

you belong at the center. experience it.



Sabes Jewish Community Center
Jay and Rose Phillips Building, Barry Family Campus
4330 S. Cedar Lake Road, Minneapolis, MN 55416

sabes jcc annual report 2009



LOOKING TO THE
FUTURE AS WE
CELEBRATE OUR
FIRST 50 YEARS



board of directors

returning

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Susan Resnick
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nominated

FOR 3 YEAR TERMS

Steve Machov
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TO FILL THE REMAINING 2 YEARS OF A 3 YEAR TERM

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Susie Selcer *
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*Deceased

staff anniversaries

15 YEARS

Jeanne Aaron
Margarita Dorfman
Cindy Kopacek

10 YEARS

Sandy Groethe
Bill Hennen
Micki Naiman
Robyn Plotsker
Phil Vinnik

5 YEARS

Brittney Courtney
Daniel Gadaskin
Sam Gordon
Laurie Herstig
Mollie Karon
Marie Konieczny
Evie Smirnitskaya
David Wallach

dear jcc members, supporters and friends

For 50 years, the Jewish Community Center has been a vital part of our community. In 2009, we celebrate the 50th anniversary of its incorporation, recognizing the inspiring vision of the founders, and the dedication of staff, leaders and volunteers over the years that have contributed to the organization. Those who attended our benefit in April saw and felt the shared pleasure of a community in celebration.

We have much to celebrate. The past year has been an exciting one of new developments, new programs and growth. These have included the hosting of the JCC Maccabi ArtsFest®, continued growth of our inclusion programming, record audiences for the Jewish Film Festival, implementation of an exciting new aquatics program, the creation of new “membership models” to engage as wide a spectrum of our community as possible, and so much more. Many of our successes and expanded outreach have been through the Robert and Janet Sabes Center for Jewish Arts & Humanities. The growth of these programs has helped put the JCC on the map as a destination for exciting experiences in the arts and humanities for Jew and non-Jew alike. It’s little wonder that our two awards this evening both reflect work within this burgeoning department.



First, Walter Elias, chair of the Minneapolis Jewish Film Festival, is honored with the Jewish Journeys Award, recognizing a dedicated volunteer who builds strong Jewish connections to inspire others to be connected and involved. Walter’s leadership has been a critical factor in growing the dedicated army of volunteers who made this year’s film festival an unprecedented success. And every one of the thousands of people who attended the films over the years has benefited from Walter’s passion for this project.

On the staff side, the Susie Selcer Leadership Award is proudly given to Claire Avitabile, Performing Arts Director. Claire has the unique combination of creativity and acumen to make the performing arts program thrive—finding ways to save on costs while bringing a diverse array of performing arts programs and experiences to an ever-widening audience.

We also want to offer a mazel tov to Danna Mirviss, the recipient of this year’s President’s Award for her leadership as the chair of the JCC Maccabi ArtsFest®, hosted last August by our community. Danna was presented with this award at our 50th Anniversary Benefit.

On another note, this has also been a very tough year. The theme of reducing costs is one that resonates with every business, agency and organization not just in the Twin Cities but nationwide—even worldwide. The past several months have required close management of our financial position. Like other agencies and businesses, we’ve had to make difficult, even painful decisions. At the same time, we’ve remained fully committed to keeping our programs available and accessible—meeting increased demand for scholarships and developing outreach and programming to support struggling and laid off families.

The entire staff has truly risen to the occasion, continuing to serve the community cheerfully and professionally despite the increasing strain of reduced resources. Our incredible volunteers have also stepped forward in numerous ways—planning, fundraising, implementing and evaluating the agency’s programs.

Finally, we have to recognize the work of our dedicated board of directors. This has been a period of intense planning and management, requiring a close collaboration between board leadership and senior staff. Members of the board have given generously of their time, expertise and insight to help the JCC survive and thrive.

For those board members who are ending their service this evening, thank you! And for the new members who are now joining us, we look forward to your perspectives and contributions for laying the foundation for the next 50 years.

