

Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center of Houston

# 2012 Annual Report



## THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT



It is hard for me to comprehend that it has already been one year since I have been passed the baton from Dan Steiner to serve as President of the Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center of Houston (ERJCC). As I review the list of achievements that have been made in our community center over the past year, three in particular stand out.

First, was the renaming of the Jewish Community Center of Houston to the Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center of Houston. We are grateful to Linda & Jerry Rubenstein for making a significant commitment to our Houston Jewish Community. They have been great supporters of the Center for many years, and we want them to know how much they are sincerely appreciated.

Second, was our participation in the Benchmarking study with the JCC Association, which included 49 JCC's across the country. Our JCC was placed with 13 other large metro-area JCC's in the highest revenue generating peer group and measured in the following four categories: Jewish Impact, Program Leadership and User Engagement, Attracting and Retaining the Best Staff, and Maintaining Financial Sustainability and Growth. While our Center proved to score above average in many of these categories, this study served to be critical in helping us pinpoint key areas for strategic revenue growth necessary to ensure our financial sustainability. These growth opportunities will help us maintain our many wonderful children, teen and senior programs.

When it came to being evaluated on fundraising efficiency, the average large metro-area JCC spent 23% of their fundraising dollars to obtain those dollars, and we excelled with an efficiency of 86%, meaning we only had to spend 14% on our fundraising efforts. And, 20% or less is considered the gold standard benchmark among all non-profits.

As it relates to programs, I do not need to tell you how much we excelled. We ranked second in user engagement, as 74% of our members used two or more programs. We were also second in member retention and staff motivation. Executive Vice-President, Joel Dinkin, has done an excellent job with establishing a clear vision among staff of where our agency is headed.

The most impressive part of the Benchmarking study is that we scored exceptionally well in Jewish Impact, which deals with the following criteria: developing a broader perspective of the Jewish community, having a greater appreciation of Jewish Values, and feeling a deeper connection to Jewish Identity. Our mission states it is "...to develop and strengthen Jewish identity, foster Jewish values and enrich the Jewish community and the greater community." I cannot tell you how proud I am to be involved in an organization who so successfully achieves its mission.

I want to thank all of the staff and volunteers who made it possible for us to make such a positive and lasting impact in Jewish lives in the greater Houston community.

Lastly, I want to mention that we are very excited about a new outreach program called Mishpacha and Me. This program, which is being funded next year by our long-time partner the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston from the Funds for The Jewish Future, allows us to go outside of our traditional four walls and involve Jewish families that are typically unaffiliated with a synagogue and do not have much Jewish connection in the local community. Both the Federation and ERJCC have identified this group of people as an integral part of our Jewish future and are happy to make an investment in this outreach initiative.

Houston is a very fortunate city that has a United Way that is "Doing Something Special." Their support of the ERJCC and programs that serve seniors, children and families truly make a difference.

It has been an honor to have served you this past year and to witness the remarkable strides we have made that have strengthened our longstanding foundation in the Jewish Community.

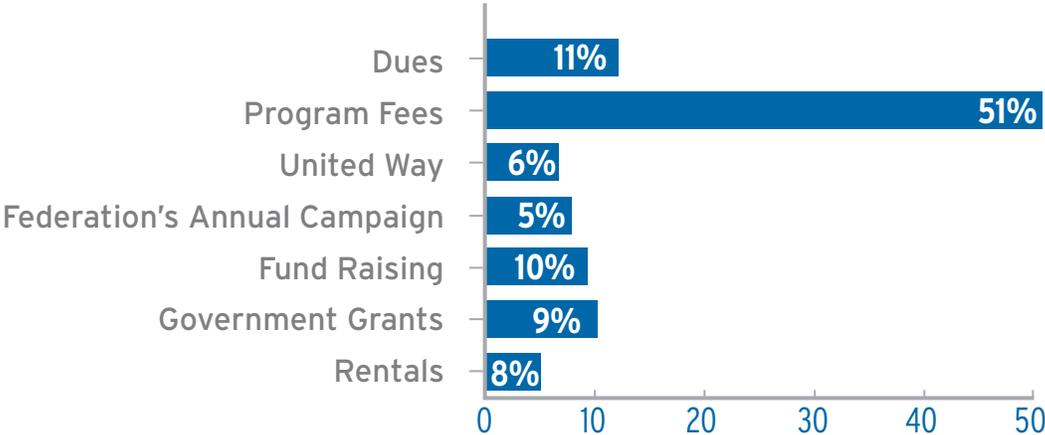
With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sam Stolbun'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

