2018

Our Community

Connects

Empowers

Inspires

Transforms

The Jewish Federation
Of Raleigh-Cary
Shalom!

It’s no secret that our Jewish community is one of the fastest growing in North America. Our local Jewish population has increased by thousands of families with children, Millennials, Boomers, and Seniors calling the Raleigh-Cary area home.

We have the responsibility of providing for the evolving needs of the vulnerable while ensuring an abundance of meaningful experiences for anyone and everyone looking to connect to Jewish life.

It’s been a banner year for the Jewish Federation. We have so many accomplishments to celebrate that fulfill this purpose, and the primary praise goes to you.

You created a more compassionate community, with families, teens & children, seniors, and empty nesters joining together to demonstrate their commitment to positive Jewish values.

You now have one of the fastest growing, most effective PJ Library Programs in the country, reaching hundreds of children and families, and for some, serving as their only connection to Jewish life.

You joined together to volunteer, travel, advocate, celebrate and provide leadership, reinforcing your commitment to the Jewish community and inspiring others to take part.

You celebrated who we are and what we can do. We honored Israel, broke ground on a magnificent campus, delivered more Camp JCC weeks than ever before and provided meaningful counseling to children, families, and adults.

Your giving to the Annual Campaign empowers us to change thousands of lives here, in Israel and in 70 countries across the globe. This year we launch 100 Days of Giving: the Campaign for Jewish Needs. We hope you will give generously.

Thank you for all you’ve done and continue to do to build our Raleigh-Cary community into one of the most active, vibrant and impactful Jewish communities.

We wish you a healthy, happy and sweet new year!

Rob Hubal
President

Carin Savel
Chief Executive Officer
1,300 community members took part in Federation’s celebration of Israel’s 70th year of independence

7,300 volunteer hours contributed to the Federation

$3.1 Million raised to date to build a vibrant campus for a growing Jewish community

$1.8 Million invested into addressing community needs

550 PJ Library books delivered to children every month

$131,000 received from grants and Foundations

6,000 people took part in Federation events and programs
JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES

JFS exceeded its mission this past year by offering social and human services, and meaningful outreach across the geographic and demographic range of our diverse community. It was a big year for JFS. Our outreach programs ensured that no one remained isolated as we matched volunteers with community members who needed a personal touch.

“Many thanks for the beautiful Shabbos dinner. This dinner was so ample that I was able to enjoy it on Friday and Saturday. Again thanks to all for the thought and the generosity. Shabbat Shalom.”

–Mitzvah Meal recipient

JFS provided the Jewish connection and our outreach programs were stronger than ever. JFS volunteers invited seniors in 12 senior living communities to attend Shabbat services at their facilities on a monthly basis. We coordinated several Holiday and Shabbat outreach efforts to provide families and individuals in need the experience and opportunity of Jewish traditions. We invited college students to participate in a meaningful community forum on “Being Jewish on Campus.”

Our Senior Connections Community Series provided education and information about issues relevant to older adults and their adult children with a focus on quality aging to maintain their highest level of independence and dignity while remaining safe.

“JFS’ caring touch made my mom’s life better, more vibrant, more connected. The work that JFS does is a valuable service not just to the Jewish community, but to humanity itself, and it will always hold a special place in my heart.”

–adult child of a case management client

With your donor support, JFS was able to offer financial assistance to families when critical bills needed to be paid, meals and groceries when cupboards were bare, and transportation to doctors’ offices, supermarkets and pharmacies to improve health and wellbeing.

“I would like to tell my story about the services I received from JFS. [M]y experience was very positive. It was one of the roughest if not roughest time in my life. Not only did I receive some financial support from JFS, but it was also the emotional support that meant a lot to me. The professionalism in the way those were carried should be commended.”

–former assistance client

JFSGo exceeded all expectations. We provided free transportation and subsidized individual transportation for older adults to medical appointments, religious services and Jewish community social events, grocery shopping, and drug stores and pharmacies.

“Without JFSGo, I missed doctor’s appointments and when I was able to get to the doctor, had trouble filling prescriptions. JFSGo has helped me feel so much better.”

