

EDUCATION



Jewish Community Alliance
of Northeastern Pennsylvania

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

CULTURE



SPORTS

*"Hillel would say:
'Do not separate yourself
from the community.'"*
- Ethics of the Fathers, Chapter 2



WELLNESS

Message from the President:

Active, growing and exciting are all words that can be used to describe the JCA and its programming. A cornerstone of our activities is Camp. New projects on the drawing board for expansion are Early Childhood Education and Adult Day Care. Our new Senior Resource Care Coordinator is a grant funded position aimed at assisting the elderly in order to be able to navigate the healthcare system. Our fitness program has now been expanded to encompass wellness of spirit, mind and body. We continue to run our educational and holiday programs servicing the community and its social and cultural needs.



All in all, the JCA is, has been and will continue to be a great resource for the entire community in the Wyoming Valley.

Mitchell Kornfeld, President

Message from the C.E.O.:

The mission of the JCA is to care for the well-being of the Jewish People, at home, abroad and in Israel. Our programs and services are and should be tailored to meet this grand goal. But, equally, in doing so we need to be true to Jewish values and Jewish ethics. This is the ongoing challenge for the JCA now and into the future.



Proverbs tells us to "Stand up, judge righteously, champion the cause of the needy and the poor." We need to assess what we do as the JCA against those kinds of admonitions from our sacred texts. Certainly, distributing thousands of pounds of food to needy people meets those criteria. Providing for resources to elderly people to help navigate the healthcare system meets those criteria.

The Wilkes-Barre community should be proud of the JCA and its work. At every step we are cognizant of our mission as an organization and our mission as representatives of the Jewish People.

Stuart I. Forman, Community Executive Director/CEO



The Sidney & *Pauline Friedman Center for Jewish Life

At 613 Third Avenue, Kingston, PA

Sparked by the gift of land by the Cohen, Friedman and Lantz families, plans continue to advance to design our full-service and contemporary facility that will maximize the types of JCA programs and services envisioned for the new campus.

*Of blessed memory

Jewish Community Alliance of NEPA

60 S. River Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702
570-824-4646

The JCA is the central association of activities in our Jewish community. The function of the JCA includes fund raising, planning and budgeting, young leadership programs, education and wellness, media liaison, Jewish outreach, monitoring and response and community relations. The JCA runs our annual United Jewish Campaign to fund the UJA, Israel, the JCC, Bais Menachem, the Mikvah, Eruv, the Vaad Kashrut, the Cheder, BBYO and various national organizations.

The Jewish Community Alliance of NEPA provides for the social, educational and recreational needs of the Jewish community of Wyoming Valley. A variety of activities spanning physical education, skill classes, interest groups, cultural and social programs are offered throughout the year for all ages.

The JCA facility features classrooms, congregate meals and other food services programs, auditorium/social hall, resource center, conference rooms, wellness activities that include nutrition services, fitness facilities with an indoor heated pool, and a full court gymnasium. Other programs offered by the JCA include student loans, kosher home-delivered meals, and Sarah's Food Pantry.

Our summer facility, Holiday House, overlooking Harveys Lake, serves as the JCC's Day Camp for over 400 children annually and is the outdoor recreational facility for the community and Center members.

Our JCA Value Statement:

Chevrah — community

Tikkun Olam — social justice and egalitarianism

Torah — continuous learning throughout the life course

Tzedakah — charity

Klal Yisrael — the well-being of Jews at home, in Israel and around the world

JCA Vision Statement:

The Alliance strives to vibrantly embrace the Jewish values of community, continuous learning, charity and the well-being of all Jews.

JCA Mission Statement:

To provide programs and services which foster the well-being of our local community and Jews at home, in Israel and around the world through continuous learning, charitable works, social and educational and recreational services.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Dinners for Kids program
now serves about 120 children
more than 37,000 meals per year.