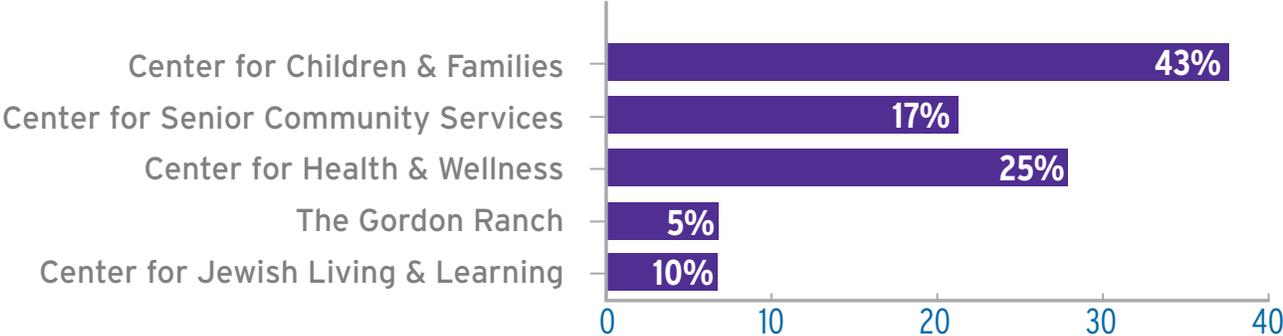
Sam Stolbun  
ERJCC President

# Annual Budget \$14,731,122

## INCOME



## PROGRAM EXPENSES





# Dear Friends,

**I**t is my honor and pleasure to serve as the Executive Vice President of the Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center of Houston. Our ERJCC is rich in history and steeped in tradition. From Hermann Drive to our existing location on Braeswood and West Houston, as the premier Jewish institution in Houston, we make a difference in people's lives. In our wide array of programs, we serve the very youngest to the most senior in our community. Thousands of people a week benefit from the ERJCC.

I want to take this opportunity to thank and recognize our President, Sam Stolbun, our Board of Trustees, hundreds of volunteers, committee chairs and leaders who on a daily basis give of their time, energy and resources to make the ERJCC a

very special place. Thank you to all dedicated and hardworking staff that make the ERJCC what it is.

As we look to the future, one can only imagine the endless possibilities of new programs and opportunities as Houston continues to grow and develop. The demand for critical social service programs including infant care and the Meals on Wheels program will challenge the ERJCC in new and different ways. I look forward to continuing our partnerships with the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston and the United Way of Greater Houston and creating new alliances.

I hope that you will join us this summer as we host the JCC Maccabi Games® & ArtsFest® August 5-10, 2012.

Thank you.

Joel Dinkin  
Executive Vice President

Meals on Wheels volunteer,  
Kelly Hoover, with recipient



Infants love Bertha Alyce Early Childhood Center



*101,000 meals were served by our Community Meals program meeting nutritional guidelines and providing human contact for homebound seniors.*

*– Timothy Stewart, Director, Meals on Wheels Program*

Over 650 RSVP volunteers celebrate Senior Prom



ERJCC Nite Owls enjoy spending the evening with Rabbi Dan Gordon's storytelling



- A new Street Smarts Series was provided and new Facebook classes were developed for Baby Boomers and 65+ adults to allow this population to explore the most popular forum of social media.
- 101,000 meals were served by our Community Meals program, meeting nutritional guidelines and providing human contact for homebound seniors.
- Approximately 2.5 tons of pet food was distributed to clients last year so they could feed their pets without sacrificing their own meal.
- 1,313 RSVP volunteers provided 130,510 hours of service to non-profit and public agencies in support of child literacy, senior nutrition, family violence services, respite care, Medicare fraud prevention, disaster preparedness and other services.
- 70 volunteers provided an average of 58,655 volunteer hours to over 500 clients, 90 veterans and over 60 isolated, disabled homebound clients.
- 350 hospice patients received companionship in the last days of life, and 35 family caregivers received respite care, allowing them to care for their loved ones in their own homes for a longer period of time.
- 96 Foster Grandparents provided 65,906 hours of mentoring/tutoring to 633 at-risk students and 1,575 newborn, low-birth weight babies at LBJ Hospital in 2011. The volunteers also served at Head Starts, elementary schools and day care centers, some at shelters. Dowling Middle School was added as a new location where volunteers serve.

