Dear Members,

As a member of the Albany JCC family, you are an integral component of a broad and diverse community. When you come to the J, the people you encounter on a daily basis hail from many different backgrounds, places of origin and may hold different religious beliefs than you do. Some are older than you and others significantly younger. We are a family of infants and seniors and age groups in between. And one of the most amazing and beautiful things about our family is besides its diversity, it’s constantly striving to be welcoming to all; a basic tenet of the Jewish principles on which the JCC is founded.

Those of you whose children are schooled in our Early Childhood programs can feel assured that your youngsters’ teachers also come from different backgrounds, histories and experiences. They encourage difference and diversity so that a broader view of the world finds its way into the classroom. Here your children are taught tolerance and appreciation of others instead of hate and prejudice.

Your JCC is a true community center hoping for growth and expansion to serve its current population while aiming to make a positive impact on even more members of our region. We partner with other non-profits and offer programs to better the health, welfare and well-being of our members, guests and the community at large. Examples of this can be seen in our fitness personal trainers, our Kosher Senior Meals and educational lecture series, our community-wide Health & Human Services Fair held each spring at the Center, and in a host of other ways that touch peoples’ lives.

Please join me in recognizing our dedicated professional staff and generous donors on whose support we are so dependent and thankful. And our Board of Directors who volunteer their time, knowledge and expertise to dutifully govern your Center. Moreover, thank YOU for belonging to our growing family because without you, there’d be neither a JCC nor others to be thankful for. May you have a peaceful and sweet 2019.

With thanks and appreciation,

Gary Weitzman,
President of the Board

Adam Chaskin,
Executive Director
In 2017, for the first time, the Albany and Schenectady JCCs co-hosted the JCC Maccabi Games in the Capital Region. Welcoming 700 visiting athletes with 400 volunteers and 250 host families, this week-long event brought together the whole community in a spirit of unity and peoplehood.

The Maccabi Games are well-known as the Jewish Teen Olympics, and every summer young people from around the world gather together to compete, to meet other young Jewish teens from around the world, and to engage in social action activities that benefit the host community. The games now also offer opportunities for teens involved in the arts, or in sports reporting, and help build the next leaders of our community.

Our own delegation included 52 teens from 21 local cities and towns. As a whole, our team took home a record-breaking 87 medals, formed many new friendships, and established greater connections to the Jewish community. Additionally, the games brought great economic and recognition benefits to the Capital Region, and created stronger ties between our two local centers, which will serve us well in the future.
With our year-round indoor and summer outdoor pools, we provide all in our community with many opportunities to take swim lessons, learn how to scuba dive, join our swim team, and play water polo. Our weekly lessons, open to both adults and children, had over 500 participants in 2017. We also grew our pool fitness classes to over 20 every week, and added special outdoor pool classes over the summer.

Being part of a team is an excellent experience for children, and our Arrows Swim Team had another successful season of practices, races, and team spirit, winning 4th place in the Eastern States league and placing in the top 6 of the Summer Suburban Swim League. Throughout the year both adults and children learn how to scuba dive in our pool through summer or vacation camps, Kidz Night Out programs, or adult scuba lessons.

We are very proud to have added an aqua chair lift to our indoor pool in 2017. Providing access to members of all abilities is one of the things we strive to do every day at the Albany JCC, in classes, programs, facilities, and events, and one of the reasons that organizations such as The Center for Disability Services partners with us. And, our end of summer Dog Splash Pool Party was very popular again this year, as we closed down our outdoor pool with a fundraising effort for the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society.
With an extremely successful summer of over 800 camper weeks, children at the Albany JCC enjoyed days filled with swimming, art, sports, and STEM at our beautiful facility at Camp Olam. We work hard to give campers many choices so that they grow and challenge themselves. From circus camp to soccer, to movie making and so much, there is something fun and interesting for everyone, from the youngest camper to our teens.

Our facilities include zip lines, ropes courses, hiking trails, art spaces, and many options for water activities. We highlight Shabbat on Fridays, have special camp weeks and events, and many guest leaders as well. Our children often form lifelong friendships at summer camp and have opportunities to learn new skills and improve on others.