The Jewish community of Greater Minneapolis is truly a community. As the economy has put pressure on every organization, the JCC has been proud to participate in collaborative innovation, discussions around efficiencies and a shared approach to helping everyone through these times. As we move forward, no doubt even more innovation will be required. Our community, and our JCC, has an enormous wealth of talent and dedicated individuals who are working together to imagine and then create the future.

We invite you to contribute, participate and be involved in whatever way you prefer and can.

B’Shalom,



Robin Neidorf,
Board President



Stuart Wachs,
CEO

walter elias jewish journeys award

This award is presented annually to a member of the JCC who has built strong Jewish connections through participation at the Sabes JCC. Through these connections they must inspire others to become involved, increase the Jewish awareness of those around them, be an active part of the JCC family and enrich the lives of others.



Walter Elias is President of Elias and Associates, Inc., a health care consulting firm specializing in worksite prevention and wellness programming. He is married to Ruth Elias, a teacher in the Adult Basic Education Program of the Minneapolis Public Schools and has two children, Liora, who works in the Music Department of the University of Minnesota and Daniel, an architect with the Three Rivers Park District. Walter is a long-time volunteer with the Minneapolis Jewish Film Festival. In the early history of the festival, working closely with RuthAnn Weiss, former Sabes JCC Cultural Arts Director, and Susan Himmelman Shapiro, of blessed memory, consultant to the festival, Walter was head of the film festival committee. In recent years Walter has supported the directors of the Minneapolis Jewish Film Festival, Larry Shiller and Miryam Kabakov by acting as head of the film selection committee and steering

committee, a position he currently shares with Francie Ross. He is extremely gratified with the community's response to the 2009 festival which has become the largest Jewish cultural event in the Twin Cities.

claire avitabile susie selcer award

The Susie Leadership Award is an annual award given to a staff person who has demonstrated outstanding leadership among peers, fiscal and/or social responsibility, innovation and commitment to excellence and brand delivery.



Claire Avitabile received a Bachelor's Degree in Theatre from Smith College in Massachusetts, cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, and moved to Minneapolis in 2005 to pursue a career in directing and educational theatre. Originally hired in January 2007 as Performing Arts Coordinator at the Sabes JCC, Claire has spent the past two years focusing much of her energy on the development of a process-driven, educational theatre program for youth, including classes to train the young actor as well as short production opportunities that have allowed youth the opportunity to learn from Twin Cities professionals in areas of stage acting and theatrical design. Claire also created and managed a Box Office system for the JCC from scratch, established an online ticketing system and Box Office procedures, and made ticketing much more accessible to the JCC's members and community patrons. In her current position as Director of Performing Arts, Claire oversees a full season of professional performing arts events,

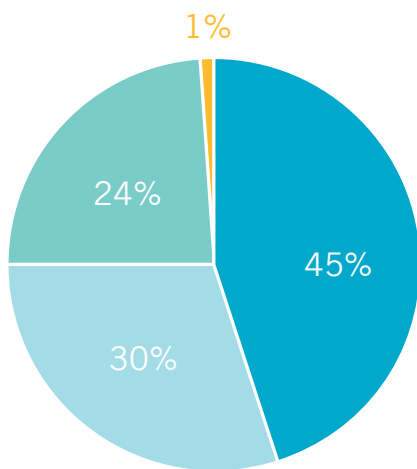
including plays, dance and music concerts, artistic collaborations, and new commissions, and continues to oversee all arts enrichment classes for preschool students through senior citizens. When she is not working hard at the JCC, she's working hard for 20% Theatre Company Twin Cities, a young and hip theatre that she founded in 2006, aimed at producing the work of modern female playwrights. For 20% Theatre Company, Claire has directed eight productions, two of which were named in the *CityPages* and *Lavender Magazine* "Top 10 Best Productions" lists of 2007 and 2008.

