



Jewish Community Alliance of Southern Maine



Dear Friends,

This has been a whirlwind year of growth and development at the JCA. The move to our new home at 1342 Congress Street in Portland doubled our physical footprint, and as this report illustrates, it also fundamentally altered the nature of the work we do. As a combined Jewish Federation, Jewish Community Center, and Jewish Family Services program, we are here to be a resource to the entire community. Portland is growing and developing along with us, and our new space allows us to embrace fully the promise of our mission as part of this vibrant, dynamic city.

The Goldman Family Preschool added two new classrooms, and now serves children aged 6 weeks through 5 years old. The Michael Klahr Jewish Family Services Food Pantry and Diaper Bank increased exponentially in size and scope with our increased capacity, infrastructure, and visibility. For the first time in many years, we offered a full slate of programming, including PJ Library programs, a series of arts and culture events with renowned artists and authors, wellness offerings, and classes like Jewish cooking, art, and history.

This year has given us an incredible chance to see the power of the community's generosity. From the volunteers responsible for the vision and execution of the building project, to the parents who sign up to make meals for those in need, to the tireless KJFS volunteers, and the donors who have given generously in so many ways. Whatever your connection to the agency, we are grateful for your support and commitment.

Change always provides moments to pause for reflection and discernment, and we have learned a great deal about our community's demographics, challenges and opportunities, and about the history that brought us to this point. Our message this year is that **we are open**. To feedback, ideas, and celebration. To you – whatever your background, interests or perspective. As the great Rabbi and scholar Abraham Joshua Heschel said:

"This is one of the goals of the Jewish way of living: to experience commonplace deeds as spiritual adventures. To feel the hidden love and wisdom in all things."

We look forward, in the coming year, to continuing to offer you relevant, meaningful adventures that excite, inspire, and connect you with the love and wisdom of Jewish life in Southern Maine!

L'Shalom,

Molly Curren Rowles

Molly Curren Rowles
Executive Director

Bette Novick

Bette Novick
Board President

JCA Board of Directors

Executive Committee

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Rachael Alford,
Vice President
Stuart Piltch, Treasurer
Laura Kittle, Secretary
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Ben Kahn
Charlie Katz-Leavy
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Rebecca Stern
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Honorary Directors

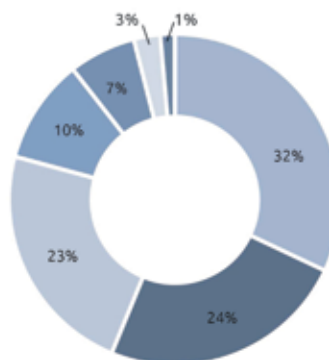
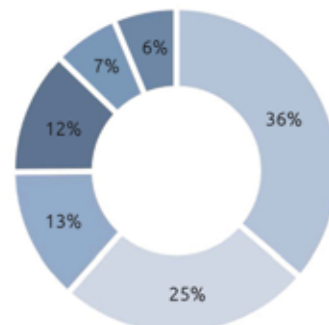
Richard Aronson
Albert Glickman z"l*
*zichrono livracha
(of blessed memory)

Mission Statement

The Jewish Community Alliance (JCA) is a nonprofit organization serving the Jewish Community of Southern Maine by providing educational and social programming and fundraising. Our mission is to build Jewish community locally, in Israel and throughout the world. The JCA develops, provides, and supports diverse programs, education and services. We work with an array of organizations and local congregations, and function as the hub of Jewish programming in Southern Maine.

2016-2017 Financials

The information in these graphs utilizes internal financial reports on operating income and expenses and excludes all information on the capital campaign. Our review, performed by Purdy Powers, for the year ended August 31, 2017 reports total liabilities and assets for the JCA, including the building project. That report states JCA total assets at \$13,459,292 with \$2,988,112 in current liabilities and \$10,471,180 in net assets.



