

IMPACT REPORT

2024 – 2025



OUR THANKS TO YOU

Dear Friends,

Every day at the JCCSF we see modern, diverse Jewish life in action – toddlers singing Hebrew songs, older adults immersed in lifelong learning, teens finding their footing, and adults of all ages getting fit. Our inclusive, intergenerational community is thriving during one of the most consequential chapters in recent Jewish history.

In this post-October 7 world, our community turns to the JCCSF for meaning, guidance, and connection – to confront antisemitism, engage thoughtfully with Israel, and embrace Jewish pride. We have become their safe, affirming Jewish space.

This year, leading thinkers and cultural voices joined us to explore the challenges of our time. Spirited celebrations and soulful commemorations deepened belonging, while partnerships – including our pioneering B’vakasha Initiative, which supports smaller Jewish nonprofits – strengthened the broader Jewish ecosystem.

Our mission’s resilience is matched by strong fiscal health. Thanks to impactful programs, community support, and dedicated staff, the JCCSF remains debt free, balanced, and accessible to all – serving more people than any other Jewish organization in the Bay Area.

The milestones in this 2024 – 2025 Impact Report reflect your generosity and partnership. As you read, I hope you feel inspired by the life-changing impact we’ve created together.

With gratitude,



Paul Geduldig
Chief Executive Officer

WHO WE ARE

OFFICERS July 2024 – June 2025

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Michael Eisler, Chair | Danielle Foreman, At-Large |
| Juliana Bunim, Vice Chair | Craig McGahey, At-Large |
| Greg Geronemus, Treasurer | Lyn Werbach, At-Large |
| Dan Shapiro, Co-Secretary | Peter Ross, Immediate Past Chair |
| Trisha Sherman, Co-Secretary | Paul Geduldig, CEO |

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- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
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| Riva Berelson | Dash Robinson |
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| Joanna Forster | Neal Tandowsky |
| Peter Friend | Martin Tannenbaum |
| Alexander Germanacos | Brent Vallat |
| Raphael Haas | Melissa White |
| Eve Myers Loecher | Brian Williamson |

CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

- | | |
|---|--|
| Claude & Louise Rosenberg Early Childhood Education Program | Koret Center for Health, Fitness & Sport |
| Eugene & Elinor Friend Center for the Arts | Kritzer/Ross Émigré Program |
| Gold Center for Youth & Family | Richard & Rhoda Goldman Center for Adult Living & Learning |
| Kanbar Center for Media & Technology | Taube Center for Jewish Peoplehood |

MISSION & VALUES

We believe Jewish culture and traditions provide a pathway for joyful, meaningful living. In a changing world, we bring people together to explore, connect and flourish. These quotations, known as our *Sheva Middot* – or Seven Core Values, appear on the 30-foot sculpted wall in the building’s atrium.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| K’lal Yisrael // Jewish Inclusiveness | Re-ut // Friendship |
| Ruah // Spirit | Hahnasat Orhim // Welcoming Strangers |
| Torah // Torah | Tikkun Ha-olam // Repair the World |
| Tzedek // Justice | |

SERVING AS A BRIGHT LIGHT FOR MODERN, DIVERSE JEWISH LIFE

SPARK JEWISH JOY

Over the course of the year, our vision of modern, diverse Jewish life came into clear focus. Even as antisemitism surged outside our walls, we nurtured a safe, joyful Jewish space inside.

Hundreds of community members, including **Mayor Daniel Lurie** (a proud JCCSF preschool alumnus) joined us for our **Gratitude Shabbat** and **Shabbat Around the Table**, two events filled with live music, Shabbat rituals, connection, and great food!



EVERYDAY JUDAISM

We also served up opportunities to take the wonder of Shabbat home.

Twist of Tradition: Hands-On Challah brought braiders of all ages to our atrium every month.

We hosted weekly Torah study and three 12-week sessions of Hebrew classes for **100+ leaders of all levels**.

As part of the Contemporary Jewish Museum's Marilyn Yolles Waldman Distinguished Speakers Series, we welcomed **Adam Gopnik**, a veteran staff writer for *The New Yorker*. In his talk, ***Cities and Jewish Life***, Gopnik reflected on urban Jewish communities across the world and the defining role Jewish life has played in our urban landscape.