–JFSGo client
At some point in life, many people struggle with stressful situations they can’t resolve by themselves. Using a person-centered approach, Jewish Family Services’ therapists worked through those challenges to provide a sense of control over life’s challenges. Whether facing anxiety, depression, unemployment or any other life changes, JFS provided culturally competent, compassionate and faith-sensitive therapy.

“Balancing work and life seemed impossible until my JFS Therapist helped bring perspective through coping tools and empathy. I don’t know where I would be today without her.”

–former JFS therapy client

We know volunteering is good for the soul, and Good Deeds Day was as successful as ever. All over the community, hundreds chose to volunteer and help others, putting into practice the simple idea that every single person can do something good, be it large or small, to improve the lives of others and positively change the world. In Raleigh-Cary, JFS led the way.

WHAT’S NEXT >

In 2019, JFS will introduce new outreach programs to our robust senior outreach services. Through the Shabbat Visiting program, volunteers will bring Shabbat to isolated seniors’ homes providing them with spiritual and social connections. The Phone Reassurance program will provide support to seniors through regular calls, ensuring their safety and basic needs are met.

We’ll be introducing a comprehensive program, in collaboration with the JCC, to provide connection, support and socialization to the Holocaust survivor community in the area. Stay tuned!

Through our Connections programs, we’re excited to offer over 25 community programs in 2019 for families, adults, seniors, and the general community on topics relating to mental health, well-being, parenting, issues relating to older adults, social action and more.

Join us on October 4th for Federation Feeds – a food fund raiser to benefit JFS. It’ll be delicious fun!
Jewish professionals in the Greater Raleigh-Cary area joined together with Federation to create a unique impact and lend their expertise for the good of our Jewish community. We offered a framework for professional networking, education, and social events.

Throughout the year, members of each networking group were invited to exclusive Federation-sponsored events and discussions featuring local and national experts in a variety of disciplines and subject areas.

“Relationships are the soul of personal and professional satisfaction. The Cardozo Society provides a unique setting for building those relationships—a setting where Raleigh lawyers can embrace their Jewish identities and explore how they intersect with their professional lives and objectives. Our events are well-attended because they offer a rare combination of fellowship, professional growth, and personal meaning. The Federation has supported and inspired the group’s success, and I’m quite grateful for it.”

—STEPHEN FELDMAN

Board Trustee, Cardozo
THE CARDOZO SOCIETY

The Cardozo Society, an affinity group of Jewish attorneys, judges, and law students in Wake County relished Lunch & Learn talks by NC Attorney Josh Stein, WRAL General Manager Steve Hammel, ADL Executive Director, Doron Ezickson, Israel lobbyist Harrison Kaplan, and a private tour of the Judaica Gallery in the NC Museum of Art.

THE MAIMONIDES SOCIETY

The Maimonides Society, an affinity group of Jewish doctors, residents and medical students in Wake County, were treated to talks on ‘The Health of the State’ by NC DHHS Secretary, Dr. Mandy Cohen, ‘The Future of Health Policy, Domestic Health Legislation, Advocacy & Implications,’ by Dr. Jonathan Westin, JFNA Senior Director of Health Initiatives, and a powerful presentation by Dr. Itzhak Brook, author of ‘A Physician’s Account of the Yom Kippur War.’

WHAT’S NEXT

The Chagall Society will launch in 2019 and will welcome Jews in the Visual and Performing Arts, and Jews who support the Arts. The Chagall Society will provide a space where Jewish artists can support each other as they create their work. It will be a networking opportunity for Jews who want to collaborate on projects with other Jews and become a resource to community groups that want to produce art with Jewish content. This is an exciting opportunity to connect Jews and the Arts in our community—whether you are an artist or just love to support the Arts.
WOMEN’S PHILANTHROPY

Federation inspires and empowers women to become leaders and decision-makers, and women philanthropists became the change-makers and community-shapers of the community.

Whether engaging in events, acts of service or meaningful gifts—there was no limit to what our women philanthropists could accomplish. They harnessed our collective power to care for the most vulnerable populations, strengthened our Jewish community, inspired our next generation, and empowered our families and friends to change the world.

Our Lions rallied behind their signature event, ‘13 Extraordinary Women’, and introduced the community to Jewish women who made the world a better place through their leadership, acts of kindness and philanthropy. The sold-out event connected the community, raised critically needed-funds for PJ Library, and proved that these women are building and supporting Jewish life for today and for generations to come.

