# *Life* AT THE J

THE MINNESOTA JCC / SPRING 2023



Leon and Yolla Levitt joined their granddaughter Ava for a morning of singing, arts & crafts, challah making, and hugs during the Capp Center Early Childhood Center's Grandparent Shabbat. See page 6.



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### MEMBERSHIP

We offer a variety of membership options for every walk of life. Whether you are an individual, couple, family, or senior, we have a membership to fulfill your specific needs. For more information, please contact Membership  
Capp: 651.255.4749  
Sabes: 952.381.3379

### ALREADY A MEMBER?

Refer a friend to the JCC and receive a \$25 Visa Card. Ask us for details!

# Passover

SUNDOWN  
April 5

TO

SUNDOWN  
April 13



This eight-day festival celebrates the biblical account of the Israelites' redemption and escape from 400 years of Egyptian slavery. The observance of the weeklong festival includes several important rituals, including the removal of leavened products from our homes and a traditional Passover meal known as a seder, where we retell the exodus story. We come together with friends and family to celebrate the great lessons of the story: the blessing of freedom and the reminder that since we were once slaves and were freed, it is our responsibility to work for freedom for all people, everywhere.

## What To Do

Right before Passover, remove all traces of leavened bread from the home and replace with matzah and Passover foods.

Attend a Seder on the first two nights of Passover. This ritual meal involves a retelling of the story of the Israelites' liberation from slavery in ancient Egypt.



## The Passover Seder



Four cups of wine are drunk to represent the four expressions of deliverance promised to the Jews.

A fifth cup is set for Elijah the prophet.

The Haggadah, a prayer book, outlines the 15 steps in the seder sequence and tells the story of Passover.

Matzah, unleavened bread eaten during Passover, symbolizes what the Israelites took when they fled Egypt.

### ON THE SEDER PLATE:

**KARPAS**, parsley, represents spring.

**EGG**, represents fertility & spring.

**MAROR**, horseradish, symbolizes the bitterness of slavery.

**Z'ROA**, a roasted shank bone, symbolizes the paschal sacrifice.

**CHAROSET**, a mixture made with chopped apples, nuts, wine, and cinnamon, represents the mortar the Hebrew slaves placed between the bricks.

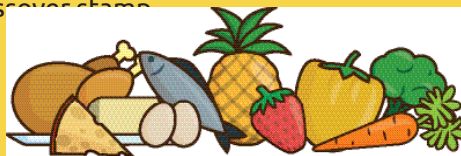
## What To Say

*Chag  
Sameach!*

*Happy  
Holiday!*

## What To Eat נשך לפסח

Matzah (unleavened bread), fruits, vegetables, eggs, dairy, meats, fish, and packaged products with a Kosher for Passover stamp.



## What Not To Eat

Chametz, food products made from wheat, barley, rye, oats, spelt, or their derivatives, which has leavened (risen). Flour from any of these five grains that comes in contact with water will leaven, unless fully baked within 18 minutes. Ashkenazi Jews don't eat corn, beans and rice, but Sephardic Jews do.

Dear Friends,

We are embracing 2023 with a renewed sense of hope and endless possibilities. In addition to dozens of programs and meaningful ways to engage and connect with others, the Minnesota JCC's focus this year is on **three key strategies** that will strengthen our community and ensure that the positive impact of a JCC experience at any stage of life, is accessible to all.



**Financial Sustainability:** post pandemic, we are striving to achieve a balanced budget through a mix of membership, programming, and fundraising. We are building back our program offerings – those that generate revenue and those mission-centered offerings that meet vital needs and bring the community together. **Growth and Expansion:** we are digging deeper to expand on those things that we do best...the programs, services, and experiences that you can find only at the J. We are looking to accentuate our strengths and grow our impact by actively exploring new opportunities that connect to JCC Centers of Excellence – things that the JCC is uniquely positioned to offer in ways that meet the level of excellence. **People and Culture:** we are investing in our most valuable resource – our people. One thing is abundantly clear – the JCC staff dedicates themselves to serving the community. They are innovative, passionate, and go above and beyond to make a difference in the lives of individuals, families, and the community - every single day. As an entire staff, we are committed to building a culture of joy and excellence.

None of this is possible without you. Thank you for your membership, your participation in our programs, for being among the over one million people who have spent time at the JCC since our founding, and your on-going commitment to a strong and vibrant JCC.

Our 2023 theme is **Only at the J**. We look forward to sharing with you the extraordinary ways, big and small, that the JCC is at the "Center" of our community. The JCC's mission statement echoes our values and our unique place in the Twin Cities: Only at the J are we "inspired by Jewish values and culture, to ignite the human spirit through programs and services that promote well-being, foster inclusivity, and strengthen the entire community."

It is our privilege to be a part of your lives.

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Congratulations to Norman Abramson, who has just been elected as the new president of the Minnesota JCC Foundation. The Foundation holds and distributes endowment and restricted funds and manages the JCC's real estate assets in support of the JCC. Norm has been on the Board since its inception and has a family legacy of JCC leadership. A special thank you to Jeff Tane, who has just completed his term as president and will continue to serve as past-president. The JCC, and our community, are so fortunate for the service of such outstanding leaders.