“

Rabbi Batshir's Torah/Talmud Study has been thought-provoking, informative and a great exchange of interpretation amidst these challenging times we're all living through.

**NEAL TANDOWSKY,
JCCSF BOARD MEMBER**

”



HOLIDAYS ARE CELEBRATED

Partnering with Reboot, we ushered in the year 5785 with a modern version of the 600-year-old Rosh Hashanah ritual known as **tashlich**. Hundreds heard the call of the shofar (accompanied by expert bagpipers) and started the year anew.



Our first **Hanukkah Maker's Market** warmed up the winter season for **300 people with 21 local vendors**.



Purimpalooza kicked off a spirited spring at the JCCSF! Collaborating with Congregation Emanu-El for the second year in a row, close to **900 participants** delighted in crafts, games, a *Wicked*-inspired Purim shpiel, and plenty of hamantaschen.

“

It's a reminder that so much of the Jewish practice has to do with gathering. Showing up. It's easier to do in times of joy and often more important in times of distress. It felt so nice to be in a shared space together and make joyful noise!

TASHLIQUE PARTICIPANT

”



Passover at the JCCSF was joyful, meaningful, and delicious! Over 200 community members participated in our **First Night Passover Seder**, revisiting the story of liberation with song, ritual, and reimaginings of familiar Passover narratives.

Our second vibrant **Mimouna Celebration** with JIMENA (Jews Indigenous to the Middle East and North Africa) marked the end of Passover with the music, sweets, and traditions that make a Moroccan Mimouna uniquely festive.

From apples and honey to matzah and music, our **older adult cohort celebrated the Jewish holidays** with lively lunches, spirited rituals, and engaging talks, as preschoolers bridged the generations with handmade (and hand-delivered) holiday cards.

200 COMMUNITY MEMBERS ATTENDED OUR FIRST NIGHT PASSOVER SEDER

THE B'VAKASHA INITIATIVE: WE SHARE SPACE, IGNITE VITALITY & GROW COMMUNITY

We brought new meaning to the Hebrew word b'vakasha – “of course,” “you are welcome.” Launched last year, our trailblazing B'vakasha Initiative is making it possible for the JCCSF to serve a larger swath of the Bay Area’s Jewish community, advance the work of many incredible Jewish nonprofits, and strengthen San Francisco’s Jewish communal landscape.

The initiative prioritizes relationship-building over earned revenue. In the past year, we offered over \$70,000 in free and subsidized access to our venue spaces and co-hosted over 40 events with partner organizations to expand our collective impact.



\$70,000 FREE OR SUBSIDIZED ACCESS TO OUR SPACES FOR MISSION ALIGNED ORGS

EXCITING HIGHLIGHTS

Chabad of Noe Valley turned our catering kitchen into a **Mega Challah Bake** for 200 participants.



Jewish Family and Children’s Services’ Shupin House returned for a joyful **Passover Seder** for adults with developmental disabilities and their families.



An Israeli social club organized a spirited **Sukkot Celebration** and **Tu Bishvat Seder**.



THESE PARTNERSHIPS – THROUGH EVERY ACTIVITY, MEETING, AND EVENT – DEMONSTRATE THE POWER OF “YOU BELONG.”

STANDING STRONG – TOGETHER

Convening to explore, connect, and strengthen Jewish identity is core to our mission – and more urgent than ever. The complexity of Israel and the escalation of antisemitism have brought our community together in ways we never imagined.

We invited scholars, artists, and clergy to lead talks, workshops, and exhibitions. The JCCSF’s Rabbi Batshir Torchio facilitated spiritual care programs. We held space for learning, dialogue, and growth, moving the work forward together.

Lee Yaron, acclaimed *Ha’aretz* investigative journalist and winner of last year’s National Jewish Book of the Year Award, shared **10/7 Human Stories**. Yaron has chronicled the history of Israel and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through the stories of 100 civilians murdered on October 7.

We welcomed **award-winning filmmaker Wendy Sachs** and her powerful documentary **October H8TE** (executive produced by Debra Messing), which examines the rise in campus antisemitism and anti-Israel sentiment after October 7 and its impact on free speech and democracy.



Holding onto Humanity brought us messages of hope. Partnering with Congregation Sha’ar Zahav, we brought Israeli-American tech entrepreneur Offir Gutelzon and Palestinian peace activist Hamze Awawde together for a thoughtful and timely talk – **Hope in a Time of Trauma** – that contemplated the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the pursuit of peace, and a shared future.



