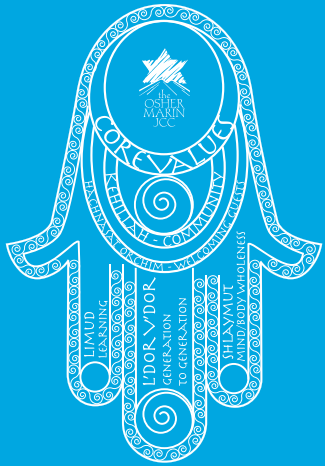


OSHER MARIN JCC
IMPACT
REPORT
2025

Sustaining Jewish Culture • Enriching Lives • Building Community



The mission of the Osher Marin JCC is to celebrate, strengthen and sustain Jewish life, to build cross-cultural understanding, and to enrich the lives of those in the community at large.

We are the gateway for people of all ages, faiths, and backgrounds to participate in cultural experiences, community events, education and recreational activities.

Dear Friends,

The Osher Marin JCC is more than a building — it is a place where connection, belonging, and shared purpose come to life.

Over the past 75 years, the Osher Marin JCC has continually adapted to meet the changing needs of Marin, ensuring it remains relevant, responsive, and deeply connected to the lives of those we serve. What began as a gathering place has grown into a dynamic center for learning, wellness, culture, and community — serving thousands of people each day through programs grounded in Jewish values and shaped by the diverse lives of those who walk through our doors.

This past year has been a challenging one. In a time marked by global uncertainty, rising antisemitism, and events that have deeply affected all of us, the JCC has remained a steady presence — a place of strength and solidarity where people come together for comfort, support, and shared meaning. It has been a space to care for one another and reaffirm the enduring importance of community.

Each day, more than 2,000 people come through our physical and virtual doors. Because of your support, children grow in confidence and Jewish identity, older adults stay active and engaged, and people of all backgrounds find belonging within an inclusive and welcoming environment.

As you read this Impact Report, you will see how the JCC continues to evolve — expanding access, deepening programs, and strengthening our ability to meet the moment while sustaining Jewish culture for generations to come. This impact is possible because of you, and your partnership enables us to continue building a strong, inclusive JCC for the years ahead.

With sincere gratitude,

Paul Castro
President
Board of Directors

Judy Wolff-Bolton
Chief Executive Officer

**The JCC is all about the people
who walk through our doors
and how together we make
every day a little more
meaningful by**

**Sustaining
Jewish Culture,
Enriching Lives,
& Building
Community.**

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Sustaining Jewish Culture

Meet Marika

Marika's connection to the JCC began in high school — her first job at age 14 was in the JCC's infant care room, while her husband Eric grew up using the gym. Years later, when they moved back to Marin with their children, Elliot and Lyra, returning to the JCC felt like coming home.

As the non-Jewish parent of an interfaith family, Marika wasn't sure what to expect from the JCC Preschool at first. What she found there changed her, and her family, in ways she hadn't expected. The JCC gave both Lyra and Marika their first steps into Jewish learning, and Shabbat, the holidays, and rituals slowly flowed into their family life.

Elliot and Lyra spent summers at Camp Kehillah punctuated by Shabbats, sticky challah eaten from tin foil, delightfully raucous color wars, and giggle-fests with beloved counselors. Both kids developed friendships from preschool and camp that endure to this day.

Now, as a board member, Marika has gained a wider lens on what the JCC truly is: a place that holds the whole community — Jewish and non-Jewish alike — through grief, joy, and everything in between. “The JCC didn't just welcome our family,” she tells people. “It helped us become the family we are today.”

770

Children and families deepened their Jewish identity or allyship by celebrating Shabbat at the JCC.

1,025

Participants gathered to learn, commemorate, and promote hope at our Israel-focused programming.

1,200

People joyously celebrated Hanukkah at our Festival of Lights.

1,650

Community members participated in educational programs about the Holocaust and combatting antisemitism.



Marika, Eric, Lyra, and Elliot Wiesen

Enriching Lives

Meet Memo

Professional race car driver Memo Gidley has been a JCC member for over 25 years. He first joined to stay in shape, but after a devastating 130mph crash left him with twelve broken bones, the JCC became something more than a gym — it became a place of comfort and healing.