Throughout the Twin Cities, Claire has also worked with Teatro del Pueblo, Mu Performing Arts, SteppingStone Theatre, In The Basement Productions, nightpath theatre company, and has been a Resident Artist with Stages Theatre Company for the past three years. In New England, Claire has worked with The Drama Studio, Foodplay Productions, Naked Theatre Company, and taught for several years with Hopkins Academy and the Exploration Senior Program at Yale University.

sabes jcc financials

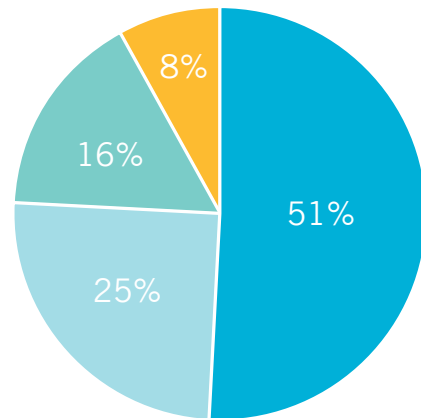
The JCC's operating budget for the 2008/2009 fiscal year is \$5.7 million, but is projected to decline next fiscal year as we are beginning to see the effects of the downturn in the economy on earned and contributed revenue. The JCC has cut expenses in response to the projected decline in revenues and we expect to balance the budget in 2009/2010. Our focus has been on maintaining member services and programming options as we balance community needs with funding realities. Now more than ever, it is important for the community, members and others, to support the center through participation and philanthropic dollars, so we can continue to meet the needs of the populations we serve.

The charts are designed to provide an overview of the JCC's budget; where revenues come from and how they are spent.



SOURCES OF REVENUE

- Program income
- Donations and Federation
- Membership dues
- Other



EXPENSES

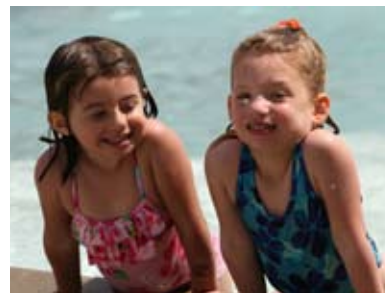
- Salaries
- Operating/Program Expenses
- Facilities
- Fringe Benefits

sabes jcc the experience

The major departments of today's JCC reflect the same commitment to our community that we saw from the earliest days of the Emanuel Cohen Center. For 50 years, the Jewish Community Center has been the center of our diverse Jewish community, through good times and difficult ones. The Sabes JCC brings the community together to celebrate our heritage and build for our future. Within the JCC, we enrich our physical health, our minds, and our spirits.

The JCC uniquely serves a need: bringing our entire community together, regardless of need, ability, religious practice or areas of interest. Today, our Sabes JCC promise is to provide a nurturing Jewish environment that encourages the full potential of everyone who enters. We are dedicated to making every experience positive and enriching.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS



Health and Wellness is a key part of the Sabes JCC experience. Our full service Health and Wellness Center includes current exercise equipment, professional personal training, group exercise classes, sports and aquatics programs. Our friendly, non-competitive environment is designed to ensure that you can make healthy living part of your life balance plan—whatever your abilities or current fitness level may be. Health and Wellness often serves as a key entry point for many unaffiliated Jews. Their participation and experiences and the social networks they create by belonging often strengthens their Jewish identity and connections.

The JCC swim program has been a great swimming experience for my children. We have previously used Foss Swim School and Martha. My children really enjoyed the teachers and the facility. I appreciated the flexibility of Elliot Kohl with scheduling. We are planning to continue with the JCC program this winter.
—Gary Berman, M.D.

Wow, thank you so much for sharing! I have been out of town all week traveling for work and when I came home last night Joely couldn't wait to share her goal note with me. She was so proud of herself and we were so proud and amazed at what she accomplished!!!! I am really impressed with how hard the kids are working and how much they have been accomplishing this season. As you're aware, I am unable to come to practices or pick up Joely to get updates as I'm working but I really appreciate you taking the time to share with me her progress and share with her what a great accomplishment this is. Thanks again!!!!
—Lisa Gendler

When the girls first took logrolling, the first thing they asked me when they got home was when can they sign up again for the next session. The night before log rolling they pack up their things and can't wait until school is done to jump on the log and get rolling. We love this program!
—Peggy Mandel

When my girlfriend and I were looking for a gym, we told Steve what we wanted and he was able to show us how the JCC met our needs and more. He's extremely easy to talk with and always gives us a big "Hey!" when he sees us around the center. Steve has definitely gone above and beyond to help us feel welcome at the JCC. Thanks for your help with everything!
—Nathan Burkhart