“Generation to generation (L’dor V’dor) is what our community needs to strive for. As a lifelong resident of Raleigh, I have seen the tremendous impact the Federation has made over generations to help grow our vibrant, Jewish community. We have come a long way, but still have a journey to reach our full potential. It is personally gratifying to be part of a grassroots effort to build a community for generations to come.”

— AMY BUSH
CHAIR, LIONS OF JUDAH
Board Trustee, Lions of Judah
We introduced the Pearl Society, our new generation of women philanthropists at the Federation. The Pearl Society is comprised of a group of young women who love and appreciate our Jewish community and want to help it thrive. They want to feel connected through networking, volunteering, events, education, and philanthropy.

“Jewish women in our community are looking to forge new friendships and strengthen our Jewish connection, while giving back to our community through impactful volunteer work. The Federation plays a big role in The Pearl Society through support and resources. In addition, the current programming that the Federation offers through JFS, JCC, PJ Library and JCRC inspire the Pearls to get involved with the amazing work that the Federation is doing.”

— SAMANTHA GRIFFIN
CHAIR, PEARL SOCIETY
Board Trustee, Young Women’s Philanthropy

Join us at the International Lion of Judah Conference in Miami in 2019 — the premier gathering of dynamic, philanthropic Jewish women. We will be honoring our own Claudia Kadis, who will be receiving the Kipnis-Wilson/Friedland Award for Community Service. We will be celebrating 25 years of Lion of Judah Endowment with ‘Forever Starts Today.’ Come celebrate with our Lions of Judah as we honor our new slate of 13 Extraordinary Women on November 1, 2018.
DAVID R. KAHN
JEWISH COMMUNITY CAMPUS

If you haven’t seen the Campus in a while, you haven’t seen the Campus at all! Our newly renovated David R. Kahn Jewish Community Campus reflects the growing richness of Jewish life in the Raleigh-Cary area. These are exciting times for us as we embark on a new chapter that will strengthen our community for generations.

You won’t believe your eyes. The curbing is complete. Asphalt is being laid to finish the roads and parking lots. We now have a high-tech, environmentally-friendly system that delivers water from the Campus pond to the athletic fields. The future competition-quality athletic fields and surrounding areas now have a coat of four acres of top soil.

Come visit us—we have monthly tours. The Kahn Campus is your new home for Raleigh-Cary Jewish life.

“We invested in the new campus in memory of Craig’s mother, who valued family and was a Jewish Community Center leader during much of his childhood. We want our children to be involved in their own local Jewish community, and to maintain that connection as they grow.”

- Anna & Craig Meddin

- Craig Meddin, Board Trustee, Corporate Partnerships

WHAT’S NEXT >

Look for the official Campus Naming Celebration of the David R. Kahn Jewish Community Campus. The Campus will host The Israel Center, pristine office space, meetings rooms, and convening spaces for large and small events, lectures, movies, and conference meetings. We’re planting a sustainable Pearl Garden and constructing PJ Library little free libraries and installing a bevy of sitting benches to relax while overlooking the water. For each piece that is constructed, there are meaningful building and naming opportunities.

FEDERATION PROGRAM SUPPORT

- Senior Services: 12%
- Jewish Identity and Education: 12%
- Vulnerable Populations and Emergency Response: 18%
- Local, Israel, and Overseas Organizations: 6%
- Youth and Teen Services: 52%

10: OUR COMMUNITY: 2018
Happy Birthday to PJ Library Raleigh-Cary! In our very first year, we became one of the nation’s fastest growing PJ communities, engaging hundreds of Jewish families with children ages 6 months - 8 years, with Jewish ideas and conversations through the introduction of books, music, and other media.

It was a busy year. We hosted over 30 family events, including Havdalah gatherings, holiday-themed breakfasts and pot-luck dinners, community-wide celebrations, and small meetups around town. In July, PJ Library teamed with Camp JCC to bring renowned Jewish musician Rick Recht to Raleigh for a special concert.

Our Pop ups were everywhere. Children enjoyed free ice pops, pretzels, juice boxes and story time at the Cary Splash Pad, Apex Wednesday Wine Pop Up, PJ Bowling Funday Sunday, Ice Cream, Bubbles & Stories Pop Up, and Let’s Go to the Farm Pop Up.