Our Early Childhood Centers are the place where educational excellence, imagination, and creativity come together to foster a joy for learning and community.

Where else can children receive an exceptional preschool, plus take advantage of all that the Minnesota JCC has to offer – swimming lessons, cultural arts programs, kid fitness, and exposure to our diverse community.

From nurturing infants to preparing children for kindergarten, the Minnesota JCC's Early Childhood Centers lovingly meet each individual child's emotional, social, cognitive, physical, spiritual, and emerging cultural needs as they grow. We are privileged to be a part of their journey.



## Our Early Childhood Center children love music!

While music is a part of every day in our ECCs, each week students spend time with a specialist learning new songs, playing instruments, experimenting with sound, and moving their bodies. Bravo to Wendy Baldinger and Shana Eisenberg, our music specialists! *Pictured above – Sometimes they even perform! Capp Center Hanukkah Concert.*



## It's never too early to create!

Even the youngest students in the ECC have the opportunity to develop their artistic skills by having fun experimenting and learning all the wonderful things they can do. Eight-month-old Ozzy delighted his parents with his first piece of artwork – created by pushing, squishing, pounding, and tapping. Making art with little ones is just like everything else when it comes to taking care of babies – messy. But the result? Priceless.





## A Surprise Visit from the Second Gentleman of the United States

Standing in our Sabes Center Ruach ECC classroom filled with toys, art, and a globe of the world, Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff introduced himself to a group of PreK students in a straightforward manner. "Hi, kids. I'm married to the Vice President of the United States, and her name is Kamala Harris. My name is Doug."

The students were excited to meet him and had plenty of questions.

**Why did he marry his wife, Vice President Kamala Harris?**  
*Love at first sight and because she cares about people*

**Is he friends with Joe Biden?** *Yes!*

**What's his favorite food?** *Pizza.*

It was a memorable and special visit for the kids, parents, and teachers.



## GRANDPARENT SHABBAT AT CAPP

When grandparents come to the ECC, you can feel the extra love! This year, over 40 families joined us for Grandparents Shabbat – a morning filled with art, music, challah making, treats, and lots of hugs.

"I love seeing the children share their excitement with their Grandmas and Grandpas, Saftas and Sabbas, Bubbies and Zadies," said Lisa Rosenfield, Director of Childhood Services. Lisa, who started her career 32 years ago as an ECC teacher added, "These moments are so meaningful. Many of our parents used to be my students, and the grandparents were my parents. Seeing multi generations come through our program makes me so proud."

Yolla Levitt, Ava's Grandma beamed, "When my daughter attended the ECC, she would come home and proudly share her Shabbat songs. Now Ava does the same. We sing them together and are grateful that the ECC has given our family this foundation and community."

# ל'דור ו'דור

From Generation To Generation

# לדור ודור





# Snow what fun!

While the snow might keep many of us indoors in the winter, the children at the ECC burst with excitement at the sight of a fluffy snowfall. The kids had a blast exploring and creating in the fresh air – true little Minnesotans!





Summer is literally just around the corner and we can't wait! With something for everyone, this summer will be filled with everything children love about camp – the great outdoors, spirit, and friendship, with a wide range of adventures and experiences to choose from.



CAMP OLAMI transforms the 23-acre, tree-lined campus of the Sabes Center Minneapolis, into a magical destination in the heart of the city!

Located on 88 wooded acres on the shores of Lake O'Brien in Eagan, CAMP BUTWIN offers a secluded classic camp experience built around the great outdoors!

SUMMER QUEST, now located at both JCC locations (Capp Center St. Paul and Sabes Center Minneapolis in St. Louis Park), offers 24, week-long specialty camps, for campers entering grade 2–6, each with all the fun and excitement of our JCC camp experience. Choose your favorite activities from either location – or both!



## A wonderful introduction to Camp!

For 7-year-old Sadie Steenlage (*second camper from the left, with her new Olami friends*), attending summer camp for the first time was a little scary. New place, new kids, new counselors, new adventures. But, thanks to **Camp Olami's** amazing staff and wonderful programming, Sadie had "the best summer ever!!!"

"We are so grateful to everyone at Camp Olami for making this first experience so positive for Sadie. Camp can play such an important role in a child's life and this past summer has set her up to be a lover of camp – now and for the future," said Carrie, Sadie's mom. "She can't wait until summer!"

**What was Sadie's favorite activity at camp?** *Swimming!*

**What was Sadie's mom's favorite activity at camp?** *Swimming! Sadie really learned how to swim!*





## There's something for everyone!

For the brother and sister **Camp Butwin** duo, Penelope and Otto, summer camp is something they look forward to year-round. While Penelope embraces the excitement of new opportunities as she gets older, and the uniqueness of each session, Otto is most excited about the special opportunities that are offered such as late nights and overnights, which are super fun ways to be together in a big group, playing games, and eating hot dogs!

"I really appreciate the longitudinal programming at Camp, giving my kids the opportunity to develop deep relationships with staff and fellow campers. Plus, camp truly has something for everybody," said Anne, Penelope and Otto's mom. "I love that the kids spend the summer outdoors. They are sometimes sweaty and tired, but by the end of the summer they are capable, strong, and resilient!"



