

A HUB FOR JEWISH LIFE IN SAN FRANCISCO

JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER OF SAN FRANCISCO
2025 – 2026 IMPACT REPORT









OUR THANKS TO YOU



Dear Friends,

As the JCCSF approaches its 150th anniversary, I reflect with deep gratitude on the strength of our history, the urgency of this moment, and the Jewish future we are building together.

Jewish life and San Francisco are both evolving. The ways people seek community, meaning, and belonging are changing in real time. In this environment, strong, vibrant places for Jewish life matter more than ever.

For me, the JCCSF is one of those essential places: a hub of Jewish life that is broadly inclusive, unabashedly Jewish, and a safe, affirming home for one of the nation's largest and most diverse Jewish communities.

This year, I was moved by the thousands of people who found connection here through holiday celebrations, early childhood education, fitness and wellness, lifelong learning, and Jewish arts and culture. Together, we welcomed leading voices, expanded film programming in Kanbar Hall, opened our campus to partner organizations, and increased financial assistance for families.

The spirit of B'vakasha continues to guide how we lead – with generosity, creativity, and a willingness to collaborate in pursuit of even greater collective impact.

Thank you for helping us meet this moment. As you read, I hope you feel the pride I feel in what we have accomplished together and the excitement I feel for the vibrant Jewish future we are continuing to build in San Francisco.

With gratitude,

Paul Geduldig, Chief Executive Officer

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.



SHEVA MIDDOT – OUR SEVEN CORE VALUES

K'LAL YISRAEL // JEWISH INCLUSIVENESS

RUAH // SPIRIT

TORAH // TORAH

TZEDEK // JUSTICE

RE-UT // FRIENDSHIP

HAHNASAT ORHIM // WELCOMING STRANGERS

TIKKUN HA-OLAM // REPAIR THE WORLD

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Kritzer/Ross Émigré Program

Richard & Rhoda Goldman Center for Adult Living & Learning

Taube Center for Jewish Peoplehood

This is a time when living Jewishly can feel both deeply meaningful and unexpectedly vulnerable.

People are looking for safe places where they can gather, celebrate, learn, share Jewish culture, belong, and feel proud.

WHAT MAKES A PLACE LIKE THAT POSSIBLE?

IT ALL BEGINS WITH...

B'VAKASHA

(בבקשה, b'va-ka-SHAH)

PLEASE.

YOU'RE WELCOME.

GO AHEAD.

AT THE JCCSF, THE SPIRIT OF B'VAKASHA TRANSFORMS A BUILDING INTO A HUB FOR JEWISH LIFE IN SAN FRANCISCO.









"Whenever I walk through the doors, there is a positive energy and a buzz that immediately puts a smile on my face."

Michael Eisler, Board Chair

THE HUB IN ACTION



Voted 2025
BEST GYM
San Francisco Magazine
Best of the Bay



385,470 total Fitness Center check-ins
11% more than last year





2,914 Lifelong Learning participants
5% more than last year



33 Arts & Ideas Programs
5,812 tickets sold
11% more tickets than last year



1,400 swim lessons per week, reaching maximum capacity!





1,889 kids served in summer programs

320 Preschool students across 3 campuses
99% capacity

3,230 people participated in
23 Israel-focused programs



109 average Hebrew students per term
4% more classes than last year



CONNECT

B'VAKASHA BEGINS BY OPENING THE DOOR

Community starts with an invitation. The JCCSF creates opportunities for people of all ages, backgrounds, abilities, and Jewish experiences to meet, connect, and build relationships.



Wise Sons at the JCCSF

"Meet at Wise Sons for coffee?"

"Let's take that Zumba class together."

"Bring the grandkids to Purimpalooza!"

"Want to work in the atrium with me?"

MORE THAN A SWIM CLASS

Five years ago, Holocaust survivor Miriam Ofer z"l struck up a conversation with Renaldo Thompson at the JCCSF pool.

"I like your smile," she told him. "Well, I like your smile," he replied.

That simple exchange grew into a cherished friendship. For years, Renaldo picked Miriam up three times a week for lunch and swim class at the JCCSF, where they shared laughter, companionship, and the kind of connection that enriched both of their lives.