Seniors welcoming in Shabbat at the ERJCC



Foster Grandparent Theresa Robinson providing TLC



## AQUATICS

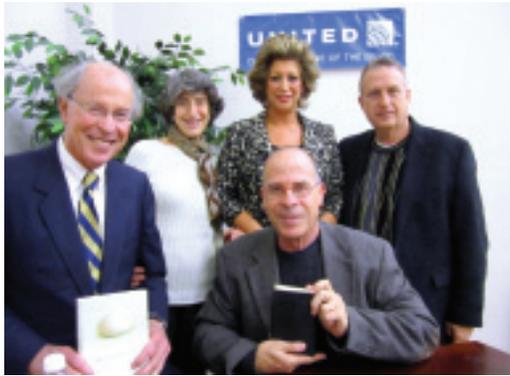
*The ERJCC Aquatics Program launched new and exciting programs in Fall 2011.*

– Ken Leventhal, ERJCC Aquatics Director



- The Starfish ERJCC Swim Academy Program was created for 2 year old beginner swimmers. This program emphasizes adjusting to group situations and developing independence in the water. The enrollment has doubled since the first season.
- The new Master Swim Program partnership with the ERJCC and the Coogs US Masters Swim Team has begun. This team is for all Master Swimmers over the age of 18. Practices will be at the main ERJCC outdoor pool and at the Merfish Teen Center at 9000 S. Rice. We are thrilled to be returning to the Merfish Pool.
- The Aquatics Program launched new and exciting programs. This is why Pooch Pond was so successful. Members were allowed to bring their dogs to the Proler Indoor Pool for an afternoon swim. The pooches & their owners had a fantastic time.





## ARTS & CULTURE

Post-concert gathering of The Klezmatics, singer Joshua Nelson, Cantor Daniel Mutlu, Maurice Amado Foundation Family members Adrienne and Dr. Victor Lavis, and ERJCC Assistant Executive Director Marilyn Hassid and Program Coordinator Brittany Horwitt



Photo by Janice Rubin

Honorary Houston Jewish Film Festival Chairs Sharon Kagan and Doreen Joffe, ERJCC Film Coordinator Ariela Emery, filmmaker Nina Hawn Zale, and Chairwoman Barbara Bronstein at the closing night celebration



- 1200 people packed opening night at this year's Annual Jewish Book & Arts Fair to hear Dennis Prager and Joseph Telushkin. The brainchild of Chairwoman Deborah Kaplan, it was the first time these two friends and collaborating authors appeared together in Houston. Songwriter Charles Fox closed the Fair in an intimate evening in the Kaplan Theatre, sharing his personal journey while he played and sang many of the songs he made famous.
- Outreach into the community continued to be a focus for Dance Month at the Kaplan Theatre. Israeli choreographer and instructor, Elad Shtamer (Haifa) taught students at area synagogue schools and for the public. New York based *Gallim Dance* taught at seven area schools and community centers reaching well over 1,000 students. Thanks to a generous underwriter, free tickets to a Dance Month concert were provided to children and teens from underserved communities.
- Get Cultured increased its arts and culture events for the 20's and 30's crowd with four events: a community art project at MECA, *Inside the Author's Studio* with Google expert, Steven Levy at the Jewish Book & Arts Fair, a study session with Horvitz Scholar Dr. Adam Ferziger, and an evening of *Curb Your Enthusiasm* episodes screened at Studio Movie Grill.
- Music hit many "high notes" this season. The ERJCC was one of five national organizations to receive a commission from the Foundation for Jewish Culture to present an original work by musical artist, Galeet Dardashti, based on the musical poems of Selichot. The Maurice Amado Foundation continued its generous support of the Arts & Culture season that included *Project Trio* and *The Klezmatics* with the "prince of kosher gospel," Joshua Nelson. jTunes, the ERJCC a cappella group continued performing throughout the community for Congregation Beth Israel religious schools, Congregation Brith Shalom Mitzvah Day, and Interfaith Ministries Tapestry Gala.
- The Houston Jewish Film Festival, presented with the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston and with venue partner, Holocaust Museum Houston, continued to expand its reach by adding two new venues: 14 Pews and Studio Movie Grill. In addition to the Summer Israeli Film Series, the ERJCC joined presenters across the U.S. screening *Family in Captivity* on the fifth anniversary of the capture of Gilad Shalit. Coinciding with Domestic Violence Awareness Month, *Crime after Crime*, was presented with a panel discussion in collaboration with seven community partners.
- The Deutser Art Gallery hosted a strong and varied season. The ERJCC received a grant from the American Library Association and Nextbook, Inc. to present *A Fine Romance: Jewish Songwriters, American Songs, 1910-1965*. Additional programming throughout the season enhanced the exhibitions including *Go Wild at the J*, a first-time ever art family day of activities with former ERJCC President, Stephen Kaufman's wildlife photography as the backdrop.

