



Photo by Peter Safir
LJCC Farm to Table Dinner at New Town Farms on April 27.

SPRING 2019 • ISSUE 7

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A Message From Your CEO



**Peter
Blair**

704-944-6800
peter.blair@charlottejcc.org

Summer is here and there's no better place to hang than poolside at the J! You cannot beat the summer sounds of children's laughter, the "pop" of a freshly opened can of tennis balls, or the splash of water as you torpedo out of the pool slide. Summer at your Levine JCC is a time when you can look around and see our mission of *Enriching lives and building relationships through quality Jewish experiences* come alive each moment of the day. Whether you signed your children up for our plethora of Summer Camp experiences, decided to meet your friends poolside, or volunteer for Camp SOAR, the Shalom Park Freedom School, or UNCC Reading Camp, your choice to be a member of your Levine JCC gives us **Strength** to be the best community center in Charlotte.

This summer we are stronger than ever due to your support! We hope that you are enjoying the latest investments we have made to ensure that your member experience is an excellent one. Our Barbara Levine Indoor Pool has a new HVAC system, and while this may not be the "sexiest" of investments, its improvement will take us through the next generation of swimming lessons and countless aquatics classes. The Alvin E. Levine Gym and Segal Jogging Track also received a long-awaited makeover. We said goodbye to 1986 mauve and hello to a new, brighter palette! We hope that

you are also enjoying the rebuilt staircases that access the indoor track. Our newly renovated men's steam room opened this spring, and plans are already in place to update the women's steam room.

As you enjoy your summer here at the J, we are planning the next phase of investments, which include additions and renovations to our adult locker rooms, additional fitness space, and expansion of our Camp Mindy facilities.

In addition to the physical investments we are making to your member experience, your Board of Directors and Leadership Staff are actively engaged in a strategic planning process to ensure that your Levine JCC is as relevant tomorrow as it is today. Countless hours are being spent ensuring that our focus is on your member experience, that our resources are invested in the right places, and that our choices today will positively impact the J's future.

Hanging on the wall of our David Silverman Fitness Center is a Jewish proverb: "May you go from strength to strength" – and it serves as a reminder to ourselves to continually strive for excellence. We thank you for your support and look forward to our future **strength**.

See you poolside this summer,

– Peter

Shalom and welcome to summer 2019 at your Levine JCC. It's been a strong and positive year so far, and I expect summer to add to the JCC's strength. A lot of thought and care has gone in to ensuring that you, our members, have an enjoyable and positive summer season at the J.

As President of the board of directors, I'm here to tell you the board takes pride in our robust membership and in the pride that our members take in being a part of the J family. We are more than our fabulous aquatics center, more than our wonderful state-of-the-art fitness center, more than our outstanding day camps, more than our fantastic tennis facility, and more than our exceptional cultural arts programs. We are a welcoming and inclusive community center where strong relationships with friends and families are built every day. Our J is vibrant because of everyone who walks through our doors and participates here.

Currently our board is embarking on a strategic planning initiative to enhance the LJCC and to ensure your membership experience. We value our members and value the sense of community the J provides. We are looking to make sure our

efforts have a positive impact on our members and look forward to perfecting the membership experience for you. At the same time there is an opportunity for our members to have a positive impact on the LJCC. The J offers a number of vital programs and services to our community including scholarship for youth and families, the Oasis program for our seniors, cultural arts programs, health and wellness initiatives, etc. Please consider supporting one of our programs and/or becoming a distinctive member of the J, which ensures funds are available so that no one has to be turned away from being a member here - allowing all members of our Jewish community to partake in being a member of the LJCC, regardless of financial capability. Please also consider creating a legacy gift to the JCC to secure its strength not just for today, but also for tomorrow's generation. The more support we have, the stronger we can always be.

I hope your summer season at the J is an inviting, warm, and relaxing one. I look forward to seeing you here, often. You Belong Here!

– Jeff Turk

LJCC Board President



Jeff Turk



Strength in Health

bri'ut
בריאות

J BUILD★

LEVINE JCC CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Mazel Tov!

Our goal was to raise **\$5,950,000***
Together we **exceeded** our goal by more than **\$125,000.**

**This figure includes all entities that gave to the campaign.*



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN VISION

This Capital Campaign will shape the future of your Levine JCC by allowing us to meet the changing needs of our growing community for many years to come. Our hope is that your J will continue to be the leading community center in Charlotte, not just for your family today, but for many generations in the future.