It is a true delight to work in an environment that deeply values making the experience the best it can be for the campers AND the staff. As staff, we are cared about deeply, and our success is supported along the way. It is truly the best place to work!

Gabby Helf, Camp counselor



*"Working at summer camp is such an amazing experience and one that I will cherish forever. Knowing that I'm even the smallest part of the reason the kids have so much fun, with big smiles on their faces, makes all the difference in my summer."*

– Ori Ben Hamo (pictured second from left)

# BEST JOB EVER!



## NEW FOR 2023

In just 10 weeks, you'll earn over \$5,000 and can take advantage of thousands of dollars in bonuses! Plus, bring your friends and get \$300 for every friend that joins our staff.

## APPLY TODAY!

Working at Minnesota JCC Summers Camps has everything a young adult would want from a summer job – skill building, leadership, training and enrichment opportunities, plus friendship and comradery.

*Must be 16 years old by June 12, 2023 to apply.*



Scan here to apply  
or visit  
[minnesotajcc.org](https://minnesotajcc.org)  
today!





### GAME ON!

The Minnesota JCC's Youth Basketball League, offered at both Centers, is the perfect place for players in grades K-3 to have some fun while playing in an age appropriate, semi competitive league. Throughout the eight weeks, players compete against other Minnesota JCC teams, and have the chance to showcase the age-appropriate skills, and offensive and defensive schemes that they've learned.



### ON THE MOVE!

- Our BBYO membership is up to 139 teens and growing!
- In February, the Minnesota JCC had 17 teens attend the BBYO International Convention in Dallas!
- 32 teens have registered for BBYO Israel trips for summer 2023.
- For the first time in years, we're sending a full team to the 2023 Maccabi games in Florida.



The Youth Theater Program introduces young performers to the stage through musical productions. The children receive one-on-one training from a professional director as well as group instruction during rehearsals. Over the past couple of months, a group of 34 kids have been working hard and having fun preparing for the upcoming performances of *Anne of Green Gables*.

*I am so glad that the theater program is back! This is a highlight for my daughter, who is usually very shy. Watching her come to life on stage takes my breath away. – Melanie S. (parent)*

### Maccabi in the Family!

Hart Johnson, who was one of the Chairs for the 2005 Maccabi Games in St. Paul – and also attended other Maccabi Games as a Coach – is excited to have the opportunity for his kids and others from Minnesota to be able to participate. Hart said, "The Maccabi Games are a once in a lifetime opportunity for Jewish Youth to experience something they will never forget! It's like being in the Olympics and experiencing sports, team spirit, and community with over 1,000 other Jewish athletes from all over the United States, Israel, and other countries!"





Our inclusion philosophy is woven into the fabric of the JCC. We work to build community where everyone acknowledges and respects people's differences, while celebrating our inherent uniqueness and individual gifts. For people with disabilities, we strive to include everyone of all ages and abilities in our programs.

The Inclusion Program is made possible through the generosity of the Toodie and Frank Trestman Special Needs Collaborative Education Endowment Fund, a designated fund of the Jewish Community Foundation of the Minneapolis Jewish Federation, the Numero-Steinfeldt Foundation Endowment for the Jewish Community Center Inclusion Program, Lynne and Andy Redleaf Foundation, and with support of private, designated funds and foundation donors.



## Challah Baking at the J

The Inclusion challah baking program welcomed back 24 participants in the month of January! They were thrilled to be together again, braiding, baking, labeling, and bagging challah. Our members and BFC partner agencies were just as excited to purchase and enjoy the fresh-made challah.



In partnership with Project SOAR (*See Our Abilities Realized*), adult Inclusion participants shared in a special Tikkun Olam project benefiting youth who are experiencing homelessness. They collected toiletry donations, packed special bags, and created beautiful handmade cards to let the recipients know they are being thought of. A special thanks to Sha'arim's donation that helped to make this special project possible!

### EARLY CHILDHOOD

Staff training and support for best inclusive techniques and practices. Additional resources for parents and families.

### ENRICHMENT

Adapted group classes and volunteer programs that provide meaningful opportunities in our community.

### COLLABORATIONS

Joint initiatives to share resources and broaden programming. Collaborators include HMJDS, Arete Academy, Sha'arim, eQuality Pathways to Potential, Project Soar, JFCS, and more.

### SUPPORT

Monthly support group for parents and caregivers of children and young adults with special needs, as well as informative seminars on a variety of topics.

### CHILDREN & YOUTH

Trained advocates to support successful participation of children attending day camps, after-school, sports activities, and cultural arts programs. Additional resources for staff development and families.

### HEALTH & WELLNESS

One-to-one personal and group training tailored to the unique needs of adults with developmental disabilities.





## A JCC Home Grown Story

Ellery Deschamps grew up at the JCC, attending the ECC, Heilicher Day School, and Camp Olami. As a young adult, Ellery worked as a staff member for After-School, Habonim and as a counselor at Camp Olami. She then joined the JCC as an Inclusion Advocate at Camp Olami, giving her the opportunity to ensure that every child of all abilities had a meaningful and inclusive camp experience.

Ellery's experience as JCC Inclusion staff influenced her choice to pursue a career in social work. While working toward her Social Work degree from the U of M – Duluth, she is also interning at the Human Development Center, learning and providing children's therapy and case management services for youth and families.