Expenses	Amount	Percentage of budget
Early Childhood Education	\$611,920	36%
Center Day Camp	\$427,181	25%
KJFS and other Program Services	\$223,956	13%
Fundraising	\$207,998	12%
External Allocations	\$110,125	7%
Management and General	\$106,112	6%
Total	\$1,687,292	
Income	Amount	Percentage of budget
Early Childhood Education	\$603,045	32%
Annual Campaign Contributions	\$455,997	24%
Center Day Camp	\$433,260	23%
Investment Income	\$192,677	10%
Grants	\$123,589	7%
Other Income	\$48,800	3%
Other Contributions	\$26,458	1%
Total	\$1,883,826	



Open Minds

Teaching infused with Jewish values and traditions for children of all backgrounds

This year, the **Goldman Family Preschool** opened in our beautiful new space, which includes infant and one year old classrooms. We are proud that staff completed trainings last summer on the Jewish Community Center Association's "Sheva" (seven) framework, which is based on core principles of early care and education examined through a Jewish lens. We love the nature-based outdoor playground, which allows children to learn and explore in a setting designed to support their growth and development. Our parent committee activities included offering Mitzvah Meals, selling Hamantaschen and Hanukkah wrapping paper, participating in KJFS Hanukkah Lights, and cooking monthly hot lunches. At the end of the year, the committee donated \$3,000 to our scholarship fund. Our school is already filled to capacity for next year, and we look forward to more exploration and growth in this wonderful space!

In the fall we also launched an **Afterschool** program for K-3rd grade. We provided transportation from Portland elementary schools, and explored science, cooking, nature, art and more in a supportive and child-focused environment. Planning is already underway for the fall, and we will be welcoming even more families next year.

Summer 2017 at **Center Day Camp** included a 10% increase in camper weeks! Our incredible Director, Eli Small, made the decision to retire at the end of the season, but has remained involved, and in January we welcomed new Director Dana Zimmerman! Dana brings a wealth of experience in outdoor education, including work with the American Camp Association and leadership positions at overnight camps. This will be another wonderful summer full of physical growth, emotional skill building, and Jewish learning for campers of all backgrounds. The Camp Committee is also gearing up for a big celebration next year to mark our 70th year on the shores of Sebago Lake!



Open Eyes

Creating opportunities for learning, growth, and community

Our glorious building has been an incredible gift, providing us with a space to present inspiring, insightful and illuminating programs. Our vision has been to use this modern, airy, light-filled space, as well as off campus venues, to create meaningful experiences in a welcoming and inclusive environment.

In our inaugural year of diverse program offerings, we have collaborated with community partners to explore ideas and facilitate conversations around Jewish culture and history, Israel, food, and politics. **Our programs cultivate and deepen connections to values and heritage** while providing pathways to new and renewed social unions. Our PJ Library program distributed over 4,000 books & CD's to families and expanded our network through initiatives like Shalom Baby which welcomes young families as they celebrate the birth of a child. This year, fitness offerings like Yoga with Ashley Flowers proved popular, as did adult education courses on Jewish cooking with Margaret Hathaway and several insightful text-based courses with Ellie Miller and courses with Josh Pernick, Shaarey Tphiloh Rabbinic Intern from Yeshivat Chovevei Torah.

Through our **Arts and Culture Series**, sponsored this year by the Sam L. Cohen Foundation, we were honored to present engaging book talks by Dara Horn, Adina Hoffman and actor Stephen Tobolowsky, as well as an exhilarating musical performance by Shuffle and, for the month of April, "Besa – A Code of Honor," a moving documentary photography exhibit from the Yad Vashem Holocaust Remembrance Center. With the support of our community, we look forward to another wonderful slate of offerings in the year ahead!



Open Hands

Meeting immediate, urgent needs with respect and dignity

The move into our new space has brought tremendous growth and opportunity to **Michael Klahr Jewish Family Services (KJFS)**, including our new name, which honors the legacy of an extraordinary community member. Our food pantry has nearly doubled the number of families served this year, and our diaper bank is on target to distribute over 300,000 diapers through our doors and through the incredible efforts of our 14 community partner agencies. KJFS is now a member of the Alliance for Period Supplies, and will work to distribute period products to individuals who visit us. KJFS staff and volunteers work to meet immediate and critical needs facing those who come through our doors, and to do so with the utmost respect, empathy, and kindness.