JCA Business Goals – Moving Forward:

Our mission, supported by a strong business model, will drive our multi-year program platform to create JCA programs and services that are revenue producing, or are supported by revenue that includes:

- Continue to grow an economically viable day camp
- Expand year-round use of camp/Holiday House rentals for winter and year-round activities.
- Expand current wellness program activities
- Expand existing Deli/kitchen services to support new JCA nutrition programs along with catering and other food services

And in new directions:

- Build a model Friedman Center for Jewish Life that embraces our program continuum and is financially robust
- Deliver span of life services: Create geriatric care programs that support aging populations, including adult day care, serving 45 clients daily, and respite care; and expand the JCA Early Childhood Department from serving 25 children daily to 45 children in the new Friedman Center for Jewish Life.
- Create a Center for Holocaust Studies
- Create a formal Jewish Studies program
- Build a model of national civic engagement for the Dinners for Kids program
- Develop a chavurah for toddler and moms (“Chavurah Hebrew: “fellowship”: a small group of like-minded Jews who assemble for the purposes of facilitating Shabbat and holiday prayer services, sharing communal experiences such as lifecycle events, or Jewish learning.”)
- Adopt a city in Israel that directly serves “on the ground” local needs

“If I am not for myself,
who will be for me? But
if I am only for myself,
what am I?
If not now, when?”
- Rabbi Hillel
(Pirke Avot 1:14)

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The visuals representing our financials indicate the current status of the JCA from the accounting perspective. We try to be diligent to stay within our budget. The challenges we do face include our needs to expand our services and to produce programs and services which yield revenue.

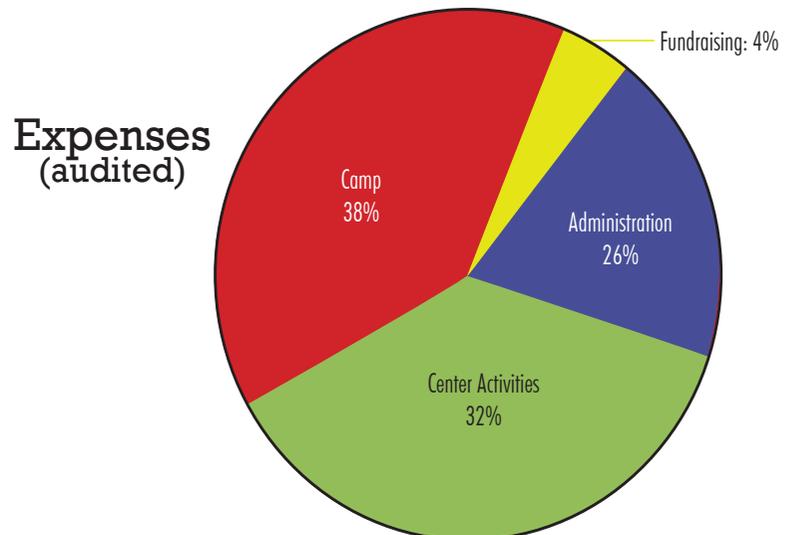
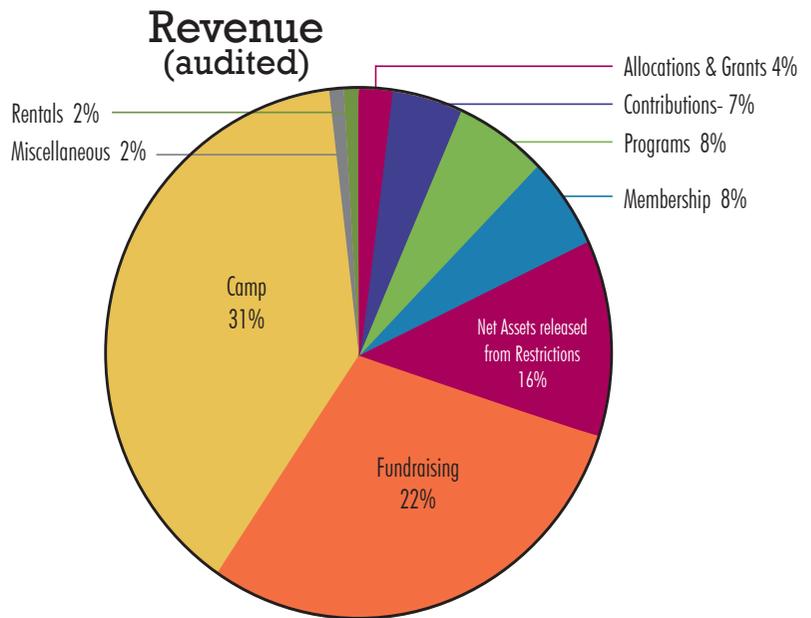
Through revenue production, we hope to be able to fund everything that the Jewish community of Wilkes-Barre needs to do to remain a healthy and active community. In the future, our focus will remain on revenue production through a variety of funding streams including annual campaign, memberships, Camp fees, grants and foundations

and use of endowments for specific purposes.