After ten surgeries, “getting to the JCC was my #1 priority,” Memo remembers. “Even though I could barely walk and could not dress myself, my first goal was to get into the indoor therapeutic pool. It was a long, painful journey, but the JCC staff helped my healing as much as the great facilities. Every day they were so kind, concerned, helpful, and supportive.” Three years of dedicated rehab at the JCC later, Memo returned to the race track — and to the podium, including a victory in the 2023 GT America Championship!

For three generations of Gidleys — Memo, his mother Mary, and his young daughter Amelia — the JCC remains a place to stay strong, build friendships, and support one another through life’s challenges. Memo reflects, “The JCC has been a wonderful place for my family.”

\$390K

Given in membership, preschool, and camp scholarships to help build an inclusive community.

880

People improved their health and wellbeing at our fitness and aquatics center each day.

7,400

Hydrotherapy sessions helped people suffering from illness or injury gain strength and mobility.

750

Participants per week pursued healthy aging at our senior fitness classes like Senior Strength.



Memo Gidley

Building Community

Meet our Hydrotherapy Friends

People come to the JCC's hydrotherapy program in search of physical healing, but for many participants they find much more — a caring circle of friendship and belonging.

Joan Beavin first attended hydrotherapy at the JCC in the 1990s and reflects, "I was in so much pain that I wasn't sure life was worth living. But being in the water and the help I got from the staff turned my life around. The hydrotherapy program probably saved my life!"

Week after week, participants encourage one another through exercises, celebrating progress big and small. Over time, those connections extend far beyond the pool. Every Wednesday, Joan and her hydrotherapy friends gather after class for a lively game of Mahjong. During the holidays, the community celebrates poolside with hot cocoa and cookies. Friendships continue outside the JCC with gatherings throughout the year at one another's homes.

"The hydrotherapy program was a wonderful discovery," says Anne Howson. "My body wouldn't work as well without the instructors' and participants' help and encouragement. I consider the people I have come to know through the program to be dear friends. I feel so blessed to have this group."

725

People enjoyed a night of multicultural celebration and dancing at our Summer Nights and Winter Nights concerts.

845

School-aged youth built lifelong friendships at Camp Kehillah and our Vacation Camps.

1,000

People sought nourishment and community each week at our new café, Eli's Deli.

2,180

Participants found community and enrichment at our game days, musical matinees, cultural art trips, and local excursions.



Standing L-R: Walt Whitman, Kathleen Weinberg, Sean Sullivan, Jocelyn Freid, Serge Taylor, and Jocelyn Miguel

Sitting L-R: Sarah Simon, Elaine Goldman, Joan Beavin, Anne Howson, and Phyllis Abbate

Ensuring our Future

Meet the Nickenigs

For the Nickenig family, the JCC is where Jewish identity takes root and grows across generations. Renee Nickenig attended our preschool as a child, learning traditions that still shape her identity today. Now, watching her son, Karl IV, experience the same rituals and community feels like a full-circle moment.

At home, Karl happily sings the Shabbat songs he learns at school, bringing Jewish culture into their everyday life. “I love listening to him repeat the stories and songs,” Renee gushes. “It has been incredible to experience all these traditions together all over again.”

For Karl’s grandmother, JCC member Denise Cohn, seeing the next generation at the preschool is deeply personal. “It means the world to me that Karl is at the JCC,” she states. “It is so important that we create opportunities to learn and practice Judaism as part of modern life.”

At school, Karl loves simple things — “the cars, puzzles and blocks.” His parents see something deeper: a growing love of learning and beautiful friendships that are shaping who he will become. Thanks to scholarship support, the Nickenigs can give Karl an education that nurtures both his curiosity and his Jewish identity. “We wouldn’t have such a strong connection to the Jewish community if not for the JCC,” Renee reflects.

694,000

Visitors attend a program, engaged in learning, pursued wellness, or met with friends at our center.

900

Families engaged in our JBaby Marin programs for infants, babies, and toddlers.

16,500

Swim lessons taught life-saving water safety skills to children and adults.

435

Individual donors, companies, and foundations invested in our community and made our impact possible.