Camp Courage is a program that we developed to give economically-disadvantaged children at risk for diabetes and other health issues a chance to experience the joy and wonder of summer camp. Children accepted into the program learn about healthy eating choices, exercise, and behavior modification, and participate in many of the programs at Olam as well. They can bring what they learned back to their families and educate them as well. With many of our summer campers returning year after year, it is wonderful to see them grow into healthy and happy young adults, capable of achieving anything that they set their minds to.

Games of Scatters Played | total campers | achievement beads given out at Friday Oneg
--- | --- | ---
39 | 279 | 200+
The Albany JCC is proud to have both a diverse staff and membership body, representative of our local community and neighborhood. We are open to all, and in 2017 served more than 10,000 groups of families, couples, individuals, and organizations on a regular basis with early childhood programs, after school care, vacation and summer camps, fitness, sports leagues, and aquatics programs, and senior programming. Our affordable membership rates, flexible membership categories (including single parent family, college, and two person household), extended hours, and wide range of facilities and programs, make it simple for all who want to use our services to easily access them.

In addition to serving our membership, we pride ourselves on being an essential member of our surrounding community, and frequently serve as a host for events for local associations, business, municipalities, and civic groups. Stop in on any given day and you may find an American Red Cross, AARP, CDPHP, or Town Hall program here. Our spaces our also often rented for birthday parties, bridal and baby showers, piano recitals, retirement and anniversary parties, and Bar and Bat Mitzvah celebrations. And, when looking to bring the whole community together, we are often chosen as site for that, for a Jewish and Israeli Movie Series, a sleepover site for a religious summer camp, or a Mega Challah Bake.

Thousands walk through the doors of the Albany JCC yearly, and enjoy our pools, meeting spaces, gym, fitness facilities, and outdoor fields. Many come for just one day, and many for several days every week. Whomever they are, and for however long they are visiting, we make sure that they have a meaningful, fun, safe, and positive experience while here, so that they return again and again, and tell their friends and family about what an inviting and warm place the Albany JCC, is and always will be.
As one of the largest and most diverse daycare centers in the Capital Region, the Albany JCC served 198 children last year. We are proud to have teachers that hail from all over the globe, who specialize in working in small student-to-teacher ratios, ensuring that each child receives all of the attention that she or he needs.

Our children receive a strong Jewish education, grounded in the values of Tzedakah (justice/charity) and Tikkun Olam (repairing the world). We have many projects devoted to helping others, including creating and donating birthday bags to help homeless children. Every Friday, we welcome Shabbat through stories and songs, and also celebrate holidays with meaningful ceremonies that often include our families.

We believe that through play, in a loving and supportive environment, children will learn best, and grow into caring and responsible adults. With Music and Hebrew Specialists in the classroom every week, and programs that highlight reading, math, art, and science, our children have tremendous opportunities to grow their world, make lifelong friends, and start on the road to success in anything that they choose to do.

Our journey with the SAAJCC Early Childhood Center began over a decade ago when after an exhaustive search, we chose the center as the only place we wanted our then two year old daughter to attend daycare. We have since had three more children who have gone through the center at various ages and stages. As our youngest has just graduated the amazing kindergarten program this year, we leave the center with so much gratitude. Gratitude for the level of care by the teachers, the sense of community our family is a part of, and the lasting friendships forged between our family and many others we have met along the way.

-Jami & Pete Eisenberg
Participating in sports and fitness is key for a healthy lifestyle, and to meet higher demand, we increased our offerings to almost eighty classes weekly last year, including new additions of Zumba Gold and High Impact Intensity Training. Whatever your fitness level or time availability, we have a great workout for you at the Albany JCC.

We updated our treadmills and Expresso bikes, so members have access to the most current equipment in the market. Our adult volleyball and basketball leagues are extremely popular and continue to grow, providing opportunities for competitive play, fitness, and friendship.

Our partnership with community organizations such as The Center for Disability Services, Equinox Teen Outreach, and Ronald McDonald House is one of the things that we are most proud of. Each uses our facilities regularly, and we provide special programs to their vulnerable populations to insure that they too can participate in healthy living.

Lastly, our yearly Dunkin’ Run continues to be a popular neighborhood kick-off for the fall running season. With individuals of all ages, running or walking various distances, it is a much-anticipated event for all who are part of the JCC and the surrounding community to come together to celebrate fitness, fun, family, and the beauty of autumn in the Northeast.