**Building a
Foundation For
Our Community's
Future.**

Upcoming Projects for 2020-2021

Capital Campaign funds will support the following projects & renovations:

- ✓ Fitness Space Expansion
- ✓ Women's Steam Room Renovation
- ✓ Adult Locker Room Renovations

COMMUNITY IMPACT

When you look at the core of a successful JCC, you find a mission of **building a strong community and deepening relationships.** Campaign projects and renovations will not only transform our campus physically, but they will also ensure the long-term sustainability of your J's community impact programs and initiatives.

■ With every tennis match played...

you help to continue our partnership with the *BJH Foundation* to deliver quality programs to seniors;

■ With every jog on the treadmill...

you help to continue our partnership with the *Levine Children's Hospital* to support their Adaptive Sports and Adventures Program (ASAP);

■ With every lap you swim in the pool...

you help the *Butterfly Project* teach the lessons of the Holocaust to more than 5,500 CMS students and others from surrounding counties annually, educating them on what they can do in their lives to stop discrimination, stereotyping, and bias;

■ With every personal training session you attend...

you help to continue our partnership with *Special Olympics North Carolina*, serving 350+ in our community each year;

■ With every JFORCE class you sweat through...

you help *Camp Mindy* serve more than 700 kids annually with quality summer programming.



Capital Campaign contact:

Peter Blair

704-944-6800
peter.blair@charlottejcc.org

Update

Recent Capital Campaign Projects

- ✓ New State-of-the-Art Cardio Equipment
- ✓ New HVAC System in the Indoor Pool
- ✓ Renovated Men's Steam Room
- ✓ Painting the Alvin E. Levine Gym & Jogging Track



Feel The Burn

Right before the new year, we outfitted the fitness center with brand new state-of-the-art **cardio equipment**. Keeping equipment up to date with the latest technology is very important, which is why every other year we purchase new cardio or strength equipment for our fitness center.

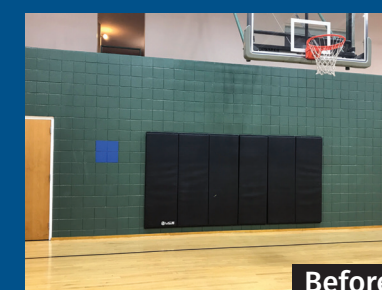
It's a Bird, It's a Plane

Late January, the Indoor Pool got a new **Dectron dehumidification unit**. This unit is incredibly large and took over a week to get it up on the roof and installed.



Full Steam Ahead – JSTEAM

The **Men's Steam Room** reopened on the first day of spring. After weeks of renovations, our JFORCE Steam Team members were happy to get back into the steam room after their workout.



33 Years Later...

The last time the gym was painted was in 1986 – when the J first opened on Shalom Park. After 33 years, it was time for a **fresh coat of paint**. We went from green and mauve to bright white and JCC blue!

COMMUNITY



Cardio Dance

JDANCE

"When you walk into the dance studio, you're surrounded by friends. We laugh at ourselves, have a great time, and support each other outside the studio. I've been dancing with Sara since 1979!"
– Susan Williams



Jacki's Dance



"I absolutely love teaching Zumba! My students contribute to my daily level of happiness in a way I couldn't have imagined. The two most important things of any Zumba class are: having fun and getting a good workout. If you aim for both, you will always come out feeling great after class."
– Matt Richman (Instructor since 2015)

"Going to the gym used to be an afterthought; then I discovered JDance! Now I schedule my week around being able to dance with our crew. Being an instructor means providing our members with the opportunity to not only improve their physical health but also to feel welcome, have fun, and forget about their problems - even if for one short, sweaty hour a day."
– Agata Stadiem (Instructor since 2017)

"My favorite part about teaching cardio dance is watching the members learn to let go of their inhibitions and just move to the music. When that happens, there is a contagious joy that radiates through them and lights up the entire room. That's my goal for each class."
– Karen Wielunski (Instructor since 2015)

JKETTLEBELLS

"When I teach kettlebells, I look out at the incredible, strong women and men, standing in front of their bells ready for another day to work hard. They are mothers and fathers, and professionals. This 45 minutes belongs to them. Their energy and strength empowers me to do more, give more, and as my former mentor always told me...never give up. I won't let them either!"
– Suzanne DiOrio (Instructor since 2012)



A Community Within

The word *community* can have many different meanings to different people. The moment you enter the J you are part of a culture fostered on a foundation for building relationships. You walk through the halls and enter rooms that are filled with a sense of health and wellness and an overall feeling of belonging. And while every member may have a different goal they are trying to achieve, the sense of community is always at the forefront.

