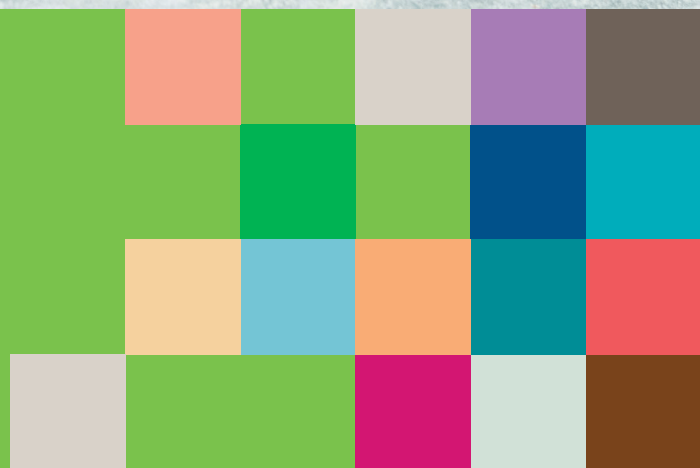




Spring 2023 Little Crushers class having a ball!

SUMMER 2023 • ISSUE 11

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A Message From Your LJCC CEO



Annie
Keith

704-944-6800
annie.keith@charlottejcc.org

A Warm Welcome!

DEAR LEVINE JCC MEMBERS,

As I sit down to write my first JIMPACT letter, I am filled with immense gratitude as I reflect upon my journey as your CEO since arriving in Charlotte in February. From the very beginning, it became evident to me that this community is truly dedicated to upholding our shared Jewish Values. Among these values, *hakhnasat orchim*, Hospitality, holds a special place in my heart, and in the four months I have been with you, the hospitality you have extended to me has been nothing short of overwhelming, for which I am profoundly grateful.

The theme of “finding your center” for this year has resonated deeply with me as I have had the opportunity to observe our community in action. I have witnessed firsthand the incredible efforts put forth by staff and members to find their center all within the walls of our Levine JCC and on the vibrant Shalom Park Campus. We are not just individuals living side by side; we are neighbors and friends who come together every day to embrace and share our Jewish values.

In the months to come, I eagerly anticipate the opportunity to continue learning and growing alongside each of you. Whether it is participating in a group fitness class together, enjoying lunch with a new friend at the JCAFE, greeting campers at the car pool line, or attending a thought-provoking speaker event at Oasis, I encourage you all to take the chance to help me see the Levine JCC through your unique perspectives and experiences.

Together, we will persistently strive to support our Jewish Community Center. It is through our collective efforts and unwavering dedication that we will foster an inclusive and vibrant community, where every individual feels a deep sense of belonging and purpose.

Lastly, I must express my heartfelt appreciation for the warm welcome into the Charlotte Jewish Community. Your kindness and acceptance have made me feel at home from the very beginning.

Thank you once again for embodying the true spirit of *hakhnasat orchim*.

With utmost respect and gratitude,

Annie Keith
– Annie Keith
CEO, Levine JCC



Annie's first week– meeting, greeting,
participating, and finding her center at the J!

A Message From Your Board President



Lisa Strause
Levinson

Email:
ljccpresident@charlottejcc.org

Find Your Center

I AM NOT SURE when I began the practice of reflection during my 32 years of teaching, but it has become an ingrained habit and seeped into all parts of my life. I reflect on my daily workouts, meals I cook, books I read, interactions with friends and family... the list goes on and on. It is also how I approach my responsibilities as president of the Board of Directors of the Sandra and Leon Jewish Community Center. My habit of reflection also nicely folds into this year's focus at the Levine JCC, Find Your Center.

One year ago, as we were emerging from Covid and the ups and downs we all endured, the board of directors launched a national search for a new CEO, chaired by Raizel Kahn. As president of the board, I had to readjust the agenda for my term while we focused on finding the best possible CEO candidate and keep the staff focused on the day-to-day operations of our agency.