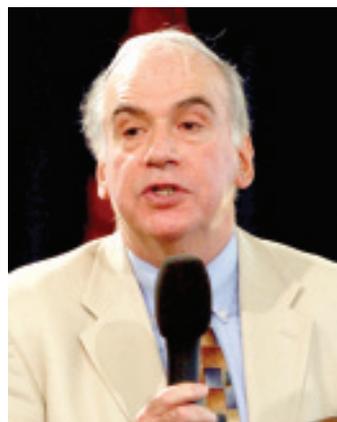
*The CJLL offers programs for all ages that incorporate Jewish learning and celebration as a valuable component of our lives.*

– Carol Emery, Board of Directors and CJLL Committee Chair

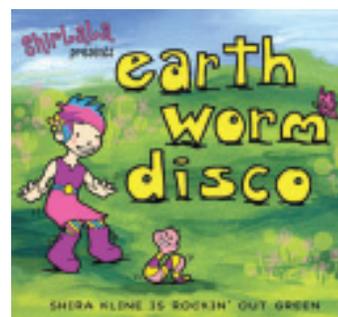
*Engaging Israel: Foundations for a New Relationship*, a course developed by the Shalom Hartman Institute and offered at the ERJCC in partnership with Congregation Beth Yeshurun.



Dr. Stephen Berk in the CJLL Scholar Series



Tu B'Shevat celebration with Shirilala



- The Florence Melton School offers 12 advanced courses in topics including philosophy, history and literature.
- The Center for Jewish Living & Learning (CJLL) brought together six organizations including Congregation Beth Israel, Congregation Beth Yeshurun, Congregation Brith Shalom, Congregation Emanu El and United Orthodox Synagogues of Houston for a Sukkot celebration that drew over 500 participants from across the community.
- The CJLL began its scholar series, a new program of ongoing lectures by a single scholar. Our inaugural program featured Dr. Stephen Berk in a series entitled *The Last Century that Shattered the World and Transformed the Jewish People*.
- The Women's Beit Midrash, a multi-denominational women's learning program offered participants the opportunity to study traditional Jewish texts in a pluralistic environment.
- The CJLL offered ten different courses this program year including a cooking course, and a course entitled *Engaging Israel*, a nine week course in partnership with Congregation Beth Yeshurun.
- The CJLL developed holiday family celebrations, from Rosh Hashanah to Yom Ha'Atzmaut, including a Tu B'Shevat celebration with *Earthworm Disco* by Shirilala.

## CHILDREN, CAMPING & YOUTH

2012 Camp Kaleidoscope Summer Staff



Young athletes enjoying a new co-ed program; the Meyerland Soccer club at the J



- The ERJCC continued its collaboration with the Girls Scouts of America hosting a troop.
- Bi-monthly “Kids Nite Out” programs attracted over 1,000 children.
- The JCCS Performing Arts Center’s Fall production of *That’s Showbiz* had enjoyed a review of catchy musical tunes. The JCCS’ spring production of *Alice in Wonderland* was sensational.
- The Daddy Daughter Dance celebrated its 9th year with over 200 fathers and daughters in attendance. The Mystical Garden - themed event at the Merfish Teen Center was a huge hit. Mothers and sons also had the opportunity to bond at our first ever Mother and Son Hannukkah Cooking Classes at Rice Epicurean Market. Sure to become a J tradition, the Mother/Son Cooking Classes sold out in just a few days!
- In conjunction with our School’s Out programs, five Early Dismissal Day Programs were introduced to provide our young members with the opportunity to participate in field trips and other exciting events on HISD early dismissal days.
- The ERJCC’s after school program, KidZone, experienced an increase of 50% enrollment this year with over 50 students from nine neighborhood schools participating each week. KidZone participants take advantage of what the ERJCC has to offer, including the gymnastics and tennis centers, the basketball gym, and the outdoor swimming pool.
- The ERJCC of Houston collaborated with BBYO to enhance the Middle School programming for Houston’s 5-8 graders. This program became known as Houston Connect 68 and began in August 2011 with 63 participants at the first program. We continued offering two social and one community service program each month and have added additional programs for winter and spring breaks. For the year, Houston Connect 68 has reached out to over 400 middle schoolers.
- Summer Day Camp at the J had many filled camps with 6,250 total camper weeks.
- There were many new “specialty camps” offered that were very successful. Some of these camps included, Camp Jam for KIDZ, Digital Media Camp, Magic Camp and Cooking Camp.
- The new Meyerland Soccer at The J league started this year with 130 participants ages 5-8.
- The J-Ball Basketball league formed last year and expanded from a seasonal program to a year-round program. We used coaches from the International Sports Training Institute (ISTI) during the week and played games coached by parents on Sundays.
- The Start Smart Sports Program for Pre-Schoolers received an All Star rating from the National Alliance for Youth Sports.

