

**SJCC's Dana Weiner Honored with
Pamela Waechter^{z"l} Jewish Communal Professional Award**

[MERCER ISLAND, WA—June, 23, 2014]—Strom Jewish Community Center (SJCC) is proud to announce that longtime staff member Dana Weiner, Senior Director of Family Education and Outreach, is a recipient of this year's Pamela Waechter^{z"l} Jewish Communal Professional Award.

The award, which was presented at the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle's Annual Meeting Thursday, June 19 at the [SJCC Mercer Island campus](#), recognizes Jewish community service professionals for extraordinary contributions to the Jewish community. Recipients also must embody many of Pamela Waechter's qualities, including a deep personal and professional commitment to Jewish continuity, innovation, caring interactions, and leadership. The award was created in honor of Pamela Waechter, one of the victims of the 2007 Jewish Federation shooting.

Weiner, who joined the SJCC team 18 years ago (2014 marks her "chai" anniversary, *chai* meaning "life" in Hebrew), has been steadfastly committed to the organization's mission of fostering community, creating programs that connect young families to the Jewish community and to each other. Most notably, she launched the SJCC's Parenting Center, which offers support programs to strengthen new families, including Listening Mothers and Reflective Parenting. Other family outreach programs Weiner has brought to the J include Shalom Baby, which provides gift baskets to unaffiliated families to help them welcome their newborn and connect with the Jewish community, and Shabbat Unplugged, a gathering program for families to unwind, unplug from technology, and spend time together through storytelling, art projects and song sessions. When asked what her biggest accomplishment is in her near 20-year tenure, Weiner says, "I am most proud of the fact that I have helped hundreds of families find meaningful ways to begin their Jewish journeys by deepening their Jewish values, identities, and connections. I love how the J is a place where people make heart-to-heart connections with individuals and families that inspire their own sense of belonging and create a lifetime path of togetherness and community." Although Weiner didn't know Pamela Waechter well, she acknowledges that "to be considered in the same vein as her is very humbling. Her heart was so full of light."

SJCC CEO Judy Neuman shared some additional insight on why Weiner is particularly deserving of this honor: "Dana is often the first Jewish professional someone connects with when looking for educational and family programming," Neuman said. "Whether they are new to the community or a multi-generational family, Dana helps them navigate the beginning of their Jewish journeys and stays with them as they grow through the years. She is nurturing and firm, challenging and receptive, caring and committed; all qualities that embody Pamela Waechter."

Weiner received her award alongside several other 2014 Community Award recipients on June 19, where each was recognized for their commitment to and impact on ensuring a vibrant Jewish community in the Greater Seattle area and beyond. To learn more about SJCC educational and family programming, please visit www.sjcc.org.

Strom Jewish Community Center

Founded in 1949, the Strom Jewish Community Center is dedicated to enrichment of life for the Jewish and general community in the greater Seattle area. Membership is open to everyone. The SJCC offers diverse programs, including community-wide events, a newly renovated auditorium, Fitness Center, Early Childhood School, summer day camp, before- and after-school care, sports leagues, cultural arts programs, and a variety of social, cultural, and recreational programs. www.SJCC.org.