I wanted you to know that your group personal training program had wide-reaching effects beyond what you may have imagined. I signed up for your program to get in the best shape I could before undergoing cancer treatment. You put me through my paces, and built my strength and endurance. Now, years later, I just learned from my oncologist at Sloan Kettering that, unknown to me, because I was in such good condition, he had quietly chosen me as a subject for a very small research study..... this is one way your work has had far-reaching effects..... For my own personal experience, a quote from Talmud comes to mind: “One who saves a single life is considered to have saved an entire world.”

Thank you Tom!

Leslie

Sidney Albert Albany JCC
The vibrant senior adult program at the Albany JCC offers a wide range of daily classes and programs open to the entire Capital Region community. With no membership required, adults come to our senior center for socialization through lifelong learning classes, entertainment, bus trips, holiday celebrations, wellness programs, Kosher dinners, lectures, and films. Serving the needs of the newly-retired to the very wise, we work hard to find and create the best in programming for all here.

In 2017, we added many new classes including banned books, photography, tai chi, origami, sketching, painting, flower arranging, and literature. We also revitalized our weekly current events, and received a Poet & Writers grant to allow us to offer a memoir-writing workshop.

Our popular Health & Services Fair had more than 500 join us for free health screenings, haircuts, information booths, and other critical services, all provided at no cost by local physicians and health professionals. And, our collaboration with Jewish Family Services, allowed us to offer NNORC nights (Neighborhood Naturally Occurring Retirement Community) at our Sixty-Plus Dining program, while a NNORC nurse offered weekly blood pressure screenings in our senior center.

2,386 dinners served at our Kosher Sixty-Plus Dining program
500+ people attended our Health & Services Fair with 75 vendors
69 volunteers honored at our Volunteer Tribute
8 senior venue performances by our Senior Chorale
During the school year, the Albany JCC provides fun, safe, and enriching afterschool programs to more than 200 students at four locations in the city. These critical programs, from pre-kindergarten though sixth grade give children an opportunity to unwind, learn a new skill, and do their homework, in a caring and supportive environment.

In addition to our summer camps, the Albany JCC also runs full-day vacation camps during school breaks and days off throughout the year. Children have an opportunity to go to circus camp, learn how to scuba dive, play in the gym and our playgrounds, and enjoy special events. We also offer Kidz Night Out monthly on Saturday evenings, and Family-Time on Sunday afternoons. Most of our programs sell out very quickly and are extremely popular with both children and adults.

Holiday celebrations are an important part of what we do, and we work in partnership with other local Jewish organizations to provide meaningful programming to our families. Our annual Shofar Workshop, Matzoh Factory, and well-known Purim Carnival bring in many from the all over the community, for an evening of family fun and community spirit.
In addition to our fitness, aquatics, and senior program offerings, the Albany JCC has many classes and programs for working adults, offered on evenings and weekends. From scuba diving to knitting to guitar lessons and more, we strive to find interesting choices not offered in other facilities within our community.

One of our most popular series is our Hands On Healthy Cooking Classes, through our Partnership with the Honest Weight Food Co-op. Open to all in the community at a very low cost, each session offers a nutritional and educational session, before all are invited to start chopping and preparing a dish that will be shared with the whole class within an hour. The spirit of community created in each class is palpable.

Our Running Bulldogs Club is a great way to prepare for many races in the area with others who are more experienced and who get together several times a week to train. We also host a monthly movie series highlighting some of the best in current Jewish and Israeli film. As with all of our programs, events, and classes, we are always open to new ideas, so please let us know if there is something that you would like to see at the Albany JCC, and we will strive to bring it here.
Mission Statement
The Sidney Albert Albany Jewish Community Center provides a nurturing environment where individuals and families can grow and develop in mind, body and spirit. We serve the spectrum of family life, from infants through seniors, through programs related to education, physical fitness, and communal life. Our core values are rooted in Jewish principles, and we welcome members of the community at large, regardless of their faith or background.
Hope (Tikvah) $5000+
Anonymous
Bonnie Chavin - The Seymour Fox Memorial Foundation Inc.
Nick Bonarrigo
B’nai Brith Gideon Lodge #140
Morris and Esther Massry
Norman and Micki Massry
Mark Rosen and Leslie Newman
The Sidney and Beatrice Albert Foundation