I am happy to share that our membership units are close to pre-pandemic levels after a significant membership drop in 2020. We have welcomed hundreds of new members in addition to welcoming back members that paused their memberships for various reasons. I am so grateful to those that maintained their memberships while our doors were closed and were participating in virtual activities before shifting to the parking deck, camp pavilion and outdoor fields. Our success is due to each of you! I want to say thank you for believing in our mission, and for your loyalty. When I reflect on you, our members, I want to continue to meet more members and community participants at events, in classes, and around the building to hear your LJCC stories as you Find Your Center.

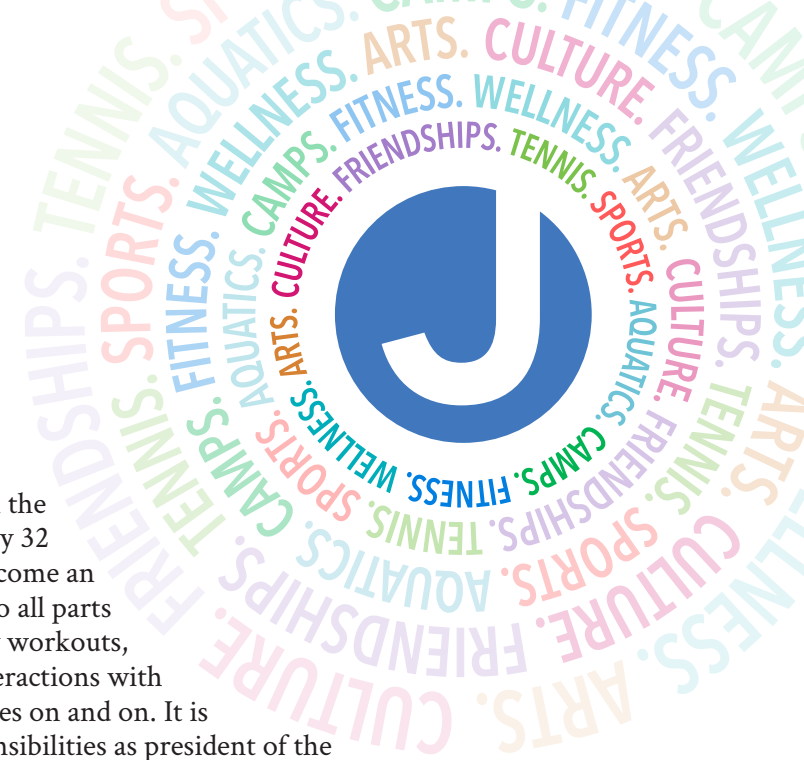
Now that our search for a new CEO has come to an end, I have reflected extensively on that year long process. I must thank Raziel Kahn, Gabe Mathless, Brian Sterling, Eric Wisotsky, Karen Maniloff, Jeff Turk, Eric Althofer, Mark Lerner, and Josh Greenwald. Each member gave an extensive amount of time, dedication, and passion. They were an integral part of the search committee and the process we adopted. Using the LJCC mission, *Enriching Lives and Building Relationships through Quality Jewish Experiences*, they helped us select Annie Keith as our new CEO. I hope you have had the opportunity to meet and welcome Annie to Charlotte. Annie comes to us from the Mandell JCC in West Hartford, CT with an extensive JCC background and passion. I know that once you meet Annie, you will agree that she is passionate about our LJCC and that as an agency we all continue to grow and collectively Find Our Center!

Please don't hesitate to reach out. It's your stories, feedback, and experiences that I continue to reflect upon to strive to make the LJCC your Center!