ROBERT AND JANET SABES CENTER FOR JEWISH ARTS AND HUMANITIES



The Robert and Janet Sabes Center for Jewish Arts and Humanities provides opportunities to our community for Jewish cultural connections and exposure. Our programs are engaging people in their lifelong pursuit of artistic and intellectual fulfillment. The programs that we offer are an important part of how we live our mission and how the JCC has significantly broadened our engagement of the widest spectrum of the Jewish community along with the general community. We offer stimulating lectures, hands-on classes and cultural events through the Tychman Shapiro Art Gallery, performing arts series, the Sabes Foundation Minneapolis Jewish Film Festival, Jewish Journeys lecture series and the Live from New York's 92nd Street Y™ series.

PERFORMING ARTS

I saw this play many years ago on Broadway—and this production was just as great!
—Brighton Beach Memoirs anonymous survey

After being in over 10 youth productions at the JCC it's been truly an honor to be on stage in a professional show! We all bonded right away—adults and teens—and it's been awesome to work with Jon Ferguson in staging Deborah Stein's brand new script. I'm so glad the JCC is utilizing this beautiful theater!
—Avi Aharoni, high-school senior and one of five actors performing in Chaplin: The Son of Isidore and Hanna Thornstein

TYCHMAN SHAPIRO GALLERY

A truly heart wrenching subject that few have approached. Thank you for opening my eyes to something I knew nothing about.
—Anonymous

I brought my AVODArts: Jewish Lens class from the Minneapolis Talmud Torah. The timing of this exhibit with our lesson on photographing Jewish communities was perfect. Thank you for educating us and for your artistry in telling the story.
—Daniel Etedgui

A searing reminder of worldwide oppression in a direct, personal and permanent format. These photographs belong in a history museum.
—Sharon Zweigbaum

-Excerpts from the comment book of Desaparecidos: Mother's of the Disappeared, photographs by Sylvia Horwitz, displayed in the Tychman Shapiro Gallery March 12–April 23, 2009

MINNEAPOLIS JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

The films enhanced my sense of Jewish identity and connection with the Jewish community.

It was an incredible event for building community and I loved the films.

I loved being involved with the Film Festival! The festival is a great benefit to the Jewish community.

I loved the film festival. It showed how complex Jewish life is. Thank you so much to Walter and the whole crew who pulled this wonderful event together. I wish I could have gone to more films.

-Comments from the 2009 Minneapolis Jewish Film Festival survey

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER



The Early Childhood Center offers the best programming for children 6 weeks to 5 years. Whether it is our full-time infant program or a part-time toddler class, our inclusive Jewish environment inspires a safe and nurturing experience. Our skilled staff provides a rich variety of high quality and age-appropriate hands-on learning materials and experiences. Pre-schoolers at the ECC are the beneficiaries of the award-winning “Ethical Start” Program. Based on the ancient Jewish text, Pirkei Avot, Ethics of the Fathers, this multi-media program deepens family commitment to the practice of ethics and values. Our ECC students experience diversity within all the branches of Judaism, and our ECC meets the needs of dual working and single parents with expanded hours.

Just read the newsletter—so much wonderful stuff always going on at the ECC! I have been meaning to write to say how much Sean (and I) love the beautiful alphabet letters posted at the sign in desk—whoever makes those is quite talented and I wanted them to know how much their work is appreciated. Sean has shown ZERO interest in letters until those appeared! Thank you!!

—Jessica Carroll, Kindergarten Teacher at Ramsey International Fine Arts Center

I just want to say thank you. I took Hannah this morning to get her Kindergarten screening tests and she passed with flying colors. I know that with all the different information that they tested her on, she would have never known if it weren't for Marni and Julia. With that said, we both just wanted to really let you know how grateful we are that Hannah has both Marni and Julia to learn from each day, they are wonderful teachers and great role models for her to learn from. Kindergarten here we come!

—Wendy and EJ Clyman

Thank you for all of your hard work. It is an absolute pleasure to have you caring for, teaching and loving Madeline. I could not ask for a better group of teachers.