## DEVELOPMENT

*Each day our Honorees and Honorary Chairs work to make children's lives better through their many community commitments and ability to motivate others to do the same.*

- Mark Toubin, Ball Co-Chair

- The community contributed over \$1.5 million to support ERJCC programs and scholarships through individual gifts, foundation and corporate grants and participation in the Patrons of the Arts campaign, 22nd Annual Children's Scholarship Ball, Bertha Alyce Early Childhood Center Giving Tree campaign, the ERJCC Golf Tournament and the JCC Maccabi Games® and Artsfest®.

Golfers Sammy Fleschler, Billy Morrow, Carlos Lopez, Richard Royall and Tournament Chair Abe Goren enjoyed a great day at BlackHorse Golf Club, at the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual ERJCC Golf Tournament underwritten by Locke Lord LLP.



The Giving Tree 2011 Annual Fund Campaign for the Bertha Alyce Early Childhood Center



22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Children's Scholarship Ball - Honorary Chairs Michael Feinberg and Ann Kaufman; 2012 Honorees Doug Foshee, Bobbi Samuels and Ken Simon; Honorary Chair Marc Watts; ERJCC Executive Vice President Joel Dinkin; and 2012 Ball Co-Chairs Elizabeth Cohen and Mark Toubin



Zoomobile 2012



Nitsana Puppet Show



- The Bertha Alyce Center opened two new classrooms in January to meet the growing needs of our community, making this a banner year for enrollment and the highest rate of re-enrollment in its recent history.
- The Giving Tree Annual Campaign exceeded its goal and raised over \$42,000. The proceeds of the campaign were used to enhance current technology with iPads, an indoor soft playscape was installed and all classrooms received manipulatives to augment math curriculums already in place.
- Community building events included Girls Night Out, Bowling for BAC, VIP Shabbat and off-site community playdates.
- BAC participated in grant opportunities with the University of Texas and the Bureau of Jewish Education. These opportunities benefited parents through education and materials for our classrooms
- The Early Childhood Committee raised funds to provide enrichment for the preschool which included theater trips, rodeo days and cultural art experiences.

Pre-K prep for Passover



*The Bertha Alyce Center opened two new classrooms in January to meet the growing needs of the community, making this a banner year for enrollment and the highest rate of re-enrollment in its recent history.*

*- Bonnie Kasner, Program Director, Early Childhood Programs*

## GYMNASTICS

*The Houston National Invitational (HNI) Gymnastics competition that the ERJCC and the Houston Gymnastics Center host annually continue to attract the top gymnasts from the country and around the world.*

– Tim Erwin, ERJCC Gymnastics Director

- Our Gymnastics Camp program is on track to have substantially more participants than in 2011! The staff and campers will focus on creative new learning opportunities and develop skills and physical fitness. The Camp is designed to help the beginner as well as the advanced gymnast learn skills, develop spatial awareness, meet new friends and most of all have a great time!
- The Girls and Boys Teams had a fabulous year with the Boys Level 5 Team winning the USA Gymnastics Texas State Meet. The Girl's team also competed fabulously at the State Meet and both teams had many individual and all around placements and champions. The Girls Team just returned from the 5-State Regional Championships after qualifying five girls to this prestigious event. Our Trampoline and Tumbling Team continues to excel and qualified eight participants the Regional Championships and both the Boys Team and Trampoline Team expect to qualify over six athletes to the USA Nationals held in May and July.
- The Houston National Invitational (HNI) Gymnastics Competition that the ERJCC and the Houston Gymnastics Center host annually continues to attract the top gymnasts from around the country and the world. More than 2,600 athletes attended this year and had record attendance (more than 8,000 over the weekend) in the event's 18 year history. The event is held at the George R. Brown Convention Center and boasts athletes from across the United States as well as from China, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Argentina and other countries.
- Our early childhood gymnastics program increased participants by 20% with the addition of a new specialized instructor for gymnastics and physical education. The children are learning skills, making friends and accomplishing feats they never thought they could do.