In addition to major programmatic growth, the KJFS volunteer program has increased substantially this year. With the support of the Sam L. Cohen Foundation, we brought on a Volunteer Coordinator who helped us strengthen recruitment through current partner organizations, and initiated a renewed emphasis on web based recruiting. This led to a record 56 volunteers this year, with an estimated over 2000 hours of service. Each volunteer has been an active participant in at least one KJFS program throughout the year. Our volunteers do it all: they assist with food pantry pick-ups and stocking shelves, they deliver Kosher Meals on Wheels, and staff the food pantry. This year they have also provided one-on-one career counseling support, assembled and delivered Passover Seder plates, offered challah baking classes, assisted with grocery delivery, and acted as friendly visitors to some of our most vulnerable clients. We could not do the work we do without our volunteers. The resources of KJFS are open to all. We support those in need regardless of background or affiliation.

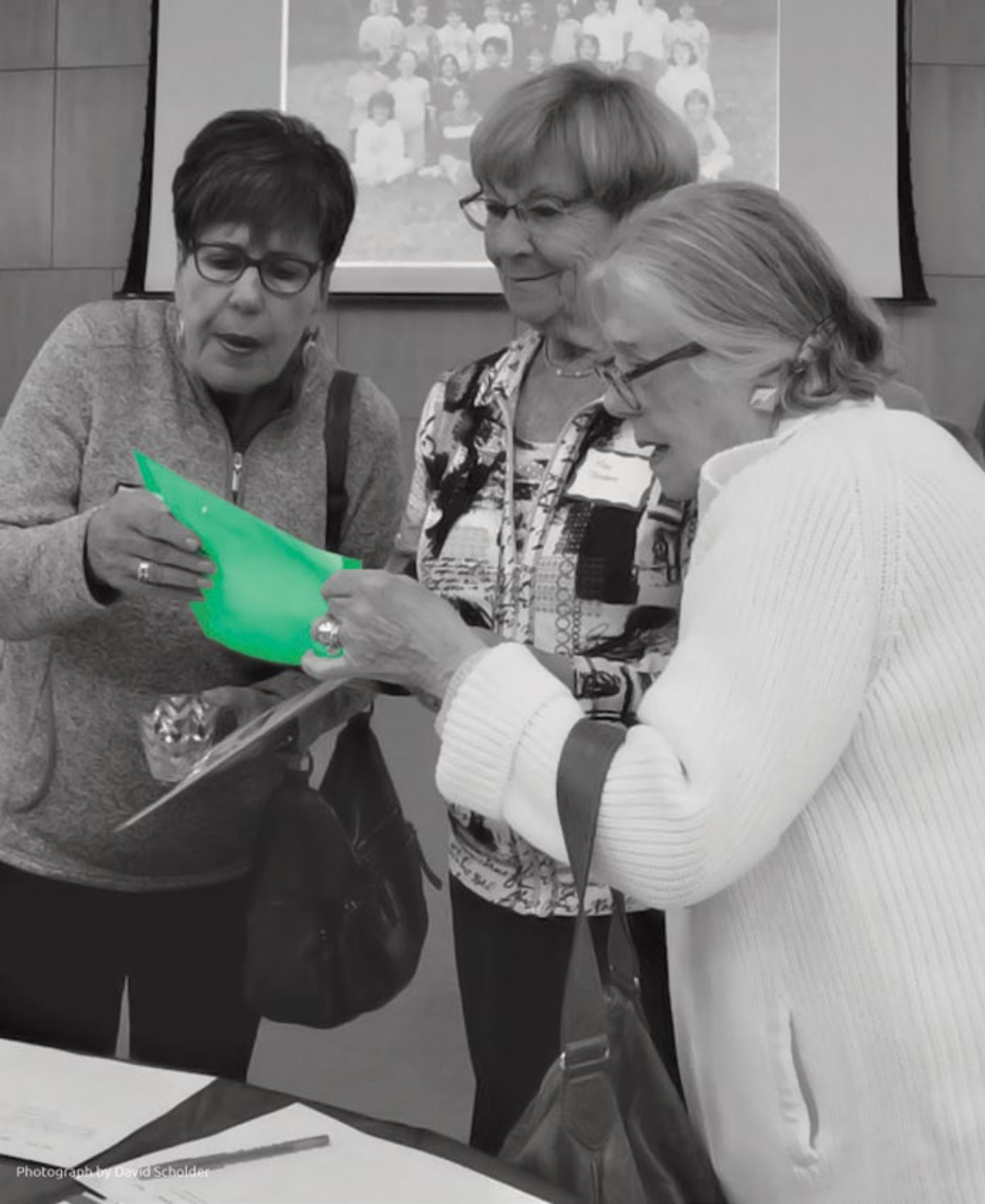
Open Doors

*Supporting vibrant Jewish life
in Maine and worldwide*

The work of the JCA extends beyond the bounds of our own space in many ways. As a member of the Jewish Federations of North America, a significant portion of our annual fundraising is distributed to other organizations. We are proud to support local initiatives that **strengthen and enrich the community**, such as Bikur Cholim, which brings Jewish Chaplaincy services to local hospitals and nursing homes and brings support and care to the unaffiliated at their most vulnerable moments; Levey Day School and the Hebrew Schools at each Southern Maine Synagogue, which educate and connect our young people with Jewish traditions and values; and Documenting Maine Jewry, which archives and preserves materials that celebrate and document the vibrant history of Jews in Maine.

In addition, we support **overseas allocations** to organizations such as Hand in Hand, a school that brings together thousands of Jewish and Arab children across Israel; *Yad LaKashish*/Lifeline for the Old, which offers over 300 needy elderly Jerusalem residents meaningful work opportunities that strengthen social engagement; and HIAS, which protects refugees, including ethnic, religious, and sexual minorities, through education, advocacy, and resettlement activities worldwide.

We also engage the broader community through the **Community Relations Council (CRC)**, which this year presented a course on the Arab-Israeli Conflict taught by Professor Rachel Fish of the Schusterman Center for Israel Studies at Brandeis University. The committee also works to both respond to anti-Semitic and other bias incidents and to build bridges and relationships with minority religious communities and other groups. Next year, the CRC plans to offer further opportunities for adult education, new collaborations, and a unique interfaith Seder.