—Kari Thomas

YOUTH AND FAMILIES



Youth and Families are engaged with programs and classes geared toward every age group from birth through adulthood. HaBonim provides much needed afterschool care in a Jewish environment. All departments offer an array of courses for the curious, ranging from sport-oriented classes such as flag football, pre-natal water exercise and basketball leagues to the art-oriented, such as soul painting, dance classes and music lessons.

I really want you to know what a great job that you and your HaBonim staff are doing! You all have Sam's best interests at heart and your commitment to his success has always shone through to both him and me. I am so glad to have your support and communication—it means a lot. I just wanted you to know!

—HaBonim Parent

SUMMER CAMP



Summer Camp is the crucial ingredient for a well rounded summer experience, and nothing quite compares to the mix of excitement and enrichment that accompanies Sabes JCC summer camps. Jewish values and culture are at the heart of our programs. Our camps are inclusive, and the Sabes JCC takes pride in providing support for the integration of children with special needs. Whether your child is interested in sports, science, art or nature, we will ensure the best summer camping experience available. Summer camp is one of the leading experiences to maintaining Jewish identity as kids approach their teen years.

Thank you for a wonderful summer! David and Adam had an incredible experience. Each and every counselor was terrific. They were all warm, caring and lots of fun to play with. Each day the boys would come home with a great story about what they did during the day. This summer as been extremely memorable and they haven't stopped talking about it. Also, our experience hosting Hen was great. David and Adam loved playing with him.

*Thanks again for everything! We are looking forward to next summer.
-Camp Parents*

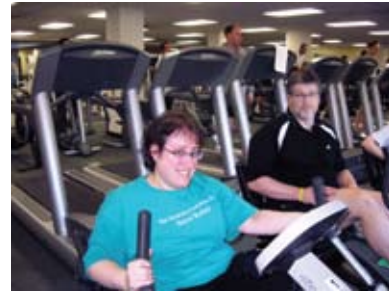
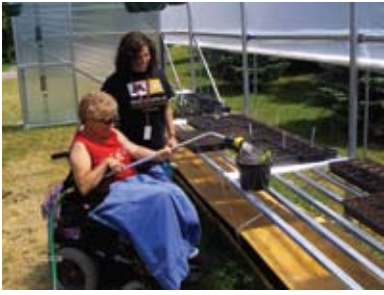
ADULT PROGRAM



Adults are staying healthier and more active a lot longer these days! Recognizing this, we provide a wealth of programs, classes and activities to challenge mind, body, and spirit. Adults can stay connected to the community and meet new friends at exercise classes, and congregant dining with our hot lunch program. Additional Adult experiences include field trips to local attractions, theatre performances around the Twin Cities, speakers on issues from Health to Jewish Thought, dances, and movies.

Rosalyn, 90, and Seymour, 91, Locketz both come to the JCC everyday. Seymour works out in the Fitness Center and has a regular routine. Rosalyn goes to Silver Sneakers and Gentle Tai Chi, and even though she suffers from chronic pain, she doesn't let it stop her. "It's major," Rosalyn says, "it gets us out of our apartment each day." Rosalyn says she always feels better once her classes are done. In fact, if you ask Rosalyn how she is doing she will tell you "oh, I'm improving." They have belonged to the JCC since it has opened and the reason they have such a great quality of life for people their age is because of the experience they have at the JCC.

INCLUSION PROGRAMMING



Inclusion Programming at the Sabes JCC welcomes people of all ages and abilities and is dedicated to removing barriers to participation for all. We include children and adults with special needs into all of our programs. The Inclusion Director works with parents to make the youth program or camping experience a successful one for every child. Individual support plans, and in some cases one-on-one advocates, are provided to ensure a positive outcome. Adults with special needs are also encouraged to attend all programs offered by the Center, and we are committed to making all possible accommodations.

There are many good parts about the JCC—to be able to come here and feel comfortable. I'm doing a good job at the ECC. I struggle with communicating with adults. Downstairs, at the ECC, I don't have a problem. One ECC child got attached to me. I brought her a teddy bear, and when her mom found out, she was blown away and thought it was so nice of me to do that. Parents can see my involvement.