Sydney Jing and Maya Alatin practice on the balance beam during summer gymnastics camp



Chinese Gymnast at 2012 Houston Gymnastics Center-ERJCC Houston National Invitational (HNI)



Future gymnast in Mighty Munchkins Class



*Our personal trainers are all certified by nationally accredited organizations such as the American College of Sports Medicine, the American Council on Exercise, and the National Academy of Sports Medicine.*

– Blair Bushong, ERJCC Head Personal Trainer



- We dedicated our January marketing to Group Training, including TRX® and partner training. The first quarter sales reports for 2012 indicated an \$11,000.00 increase in Group Training, TRX, and Partner Training compared to the last quarter of 2011.
- Our personal trainers are all certified by nationally accredited organizations such as the American College of Sports Medicine, the American Council on Exercise, and the National Academy of Sports Medicine. Additionally, several of our trainers have degrees in Kinesiology, Health/Fitness, or Exercise Science. Our staff works with all ages and abilities, from sports specific training to post-rehabilitation, weight loss, or overall conditioning.
- The 2012 4th Annual ERJCC Family Triathlon and training program was a success. Once again we have high registration numbers for our training program led by Robin Fortenberry (Group Exercise Instructor), Lee Hardy (Personal Trainer), and Blair Bushong (Head Personal Trainer). This year we added an adult training program that drew an additional 12 participants to our program.

## MARKETING

*The naming of our agency to the Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center of Houston was a positive experience for us to embody the heart and soul of this great place and create a brand new look and feel! We have modernized many elements of our brand presence and it has helped to restore an emotional and lasting connection with our diverse audience.*

- Renee Harris, ERJCC Marketing Director

- The ERJCC Marketing & Communications Department received a Kol Ha Kavod Excellence Award from the JCC Association for their outstanding work in re-branding the name of their center. Their work included a new brand style guide with a pivotal focus on the new brand name, logo, color, type electronic media, print collateral, signage, expressions and brand voice. The ERJCC brand campaign was highly successful and widely accepted by the Board of Directors, Lay Leaders, Staff and General Members. The award was recognized at the 2012 JCCA Biennial Conference in New Orleans in May 2012.
- The ERJCC Marketing Committee worked tremendously hard this year developing a very comprehensive and strategic IT and Communications plan for the agency for the next 5-7 years. The plan was spearheaded by committee chair, Deborah Kaplan, who did an extraordinary job on selecting key leaders and industry-experts to represent the committee.
- Social Media Marketing continues to be an effective branding tool for the ERJCC to engage with members. We are connecting daily with our members via FaceBook and Twitter and have even posted several videos and links on YouTube. Our fan base continues to grow with almost 1,000 "likes" on FaceBook and "636" followers on Twitter and counting!

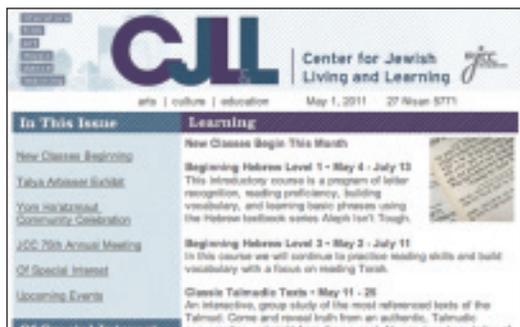
ERJCC Facebook Page



Spring 2012 J connections



CJLL Monthly eBlast





- Membership retention has received a strong focus during the 2011-12 fiscal year. New best practices have been established, including a correspondence plan that touches base with new members throughout their first year of membership. On average, the ERJCC now retains over 86% of members from year to year.
- Fitness Center memberships have remained strong with steady increases in membership, 5% over the past two years with a 94% retention rate.
- Strategic plans to increase the value of membership by simplifying the membership structure are underway. In January 2012, a partnership with Rice University's MBA students was formed to assist the Member Services Department in identifying a viable action plan.

