JEWISH COMMUNITY PROJECT
downtown

ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025

THE CENTER FOR JEWISH LIFE DOWNTOWN

INTRODUCTION

From school to shul and beyond, JCP empowers and enables the downtown Jewish community to come together through inspired programming, exceptional schooling, pluralistic religious services, and more. Founded in 2002, we have kept community at our core for more than 20 years. The lifelong friendships formed here are the heart and soul of our organization, and forging those connections is our greatest goal.

At JCP, we pride ourselves on being the most diverse and inclusive Jewish community in New York, embracing all expressions of Jewish and interfaith identity from blended families and cultural curiosity to greater observance and traditional practice. We welcome people wherever they are on their Jewish journey. From meaningful High Holy Days services to the joy of a lively cocktail party, we offer many ways to connect with Judaism. We treasure the sense of belonging and fulfillment that comes from genuinely connecting with our neighbors and with Jewish life. By bringing centuries of Jewish wisdom into the rhythm of city living, we create a space where people feel supported, energized, and inspired. Simply put, JCP is The Center for Jewish Life in Lower Manhattan.

Proudly Jewish

Pluralistic

Inclusive

Supportive

Community Focused

JCP BY THE NUMBERS

300+

Students enrolled in our Early Childhood Center (ECC) and Hebrew School Project (HSP)

280

Members and Member Families

30+

Adult Jewish education programs offered

400+

Attendees at JCP's High Holy Days season in 2024/5785

300+

Events, spiritual services, social and educational programs, holiday celebrations and community gatherings

2

Full-time Rabbis on staff

40+

B'nai mitzvah, baby namings, and weddings performed

DEAR JCP COMMUNITY,

JCP is our Jewish home: our synagogue, our school, our community, our source of spiritual connection, our sacred place, our anchor, and so much more. As we reflect on this past year, we are inspired by JCP's story. What began as a dream to build dynamic and innovative Jewish life downtown has flourished beyond our greatest hopes—and we are only just getting started!

We are deeply grateful to all who give so much of themselves so that this community can continue to grow and thrive, including Shara Levy, whom we thank for her service as co-president this past year.

In 2025 we convened a task force of dedicated members with a wide range of experiences and perspectives within JCP. Their work culminated in the launch of a three-year Strategic Plan, which has already set in motion many exciting initiatives: weekly Friday Evening Services that have welcomed record numbers to Shabbat; expanded Teen and Youth programming during the High Holy Days; the relaunch of Downtown Jews for young professionals; our first-ever Adult B'nai Mitzvah cohort and Men's Torah Study group; our Israel Engagement Series: Highlighting Healers and Hope; and continued growth in our Early Childhood Center and Hebrew School Project. The Strategic Plan also strengthens our foundation through improved communications, stronger marketing efforts, and thoughtful planning for JCP's long-term needs as our community continues to grow.

Thanks to your continued support and partnership, JCP is becoming the Center for Jewish Life in Lower Manhattan. We are poised for a bright and meaningful future, one in which we can welcome even more people seeking creative, joyful, and authentic Jewish experiences within a warm, inclusive, and engaged community.

Whether you have been part of JCP for many years or are just beginning your journey with us, we look forward to sharing special Jewish moments with you and writing the next chapter of our story together.

Sincerely,

Rachel Ziff,
Board President

Peter A. Retzlaff,
Executive Director

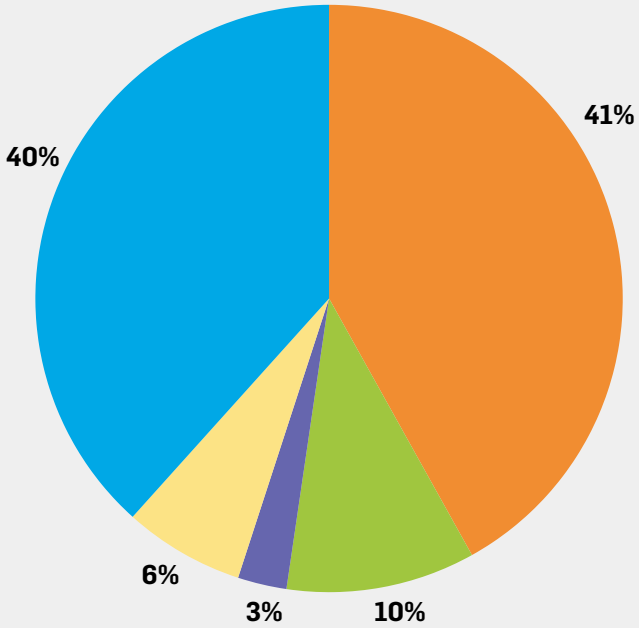
Rabbi Deena Silverstone,
Director of Jewish Life

FINANCIALS

JCP's Financial Summary from the 2024-2025 fiscal year:

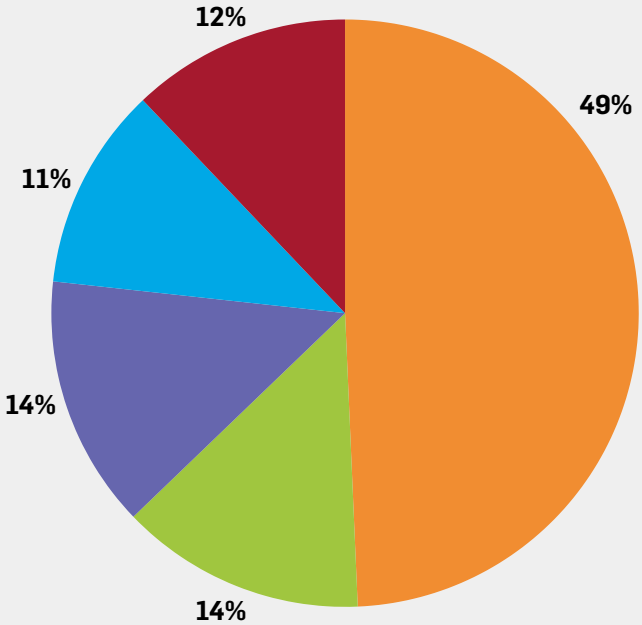
Revenue

ECC	$2,826,325
HSP	$701,255
Jewish Life	$181,373
Membership	$447,808
Philanthropic Contributions	$2,582,746
Total Revenue	$6,930,596



Expenditures

ECC	$3,367,982
HSP	$922,080
Jewish Life	$950,505
Fundraising	$764,178
Business Office	$825,338
Total Expenses	$6,830,083



BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE | JCP

Bridge to the Future is a three year pledge commitment designed to fortify and strengthen JCP's financial foundation and to enable and inspire programmatic growth for the next three years.

A special thank you to the below families for contributing to JCP's Bridge to the Future. We look forward to welcoming more JCP families into the campaign in the year ahead.

Anonymous (3)
Olivia & Scott Abramowitz
Shira & Michael Altman
Scott Berrie
Betsy & Andrew Cohen
Shari & Stephen Coats
Laurel Rom Dugan & Josh Dugan
Victoria PL & Ben Feder
Lori & Steven Fineman
Shayna & Dan Glaser
Manda & Adam Greenblatt
Kerry & Daniel Golden
Pamela Gross & Susan Silverstein
Nikki & Jim Hertzberg
Pamela Hruska & Shams Orr-Hruska
Jessica & Todd Jacobs
Rachel & Drew Katz
Laurie Slosberg Kaminsky & Howard Kaminsky
Sandy & Michael Lavipour
Shara & Lee Levy
Tracey & Randy McCallum
Sasha Martinez & Andrew Schleimer
Shira & Jonathan Oberlander
Stacy & Jonathan Pollack
Erica & Robbie Raphael
Hanna & Bret Richheimer
Lindsay & Evan Roth
Solange & Jeffrey Ross
Russell Berrie Foundation
Katie & Jordan Sasson
Julia & Michael Schnabel
Chessie & Michael Schwartz
Nicholas Silvers
Rachel & Peter Sinensky
Molly & Andy Snyder
Margarit Wiesendanger & Dan Meltzer
Rachel & Scott Yedid
Rachel & Eric Ziff

As we look back on the second year of our three-year Bridge to the Future campaign, we are filled with gratitude and pride in the incredible progress we've made together. Our 2025 program year marked another year of momentum and generosity, as we welcomed nearly 20 new families to the campaign community.

Each contribution has strengthened the foundation of this campaign and demonstrated the powerful impact that can be achieved when a small group of dedicated families comes together with a shared vision.

As we enter the final year of the campaign, we look forward to building on this strong momentum and continuing to bridge toward a vibrant future.

If you want to learn more, please contact Jolene (jhernandez@jcpdowntown.org)

WHY JCP?

We joined JCP initially through Tot Shabbats to introduce our daughter to our Jewish heritage. She was captivated by the warmth and fun from Rabbi Deena and Molly Rose. Since then, our family has become a part of the ECC and have been fortunate to get to know many of the other wonderful families that make up this community. JCP's atmosphere is welcoming to all and it is a privilege to help support its mission of cultivating Jewish life downtown.

Alex Yudkoff and Jeffrey Bailin

What I value most about JCP is how welcoming and inclusive the community is. Whether you're trying to deepen your connection with Judaism, learn Torah in a collaborative setting, or just in search of a Jewish space downtown, JCP has something for you.

Jasper Menkus

From the moment we first walked through the doors at JCP, we felt an immediate and genuine warmth from everyone we met. JCP quickly became more than just a school to us. It truly feels like home. We love that the JCP community is filled with such joy, curiosity, and a shared enthusiasm for learning and celebrating together. We love JCP!