The Leon Levine Foundation funded us for the new NC PJ Connectors program. Our two connectors are building authentic relationships, creating new, barrier-free Jewish experiences, and expanding communities in Cary-Apex and Wake Forest.

PJ Library families also got together to do many Mitzvot; reading to seniors in a memory care facility, hosting a book drive to benefit families that lost their PJ Library books in wildfires and hurricanes, and painting uplifting Kindness Rocks to hide around town.

For many of our families, PJ Library serves as the entry point to Jewish life and involvement in the Jewish community—which is why we are so excited to be sending 550 books per month to families in our community!

PJ Library has been such a gift to our family. Our 6 year-old excitedly jumps for joy and now our toddler is starting to really get involved. It has been a great way to keep our family connected to Judaism and enjoy our time together. We feel lucky that we have such an active PJ Library community. The play dates, baby playgroup, and events are a special, fun way to meet people and stay connected. Thanks PJ!! The Whitaker family appreciates you!

— MEG WHITAKER, RALEIGH, NC
The JCRC built bridges of understanding and communication within our Jewish community and beyond to the general community this year. Whether advocating for Jewish students, teachers and staff with Wake County Public Schools, meeting with government officials, exploring interfaith initiatives, or strengthening ties to Israel, the JCRC represented the interests of our Jewish community every day.

JCRC created the Israeli Film Festival to great community acclaim. Each film represented support for Israel and the Jewish community, but also provided food for thought. We led the way to enact our NC anti-BDS law.

JCRC worked with local media to maintain fair and accurate coverage of issues relating to Israel and the Middle East. We invited the Anti-Defamation League and Israel Action Network to talk about the rise of hate in America and the changing relationships between Israel and the United States.

We worked with local and state law enforcement officials like the FBI, SBI, Homeland Security and Department of Public Safety, to review and coordinate security plans for local Jewish facilities. We held the first Jewish safety and security meeting for all synagogues and organizations in the greater Raleigh area to learn from the experts about best practices in community safety.

With collaboration from the Jewish Council for Policy Affairs (JCPA), Israel’s Consul General for the Southeastern US, The Israel Action Network, the Israel Task Force, Voice for Israel, the North Carolina General Assembly, the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, the North Carolina Attorney General, the Anti-Defamation League, and our sister NC Jewish Federations, the JCRC informed and educated city, county, and state government officials regarding issues of interest to the Jewish community.

They were the impactful voice of Federation Jewish social justice.

“The JCRC is necessary to effectively address the issues most important to the Raleigh-Cary Jewish community. Whether it’s support for Israel, school holiday calendars, anti-Semitism and other forms of hate or more, the JCRC builds relationships across our region and provides a common voice to address the important issues we share. The Federation provides the foundation for the JCRC - helping to connect us within and beyond our Jewish community.”

—BETH WOLFE
Board Trustee, Legal
JCRC Member
Israel today faces an intensive and increasingly sophisticated assault on its right to exist as a sovereign, democratic Jewish state. On college campuses, and within professional and academic associations, in global politics and throughout local communities, instances of delegitimization targeting Israel continue to arise. It’s our mission to support Israel.

We led the conversation about Israel within our community and NC became the 22nd State to pass and enact anti-BDS legislation. We pushed for the passage of a resolution honoring the founding of Israel, and reveled in the first NC Jewish Federations Legislative Reception.

We premiered the first Israeli Film Festival, helped collect backpacks for Israeli children, and we welcomed the lively Tzofim Israeli Scouts into our community.

We travelled to Berlin and Budapest on the Federation Mission to witness the difference our dollars were making on these growing Jewish communities. We marched in the Berlin Kippah Walk, attended Shabbat Services spoken in German, and were delighted to visit the Budapest JCC and the Federation-funded Szarvas Camp, where children were enthusiastically immersed in Jewish tradition through song, dance and camp activities.

Loving the land of Israel is inseparable from Judaism. It is in our Torah, our oral tradition, and celebrated during many of our holidays. We worship facing Jerusalem. As diaspora Jews we should all continue to be astonished and in awe that we have the privilege to be alive with the existence of a strong Jewish state. We should never take this for granted. For nearly two millennia, our ancestors could have only dreamed of it. The Federation is essential in bringing the whole Jewish community together to continue to personally connect to and support our 70-year-old miracle.