Denise Cohn, Karl Nickenig IV, Renee Nickenig, and Karl Nickenig III

Programs for Everyone

Toddlers & Preschoolers

Our Early Childhood Education Centers in San Rafael and Mill Valley offer a variety of infant and baby programs and provide toddler, preschool, and pre-K (transitional kindergarten) programs for children ages 18 months to five years, with a focus on universal, values-based learning.



Youth & Family

The Toole Center for Youth & Family offers year-round programs for children, teens, and families. In addition to hosting special events for Jewish holidays, it is also home to Camp Kehillah, a popular summer and vacation camp serving youth across the community.



Adults

The Kurland Center for Adult Learning & Living provides lifelong learners with a range of enriching experiences, from classes and local excursions to musical matinees, game days, and cultural arts trips. We also offer a variety of exercise and wellness programs for seniors.





Performing Arts

The Kanbar Center for Performing Arts showcases world-class performances, including the popular outdoor Summer Nights and indoor Winter Nights concert series, which attract attendees from across the region.



Jewish Culture

The Taube Center for Jewish Peoplehood offers programs, thought-provoking discussions, and holiday celebrations that honor Jewish values and traditions. Our events welcome people of all ages, beliefs, and interests.



Fitness & Aquatics

Our award-winning Koret Center for Health & Fitness features an Aquatics Center with Marin's only warm water therapeutic pool, outdoor pools, a full gymnasium, personal trainers, a sauna, a spa, and over 65 weekly fitness classes.

Our impact is possible because of you.

Your gift enables us to

- Strengthen connection with friends and community.
- Celebrate Jewish joy, tradition, and culture.
- Help older adults stay active and engaged.
- Foster Jewish identity through preschool, youth, and family programs.
- Create an inclusive, welcoming, and safe gathering space in both good and challenging times.
- Provide financial assistance and free or low-cost programs so that everyone can participate.

Your contribution, no matter the size, enables us to fulfill our unique role of reaching across age groups, improving wellbeing, inspiring Jewish journeys, and building a world based on greater cross-cultural understanding.

Did you know that Membership dues and other revenues cover just 80% of our annual costs? Philanthropic support is critical to keeping our JCC vibrant and thriving.

Your gift has impact.



Make your donation online
or by contacting
Michael Benesch
Development Officer
415.444.8032
giving@marinjcc.org



Why We Give



We support the JCC because it is vital to our community. We first joined when it was just a portable building and outdoor pool, and we are proud to have helped it grow while forming many meaningful friendships along the way. We deeply value the JCC's commitment to inclusiveness and its role as a welcoming gathering place for the Jewish community — regardless of affiliation — and the broader community.

— **Barbara and Joel Renbaum**
Members & Legacy Circle Donors



We support the JCC because the preschool has been a safe, supportive, and joyful fixture in each of our three children's lives. Its programming and curriculum are second to none — incredibly

thorough, professionally developed, and full of enrichment — resulting in happy, healthy, and confident children that are also incredibly well prepared for their K-8 schooling. We continue to be so grateful for their joyful learning!

— **Caitlin and Stuart Landesberg**
Preschool Parents & Chai Circle Donors



We moved to Marin all the way from Australia, and it's been amazing to find such an incredible community that welcomes all. Camp Kehillah has been a truly wonderful place for my daughter Estie to grow, gain confidence, connect, and experience Jewish culture in an accessible and fun way. We support the JCC

because we believe in the power of community, and we hope our support helps more families experience it too.

— **Eytan Lerba**
Camp Parent & New Donor



I have watched the JCC's early childhood programs grow from temporary buildings in the 1970s to our beautiful main campus and now to JCC South. Both my children—and their children —attended the JCC Preschool. I support the JCC because these early experiences planted a deep understanding of Jewish traditions and community in our family. I am very proud of what we have created together.

— **Rick Green**
Past President & Leadership Circle Donor

Thank You, Generous Donors!

(z"l) of blessed memory

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Sokol Sensations

Together we honored 20 years of amazing Adult Learning & Living programs and director James Sokol. Thanks to the generosity of our event sponsors and donors, we raised over \$100,000 to subsidize our free and low-cost programs for seniors and were able to make our Midweek Musical Matinee concerts free!

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