William James, Director of Finance

JCA 2015 at a Glance:



- Approximate values.

“When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap all the way to the corner of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. You shall leave them for the poor and the stranger...”

- Leviticus 19:9-11

JCA PROGRAMS SNAPSHOTS:

Wellness:

JCA wellness programs deliver and support good health and vitality across the life span. Services are delivered on-site at the JCC facility, at our Day Camp/Holiday House campus and in the general community.

Dinners for Kids

The JCA serves as the non-profit 501(c)3 grant administrator for “Dinners for Kids,” a volunteer program created by David Tevet, owner of Ollie’s restaurant, to fight local childhood hunger with healthy meals. An estimated 10,500 children in Luzerne County are facing childhood hunger. Dinners for Kids delivers kid-approved nutritious and balanced dinners in microwave-safe containers accompanied by fresh fruit.

The JCA partners with Dinners for Kids to manage and audit program revenue without charge. All fund donations are used for the direct costs of preparing the meals. Dinners for Kids is volunteer-based with no paid staff and no facility expenses.

Dinners for Kids began in February of 2011 feeding 40 local children six delivered meals each week, year round, directly to the children’s homes. The program now serves about 120 children over 37,000 meals per year.

JCA Sarah’s Table Food Pantry

“This helps get us through the month. Since the food stamp program was cut, it’s difficult to buy enough food to feed my family. This is a needed program in this community.” — Michelle, mother of five

Sarah’s Pantry is an interfaith partnership, to distribute food to people in need, by the Jewish Community Center and the Open Arms Outreach Ministry of Wilkes-Barre, a ministry of the First Baptist Church. From July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016, a total of 10,628 pounds of donated food was received. The food is donated through the Weinberg Food Bank of the Commission on Economic Opportunity.

Congregate Meals Program

Thousands of area residents, 60 years of age or older, enjoy nutritious meals and fellowship with this JCA program. This program is funded by the Area Agency on Aging. Kosher, balanced meals are served five days a week at the JCC. All meals are prepared on-site. Menus are prepared in advance, under the direction of a registered dietitian, and submitted to the Area Agency on Aging for approval. From July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016, a total of 7,455 pounds of donated food was received from the Weinberg Food Bank of C.E.O. in support of this program.

Senior Resource Care Coordinator:

Our Senior Resource Care Coordinator (S.R.C.C.) delivers services and guidance to the elderly with professional oversight so they may remain active, independent and in their home.

The S.R.C.C. educates seniors and their families about resources available to improve their specific needs. This includes:

- Navigating and connecting to community resources such as transportation, home health services, Meals on Wheels, counseling, guardianship and geriatric care managers;
- Working with regional social service agencies (i.e., The Area Agency on Aging, Family Service Association of NEPA; and
- Working with caseworkers at Geisinger, Commonwealth Health, John Heinz, the Jewish Home of Eastern Pennsylvania and Elan Gardens



Early Childhood Education

Our JCA Early Childhood Department, one of the longest operating early childhood programs regionally, is designed for every child’s growth and development. The JCA Early Childhood program has grown in service capacity from 17 children daily to 25 children. Plans are underway to expand our services in the new Friedman Center for Jewish Life from 25 children daily to 45 children. Early Childhood includes the JCC Pre-School, for young children 18 months - 5 years. JCC Pre-School builds a good foundation to the learning process while providing a loving and caring atmosphere for your child. The staff includes a teacher and one aide for every four students.



JCC Day Camp:

Founded in 1931, the JCC Day Camp is the region's longest operating, largest regional day camp. For over 85 years, the camp serves an important mission in our community.

The non-profit JCC Camp began in part to bring one hot meal to area children during the Great Depression. Camp serves over 400 children each year. Overlooking Harveys Lake on 40 acres of meadow, fields, and sports facilities, the JCC Camp gives out over \$100,000 in scholarships annually to families who could never otherwise experience a summer of fresh air, fellowship and carefree abandon.