The Broken Seder, the first large-scale immersive art installation in the Bay Area to explore how it feels to be Jewish in a post-October 7 world, made its debut at the JCCSF. Artist Day Schildkret’s experiential piece adapted the age-old Passover question: “What makes this time different from all other times?” Over 400 visitors contemplated the answer.



In April, we presented San Francisco’s **Yom HaShoah commemoration** in partnership with the JFCS Holocaust Center and, together with community partners, including the Consulate General of Israel, organized the city’s principal **Yom HaZikaron service** in Hebrew. Hundreds gathered to honor the lives lost on October 7, victims of the Holocaust, and Israel’s fallen soldiers.

400 VISITORS CONTEMPLATED THE ART INSTALLATION – THE BROKEN SEDER

BUILDING BOUNDLESS VIBRANCY

Every day, **4,000 people** of all ages and life stages found a sense of belonging at the JCCSF. They listened to experts and rising stars, stayed fit, and, beginning last fall, noshed on Jewish delectables at **Wise Sons Deli!** Our favorite local headline: "SF's favorite Jewish deli is opening inside this beloved institution!" -*SF Gate*

ARTS & IDEAS When we offered food, music, film, talks, theater, art (and more) – our community said YES!



In this year's sold-out Pritzker Family Lecture, actor-writer-director **Jesse Eisenberg** spent an evening on our stage reflecting on his award-winning film, *A Real Pain* – a Jewish heritage story – and his own personal Jewish journey.



Top chefs led tasty, sold-out talks. **Meredith Hayden**, **Michael Solomonov**, and **David Nayfeld** whipped up recipes, kitchen stories, and practical cooking tips for devoted foodies and families.

We welcomed literary luminary **Isabel Allende** back to the JCCSF. She discussed her gripping new historical novel, *My Name is Emilia del Valle*, in front of a sold-out audience with many first-time visitors.

Our **One Nation** art exhibition, curated by the Heller Museum at Hebrew Union College, captured the essence of our country's past, present, and future through paintings, woodcuts, photography, collage, and textiles in our Katz Snyder Gallery.

Prominent parent educator **Dr. Becky Kennedy** visited the JCCSF, offering concrete guidance grounded in clinical psychology. Prior to her visit, Rabbi Batshir Torchio led three discussion sessions with parents to explore the relationship between Dr. Becky's insights and Jewish parenting wisdom.





PRESCHOOL The 316 children enrolled in the JCCSF's three preschools developed socially, emotionally, and intellectually. They tested new waters, found BFFs, and harnessed the power of play. 20% of our students received financial assistance, totaling close to \$630,000.

We continue to invest in our JCCSF preschool educators. Our partnership with EarlyJ enabled 3 of our teachers to earn a master's degree in Jewish Early Childhood Education at American Jewish University – with EarlyJ generously covering 90% of tuition fees.

Our Parent Council is at the heart of our preschool community. These volunteers weave connections among families, support our teachers, and help make the JCCSF's preschool experience magical.

“

From the moment we joined Diller, we knew we had found something special. The teachers are extraordinary – nurturing, experienced, and truly devoted to each child's journey. In small, loving classrooms, our children's confidence and love of learning blossomed. When it came time for kindergarten, we felt the full weight of the Diller community behind us. They made every step feel personal, supported, and full of joy.

HELEN DILLER FAMILY PRESCHOOL PARENT

”

20% OF STUDENTS RECEIVED \$630,000 IN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

90% OF TUITION COVERED FOR 3 TEACHERS TO EARN JEWISH EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION MASTER'S DEGREES



TIKVAH SCHOOL OF MUSIC & DANCE Fifty-two Ukrainian and Russian children reconnected with their roots while experiencing Jewish culture through music, dance, art, and Shabbat ruach (spirit). Now in its 35th year, the program is enrolling children of alumni.



SWIM SCHOOL Thousands of children splashed, kicked, and got water safe. The JCCSF taught 1,400 swim lessons every week.



YOUTH SPORTS Hundreds of young athletes enrolled in basketball, volleyball, and soccer, getting a healthy mix of fundamentals and fun.