Anita Lewis, Inclusion Director explained, "We are thrilled to have played a role in Ellery's journey and will continue to provide opportunities for Ellery to learn, experience inclusion and take on more leadership opportunities. The world is a better place because of people like Ellery."

*The greatest thing I've taken away from my experience working with the J, is that Inclusion is for everyone. Each member is uniquely supported and given the opportunity to participate and thrive. Working with Inclusion has allowed me to build amazing connections with my community, while honing my skills, expanding my knowledge base, and making a more inclusive world. – Ellery*



Ellery and the Olami Advocate team.

## THINK SPRING!



Our year-round JCC Community Garden brings people of all ages and backgrounds together to experience the power of planting, cultivating, and sharing with others. As spring nears, our inclusion participants are garden planning, ready to sprout seeds, and will later begin planting. The garden creates a magical, year-round experience, intersecting education, art, Tikkun Olam, and community.





The JCC is where Jewish culture intersects with art and ideas to celebrate and share a window into our past, present, and future. The Minnesota JCC Arts, Culture & Enrichment department presents diverse programming through film, performance, theater, visual arts, music, literature, talks, learning, food, dance, and more.



The halls of the JCC are alive with programs for people of all ages, gathering for classes, concerts, films, art exhibitions, and new opportunities to engage as a community. "We are thrilled to bring back and rebuild many of our beloved programs that were missed during the pandemic," said Ben Cohen, Director of Arts, Culture & Enrichment. "Even more exciting, we are seeking innovative, new opportunities, and ways to expand our audiences. Whether you are a regular participant, or have never come to the J before, we are striving to be a welcoming and inclusive entry point for people to share experiences that will enrich their lives and our community."

## READY TO LAUGH?

### PURIM LUNCH & LAUGHTER

**FRIDAY  
MARCH 3**

A fun Shabbat meal in celebration of the Purim holiday with local comedian, Elise Cole.

### 25th Anniversary Screening THE BIG LEBOWSKI

**SUNDAY  
MARCH 12**

Schmoozing, nosh, and FREE bowling at Punch Bowl Social to follow. Sponsored by Showplace ICON Theatre & Kitchen at the West End.

### 3rd Annual NIGHT OF JEWISH STORYTELLING

**THURSDAY  
MARCH 16**

Inspired by live storytelling shows like *The Moth*, performers will share original and true stories that celebrate the absurd and hilarious parts of a Jewish experience.

### QUEER COMEDY NIGHT *Robby Hoffman and Jared Goldstein*

**SATURDAY  
MARCH 25**

Celebrate the LGBTQIA+ Jewish community with laughter, drinks, desserts, and dancing. Featuring some of today's hottest national standup talent!



For details and tickets visit [minnesotajcc.org](https://minnesotajcc.org)



## TWIN CITIES JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

The 2022 Twin Cities Jewish Film Festival (TCJFF) was especially exciting, taking all that we learned these past few years and creating a festival for everyone – presenting both in-person films and events, and virtual screenings. “For the first time in three years, we were able to gather in-person; it was amazing to see the community show up and to hear people laughing and reacting to the films as we experienced them together in real-time.” said Riv Shapiro, Film Festival Producer. They added, “we took this opportunity to create moments to learn, share, and party. We can’t wait to do it again next year.”



*A SERIOUS MAN – Thirteenth Anniversary, the closing night of TCJFF included a screening of the beloved movie, a conversation with actress Sari Lennick, and the Bar Mitzvah Party that it deserved! Featuring DJ Mike 2600, this was the real deal – yummy food, great music, and a community hora!*

## The Minnesota JCC Symphony Orchestra welcomes Chi-Chi Lin Bestmann as our new conductor!

As one of the oldest community orchestras in the United States, our 45-piece, volunteer symphony orchestra practices and performs classical and modern repertoire selected by our conductor. We are so excited to welcome Chi-Chi Lin Bestmann to this role!

A native of Taiwan, conductor, and violinist Chi-Chi Lin Bestmann enjoys a diverse career, from performing *Mozart* at Carnegie Hall to jamming with rapper *Jay Z* at Radio City Music Hall to conducting orchestras in various age groups and levels. Her ability to straddle both roles of musician and conductor across different genres, has led her to venues including Saturday Night

Live, Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, Alice Tully Hall, and Merkin Hall, performing with such artists including *Kurt Masur*, *Beyoncé*, and *The Eagles*. Ms. Bestmann is a devoted teacher and her commitment to educating the next generation of music lovers inspired the creation of *Petite Concerts Inc.*, a nonprofit organization that offers live-music experiences to young children in hopes of cultivating classical music audiences of the future. Welcome, Chi-Chi!



*The Minnesota JCC Symphony Orchestra presents four concerts each year. Visit [minnesotajcc.org](http://minnesotajcc.org) for details.*



The Minnesota JCC is the home to many wonderful art exhibits featuring local, national, and international artists. Visit [minnesotajcc.org](http://minnesotajcc.org) for upcoming exhibits and programs!



## THE JEWISH ARTISTS' LABORATORY: A RETROSPECTIVE (2022)

Featuring a culmination of works from more than 40 artists over a span of 10 years who had gathered as a community to study a series of thought-provoking themes as seen through the lens of Jewish text and commentary.