*The ERJCC is vibrant and full of life in every corner of our campus. You can always find an activity, program or class to participate in. The best part is your friends are all here to do it with you!*

– Lauren Carstensen, Director of Member Services

## TEEN SERVICES

*A monthly Mitzvah Day program began in September. Consistently we've had many teen volunteers assisting with community service projects at such venues as Houston Habitat for Humanity, the Friendship Circle and the Aishel House.* – Dan Edelstein, Teen Programming Coordinator

- Over 300 teens participated in J-Serve 2012, the National Day of Service for Jewish teens under the collaboration of the ERJCC, BBYO, and BIFTY. The teens worked on eight separate service projects around Houston focusing on making the city greener.
- A monthly Mitzvah Day program for teens began in September. Consistently we've had many teen volunteers assisting with community service projects at such venues as Houston Habitat for Humanity, the Friendship Circle and the Aishel House.
- The ERJCC partnered in a new leadership program called the Target Leadership Program. This program is part of the developing relationship between ERJCC and BBYO, which also includes building future programs together.
- The ERJCC has begun to develop a web presence through a redesigned web page, social media, and e-communication such as newsletters.
- The Third Annual J Teen Art Scene program included showcasing visual art work from over 40 participants in the ERJCC Deutser Gallery. Aside from the art pieces that were submitted by teens, we also had the musical talent of five participants and the culinary talents of three participants.

Teens working at Evelyn's park during J-Serve 2012



Teens working at the Arboretum during J-Serve 2012



## TENNIS CENTER



Fall 2011 Mixer

Winners of the 2011 Back-to-School Mixer



Maria Smith, Jandayia Lubin, Zina Garrison (former Pro Tour player), Emmanuel Johnson, Jordan Meza at the ERJCC Tennis Center. The ERJCC was host to Zina Garrison's ATS Tennis Workshop Clinic. The ERJCC hosted young teens from Florida, Chicago, Atlanta, North Carolina and Boston.



- The annual Harris J. Weingarten Tennis Tournament attracted 200 participants, and included the third annual Pro Am Tournament. The Weingarten Tournament also included the first ERJCC QuickStart Play Day, which drew approximately 40 junior players ages 5-10.
- The Junior Tennis Program serves close to 200 players, and has fully incorporated the QuickStart method of instruction for junior players ages 5-10. The Tennis Center is also collaborating with the Houston Tennis Association and US Tennis Association in providing a Junior Team Tennis Developmental Training program on Sunday afternoons.
- The Junior Excellence Academy, for school team and tournament players, has grown to over 20 participants.
- Over 400 private lesson hours are held monthly.
- Tennis Socials and Mixers have seen a resurgence of popularity.
- The 'Hit with a Pro' option has become increasingly popular and is a great addition to mid-afternoon tennis programming.
- We are home to 14 League Travel Teams.
- The second Ladies' Member/Guest Event was held in January 2012, with a total of 30 members and guests participating.
- The Tennis Center continued its collaboration with the Emery Weiner and Shlenker schools, providing tennis instruction and facilities for their students.
- Beren Academy formed a Middle School Tennis team and chose ERJCC Staff Pro Stacy Aguirre as their coach. Their training takes place at the Merfish Teen Center.
- The Emery Weiner Varsity Tennis Team, coached by the ERJCC's Dave Green, competed in the TAPPS 4-A District Tournament in April 2012 finishing the season with a 4-2-1 record. Three students, Ted Levy, Ryan Frankel and Ria Gerger, advanced to the State Tournament April 25-26, 2012. Ria advanced to the semi-finals of the State Tournament losing to the tournament winner. Ria is currently ranked #12 in Texas, Girls 18's.

## WEST HOUSTON

*The Early Childhood Committee raised funds to provide enrichment for the preschool which included theater trips, rodeo days and cultural art experiences.*

– Rachel Wallach, Director, Ellen Boniuk Early Childhood Center

- The ERJCC West Houston program at the Ellen Boniuk Early Childhood Center continues to enjoy stable enrollment and bring a sense of Judaism to the West Houston community.
- Staff continued to maintain strong collaborations with other community professionals to enhance preschool Jewish celebrations
- The Early Childhood Committee raised funds to provide enrichment for the preschool which included theater trips, rodeo days and cultural art experiences.

Dancing at School



Purim holiday celebration



Pony Rides on Go Texan Day



Eating fruit for Tu B'Shevat



# 2011-2012 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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\*Past Presidents

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Arts & Culture  
Audit  
Book Fair  
Budget & Finance  
Children & Youth  
Day Camp  
Development  
BAC  
Golf Tournament  
Horvitz Scholar  
Human Resources  
CJLL  
JCC Maccabi Games®  
and Artsfest® 2012  
Marketing  
Patron of the Arts  
Scholarship Ball  
Teens  
Tennis  
Next Generation