Lisa Strause Levinson

- Lisa Strause Levinson

*“Enriching lives and
building relationships through
quality Jewish experiences.”*





The Levine JCC Butterfly Project

Zikaron v'Tikvah
Remembrance and Hope

An Extra-Special "Normal" Year

THE LEVINE JCC's in-person Butterfly Project Workshops are back in full swing, and everyone – from teachers to students, volunteers and staff – has been enthusiastic and so appreciative to be back to normal. During the pandemic we quickly pivoted to virtual workshops, using Zoom to present our material to students in their home learning environments. Although this had some silver linings, such as the many family members who were able to listen in, it was a trying time for all. Now, with our thrice-a-week workshop calendar full, students are once again filling the halls of Shalom Park and visiting the Margaret and Lou Schwartz Butterfly Garden Holocaust Memorial in person.

The LJCC Butterfly Project Workshops consist of 3 major segments. Participants are initially welcomed to Shalom Park and hear the moving story of one of our Holocaust survivors, Suly Chenkin and Irving Bienstock, followed by a lively Q&A session. Students then explore the lesson "What's in a Name?" as they each receive a certificate with a child's name who perished in the Holocaust. They then say their child's name out loud and use their creativity to paint a ceramic butterfly in that child's memory. The final segment of the workshop is an interactive activity, "Take a Stand," centered around the ADL's Pyramid of Hate.

During the 2021-22 school year, the LJCC Butterfly Project educated 5,785 students. Since that was a transitional year, 13 of the workshops were online and 36 were in person. We welcomed back many of our previous volunteers and added 10 newly trained volunteers as well – so essential to the work we do. The 2022-23 school year started off strong, with our homeschool workshop in September attracting a record 106 participants. This year we had many returning schools and some new schools, as well. Most schools bring an entire grade level; this year, four schools brought more than 300 students!

The total number of participants educated since the inception of this project in 2008 is almost **59,000!**

None of this would be possible without the dedication and support of the teachers who bring their students, many year-after-year, our volunteers, and our donors. We extend our gratitude to each of you.

Charlotte Christian



Weddington Middle



Southwest Middle



THE FRED SHPORER VOLUNTEER AWARD

At the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year, the LJCC Butterfly Project announced the creation of the Fred Shporer Volunteer Award.

Fred began volunteering with the LJCC Butterfly Project in 2017 and immediately became its most dedicated volunteer. Fred attended almost every workshop for four years – often volunteering three times a week. He greeted the school buses and interacted with students. He became a speaker for the segment of the workshop occurring at the Margaret & Lou Schwartz Butterfly Garden Holocaust Memorial. Fred always had a smile on his face and kindness in his heart. Fred passed away in 2021 and his absence has been felt at the Butterfly Project since.

The Fred Shporer Volunteer Award will be presented at the end of each school year to a new volunteer who exemplifies the characteristics of our beloved Fred Shporer. The recipient of the award will share Fred's enthusiasm and

energy, as well as his commitment to, and passion for the LJCC Butterfly Project.

In 2022, the inaugural award went to **Sally Ann Rogers**. Sally began volunteering in the 2021-22 school year and dove right in! Sally became a dedicated and passionate volunteer during our first year back with in-person workshops, not an easy time to start. Sally volunteered on a weekly basis and helped other new volunteers feel welcome. Sally is brushing up on her Spanish so that she may communicate with our Spanish-speaking students during the What's in a Name segment.

The 2023 Fred Shporer Volunteer Award was presented to **Ed Sucherman**. Ed volunteered almost every Tuesday and Thursday this year. Whether it was going out to the garden to help with the students, holding the tent flaps and doors or waiting patiently for other volunteers to arrive before setting up the painting room, it was always with a smile on his face and a witty joke to share.

2022-2023

JTRI

LEVINE JCC KIDS TRIATHLON



ON SUNDAY, MAY 22, 2022, the Levine JCC Kids Triathlon returned to an in-person event for the first time since 2019. The 11th annual event followed this year on **Sunday, May 21, 2023**. Both years saw between 130-140 participants, ages 5-14. This event provides children from all backgrounds and athletic abilities the opportunity to swim, bike and run for a cause! Six former rehab patients/current adaptive sports athletes participated side-by-side with their able-bodied peers. Between individual and corporate sponsorships and participant fundraising, the event raised more than **\$201,550 over the past two years**. The funds raised go to pediatric rehabilitative services at Levine Children's Hospital and the Adaptive Sports and Adventures Program, and this year, a portion will stay with the LJCC for adaptive and special needs programming here! These funds are used for rehabilitative equipment, adaptive sports equipment and many other items, such as field trips in anticipation of release from the hospital to re-acclimate children to their prior activities. The LJCC is looking to bring back and create new programming here at Shalom Park.