"I drove 2.5 hours to the JCC from Winona to attend the opening. There are not many, if any, opportunities to engage with Jewish life here in Winona, so it was great to be able to participate and enjoy the gallery and the screening. I am grateful for this opportunity to feel a part of a Jewish community." – Josiah L.



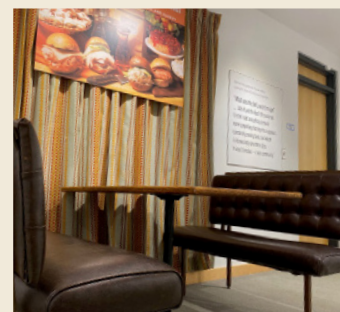
## SHMITA EXHIBIT (2022)

An exploration of the biblical Sabbatical tradition in the modern world.



## DELICIOUS HISTORY – JEWISH DELIS OF THE UPPER MIDWEST: AN APPETIZER (2022)

A partnership with the Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest.





**NEW!**

# YIDDISH AT THE J

The Yiddish language connects us to unique Jewish culture and history spanning over ten centuries. From klezmer music, to poetry, literature, song, and more, we hope you will join us to examine and engage Yiddish arts and culture as a community. You may not even realize that you know Yiddish – words that have entered the English language such as “chutzpah,” “shlep,” and “schmooze” have their origins in Yiddish.

## COMMUNAL SINGING

Four song sessions with Sarina Partridge featuring original songs, taught in a way that welcomes all.

## YIDDISH SINGING CLASS

Six-week class series with Sarah Larsson (Nanilo, Red Thread, Nightingale Trio, Folk Will Save Us Podcast).

## KUMZITS (Yiddish for “come sit”)

Two public kumzits, spaces to share songs/stories/jokes/yiddish culture in the round, led by Sarah Larsson.

## STORIES OF EXILE: LITERATURE READING & DISCUSSION GROUP

A partnership with the St. Paul Public Library to introduce Yiddish literature (*in English*) in the context of broader explorations of dispossession, exile, migration, and diaspora.

*Watch for details coming soon!*



*Singing is our birthright – we sing for joy, for connection, for expression. Singing is the language of grief and praise, wonder and wisdom; we sing the world we want to inhabit, and we sing to understand the world we live in now. We sing the songs of our ancestors, and we catch new songs from the air around us.*

– Sarina Partridge



## NOW OFFERED AT BOTH JCCs!

Each month, the JCC presents FREE movie matinees at both Centers, offering a variety of films – from new films to classics, comedies, dramas, musicals, and more! For many guests, it's an opportunity to enjoy a film with others and spend an enriching day at the J – taking a class, visiting the art gallery or simply hanging out with friends. To find out which films are showing, please subscribe to our mailing list by contacting Irit Vinitzky at [iritv@minnesotajcc.org](mailto:iritv@minnesotajcc.org).

## How Can Theater Address Anti-Semitism?

The JCC is very proud to have partnered with Six Points Theater and TC Jewfolk to present a special *Doorways* panel program, for a discussion of how the theater can address anti-semitism. TC Jewfolk Editor, Lonny Goldsmith, moderated the panel featuring Avi Aharoni, Warren C. Bowles, Barbara Brooks, Robert Dorfman, and Kim Kivens.

**If you were not able to join us, *Doorways* is available as a WHO THE FOLK podcast found at [tcjewfolk.com](http://tcjewfolk.com)**



*As Suzuki himself observed, "Teaching music is not my main purpose. I want to make good citizens, noble human beings. If a child hears fine music from the day of their birth, and learns to play it themselves, they develop sensitivity, discipline, and endurance. They get a beautiful heart."*

– Ellen Kim

In the Fall of 1982, with only six students enrolled, the JCC became the home for Northern Lights School for Strings, one of the most highly-sought-after music education programs in the Twin Cities. Based at the Capp Center St. Paul, the program has grown steadily with over 100 students and a faculty of six.

"For 40 years, the Northern Lights School for Strings has filled the halls of the JCC with music, bringing joy to children, families, and our community," said Michael Waldman, Minnesota JCC CEO. The partnership between the JCC and Northern Lights School for Strings has done more than produce beautiful music. It has fostered self-esteem, confidence, and music appreciation for our students, and has encouraged a sense of belonging and an inclusive community where they feel welcomed and celebrated."

Founded by Ellen Kim, the program offers private and group lessons in both violin and cello, with students ranging in age from four to 18. Michael added, "We are so grateful to Ellen Kim for her passion and commitment to creating such an exceptional experience for young musicians over the years. We are in awe of her leadership and the amazing teachers who have worked with students for over 40 years."

This past fall, the Minnesota JCC and Northern Lights School for Strings celebrated the 40-year milestone with an Anniversary Concert that included the current roster of students performing alongside many alumni from as far away as New York City and Gothenberg, Sweden.