"She treated me like her son," Renaldo says. "It meant everything to me."

Their friendship is a lasting reminder that **B'vakasha begins with a simple act of welcome.**



Renaldo Thompson and Miriam Ofer z"l

THE B'VAKASHA INITIATIVE

The B'vakasha Initiative reflects our belief that **Jewish life is strongest when we lead with generosity**. By sharing our spaces with Jewish organizations across San Francisco, we provide a safe, Jewish-affirming space for collaboration, conversation, and connection that amplifies our collective impact. From a dinner for descendants of Holocaust survivors to a Passover seder for adults with developmental disabilities, we opened our doors to gatherings that might not otherwise have had a place to call home.

WE OPENED OUR DOORS TO OVER

82

PARTNER EVENTS



Shupin House gathering, photo by Levi Meir Clancy

A PLACE TO BEGIN

Sometimes, the only thing people need is a place to begin. After October 7, members of San Francisco's Israeli community came to the JCCSF looking for a safe place to gather. What started as a single art workshop grew into an ongoing series of holiday celebrations and community gatherings – **creating a welcoming space where Hebrew speakers could feel at home**.



Rikud By The Bay



The Lunch Club with Repair the World

"You were generous in your time, in your resources, and in your positive spirit. We felt so welcomed and held at the JCCSF."

Debra Massey, Jewish Family & Children's Services

SHINE

ARTS & IDEAS PUTS JEWISH CULTURE CENTER STAGE

Jewish culture reminds us who we are. Through comedy, conversation, film, music, and storytelling – from Israeli cookbook author Adeena Sussman to musical legends The Klezmatics – ideas spark, laughter echoes, and conversations continue long after the programs end. By sharing the richness of Jewish culture with audiences of all backgrounds, these experiences celebrate creativity, strengthen our identity, and inspire Jewish pride.



Sarah Silverman



Alex Edelman, 2026 Pritzker Family Lecture



The Klezmatics

A NEW HOME FOR FILM

Thanks to a generous bequest from the estate of Maurice Kanbar z"l, the transformation of Kanbar Hall has positioned the JCCSF as a **premier destination for film in the Bay Area**. By contributing our space, people, and resources to partnerships with leading film organizations, we're expanding access to outstanding film while strengthening the Bay Area's Jewish ecosystem.

SFFILM chose the JCCSF to host the closing weekend of the 69th **San Francisco International Film Festival**.

We established a core partnership with the Jewish Film Institute for year-round programming and will serve as a Premier Venue for next year's **San Francisco Jewish Film Festival**.

In honor of Yom HaShoah, we hosted two screenings of the **award-winning documentary *Among Neighbors***, sparking conversations about history, memory, and antisemitism.



Photo courtesy of SFFILM

EXPANDING ACCESS

Sometimes the best way to fulfill our mission is to look beyond our own walls. When we brought Rabbi Angela Buchdahl to San Francisco, **we partnered with Congregation Emanu-El** to host the event in a larger venue, reaching hundreds more people than we could have on our own. By combining our programming expertise with trusted community partnerships, we expand access while strengthening Jewish life across the Bay Area.



Rabbi Angela Buchdahl with Rabbi Ryan Bauer

CELEBRATE

WE TURN TRADITIONS INTO SHARED EXPERIENCES

Traditions come alive when we celebrate them together. Through music, food, ritual, and joy, the JCCSF brings people together for holidays, milestones, and moments of pride – inviting everyone to take part in their own way.

Throughout the year, we bring the Jewish calendar to life through joyful, community-wide celebrations. From our **Rosh Hashanah Family Festival and Tashlique to Purimpalooza, Mimouna, and our First Night Passover Seder**, these shared experiences connect generations, strengthen traditions, and remind us that Jewish holidays are best celebrated together.

5,150 people attended 18 Jewish Holiday Celebrations



Purimpalooza Festival

"Before I went to the JCCSF for Purim, I thought it was just a cool thing that my school did. But this year, I realized that there's a big community celebrating this holiday."

Dena, age 10, student photo journalist for *J. The Jewish News of Northern California*



Tashlique at Crissy Field, photo by Aaron Levy-Wolins (c) 2025 J. The Jewish News of Northern California. All Rights Reserved.