***The Honorary Co-Chairs for the 10th Annual LJCC Kids Tri were Lori and Eric Sklut.** Lori and Eric are both Charlotte natives and long-time supporters of Shalom Park and Charlotte's Jewish Community. They have been LJCC members since its inception. Eric is a past president of the LJCC and Lori has served on AtriumHealth Foundation's Board of Directors. They have three children all living in Charlotte with their spouses, and two grandchildren. Lori and Eric were instrumental in the success of the event.



>>> A special appearance were made both years by Carolina Panthers cornerback, **Donte Jackson!** Donte took photos with and provided autographed photos and footballs for participants who raised a minimum of \$500 for this event. Donte spoke to all participants before sounding the starting bell. Thank you Donte!



SAVE-THE-DATE for Next Year's Event:
12th Annual Kids Triathlon
Sunday, May 19, 2024

LJCKIDSTRI.ORG

A Benefit for Pediatric Rehabilitative Services at:

AtriumHealth Levine Children's

ASAP
adaptive sports & adventures program

J In 2023, a portion of the proceeds stayed with the Levine JCC for adaptive and special needs programming.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2022 & 2023 SPONSORS:

The Leon Levine Foundation
Lori & Eric Sklut*
Julie & Howard Levine
Atrium Health Foundation
Labcorp Charitable Foundation
Action Plus Ideas
Charlotte Jewish Preschool
Interstate Solutions
Shelton Gorelick Family Foundation
Parker Poe
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Providence Pediatric Dentistry & Orthodontics
Webb Orthodontics
26 Fitness
Donald & Barbara Bernstein
Brownlee Jewelers
Shannon Crystal & Robert Haber
The William and Patricia Gorelick Family Foundation
Little Caesar's (Cotswold)
Matrix Builders
Carolina Classic Builders

www.charlottejcc.org/thebutterflyproject



J Capital Campaign Update

SEVEN YEARS AGO we launched the Levine JCC JBUILD Capital Campaign. Our goal was to raise \$5,950,00 and together we exceeded our goal by more than \$125,000. Over 695 donors believed that the success of this Capital Campaign would help shape the future of our JCC. Capital Campaign projects and renovations not only transform our campus physically, but they also ensure the long-term sustainability of our J's community impact programs and initiatives. Here's a look back at the past seven years of projects:

Completed Capital Campaign Projects:

- ✓ New Outdoor Pool & Updated Splash Ground
- ✓ New Stage Curtains & LED Stage Lights in Gorelick Hall
- ✓ Camp Mindy Renovations
- ✓ Pavilion Sports Court
- ✓ New Fitness Floors
- ✓ Refurbished Upstairs Dance Studio
- ✓ Renovated Family Locker Rooms
- ✓ Men's Steam Room Renovation
- ✓ Painting the Alvin E. Levine Gym & Jogging Track
- ✓ New HVAC System in the Indoor Pool
- ✓ New State-of-the-Art Cardio Equipment

2016
2017
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022



The Grande Finale Renovation!

The Grande Finale Renovation began last June, as we started the renovation of the Adult Locker Rooms. And after months of construction, we opened the doors to the new Adult Locker Rooms late October.

WHAT'S NEW?

- ◀ Fully Renovated Showering Area
- ◀ New Flooring, Lockers & Changing Areas (*general side only*)
- ◀ New Women's Steam Room
- ◀ New Locker Room Furnishings
- ◀ Fully Upgraded Massage Room

And Opening Soon...