Over the past few years, the broader community has begun to form communities within our community. Each of these **"micro-communities"** are unique because the people, both members and instructors, are unique to the program. There is a common interest shared that creates something truly special.



JRIDE

"Shannon's cycle class is such a fabulous workout. I attend 5 days a week and continue to come back for the music and entertainment. I always leave class with a smile on my face."
– Mattye Silverman

JCLAY



"JCLAY brings a sense of community and fellowship! All the students are so helpful to each other. Always lending a helping hand or advise."
– Mary Couillard (LJCC Ceramics Studio Manager and Instructor)



"I love my pottery class at the J. Not only do I get to learn and practice my favorite craft and express my creativity, but I get to spend time with the most wonderful people. Celena holds the class together. She's an expert potter who encourages us to learn new techniques and creates a wonderful family atmosphere. Pottery has become a special part of life."
– Joan Alexander

What's Your J? We have a shirt for you! Stop by the Levine JCC Customer Service Desk to purchase your J shirt today.



Partnering to Grow

Help a child reading below grade level learn to read this summer.

In just a few weeks, the Levine JCC will take part in our second summer at the UNCC Reading Camp Clinic. Last summer, 69 2nd and 3rd-graders from three Title I East Charlotte elementary schools (Windsor Park, Merry Oaks and Oakhurst) received two hours of intensive one-on-one or small group reading instruction every day, and spent a half day enjoying traditional camp activities led by LJCC staff. In these five short weeks, our campers made 11 weeks of growth in oral reading fluency.

Now in its third year, this community-wide effort addresses the city's early literacy shortfalls. New peer-reviewed research by UNCC's Cato College of Education faculty has revealed the program helps children who are struggling with reading avoid falling behind over the summer, and gives many a significant leg up.

The Levine JCC, UNC Charlotte, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, Aldersgate Retirement Community, and ourBRIDGE for KIDS are dedicated to improving the community by collaborating on this reading program, helping struggling students improve their reading while enjoying the fun and games of traditional summer camps. Campers played flag football and soccer, marveled at a magician, and visited Charlotte's Discovery Place science museum.



"One of my daughters has really struggled with reading. I've noticed a big improvement in her reading ability. We're moving into chapter books now, which is something we wouldn't have even considered trying before."
– CARLOS MORALES

"The reading camp was a partnership in which both UNC Charlotte and the LJCC invested our time, our energy, our community's resources, our staff, our facilities, and our intellect towards the common goal of ensuring that everyone has a chance to grow in Charlotte."
– PETER BLAIR



Researchers found that in 2016 and 2017, rising 3rd graders made an equivalent of approximately 11-weeks growth in oral reading fluency over the course of the camp.

For
\$50
per day,
you can ensure that
a child learns to read this summer.

TO DONATE:
www.charlottejcc.org/donatenow

A Special Thank You to our Sponsors:



SHALOM GREEN
Jewish Values, Sustainable Living
Shalom Park Environmental Initiative

"Getting involved in the Shalom Park Community Garden has allowed me to meet people from all kinds of backgrounds and ages who have a common purpose. I've had an interest in gardening for some time, so by coming out to volunteer on garden workdays, I've been able to enhance my knowledge."

– LIZ WAHLS, Garden Volunteer

Shalom Park Community Garden Workdays 2019

3rd Sundays • 9-11am

**{ June 16 • July 21 • August 18 }
September 15 • October 20**

No RSVP necessary, just show up ready to help! Questions?
info@shalomgreenCLT.org

"Environmentally conscious and purposeful Jewish living is not a new concept. Bal Tashchit, meaning "do not destroy," captures this concept and serves to inspire us all. We are tasked with the stewardship of and responsibility for this planet. We are its shomrim, guards, as we are but mere guests on this planet for a short while. We should incorporate environmental practices into our daily lives and conserve in whatever way possible for the sake of generations not yet born, and for the sake of God."

– DAVID ROSENTHAL, Shalom Green Board Member and Temple Israel President



Shalom Green

Your Levine JCC wants to engage its members in a variety of social action programs on the Shalom Park Campus and within the community. Shalom Green, the Shalom Park Environmental Initiative, is one of four park-wide Joint Social Action Programs operating with combined support from Park partners and agencies. Shalom Green operates with a mission to educate and mobilize members of the Charlotte Jewish community on sustainability issues and Jewish values related to protecting the planet. Shalom Green focuses on three primary goals: to manage and maintain the Shalom Park Community Garden, to educate the community on environmental issues, and to work with Jewish Agencies to reduce the carbon footprint of Shalom Park.