Pride Zumbafest

LIFE'S BIGGEST MOMENTS

The JCCSF is honored to be part of life's most meaningful Jewish moments. Whether celebrating a wedding, welcoming a child, marking a b'nei mitzvah, or gathering with family and friends, we help create meaningful experiences rooted in Jewish tradition. Through our **Torah and chuppah lending program** – and often with the support of Rabbi Batshir Torchio – we bring Jewish ritual and celebration to families both at the JCCSF and throughout the community.



Ashley Rutberg bat mitzvah

LEARN

CURIOSITY & CONNECTION GROW AT EVERY AGE

Learning is about more than gaining knowledge. It's about discovering where you belong, deepening your connection to Judaism, and continuing to grow at every stage of life. Through language, culture, creativity, and lifelong exploration, the JCCSF invites people of every age to learn something new – and carry it with them wherever they go.

LIFELONG LEARNING

Curiosity doesn't retire. Through lectures, discussion groups, creative workshops, wellness programs, and community gatherings, thousands of older adults continue to learn, connect, and thrive at the JCCSF. Together, these programs enrich daily life, foster friendships, and support well-being at every stage of aging.

HEBREW FOR JEWISH LIFE

Our **Hebrew classes** help adults build language skills, confidence, and a deeper connection to Jewish life.



Sutter Health Fair

"It is because of all of you that I no longer feel out of place at my synagogue. ... I can truly say that the JCCSF and all of you have helped shape who I am today as a person and a Jew."

Hebrew class student

35 YEARS OF TIKVAH

When Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union wanted their children to experience the traditions they had been denied, they helped create the **Tikvah School of Music & Dance**. Through music, dance, language, and celebration, children discovered a joyful connection to Russian Jewish culture – and families built lasting memories together.

Today, many of those children have become parents, teachers, and volunteers. They now return with the next generation, ensuring that Tikvah continues to inspire Russian and Ukrainian Jewish identity for generations to come.



Tikvah 35th Anniversary Performance

"Tikvah School has been a beacon of hope and support for my daughter and me, significantly easing our transition and enhancing [my child's] development."

Ukrainian refugee and Tikvah financial aid recipient

GROW

CHILDREN & FAMILIES FLOURISH IN COMMUNITY

Growth begins with opportunity. Every friendship, every new skill, and every shared experience help shape who we become. Through early childhood education, family engagement, camps, recreation, and wellness, the JCCSF helps children and families build confidence, strengthen relationships, and lay foundations that last a lifetime.

A STRONG START

The earliest years shape a lifetime of learning, confidence, and connection. At the JCCSF's three preschools – **the largest Jewish preschool system in the Bay Area** – more than 300 children learn through play, creativity, exploration, and the values of Jewish life. Every day, caring educators help children develop the curiosity, resilience, and friendships that prepare them for whatever comes next.



Diller preschoolers

"The school is INCREDIBLY welcoming and I definitely feel like it's a second home for my son, and for all of us when we come."

Brotherhood Way Preschool parent

GROWING ACCESS

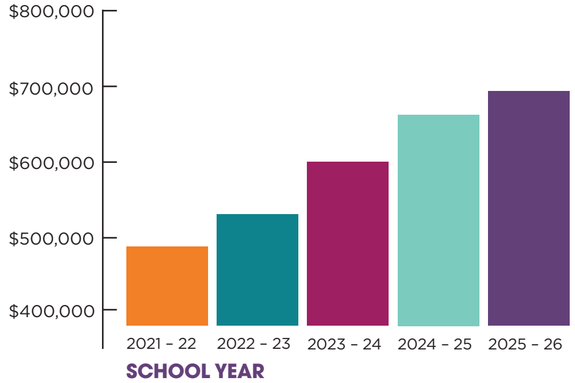
Over the past five years, the JCCSF has steadily increased financial assistance to make high-quality Jewish early childhood education **more accessible and affordable for families** in one of the country's most expensive cities.



Diller preschoolers

NEED-BASED FINANCIAL AID

TOTAL DOLLARS AWARDED



"We LOVE our school community! My child is known, deeply loved and cared for, and I have 100% peace of mind dropping her off at school each day."