**If you have questions about our Suzuki program, please contact Lizzie Streif at [lizzies@minnesotajcc.org](mailto:lizzies@minnesotajcc.org)**

**40 YEARS  
OF SUZUKI  
LESSONS  
AT THE  
JCC!**







We offer a wide range of ongoing, daytime programs to add to your knowledge, deepen your curiosity, and connect you to the community. *Some programs are virtual.*

TC TALKS • CREATIVE WRITING GROUP • ART STUDIO • BOOK GROUP • GIVING VOICE  
JEWISH LEARNING • KOSHER LUNCH • HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS • AND MORE!

**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS!**



*Clockwise from top left:* Each week, *Giving Voice Chorus*, a community choir designed for those with dementia and their care partners, fills the halls of Capp Center with music; The JCC's *Creative Writing Group* meets weekly; During a holiday Shabbat lunch, Bonnie Resnick and her mom, Nancy Karasov, lit the holiday candles; The art studio welcomes everyone – whether they are an artist looking to perfect their techniques or a novice with no previous art experience; A variety of Jewish learning opportunities happen in-person and virtually throughout the year; Weekly diners enjoy a kosher lunch at Sabes Center in our inclusive, welcoming space affectionately called *The Noshery*.



Walk into either of our Fitness Centers and you will see folks of all ages and abilities working out on our cardiovascular and strength equipment, attending a class, working with a trainer or a group coach, taking a swim, or participating in a league. But even more remarkable, is the sense of comradery and community that is found only at the JCC. We are here to help you on your journey!



Yoga instructor, Jan Johnson, bringing calm during one of our amazing yoga events.

## OUR FITNESS CENTERS HAVE IT ALL!

### CLASSES

100+ free classes each week – in-person & virtual live stream – Cycling, Zumba®, BARRE, Hi/Lo+, Mat Pilates, Yoga, Water Exercise, and more!

### PERSONAL TRAINING

#### One-On-One or With a Partner

Your goals are our goals – let us customize a personal training plan that speaks to your current and desired levels of fitness.

### GROUP COACHING

The support of a coach, combined with the comradery of community, provides the structure, motivation, and fun needed to help participants achieve more. With three levels to choose from, there is a group for everyone.

### SPORTS & RECREATION

We offer a variety of recreation for youth, teens, and adults. Our sports programs are competitive and include organized league play and playoffs.

## Getting Stronger at the JCC!

For members like 24-year-old Anya Magnuson, walking through the doors of our J is filled with purpose and determination. As a college student, Anya endured a lengthy battle with a rare form of cancer – and beat it head on. Then, a bit over a year ago, Anya was a pedestrian involved in a hit-and-run accident that left her with a traumatic brain injury and multiple major fractures throughout her body, leaving her in the hospital for over two months. Even though she has graduated from physical therapy, her work has just begun, and Anya is now a regular at the Capp Center St. Paul. “I am so happy to be part of the J community, where I feel so supported in my strides towards success,” said Anya. “I train as if my life depends on it, because it does!” The Minnesota JCC team and trainers are proud to be a part of Anya’s journey to health, strength, and happiness.



Minnesota Viking and 2022 Offensive Player of the Year, Justin Jefferson, teamed up with USAA and the Jewish War Veterans to send Bruce Legan and a friend to this year’s Super Bowl, in gratitude for his service and continued service to our veterans.

The surprise presentation happened right here in The Jewish War Veterans Memorial Hall, located at the Capp Center in St. Paul. The Minnesota Jewish War Veterans were one of the founding organizations of the JCC in St. Paul and helped to build the J. We are proud and grateful for this partnership!



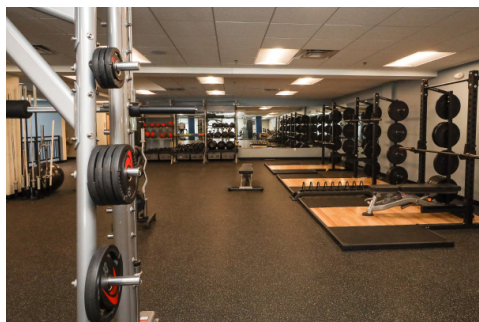


## SABES CENTER REFRESH IS HERE!

The Sabes Center's fitness facilities have been updated to include a new, centralized JCC entry and welcome area, enhanced security, refreshed group exercise studios, dedicated group training studio, new *Sasha's Play Space* (drop-in babysitting), and all new, state-of-the-art equipment.

"We are so excited to bring this fresh space to our community," said Michael Waldman. "Our team works every day to make the JCC an extraordinarily welcoming and inclusive place for our members to come together for their fitness needs." He added, "And now, thanks to the generosity of the Minneapolis Jewish Federation, we have the facilities to match!"

To kick off the reopening of the Center, over 250 members and guests, celebrated with fun for the whole family – games for kids in the pool, activities and crafts, a photo booth, cornhole, football watching, and treats. If you have not yet visited our refreshed Sabes Center, please come check us out. We look forward to seeing you at the J!