Truth (Emet) $1,800 - $3,500
Adam and Regina Chaskin
Steven Rich
Ilene and Chip Stein

Compassion (Rachmanut) $1,000 - $1,799
David Bauer
Ruth and Dr. Robert Brass
Jennifer Colman
Marvin Freedman
Scott and Ellen Hollander
Karen and Alan Lobel
Sheila and Ira Lobel
Penny and Neil Manasse
Richard Propp
Lee and Donna Rosen
Mark Scher
Stewarts Foundation
Spinney Group
Edward Sossner, Attorney
Lois and David Swawite - Omni Development Company, Inc.
TD Charitable Foundation

World Repair (Tikkun Olam) $500 - $999
Eugene Barbara Berkun
Kevin Casutto
William and Gayle Estes
Bruce and Carolyn Ginsburg
William Golderman
Jill Goodman
Carol and David Grand
Alison and Mark Johnson
Susan Limeri
Edward Marinstein
Douglas Nadoraski
Jessica and Alan Richer
Isabella Ryan
Reid and Susan Sperber
Sonya and Peter VanBortel
Gary Weitzman and Amy Gingold-Horwitz

Life (Chai) $100 - $499
Fred Ackerman
Morton Alexander
Walter Ayres
Rich and Kristie Becker
Joseph Berry
Sharon Binstok
Joyce Bitran
Joyce Bookstein
Dorice Brickman
Dr. Cheryl and Scott Burack
Nancy Barlet
Jeffrey Cohen
Irvin Dana
Marc Ehrlitch
Peter Elitzer
Fast Enterprises
Bruce Knoll
Elliot Feinman
Eric Ganeles
Lawrence and Elizabeth Garbo
Cheryl Ginsburg-Smith
Jane Ginsburg
Danny Golderman
Felice Gordis
Herbert Gordon
Mary Gordon
Dorothy Hennerty
Fred Hershey
Lawrence Hollander
Robert Kaufman
A. Nancy Kohn
Richard Kottow
William Herbert
Nancy Lerner
Ronald Ley
Elliott Marinstein
Kyla Marion
Rogerio Marx
Gerald McLaughlin
Ruth Mendel
Brenda Hazard
I. David Swawite - Omni Development Company
Daniel Ornstein
Irving Paris

Dorothy Patashnick
Adrin Pfommer
Barry Pollock
Steven Rich
Johny Rodriguez
Ellie and Stephen (z”l) Safranko
Joan Savitt
Adam Schaffer
Herbert Scherzer
Richard Seiden
Rita E. Shawn
Lynda and Steven Shragger
Alexandra (Sandy) Sussman
Sarah Tillman
Ida Traschen
Dawn Tybur
Natalie Weinstein
Renee Whitman
Diana Wight
Rosalind Bellin Winston

Special Events
Dunkin’ Run
Alexander Kreymer
Albany ENT & Allergy Services, P.C.
Bensons Pet Center
Berkshire Bank Foundation
BMW of South Albany
Capital Bank
Dunkin’ Donuts
Hoffman Car Wash
Homestead Funding Corporation
Alexander Kreymer
R & M Homes Inspection Services
Schuyler Companies

2017 Impact Report
SEFCU
Vanguard-Fine, LLC
W.B. Mason Company, Inc.
Windsor Development Group

**Golf and Tennis**
The Sidney and Beatrice Albert Foundation
Anchor Agency
BMW of South Albany
BPI Mechanical Services Inc.
Ruth and Rob Brass
Jeffrey Cohen
Daughters of Sarah Senior Community
Elliot Feinman
Mark Frisierman
David Ginsberg
Allen Greenberg
Neal Greenstein
Gary Weitzman and Amy Gingold-Horwitz
Jewish Federation of NENY
Judy and Bill Kahn
Lawrence Kotlow
Steven Kronick
Nancy and Steven Lerner
Alan Lobel
M&T Charitable Foundation
Robyn and Edward Marinstein
Benjamin Mendel
Edward Murray
Nielsen Associates
Nigro Companies
Repeat Business Systems
Jessica and Alan Richer
Donna and Lee Rosen
Schuyler Companies
Ryan Smith
Jeffrey Sperry
Timothy R. Owens Tri City Rentals
Sonya and Peter VanBortel
Vanguard-Fine, LLC
W.B. Mason Company, Inc.
Dan and Susan Weinberg

Dan Weinberg
Mel Wilcoke
Senior/Adult Health and Services Fair
Albany Medical Center
Capital Region Orthopedics/Bone & Joint CDPHP
St. Peter’s Health Partners

**Pillars of The Community Awards**
Maimonides
The Massry Family
Beruriah
Karen Glaser
Mohawk Honda
Rosenblum Development Corp.