New adult lounge areas in both locker rooms



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

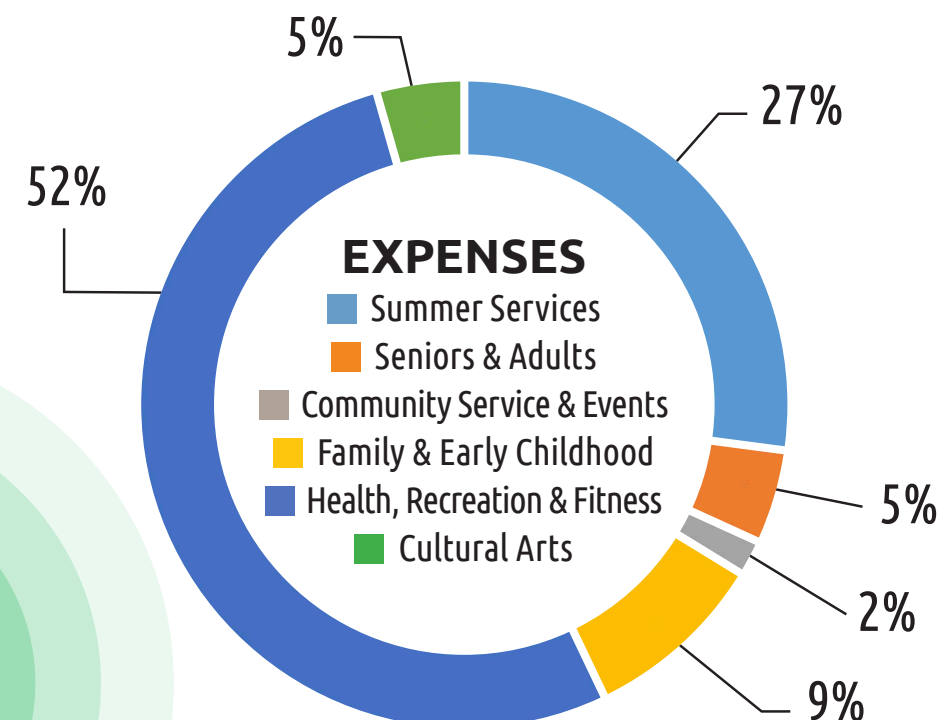
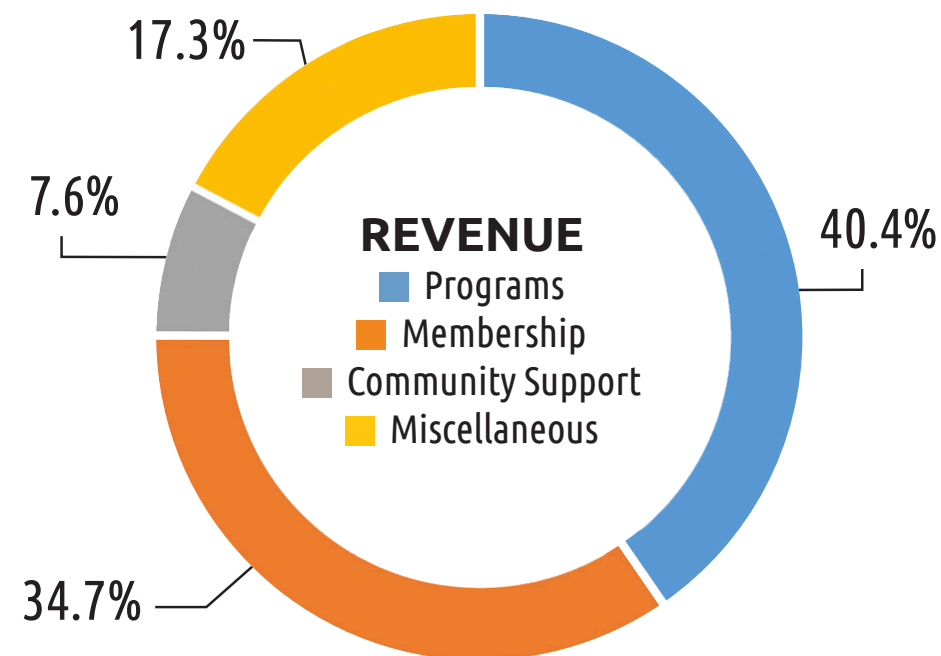


