



Who We Are

Founded in 1949 as the Seattle JCC, the Stroum Jewish Community Center's vision is to inspire connections that build community and ensure Jewish continuity.

Mission

Together we create outstanding programs, partnerships, and spaces that welcome everyone to learn, grow, and celebrate Jewish life and culture.

Core Values

Jewish Peoplehood
K'lal Yisrael

Welcoming Everyone
Hachnasat Orchim

Learning
Limud

Joy
Simcha

Respect and Common Courtesy
Derech Eretz

Taking Care of Oneself, Body and Soul
Shmirat haNefesh v'haGuf

A Community of Friends
Kehillah shel Chaverim

FACT SHEET

Fast Facts

- Membership open to everyone regardless of race, religion, or national origin
- Two campuses - main campus on Mercer Island (92,000 sq ft; 14 ½ acres), and a North Seattle campus for the Seattle Early Childhood School
- Mercer Island campus built in 1968, opened in 1969, expanded in 1981. Full renovation of auditorium and surrounding space completed in 2014
- 115 full-time employees; 150 part-time staff; 100 seasonal camp staff
- Governed by SJCC Board of Directors comprised of 17-25 members per the SJCC by-laws
- Strategic Plan approved March 2014 outlining roadmap for the SJCC fiscal years 2015-2017. Priority areas: 1) Long-Term Financial Sustainability; 2) Community Engagement; 3) Early Childhood School; 4) Facilities.

Did You Know?

- The SJCC Early Childhood School is the largest Jewish preschool in the state of Washington
- 990 campers attended SJCC Summer Camp in Summer 2015
- More than 400 people play annually in the J's co-ed summer softball league, established in 1981
- In an average month, nearly 1,400 people participate in the J's group fitness classes including yoga, boot camp, and cycling
- The J awards scholarships annually for Early Childhood School, summer camp, and memberships
- The SJCC collaborates with over 20 partner organizations in the Greater Seattle area

SJCC History

- 1949** Seattle Jewish Community Center founded in downtown Seattle
- 1959** Camp Benbow opened first summer camp session, operated by SJCC
- 1963** "Basic Facilities Study" administered by Jewish Federation to determine best site for a new JCC; results found Jewish population moving to the East; Mercer Island chosen because of price of available land
- 1966** Land of current Mercer Island property purchased to build a JCC
- 1968** Groundbreaking for Mercer Island facility
- 1969** Mercer Island Jewish Community Center opened on March 1, 1969
- 1978** Campaign began for Mercer Island JCC expansion
- 1980** Groundbreaking for expansion of Mercer Island facility
- 1981** Expansion added 47,000 sq. ft. for a total of 90,000 sq. ft (including ECS wing and Auditorium)
- 1982** \$4 million campaign led by Samuel Stroum^{z"l}; organization name changed to the Samuel and Althea Stroum Jewish Community Center of Greater Seattle
- 1984** SJCC acquired co-ed softball league from Bikur Cholim Machzikay Hadath Congregation; becomes one of largest Jewish softball leagues in WA State, hosting an estimated 5,000 softball players since 1981
- 1998** Fitness Center expanded to 2,000 square feet
- 2010** J Café and new Welcome Desk opened
- 2011** SJCC launched vibrant Keshet Community Garden program; acquired Seattle Jewish Film Festival from its founder American Jewish Committee to align with community engagement priorities
- 2012** Capital Campaign for new auditorium kicked off, first major campaign and renovation since 1981; Fitness Center updated in addition to new equipment
- 2013** Construction began in June; J purchased Keshet Garden property from Holocaust Center for Humanity
- 2014** New multi-purpose space opened to the public; inaugural cultural arts program launched
- 2015** Strategic Plan operationalized; "Makom" room opens as center for mindfulness