—ALAN KRITZ
Board Trustee, Israel & Overseas
The JCC proved to be the place for everyone! We offered programs for people of all ages and stages of life and many opportunities to see old friends and meet new ones. We welcomed some new friends ourselves, with the creation of our Triangle Newcomers program that offered monthly social gatherings including a Meet & Greet Breakfast and a Dinner Club. Everyone felt connected in their new home.

Regardless of your age or interests, the JCC offered plenty of programs to stimulate your mind and invigorate your body. We quenched your thirst for knowledge through our Jewish Living & Learning series and saw record attendance at our Healthy Living cooking programs. If exercise was more your thing, we had you covered from fitness classes for new mothers to our cardio strength program led by Gym Guyz.

“Having the JCC nearby and having the ability to attend meaningful workshops, lectures, and activities with like-minded people has been invaluable. Our children attended camp, played soccer and were on the swim team. Now they are grown and recently we have been drawn in again because of the many new interesting program offerings. It was a comfort to belong to the JCC when our family moved here and I look forward to having a place which continues to be a source of stimulation intellectually, socially, physically and culturally in the years to come. We are grateful to have the JCC as a place to belong and thrive.”

– Simone Horvitz

Our young families engaged in monthly programming and events with a connection to Judaism, exceeding our goal to build friendships with other families and the sense of “community” for generations to come.

“My son Dante is on the Autism Spectrum. He attended 4 weeks at Camp JCC this summer. The staff and campers both made it a wonderful experience for him. He always felt included and was given consideration to his needs when appropriate. We WILL be back next year!”

– Laura Marks

In 2018, we launched the J Travels program which provided bus transportation to local universities, museums and more. Our empty nesters never felt fuller! They joined Restorative (meditative) Yoga with Yin (Deep Stretching), had fun learning how to pickle vegetables, enjoyed Mah Jongg in the afternoons, and came to listen to exciting talks by a wealth of interesting Jewish experts. There really was something for everyone.

“I first attended a free yoga class last December that was open to the public. I am not Jewish but attended. I loved it. Mindy was there and gave me information about joining the JCC. I told her I wasn’t Jewish and she said that was totally fine, you didn’t need to be Jewish to be a member. I joined that week. I have enjoyed my book club meetings, the speaker luncheons, the yoga sessions and J Travels (I went to Duke to hear Anne Frank’s step sister speak and to the Virginia Holocaust Museum). I am warmly welcomed by staff and other attendees each time I go to an event. The JCC is an awesome place welcoming of all!”

– Tricia Andrews
The JCC was the best place for kids who love to play, learn and grow. At Camp JCC, campers of all ages and abilities spent their days fishing and boating at our lakefront, creating masterpieces, dancing, swimming, learning about Israel and so much more. Our J-Rays swim team helped swimmers improve strokes, starts and endurance, but more importantly we taught good sportsmanship and teamwork! And, the fun didn’t end when summer was over at the J! Our School’s Out-J’s In-Camps and Year Round swim programs kept kids connected with their friends and the JCC staff.

“Arden had a magical summer at Camp JCC. She has been excited to go every morning, and excited to tell me about her day every afternoon at pickup. You have a really amazing team of counselors with positive, fun-loving attitudes. And I have been really impressed by the programming. It is clear that a lot of thought has gone into it--especially yesterday’s program. Having worked at Camp JCC a LONG time ago, it makes me so happy to see that the Camp has developed into what it is today.”

–Whitney Waldenberg

WHAT’S NEXT >

We have over 50 new programs scheduled through the rest of 2018, including our new Creative Arts classes that will inspire you to explore your artistic side while designing different pieces of art each month and schmoozing with your friends. Men’s basketball will also start up in November and will be a great opportunity for some friendly competition and a chance to meet new people.

In 2019, the JCC is turning 25 so stay tuned for a BIG cycling event to celebrate our birthday. We are gearing up to incorporate an exciting array of programming that will help you to live your best life possible while celebrating our 25th birthday. We will offer special programming to bring the whole family together as we mark this milestone year. Families will have the opportunity to play, exercise and learn together while we continue enriching our community with exciting new programs for everyone.