Our teen athletes joined over 2,800 peers from across the globe to play in the JCC Maccabi Games®. The games foster Jewish connections, personal growth, and lifelong resilience.

SUMMER CAMP 916 children thrived as campers. They stretched comfort zones, forged fast friendships, and soaked up Jewish joy. We distributed **\$97,000 in financial assistance** among 57 children in need.

1,400 SWIM LESSONS
TAUGHT EVERY WEEK

916 SUMMER
CAMPERS



FITNESS The JCCSF Fitness Center was named **Best Gym in San Francisco magazine's 2025 "Best of the Bay"** issue! From cardio to aquatics and spirited fitness events, welcoming members from 4,200 households, we're building strong bodies – and community.

HEALTHY AGING We engaged almost 3,000 lifelong learners all year long – in concerts, conversations, and a new virtual program called Aging Alone Together. Our taxi voucher program continued to help older adults get around town to run errands or work out at the Fitness Center. Thanks to the support of the Jewish Federation Bay Area, we distributed 365 free rides.

4,200 HOUSEHOLDS
WORKOUT

3,000 LIFELONG
LEARNERS

ADDING TEXTURE TO THE CULTURAL FABRIC OF SAN FRANCISCO

The spirit of our Center radiated across the city – crossing zip codes, serving new neighborhoods, and connecting with communities of every kind.



JEWISH JOY IN THE HEART OF THE CITY

Hundreds of San Franciscans popped into the JCCSF's 8th annual **Sukkot Pop-Up** at the Ferry Plaza Farmers Market. They came to learn, engage, and taste the sweet and savory flavors of the Jewish fall harvest.



With winter's approach, our 7th **Glowing Hanukkah Pop-Up** brought more than 800 people to Ghirardelli Square. Collaborating with local artists, musicians, chefs, and Jewish partners, we celebrated Hanukkah light and turned the iconic San Francisco landmark into a shining communal Jewish space.

800 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE GHIRARDELLI SQUARE GLOWING HANUKKAH POP-UP



The JCCSF's innovative celebration of Black freedom, **Erev Juneteenth**, returned as an evening of heritage and heart, blending Black and Jewish traditions. Chef Michael W. Twitty and Joshua Nelson, the "Prince of Kosher Gospel," nourished the souls of a sold-out audience twice as large as the crowd at last year's debut.

Continuing a long-standing partnership, we teamed up with Value Culture on two **Jewish Heritage Nights** at iconic San Francisco venues. We rooted for our San Francisco Giants with Jewish pride at Oracle Park, and celebrated the wonders of the natural world at the California Academy of Sciences.

PROUD & JEWISH

Pride Month was full of JCCSF pride! With JCRC, we assembled the largest-ever Proud & Jewish contingent in San Francisco's Pride Parade, in partnership with the Jewish Community Federation and Keshet. We also presented the **14th Annual Pink Saturday Pride Zumbafest** and our colorful **Pride Family Festival**, which brought together drag performances, story time, dancing, and our many amazing community partners.

The swell of Pride at the JCCSF reflects our community's deep support of the LGBTQ+ community and respect for the generations of advocates dedicated to protecting their rights and safety.



“

What an incredible evening! Pink Saturday at the JCCSF brought the energy, the community spirit, and a whole lot of fabulous vibes. From the music to the outfits, the whole space was buzzing with joy, connection, and pride. It was heartwarming to see people of all backgrounds coming together, dancing, laughing, and just celebrating life.

PINK SATURDAY PRIDE ZUMBAFEST PARTICIPANT

”



SUPPORTING KIDS WHO NEED IT MOST

Over the past year, our civic partnerships helped bridge the opportunity gap for hundreds of San Francisco children.

Thanks to grant support from the **Department of Children, Youth and Their Families** (DCYF), **JCCSF Citywide** continues to thrive. Last year, the program provided free weekly arts instruction to 769 children attending 14 historically underserved K-5 public schools.

Our partnership with **Children's Council**, one of San Francisco's leading children's advocacy organizations, made JCCSF programs financially accessible to 23 children – 17 campers and 6 preschoolers!

“

This experience proved the benefits of having long-term relationships with school sites; even though we can't serve every public-school student with our program, we can have a lasting impact on many students' lives by showing up as a consistent programmatic partner.