**Chloe Shovein**  
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**Jordan Heikens**  
Group Exercise Coordinator  
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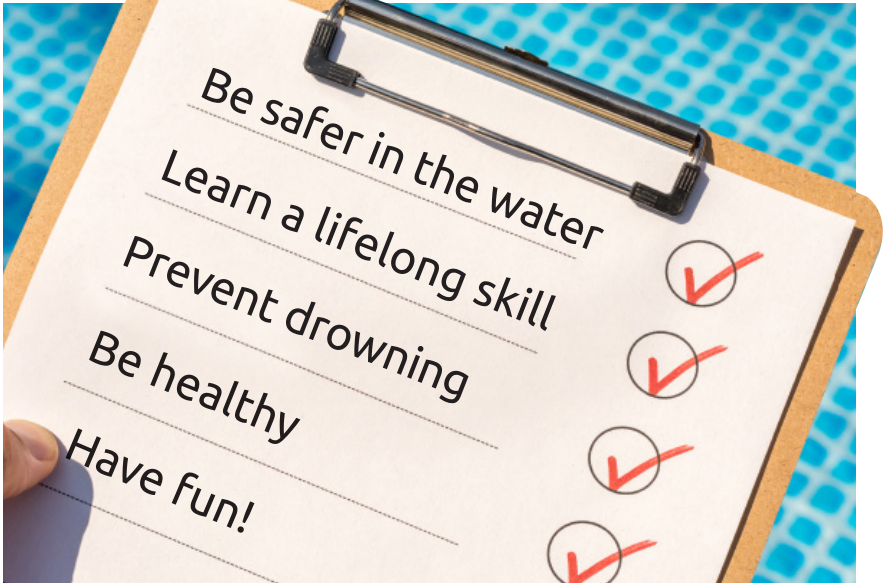
**Parker Buckley**  
Sports & Recreation Director  
parkerb@minnesotajcc.org



# Why should you learn to swim?

SWIMMING LESSONS AT THE J emphasize confidence, personal safety, swimming skills, endurance, and social skills. Group and private lessons now available for all ages and abilities.

Visit [minnesotajcc.org](http://minnesotajcc.org) to register today!



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**Dan Lanoue**  
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# ISRAEL 75TH BIRTHDAY BASH

## YOM HA'ATZMAUT 2023



**SUNDAY  
APRIL 30  
5-8 PM**

**NICKELODEON UNIVERSE  
MALL OF AMERICA**

### **YOM HAZIKARON**

*(Israeli Memorial Day)*

**TUESDAY, APRIL 24 • 7 PM**

**TEMPLE OF AARON SYNAGOGUE • ST. PAUL**

An evening of remembering Israel's fallen  
soldiers and victims of terrorism.

Come together as a community as we  
transform Nickelodeon Universe into  
the perfect destination to party.

Israeli music, performances, activities  
for adults and kids, wristbands for rides,  
and so much more. This is the celebration  
you won't want to miss!

**Pre-registration will be required.  
Details to come!**

**[minnesotajcc.org](http://minnesotajcc.org)**



**nickelodeon  
UNIVERSE**



**Minnesota JCC**



**Minneapolis  
Jewish Federation**



**St. Paul  
Jewish Federation**

Sponsored in part by the Miriam Kaitz Israel Program Fund, a designated fund of the Minnesota Jewish Community Foundation.

# 2022: A Year of Impact

*Your generosity enabled the JCC to engage, uplift, and strengthen our community through meaningful programs and services that keep us all connected.*

**832** OF CHALLAH  
LOAVES SHARED AT  
ECC SHABBATS

**75 ARTISTS**  
FEATURED THROUGH  
OUR ART EXHIBITS

**275 HOURS OF OUTDOOR LEARNING**  
IN OUR JCC GARDENS

**1,191 PATRONS**  
ENJOYED JEWISH  
FILM AND HUMOR  
FESTS

**208 HOURS OF ECC MUSIC**  
ENRICHMENT

**56 CHILDREN**  
SUPPORTED BY  
CAMP INCLUSION  
ADVOCATES

## EARLY CHILDHOOD

With two Early Childhood Centers, we operate the largest Jewish preschool experience in Minnesota, where we foster confidence, joy, and a love of learning.

## JCC SUMMER CAMPS

Minnesota JCC summer camps provided a range of experiences built around the great outdoors, comradery, lifelong skills, and lasting friendships.

## YOUTH AND TEEN

As the fastest growing BBYO community in the country, we offered innovative and welcoming opportunities for learning and growth open to all Jewish teens, fostering our future Jewish leaders and community. The JCC also offered opportunities for school aged children to stay connected through after-school and school release programs, youth theater, sports & recreation, leagues, swim team, music lessons, and more!

## INCLUSION

Children with a range of disabilities were fully integrated into our summer camps right alongside their peers. Adult programming included a wide range of enrichment, social, and growth opportunities to help achieve personal goals within the community.





**620 PLAYERS IN  
OUR REC LEAGUES**

**8,974 RIDES TO APPOINTMENTS  
FOR OLDER ADULTS**

**960 HOURS OF  
NAP TIME IN OUR ECCs**

**168 TEENS IN BBYO**

**70 WEEKLY  
MEDICAL TRANSLATION  
APPOINTMENTS  
FOR THOSE FROM THE  
FORMER SOVIET UNION**

**368 HOURS  
OF PERSONAL TRAINING FOR  
ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES**

**1,026 SUMMER CAMPERS**

**11,838 KOSHER  
LUNCHES PROVIDED**

**654+ DAILY VISITORS  
TO OUR FITNESS CENTERS**

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Our Fitness Centers welcomed daily visitors for individual workouts, lap swimming, aquatics classes, personal training, and group exercise classes. The JCC stands out from other Centers as a welcoming and inclusive facility, offering programming designed to meet each individual's specific needs and interests.