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## ADMINISTRATION

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*Concierge*

Janey Finger  
Norma Gonzales  
Lynn Zimmerman  
*Executive Assistant*

Linda Gilbert  
*Receptionist*

Janis Odensky  
*Room Booking*

Gwen Sam  
*Driver*

Paula Stafford  
*Concierge*

Lee Williams  
*Driver*

Betty Tonnessen  
*Scholarship Coordinator*

## ADULT SERVICES

Esther Bethke, *Administrative Assistant*  
Jennifer Handy, *Program Coordinator*

## AQUATICS

Ken Leventhal, *Aquatics Director*  
Tonya Hall, *Administrative Assistant*  
Taylor Hunt, *Program Coordinator*  
Whitney Moore, *Program Coordinator*

## ARTS & CULTURE

Ariela Emery, *Program Coordinator*  
Ashley Horn, *Children's Dance Coordinator*  
Brittany Horwitt, *Program Coordinator*  
Maxine Silberstein, *Director, Dance Program*  
Judy Weil, *Administrative Assistant*

## BUILDING SERVICES

Jeff Hays, *Facility Manager*  
Greg Amador, *Porter*  
Gary Bunton, *Porter*  
Alfred Jackson, *Porter*  
Stacy Legenfeld, *Maintenance Specialist*  
James Monroe, *Porter*  
Mark Thompson, *Maintenance Specialist*  
Jose Zavala, *Maintenance Specialist*

## CENTER FOR JEWISH LIVING & LEARNING

Naomi Barancik, *Family Programs Coordinator*  
Mindy Pollack, *Adult Jewish Learning Coordinator*

## CHILDREN & CAMPING

Randy Comensky, *Director, Children & Camping*  
Eric Bishop, *Youth Sports and Kaleidoscope Director*  
Gillian Richter, *Program Coordinator*  
Kathy Sabia, *Administrative Assistant*  
Dan Edelstein, *Teen Coordinator*

## GYMNASTICS PROGRAMS

Tim Erwin, *Gymnastics Director*  
Adam Benas, *Coach*  
Leslie Holmes, *Administrative Assistant*  
Bo Morris, *Coach*  
Roumen Yordanov, *Coach*

## DEVELOPMENT

Michelle Rathers, *Donor Services Coordinator*  
Melissa Gordon, *Special Events Director*  
Lena Lieb, *Administrative Assistant*

## EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES

Bonnie Kasner, *Program Director, Early Childhood Programs*  
Jan Cockbill, *Director, Bertha Alyce Center*  
Michelle Friedman, *STARS Program Coordinator*  
Wendy Wortham, *Administrative Assistant*  
Susan Perry, *Director, Bertha Alyce Center*  
Nickie Sereal, *Accounts Receivable*

## HEALTH & FITNESS, RECREATION & TENNIS PROGRAMS

Blair Bushong, *Personal Training Coordinator*  
Brenda Boyd, *Group Exercise Coordinator*  
Casandra Cosby, *Women's Spa Attendant*  
Jackquelyn Humphrey, *Receptionist*  
Kenneth Ingram, *Men's Spa Attendant*  
Janis Odensky, *Administrative Assistant*  
Linda Thomas, *Tennis Director*  
Lynnette Lyons Berman, *Tennis Membership Coordinator*

## MARKETING

Renée Harris, *Marketing Director*  
Daryl Freedman, *Online Marketing Manager*  
Michelle Groogan, *Public Relations Coordinator*  
Bettina Stap, *Graphic Designer*  
Jason Wheeler, *Graphic Designer*

## MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

Lauren Carstensen, *Director*  
Maryann Mueller, *Administrative Assistant*

## MERFISH TEEN CENTER

Maytal Babajanov, *Teen Program Coordinator*

## SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICES

Walt McFadden, *Director RSVP*  
Becky Brown, *RSVP Project Coordinator*  
Mary Ann Kelley, *RSVP Project Coordinator*  
Lynda Mendez, *Administrative Assistant*  
Barbara Reid, *RSVP Project Coordinator*  
Nicki Wright, *RSVP Project Coordinator*  
Marilyn Vargiu, *Director, Senior Companions*  
Archie Bailey, *Administrative Assistant*  
Barbara Melnik, *Director, Foster Grandparents*  
Bea Rivas, *Administrative Assistant*  
Timothy Stewart, *Director, Community Meals*  
Kelly Hoover, *MOW Packing Coordinator*  
Victor Meston, *MOW Route Coordinator*

## ERJCC WEST HOUSTON

Rachel Wallach, *Director*  
Sarah Deitch, *Administrative Assistant*  
Lesta Remke, *Office Coordinator*

## GORDON RANCH

Richard Summerrow  
Melissa Zerber

## ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROGRAM STAFF 2011-2012



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