Ramban
Omni Development Company, Inc.
Renaissance Corporation of Albany

**Torah**
The Alfred Family

Avodah
Leslie and Barry Feinman
Evan and Renee Feinman
Mark and Leslie Rosen

**G’milut Chasidim**
David and Rochelle Adams
Sue Adler
Anchor Agency/Pioneer Bank
Barbara Aronson
Leslie Baker and Geoffrey Patack
Ruth and Rob Brass
Senator Neil D. Breslin
Cheryl Burack M.D.
Adam and Regina Chaskin
David Cherubin
Daughters of Sarah Senior Community
Joanne and Don Davidoff
Rabbi David Eligberg
Norm and Ruthie Ellenbogen
Eitan and Malka Evan
Assemblymember Patricia Fahy
Rabbi Roy Feldman
Marvin and Cherry Freedman
Mara Ginsberg and Jeffrey Pohl
Caroline and Bruce Ginsburg
Danny Golderman
Kathy and Billy Golderman
Jill S. Goodman and Arthur N. Malkin
Neil and Jane Golub
Gary and Genie Greenhouse
Alan V. Iselin and Renee Whitman
Lauren and Harold Iselin
Linda and Dan Hershberg
Jewish Federation of NENY
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Dr. Stuart and Bonnie Rosenberg
Carol G. Rosenthal
Nancy and Arthur Roth
Andrew and Julie Safraank
Cantor Jodi Schechtman
Richard Seiden
Karen and Dr. Gaven Setzen
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Rabbi Scott Shpeen
Shirley and Fred Simon
Assemblymember Phil Steck
Ilene and Chip Stein
Ilene and Jerry Sykes
Congressman Paul Tonko
Herman Ungerman and Audrey Hoffman
Susan Ungerman and Allan Greenberg
Mel Wilcoke and Laura Cohen
Dan and Susan Weinberg
Gary Weitzman and Amy Gingold-Horwitz
Stanley Winter and Marcia Gingold
Dr. Edward Wladis and Lianne Pinchuk

**Volunteer Tribute**
Capital Bank
The Spinney Group

**Jules and Paula Stein Lunch and Learn Lecture/Lunch Series**
Ed Sossner Law Firm, Dental Office of Hal Sossner, OB/GYN Office of Sylvia Sossner

**Autumn Afternoon Concert**
Daughters of Sarah Senior Community
Spinney Group

**Pre-Thanksgiving Program and Chanuka Concert/Dinner Program**
Prime Health Choice, LLC
Sharon Hoorwitz Realty

**FUNDS**
Aquatics Fund
Linda Day
Herbert Gordon
Margaret Grant
Larry Walley

**Senior Adult Fund**
Leslie Bayer
Irvin Dana
Thelma and Ted Drew
Foundation for Charlotte Jewish Community
Bram Freedman and Jocelyn Freedman
Esther Miklic
Seymour Peltin
These are just a few of the organizations that we helped last year. We hope that the list continues to grow, and are always looking for new opportunities to make a difference wherever we can.

We thank all of our generous donors for their support of the Sidney Albert Albany Jewish Community Center and its various programs and services. We are especially grateful to the Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York for their continued support of our mission. Gifts listed here include donations and pledges, $100 and greater, made to the 2017 Annual Appeal, special events and various funds, from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017. We strive to have an accurate list; if there are any omissions or errors on this list, or in any other part of this Impact Report, please let us know.
our staff & board of directors

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Tom Wachunas
Associate Director of
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John Maxian
Director of Finance
Linda Finkle
Director of Marketing &
Programming Coordinator
Jerri Young
Director of Membership
Lisa Wallock
Director of Fundraising
Andrew Katz
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Jennifer Baiocco
Director of Early
Childhood Services
Rossi Maldonado
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Claire Sigal
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Adult Services
Sean Bruns
Director of Facility & Safety
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supporter of the Sidney Albert Albany Jewish Community Center.