Rosenberg Early Childhood Center parent



NURTURING JEWISH FAMILIES

Jewish traditions are strongest when they're lived at home. Through hands-on holiday workshops, playgroups for babies and toddlers, and partnerships with organizations like PJ Library and Jewish Baby Network, **the JCCSF offers Jewish parents the tools, confidence, and community they need** to create meaningful traditions that grow alongside their families.

WHERE CONFIDENCE BLOOMS

From summer camp to sports, from swim to dance, children discover new interests, build lasting friendships, and gain the confidence to try something new.

"It was the first time my toddler had Havdalah blessing and I like that she learned and experienced her background."

Sunday Funday with Jewish Baby Network attendee









OUR PARTNERS



















JEWISH STUDIO PROJECT

















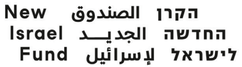


































This is a partial list of FY25-26 partnerships – some are ongoing and more are forming. We regret any unintentional omissions.



“You’re thinking way too small,” he said. “You need to think bigger and long term.”

Maurice Kanbar z”l

A LEGACY THAT LIVES ON

A NEW ERA FOR KANBAR HALL

More than twenty years ago, **Maurice Kanbar z”l helped create a cultural home** that would inspire generations. Years later, when the JCCSF approached him about funding a technology upgrade, he challenged us to think bigger.

Maurice understood that the opportunity was not simply to repair what was broken, but to reimagine what Kanbar Hall could be. Through an extraordinary commitment from his estate, that vision became a state-of-the-art venue that is already **expanding access to Jewish arts and culture** through new partnerships, world-class film, and shared community experiences.

Maurice believed that great institutions should never stand still. **His legacy inspires us** to approach the JCCSF’s future with that same spirit: thinking bigger, imagining new possibilities, and investing for generations to come.

Kanbar Hall is just the beginning. In the years ahead, we’ll continue reimagining and reinvesting in the spaces that bring our community together, creating new possibilities for Jewish life at the JCCSF.





THINK LIKE MAURICE

Think big. Think long-term. By including the JCCSF in your estate plans, you can create a legacy that strengthens Jewish life for generations to come. Join the Olive Tree Society and help shape the future of the JCCSF.

For more information, email development@jccsf.org.

HELP SHAPE WHAT'S NEXT

AN INVITATION TO GIVE

Behind every celebration, every class, every performance, every friendship, and every act of welcome is **someone like you who chose to make it possible**.

Thanks to the generosity of our community, the JCCSF continues to be a vibrant, visible, and secure home for Jewish life in San Francisco. **Donor support creates opportunities** for children to discover Jewish traditions, for families to celebrate together, for older adults to find connection, for artists to inspire audiences, and for neighbors to become friends.

As we look ahead, your support helps ensure that the JCCSF remains a place where Jewish life continues to flourish – **for this generation and the next**.


Tu Bishvat: Outside In Shabbat

B'vakasha is more than a word. It's an invitation – to gather, to celebrate, to learn, and to belong. Every gift helps ensure that when the next person walks through our doors, our community is ready to say, "B'vakasha!"

Join us in shaping the next chapter of Jewish life in San Francisco.



Dorie Greenspan


Coloring Craze


Pride Zumbafest



Hanukkah Candle Lighting

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

The story you've just read is also a story of generosity. Every program, partnership, and moment of connection was made possible by donors who believe in the power of Jewish community. We are proud to recognize the individuals, families, foundations, and organizations whose support helps the JCCSF welcome, inspire, and serve our community every day.

$5,000,000+

Crankstart

$1,000,000 – $4,999,999

Anonymous

Maurice Kanbar Estate

The Koum Family Foundation

John Pritzker Family Fund

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Koret Foundation

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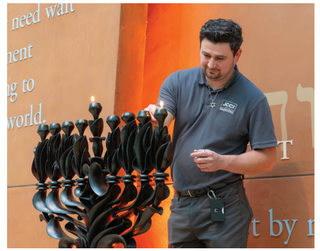
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z"l May their memory be a blessing

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z"l May their memory be a blessing

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“We just say come and be part of the community, because it is in community that we find meaning, that we find relationship, that we find friendship and love, and it is in community that we change the world.”

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks z”l

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