—Evan Zuckman, Sabes JCC Inclusion Program participant and volunteer

FORMER SOVIET UNION (FSU) PROGRAMMING



Community members from the Former Soviet Union (FSU) are also engaged in programming at the JCC through the generosity of the Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation, the Minneapolis Jewish Federation and individual donors. We work with current Sabes JCC members and others from the FSU in our community to explore how we can better meet their needs. Also, in conjunction with Jewish Community Action, the program has begun to offer community organizing and recreational activities for residents of Booth Manor, a downtown Minneapolis senior residence with a large number of seniors from the FSU.

The JCC provides financial assistance and scholarship for those in need for membership, camp, ECC, and other JCC programs to keep individuals, families and our community strong. A Jewish Community Center—the JCC provides a gathering space for all in the community, whether you are here to just hang out and schmooze, for one of our exciting programs, or a community-wide event, the JCC has certainly become the central address for the community.

2008/2009 donors

We thank all of our generous donors for their support of the Sabes JCC and its various programs. We are especially grateful to the Minneapolis Jewish Federation for their continued support of our mission and a special thank you to United Way.

Gifts listed here include total donations and pledges made to the Sabes JCC, the You Belong Fund, the 50th Anniversary Benefit, The Machers Golf Tournament, Minneapolis Jewish Film Festival, JCC Maccabi ArtsFest®, tributes and various funds May 1, 2008 through May 1, 2009. We strive to have an accurate list, however, if there are omissions or errors in your listing, please contact the development office so we can make the correction: 952.381.3514.

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Deera Tychman

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\$500–\$999

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SABES JCC—BRINGING THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER IN AN INCLUSIVE JEWISH ENVIRONMENT INSPIRING LIFE BALANCE. EXPERIENCE IT!

The new Sabes JCC Sustaining Membership category is our annual support membership which is replacing our annual fund. This membership helps provide the JCC with the needed funding to provide the array of services, programs and experiences that bring the community together, enrich lives, strengthen our community and increase people's engagement to, and understanding of, Judaism. These funds also help us be an inclusive agency by providing some of the resources needed to provide financial assistance and other inclusion services.

A sustaining membership helps the Sabes JCC reach its full potential to serve the community.

Our thousands of members and program participants enjoy the vast array of unique programs and services we provide through our Robert and Janet Sabes Center for Jewish Arts and Humanities, Early Childhood Center, Health and Wellness Center, recreation programs, enrichment classes, senior services, day camps and much more.

While the Sabes JCC charges for fee-based memberships and for many of its programs and activities, fees do not cover a significant portion of the costs involved in running a vibrant JCC. Your sustaining membership enables the JCC to provide staff training; need-based scholarships; increased capacity to deliver cutting-edge programs and services; facility excellence and community outreach.

Become a sustaining member and belong to the JCC or add a sustaining membership on top of your existing JCC membership. The sustaining membership is a fully tax deductible contribution. Sustaining members receive a JCC membership card, JCC publications and notices, and truly belong to the JCC.

To become a sustaining member today—visit www.sabesjcc.org and click Support Us or contact our development office at 952.381.3514. Sustaining memberships can be paid on an annual basis or set up as a monthly draft.



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SAVE THE DATE

5TH ANNUAL MACHERS GOLF TOURNAMENT
AND CASINO NIGHT

MONDAY, AUGUST 24
1 PM SHOT GUN START
OAK RIDGE COUNTRY CLUB

Invitations will be mailed in July. For Sponsorship opportunities or questions, contact Kay Goldstein 952.381.3429 or kgoldstein@sabesjcc.org.

New this year—Casino night following golf and dinner!



installation in progress

TYCHMAN SHAPIRO GALLERY EVENT



**AUGUST 2, 4 PM
IN THE MAIN LOBBY
OF THE JCC**

Please join us for the dedication ceremony of the new Founders Sculpture created in memory of those who laid the groundwork for the JCC. The sculpture will be on permanent display in the JCC Lobby and was created by Minnesota-based artist Alexander Tylevich.