The JCC Camp also features a summer camp specifically for children with Autism and other developmental challenges.

Many children going to the JCC Camp have never been on a boat before, or swam in a lake - or made friends with children from across the river. The JCC Camp builds friendships across every divide, builds values, and creates lasting positive experiences for every child without regard to religion, race, or economic circumstance.



Teen Programs:

Teen programs build the social/emotional growth of our teens and provide an atmosphere for group interaction. The teen program includes activities with more than 500 regional youth and administrative support in BBYO (B'nai B'rith Youth Organization) concentrating on Judaic cultural values, education, recreation, drama & art and athletics. BBYO activities are held throughout the year at various regional locations.



Witness to the Holocaust

Holocaust studies bring a "living set of values" benefitting not just the Jewish people but all humanity. We don't just remember the past to avert another Jewish tragedy. We learn and remember to prevent another Rwandan or Cambodian or Serbian genocide.

The Witness to the Holocaust special exhibit, alongside presentations by survivors and liberators, is delivered to public and private high schools throughout Luzerne County and the Poconos. Teens learn about the Holocaust and the lessons that can be learned from this dark period of world history. Last year over 800 youths participated.



Judaic Culture and Yiddishkeit:

The JCA produces many programs that illuminate Jewish culture to enable the Jewish community to become confident and comfortable Jewish learners. Programs and events include Yiddish classes, Chanukah menorah lightings, classes, lectures, concerts, and Passover Seders.

"Stand up, judge righteously, champion the cause of the needy and the poor."

- Proverbs 31.9



Jewish Community Alliance of NEPA
 60 S. River Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702
 570-824-4646
 www.jewishwilkes-barre.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED.

Non-Profit
 Presorted
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Wilkes-Barre, PA
 Permit No. 51

JCA PROGRAMS & EVENTS: A SAMPLING

- | | |
|---|---|
| Institute of Learning with Speakers | Men's Club Meetings & Speakers |
| Current Events Class | Young Adults Art, Cooking, Painting |
| Lecture & Music Programs | Sunday Youth Basketball Leagues |
| Swim Lessons | Senior Men's Basketball |
| Early Childhood Preschool | Wellness programs, including Nutritional Services |
| Autistic Programs | Cultural Events On-Site and in Community |
| Lomir Redden Yiddish | Just Judaica Gift Shop |
| PJ Library-Mailing Jewish Books & Tapes to Children/Teens | Run/Walk Events |
| Lunch & Learn | Sarah's Food Pantry |
| Speakers | B.B.Y.O. |
| Programs with Klezmer Band | Community Seder, Chanukah Dinner & Purim Carnival |
| Kosher Sushi Night | Spinning |
| Mixers & Coffee House | Jewish Holidays events |
| Crooners & Croonettes | Witness to the Holocaust Program |
| Book Club | Brown Memorial Golf Tournament |
| Summer Day Camp | |
| Children & Teens Camp Gym/Programs during winter | |

2016 Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Mitchell Kornfeld, President
 Barbara Bell, MD, Vice President
 David Z. Lantz, Esq., Treasurer
 Paula Chaiken, Secretary

Board of Directors

Max Bartikowsky
 Charles Cohen
 Jason Cohen
 Celia Connor
 Jeffrey Davidowitz
 Robert Friedman
 Renea Hammerman
 Rabbi David Kaplan
 Rabbi Larry Kaplan
 David Kayton
 Richard Kramer
 Paul D. Lantz
 Rabbi Roger Lerner
 Barbara Ball Levy
 Steven Nachlis
 Stan Pearlman
 David E. Schwager, Esq.
 Sue M. Strassman
 Bruce Weinstock
 Michael Yelen, Esq.
 Susan Yelen

JCA Administration:

Dr. Stuart I. Forman, Community Executive Director/CEO
 Rick Evans, Associate Director
 William James, Finance Director
 Sara Pizarz, Early Children & Youth Director, Assistant Camp Director
 Barbara Sugarman, Adult & Cultural Director
 Denise Garofalo, Assistant to the C.E.O. and Board of Directors