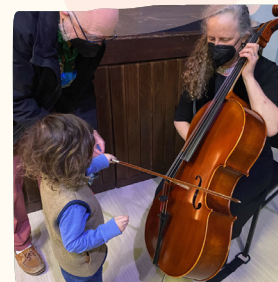
## ARTS, CULTURE, AND ENRICHMENT

The Minnesota JCC created multigenerational arts, culture, and enrichment programming that engaged the community in the exploration of Jewish identity through film, performance, theater, visual arts and exhibitions, literature, and learning. The JCC's Jewish film and humor festivals, symphony concerts, children's concerts and art projects, movies, lectures, classes, and more, brought our community together.

## SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR OLDER ADULTS

In 2022, the Minnesota JCC's supportive services programs strived to improve the quality of life for our older adults by helping them remain safely in their homes and community for as long as possible through transportation services to medical and other appointments and errands, medical translation services for older adults from the former Soviet Union, kosher *Meals on Wheels*, and in-person kosher lunches.

*Thanks to YOU the impact of the JCC touches lives individually and creates a strong and vibrant community.*



# OUR MISSION

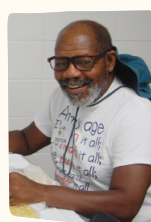
Inspired by Jewish  
values and culture,  
we ignite the  
human spirit through  
programs and  
services that promote  
well-being,  
foster inclusivity,  
and strengthen the  
entire community.



Only at the J do we serve thousands of individuals and families through every age and each stage of life, every single day.

On behalf of those whose lives are enriched and whose needs are supported by the JCC we **THANK YOU** for making **this possible.**

To support our mission and impact, please visit [givetothej.org](https://givetothej.org)







## January 1 – December 31, 2022

We thank all of our donors for their support of the Minnesota JCC and our programs and services. We are especially thankful to the Minneapolis Jewish Federation and the St. Paul Jewish Federation for their continued support of our mission.



### **Generous. Open hearted. Noble. Caring.**

*In Hebrew, those qualities can be summed up in one beautiful word – NADIV. We welcome our Nativ Circle donors, who make gifts of \$10,000+ annually to the Minnesota JCC. Your generosity supports our unique mission and the thousands of people we serve, engage, and uplift each year.*

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Please note – Names of donors are listed according to information received when pledges are made or donations arrive.

If you would like to be listed differently in the future, please let us know.

*z"l of blessed memory:* We note the passing of these members of the JCC family who we are aware of.

**AUG 14, 2023**

*Fore the Kids*

**Save the Dates!**

**Play for the J**

**SEPT 12, 2023**

## More ways to give to support the mission of the JCC.

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To learn more, please visit [givetothej.org](http://givetothej.org) or contact Jennifer Hladik, Chief Development Officer at 651.255.4739 or [jenniferh@minnesotajcc.org](mailto:jenniferh@minnesotajcc.org)

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In memory of David Genecov  
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In memory of Arlene Davis  
In memory of Betty Lee Jonas  
In memory of David Weisman  
In memory of Gerry Steinman  
In memory of Harvey Katz  
In memory of Jacqueline Harris  
In memory of Jerry Finkelstein  
In memory of Lejzor Prezetycki  
In memory of Liel Pink  
In memory of Marcella Kahn  
In memory of Marilyn Broms  
In memory of Marla Levitt  
In memory of Maxine Gould  
In memory of Morton Greenberg  
In memory of Lorraine Ganz and Philip Ganz  
In memory of Norm Evidon  
In memory of Norman Stein  
In memory of Paula Goldberg  
In memory of Rhesa Shapiro  
In memory of Rose Kay  
In memory of Sandra Mandel  
In memory of Stuart Grossfield  
In memory of Zelda Rae Walder  
In memory of Zola Friedman  
Mazel Tov on the birth of Cory Johnson's son  
Theo Malcolm Johnson  
Mazel Tov on the birth of Miya Selah Fishman  
Mazel Tov on the birth of Paige & Jonathan Bronitsky's daughter  
**Julie Haskovitz**  
*In memory of Darby*  
**Shirley Haskovitz**  
*In honor of Bev Finkelstein's grandson's marriage  
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In memory of Shel Epstein**

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*Mazel Tov to Robert Meldman*

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**Nancy Timm**  
*In honor of Leon James Bowron*  
**Melissa & Devin Del Rosario**  
**David Goldberg**  
*In honor of Payton Del Rosario*  
**Nancy Greenstein**  
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**William Hechter**  
*In memory of David Weisman*  
**Judith & Jerry Ingber**  
*In memory of Idy Garvis  
In memory of Mace Goldfarb  
In memory of Marge Agranoff  
In memory of Norman Perl*  
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*In Honor of Ella Skinner*  
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*In honor of Roger Rappaport*  
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In honor of Debbie Gensler's birthday  
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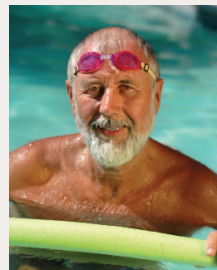
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