The JCA by the Numbers

A year in review June 1, 2017 - May 31, 2018

93



Children enrolled
in the Goldman Family Preschool

840



Arts and culture events
attendees

\$115,000



JCA allocations received
by local and overseas organizations

53,304



Pounds of food
distributed by KJFS

1,549



Kosher Meals on
Wheels delivered



2,000

KJFS volunteer
hours

800



Hamantaschen sold for Purim

4,214

PJ Library books and CD's
distributed in Southern Maine

84



Afterschool Program
science + art projects

249,096



Diapers distributed in Maine

450



Grand Opening and
Donor Event attendees



373



Children enrolled
in PJ Library

150

Hours of baking
fun in the Goldman
Family Preschool



230



Yoga class participants

370



Cups of coffee
sold at the Piltch Family Community
Coffee Bar since Feb. 2018

1302



Weeks of Center Day
Camp summer fun

424



New JCA memberships

437



Campers enrolled at
Center Day Camp

136



Adult education
students

920



Pre-school teacher
training hours

"I think the J sees *Tikkun Olam* as its primary objective, truly focusing on fixing the world for everyone, regardless of affiliation or background. I love how this is fostered from the very beginning within the children in the preschool and is evident at every level of the organization." - *JCA member*

"I am so grateful for all the help that JCA has done for us over the years, there were some very stressful and dark times. The support at times meant food on the table, lights, activities and gifts for the children. I am brought to tears when I think of it. I want you all to know that your gifts helped at the time very much and also gave me hope when every I would think about all the caring and support our family has received." - *KJFS Client*

"It's exciting to see PJ Library unveiling new offerings outside of books, allowing families to participate in the Jewish community in a variety of ways. Thank you for being one of the instrumental parts of my village helping me raise two proud, informed, engaged Jewish children." - *PJ Library Parent*

"I went to camp in Maine when I was a kid and it was really an amazing experience. The connection to the outdoors and to other people were very meaningful experiences. I still keep in touch with my camp friends today. I feel lucky that my kids get to build that same foundation and get a unique camp experience that instills solid values." - *CDC Parent*

"I initially felt inclined to give because the J had already given me so much! It is a worthwhile organization that gives back to the community in so many ways. It has helped me feel welcome, comfortable, and able to learn and grow, and now it does the same for my family." - *JCA Donor*

"What a wonderful testament to courage and the power of memory. Thank you." - *Besa Documentary Holocaust Exhibit Visitor*



OPEN TO ALL



Jewish Community Alliance of Southern Maine
1342 Congress St., Portland, ME 04102
207-772-1959 | www.mainejewish.org