Questions? Contact LJCC CEO
Annie Keith • 704-944-6800
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A LOOK BACK

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

Annual Report 2021





THE LEVINE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER CULTURAL ARTS DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

19TH ANNUAL

FEBRUARY 4-26, 2023

CHARLOTTE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL



A Special Thank You to our Sponsors

This past February, many of you gathered for another successful year of amazing films and community spirit. We could not enjoy this unique Annual Festival without your generous support.



BROUGHT TO YOU BY



EXECUTIVE PRODUCER



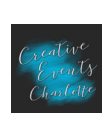
PRODUCERS



EVENT PARTNERS



Izzy's Catering



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Liz & Mike Waller
In memory of Glynis Robbins
The Yesowitch Family
Laura Zagoria

WALK OF FAME

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Saul Lieberman
Ina & Sheldon Lubin
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J Story

If not for the J...

Featuring Group Exercise Instructor: Agata Rocka



Over 90
Group
Exercise
Classes
offered
weekly!

- HIIT/Intervals
- Strength/Sculpt
- Cardio Dance
- Mind/Body
- Cycle

Find Your
CLASS



J IMPACTING

Families

Community

LIVES

Friendships



tzedakah • traditions • legacy

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 (5)	David Jacobson	Melissa & Steven Raphael
Wilma & Gerson ז"ר Asrael	Raizel & Brian Kahn	Wendy ז"ר & Sandy Rose
Judy & Stan August	Dana & Andrew Kapustin	Jennifer & Andrew Rosen
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Glenda & Brian Bernhardt	Alison & Mark Lerner	Barry M. Sherbal
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& Scott Yarbough	Sandra & Leon ז"ר Levine	Stacey & Ira Slomka
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Stan Greenspon	Debora & Ed ז"ר Pizer	Kim & Marc Wojnowich
Anna Gunsher	Dena & Michael Raffler	
Jodie, Michael, Elyssa		
& Alex Iagnocco		

ז"ר Of Blessed Memory
(updated 06/20/2023)

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

Melanie Hersch • 704-554-2051
melanie.hersch@charlottejcc.org

SPOTLIGHT: An Anonymous LJCC Donor's Perspective

Why did we give to the JCC?

When we moved from New York to Charlotte over a decade ago, we did not know what to expect in terms of Jewish life in this southern city. We were hesitant to make the move and have our children grow up in a place lacking Jewish identity. Fortunately we discovered Shalom Park on one of our visits and immediately felt at ease with our big decision. Shalom Park has continued to exceed our expectations by fostering a vibrant and well connected Jewish Community. The temples meet the spiritual needs of nearly all of Charlotte's Jewish People, and Charlotte Jewish Preschool did an amazing job nurturing our children. The cornerstone of Shalom Park is the Levine JCC.

Our children have attended JTOTS, Camp Mindy, J sports leagues and lessons, participated in Shalom Green, attended the Butterfly Project, Purim Carnivals, numerous performances and activities since they were infants. It is a unique and wonderful place that brings families together. We make use of the facilities 12 months a year. All of the staff at the JCC take pride in their responsibilities, and we are reminded daily that the JCC employee culture is on the same level as world class organizations. After many years in Charlotte, we now believe that this centralized campus offers even better ways to connect to our community than more abundant but singular temples and JCCs of the Northeast.

The Levine JCC is a blessing to Charlotte and we are so thankful our family can play a part in keeping it running smoothly with our donation. We hope the money can go toward ensuring future generations will have the same opportunities we have had to enjoy it.

—ANONYMOUS DONOR



Sandra and Leon Levine Jewish Community Center
5007 Providence Road, Charlotte, NC 28226
704-366-5007 | charlottejcc.org

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