FELIPE RAMIREZ,
JCCSF CITYWIDE ART TEACHER

”

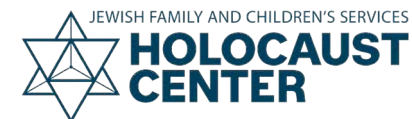
769 UNDERSERVED
CHILDREN HAD
WEEKLY ART CLASS

23 CHILDREN'S COUNCIL
KIDS ATTENDED
PROGRAMS



WE ARE GROWING IMPACTFUL PARTNERSHIPS

OUR PARTNERSHIPS SPAN THE BAY AREA JEWISH COMMUNITY AND SAN FRANCISCO. TOGETHER, WE'VE BROADENED OUR REACH, STRENGTHENED OUR PROGRAMMING, WORKED SMARTER, AND SHARED RESOURCES TO DEEPEN OUR COLLECTIVE IMPACT. MANY THANKS TO OUR INCREDIBLE PARTNERS!



CITY ARTS & LECTURES



This is a partial list of FY24-25 partnerships – some are ongoing and more are forming. We regret any unintentional omissions.

STRONG, STABLE, RESILIENT

In a rapidly changing world, the JCCSF stands on a strong foundation. Thanks to the dedication of our staff, Board, and generous donors, we've regained a level of stability not experienced since 2020.

KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE

The safety of our children, families, guests, and staff is our top priority. In response to citywide political protests, an uptick in antisemitism, and the current climate of uncertainty, we have proactively optimized our security posture and protocols across our JCCSF sites to remain agile and prepared.

A SOLID FINANCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Our rebound from the pandemic continues – we have a balanced budget and the JCCSF remains debt free. Earned revenue rose during FY25 and **philanthropic revenue has increased by 33%** over the past 4 years. The JCCSF's annual fundraising campaign, At the Heart of it All, reached its goal with a **7.7% year-over-year increase**.

DELIVERING OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Welcoming 4,000 people to the JCCSF every day calls on us to deliver the best possible customer service, cultivate a cohesive workforce culture, and drive actionable efficiencies.



“

The word that best represents the JCCSF is inclusive. My hope for the future is that the JCCSF continues to be a vital Jewish space for everyone.

GALE MONDRY, PAST BOARD CHAIR

”

LOOKING FORWARD

A STUNNING NEW EXPERIENCE

The road ahead is filled with possibility, beginning with the **major renovation of Kanbar Hall**, our iconic theater and the cultural heart of our building.

This project, set for completion in **March 2026**, epitomizes the power of legacy giving. The remarkable generosity of **Maurice Kanbar z”l** helped fund the original renovation of Kanbar Hall in 2004 – and now his estate is fueling its transformation. It is an extraordinary investment in our building and the JCCSF’s future.

Because of our donors and supporters, our future shines with purpose and promise. Together, guided by Jewish values, we’ll continue shaping a community where everyone feels seen, valued, and at home.

TAKE A PEEK

These are architectural renderings of Kanbar Hall’s fresh, new look. There will be Dolby Atmos / 5.1 Surround Sound – a game-changer for film – along with enhanced acoustics and a new high-performance screen and projector. Fully modernized seating will bring an extraordinary level of comfort and enjoyment. We can’t wait.

z”l May their memory be a blessing



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

The generosity of our supporters powers everything we do at the JCCSF. Their commitment makes it possible to deliver transformative, forward-thinking programs, nurture a vibrant and inclusive Jewish community, and ensure that our offerings remain financially accessible to all who seek connection, learning, and belonging.

\$250,000+

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John Pritzker Family Fund
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\$50,000 – \$99,999

The Creative Work Fund
EarlyJ
Grants for the Arts
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\$5,000 – \$9,999

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z”l May their memory be a blessing

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\$500 – \$999

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The Olive Tree Society honors those individuals who have created a lasting legacy by including the JCCSF in their estate plans or through the creation of a named endowment fund. Their lasting investment ensures the future of the JCCSF as a vibrant center for Jewish values and community life for generations to come.

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Kanbar Hall – the JCCSF’s iconic theater and cultural heart – was born from the extraordinary generosity of Maurice Kanbar in 2004. Now, two decades later, his legacy lives on. A transformative renovation, made possible by his estate, is reimagining the space for generations to come. Set for completion in March 2026, this project is a powerful testament to the enduring power of legacy giving.

z”l May their memory be a blessing