What We Do

Aquatics

- 25-yard indoor tiled pool with 2½-foot-deep instructional area, adult lap lanes, and certified lifeguards
- Three-time Golden Teddy award-winning aquatics program featuring private and group lessons for kids and adults to improve technique, strength, and endurance

Community Celebrations

- Partner with local organizations to bring free Jewish holiday celebrations to the Greater Seattle community
- Celebrations include Hanukkah Under the Stars, annual Purim Carnival, Tu B'Shevat, young family Seder and many more
- Family outreach programs like Tot Shabbat and Shalom Baby Baskets welcome new families into the community

Early Childhood School

- Largest Jewish early childhood school in Washington, serving more than 300 children ages 3 months to five years on Mercer Island and Seattle campuses
- Leader in early childhood education, follows Reggio-inspired emotionally-responsive practice; part-time and full-day options offered on a school-year and year-round basis
- Supplemental enrichment classes available including performing arts, swim lessons, cooking classes and gymnastics

Fitness

- 2,000 square-foot Fitness Center with updated strength and cardio equipment, personal training, senior health options; more than 40 exercise classes included in membership
- Full-sized gym/basketball court, pool, exercise studio, indoor running track, and racquetball courts offer fitness options for all ages. Group fitness, water aerobics and CrossFit also available.

Keshet Community Garden

- Organic outdoor garden features a beehive, orchard, and rental patches for recreation gardening and nature education
- Home to SJCC community-building programs including summer outdoor movie series, birthday and tea parties, s'mores over the fire pit; rentals available for private outdoor events

Rentals

- Multifunctional spaces for events and celebrations including business meetings, performing arts events, birthday parties, weddings and bar/bat mitzvahs
- Rental options include cultural arts venue, community garden, gymnasium, indoor pool and classrooms
- Conveniently located off I-90; includes free onsite parking

Camp

- Full- and half-day camps during school-year breaks for those entering kindergarten through 8th grade
- Summer camp includes full-day three-week and one-week options including traditional Jewish camp and specialty camps for sports, adventure, performing arts, science, and visual arts

Cultural Arts

- Year-round cultural arts events including concerts, theater performances, film screenings, lectures, and streaming programs
- Home to Seattle Jewish Film Festival, annual and year-round event featuring films from around the world with a Jewish connection
- Cultural arts venue features telescopic seating for 358, Dolby Digital surround sound, digital high definition projection; Hearing Loop, assistive listening devices and ADA accessibility

Family Engagement and Mindfulness

- Interactive parenting classes to help moms, dads, and families create healthy social, emotional and intellectual development for children at home, and build connections with other J families
- Designated space ("Makom") to inspire more meaningful moments, presence, and relaxation in individuals' lives including individual and family yoga, meditation classes, mindfulness practice and Kabbalah

J Café

- J Café offers convenient food and beverage options including espresso, pastries, snacks, and select items for Jewish holidays
- Free Wi-Fi with bistro tables, chairs and other comfortable seating for people to meet friends for coffee, work remotely or curl up with a great book

Kidstown Before/After School Care

- For pre-K through 5th grade with transportation options to/from select schools on Mercer Island, and in Seattle, Bellevue
- Low staff-child ratio with hands-on activities crafted around monthly themes, Judaic programming, and community events to keep kids engaged and stimulated

Sports Leagues

- Recreational sports leagues for all ages; adult leagues include fall and winter men's and women's basketball, co-ed summer softball; kid's leagues include K-3rd grade basketball
- Kid's leagues offer volunteer coaching opportunities for community members; master level leagues provides employment opportunities for young adults and others



Financial Resources and Sustainability

Funding

The SJCC depends on donations to make programs possible, and support our vision to remain a strong and vibrant community organization for everyone – regardless of financial status or circumstances. Fundraising vehicles include an annual appeal, Circle of Friends Luncheon and individual donations.

Scholarships

The SJCC provides scholarships to families to subsidize tuition costs and fees for ECS, Kidstown, Summer Camp, and membership.

Follow us on social media!