Kristin & Jake Greenblatt

After joining JCP in early 2024, we quickly realized it filled a void we didn't know existed. It has become our spiritual center and a source of great joy in our lives. As individuals, we've each grown through the adult education offerings, and as parents, we take great pride in the confidence and Jewish identity that the HSP has helped foster in our son.

Melanie Schnuriger and Glen Leibowitz

We stay involved in the JCP community because it is our home away from home. We have met some of our closest friends through JCP and continue to meet warm and interesting people.

Shayna and Dan Glaser

We joined JCP when our daughter started attending the ECC and in a few short months it has become a true home away from home. It has become a touchstone of our Jewish lives at this pivotal early point in our children's lives. Everyone is so inclusive and kind - our daughters feel so comfortable and happy at school and the various events held. There are so many ways to get involved and things to do. We particularly love all of the events for kids, such as Tot Shabbat and High Holy Day Tot services, where we see such joy in our daughters and all of the other kids.

Lizzy and Ricky Ouriel

LEADERSHIP

Board of Directors

Board President
Rachel Ziff

Board Chair
Stacy Pollack

Executive Committee
Scott Abramowitz
Shira Altman
Joshua Banschick
Shari Coats
Jared Friedberg
Shara Levy
Erica Raphael
Jeffrey Ross
Andrew Schleimer

Board of Directors
Andrew Cohen
Laurel Dugan
Shayna Glaser
Manda Greenblatt
Nikki Hertzberg
Sandy Lavipour
Matthew Levine
Erica Marks
Sasha Martinez
Megan Newman
Shira Oberlander
Lindsay Roth
Jordan Sasson
Rachel Strocko
Margrit Wiesendanger
Rachel Yedid

Advisory Council

Founder and Advisory Council Chair
Victoria PL Feder

Advisory Council
Scott Berrie
Ben Feder
Lori Fineman
Brian Friedman
Dori Friedman
Kerry Golden
Cindy Leibovitch
Liz Rosenberg
Evan Roth
Nathalie Rubens
Dan Senor
Susan Silverstein
Laurie Slosberg Kaminsky
Molly Snyder
Aaron Stone

THANK YOU

OUR COMMUNITY THRIVES BECAUSE OF THE PASSION AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF ITS DEDICATED MEMBERS

Visionary ($100,000+)

Anonymous (2)
Russell Berrie Foundation
Scott Berrie
Laurie Slosberg Kaminsky and Howard Kaminsky
Stacy and Jonathan Pollack
Lindsay and Evan Roth
Sasha Martinez and Andrew Schleimer

Champions ($50,000 - $99,999)

Laurel Rom Dugan and Josh Dugan
Manda and Adam Greenblatt
Solange and Jeffrey Ross
Molly and Andy Snyder

Patrons ($25,000 - $49,999)

Anonymous (1)
Shira and Michael Altman
Rebecca Burgoyne-Allen and Timothy Braude
Shari and Stephen Coats
Eva Hoffman and Ken Cornick
Lori and Steven Fineman
Carolina Esquenazi and Jared Friedberg
Shayna and Dan Glaser
Shara and Lee Levy
Tracey and Randall McCallum
Margrit Wiesendanger and Daniel Meltzer
Staci Goodman and Jordan Roeschlaub
Kaitlin and Jordan Sasson
Chessie and Michael Schwartz
Nicholas Silvers
Carla and Bruce Weiner
Rachel and Scott Yedid
Rachel and Eric Ziff

Builders ($20,000-$24,999)

Olivia and Scott Abramowitz
Victoria PL and Ben Feder
Rachel and Drew Katz
Cindy and Richard Leibovitch
Elizabeth and Jonathan Lewinsohn
Erica and Robbie Raphael

Benefactor ($10,000-$19,999)

Emma Bloomberg Charitable Fund
Elizabeth and Andrew Cohen
Aaysha Morrison Dashevsky and Felix Dashevsky
Jennifer and Andrew Fleiss
Dori and Brian Friedman
Kerry and Daniel Golden
Nathalie Rubens and Saul Goodman
Jackie Hemphill
Nikki and Jim Hertzberg
Pamela Hruska and Shams Orr-Hruska
Jessica and Todd Jacobs
Candace and Michael Lamonsoff
Sandy and Michael Lavipour
Sara Eisen and Matthew Levine
Erica and Brian Marks
Hanna and Bret Richheimer
Grace and Mark Ronson
Izabella and Jordan Rubin
Stacey Mayesh and Stan Sandberg
Erica and Peter Schrager
Rachel and Peter Sinensky
Priscilla and Gregory Spatz
Rachel and Andrew Strocko
Stephanie Abram and Jonathan Tropper
Ira Waldbaum Family Foundation
Amanda Weiner
Bari and Matthew Yukelson

Click here to see our complete donor list

JCP
downtown

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