If you've been to the Shalom Park Community Garden, Shalom Green's cornerstone project, you have seen the efforts of Shalom Green at work. The garden has been in existence since 2015 and is the most visible project created by the Shalom Park Environmental Initiative. The garden is active from March to November each year and features food producing planters, and pollinator and ozone awareness educational areas. Every growing season, volunteers enjoy coming out to plant, weed and sow on garden workdays held on the third Sunday morning of every month. Harvested produce is donated to the Jewish Family Services food pantry. Last year alone over 70 pounds of produce was donated including kale, squash, tomatoes, strawberries, herbs, and figs.

The community is also served by the Shalom Park Community Garden in another fundamental way. Each year hundreds of students, from Camp Mindy campers to Shalom Park Freedom School Summer Enrichment Scholars, visit the garden to learn about horticulture, sustainability, and organic gardening. A brand-new initiative just sprouted from the garden, the Shalom Green Horticultural Education Program, offering teens ages 12-18 an in-depth opportunity to work with environmental and horticultural experts to develop a community-service based project over the course of each 12-week session. Bobbie Mabe, Shalom Green Garden Coordinator and Certified Horticultural Therapist says, "We hope to provide an avenue for exploration, critical thinking, and social skills development. When our young people are connected to nature, when they find that topic that really sparks their interest, that community need, they will continue to show the rest of the world what is possible. Our aim is to develop environmentalists."

Shalom Green has sponsored or participated in numerous environmental educational programs and outreach events including topics focused on food waste, green cleaning supplies, benefits of LED lighting, and use of compostable paper goods. In partnership with LJCC Cares, Shalom Green is hosting a film screening on September 10th. The group will be screening "A Plastic Ocean," a critically acclaimed documentary focused on the impact of single use plastic to the environment and its animals. Shalom Green publishes monthly articles in the *Charlotte Jewish News* on a variety of environmental topics under the headline Bal Tashchit and Beyond, and is actively engaged on the Park and in the wider community.

The Shalom Green team is always looking for volunteers.

www.shalomgreenCLT.org





RONALD MCDONALD
HOUSE OF CHARLOTTE



The Sands Family

LJCC Cares gave myself, and my two oldest daughters, Julia and Scarlett, the opportunity to make an immediate impact on the lives of other people. Through our volunteering for the Ronald McDonald house, we have not only been privileged to prepare home cooked meals for the guests, but it is also an opportunity to be witness to true love, courage, and resilience. It is a lesson that I could have never taught my children, but one that they must experience for themselves.



*"LJCC Cares gives me these opportunities to pass the notions of **kindness and compassion** on to the next generation."*

– Dionne Sands

Levine JCC Member since May 2016

Help Out. Do Good. Feel Good.
SOCIAL ACTION
= LJCC CARES



Create Your Jewish Legacy

A FCJC program

Through the Charlotte Create Your Jewish Legacy Program, you can make a difference in our community for years to come. Please consider joining the many who have already committed to leave a Legacy Gift ensuring that generations of Jewish families continue to have a strong and vibrant community to call their own. Endowment funds will help provide for continuous growth and long-term capital improvements.



Thank You

...to our LJCC Legacy Donors

Anonymous (4)
Wilma & Gerson Asrael
Judy & Stan August
Shellie & Harvey Barer
Gail & John Baron
Meredith & Michael Baumstein
Lois & Sanford Benjamin
Philip Berman
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Judie & Michael Van Glish
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Joanna & Eric Wisotsky
Kim & Marc Wojnowich
Lisa & Scott Yarbrough

Of Blessed Memory (updated 11/2018)

"We are proud to participate in the Levine JCC's Charlotte Jewish Legacy program."

When we moved to Charlotte in our 20s, our JCC family immediately embraced us, making us feel welcomed and supported in our new city. The J has been a special part of our life ever since.

We feel a responsibility to give back to a community that has given us so much more than we'll ever be able to repay. We feel good knowing our legacy gift will help ensure that future generations have a strong foundation, just like the generation before did for us."

– DIANA WARTH BREGMAN
& JUSTIN BREGMAN

For more information, or to learn how you can be a part of this wonderful and important initiative, please contact:

Peter Blair

704-944-6800

peter.blair@charlottejcc.org



Sandra and Leon Levine Jewish Community Center
5007 Providence Road | Charlotte, NC 28226
704.366.5007 | charlottejcc.org

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