What we do

The mission of the Jewish Community Center of Greater Orlando is to build community, strengthen family life, and promote Jewish values.

Forty years ago, on Rosh Hashanah, Jewish families across the country and around the world gathered around their dinner tables, dipping apples into honey, to usher in the new year of 5774.

Here in Orlando, the families sitting down for conversation around the holiday table had another reason to celebrate - the Jewish community had just completed its first successful summer camp season at the JCC.

It’s incredible to reflect upon how far we’ve come in 40 years. What started out in Maitland as a tiny preschool and summer camp in a small building surrounded by empty land that once housed an orange grove has blossomed into a tremendous community hub – times two – with the addition of our full-service facility on the Jack & Lee Rosen Southwest Orlando Campus in 2009. Our entire community should be proud of the impact we’ve had on the thousands of members of our community during these past four decades, imbuing children with a sense of Jewish values, connecting families with other families, and boosting the physical and emotional wellness of all of those we serve.

All these years later, we’re still proud of our recently completed summer camp, now called Camp J, as this year marked the first year both campuses hosted shlichim (Israeli emissaries) to infuse our programs with a sense of Israeli and Jewish pride and culture.

This year was successful in many other ways. In an effort to rejuvenate the facilities at the Roth JCC’s Maitland Campus, over $355,000 to date was raised as part of the Roth JCC Renovation Project. Chaired by Daniel Coultoff and Dr. Andrew Kleiman, the project aimed to improve the aesthetics and functionality of the Roth JCC, enhance the overall experience for the members, and attract more participation.

The renovations included the swimming pool complex, outdoor basketball courts, tennis courts, auditorium dividers, and courtyard preschool playground.

Our board of directors and professional staff continue to work hard in building community, strengthening family life, and promoting Jewish values through our nationally accredited and award-winning programs, events and partnerships. The JCC is as committed as ever to strengthening our JCCs as community hubs, providing “value-added” programs and services to our members, and working collaboratively with the other Jewish agencies and organizations. Additionally, this year, our board of directors will participate in a strategic assessment of our organization made possible through a grant from the Frances and Joseph Victor Fund at the Community Foundation of Central Florida, Inc.

The Roth Jewish Community Center and the JCC’s Jack & Lee Rosen Southwest Orlando Campus wish you and your family a very happy, healthy, and prosperous 5774.

Shana Tova,
Scott Richman, President
David Wayne, Executive Director

Our vision is to be a place where the entire community can experience high quality services based on core Jewish values.
HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2012-2013 YEAR

MAITLAND
- The Roth JCC’s Innovative Program of the Year is the Summer Sundays program. The series of six summer pool parties were planned as a way to say thank you to the JCC membership, as they were entirely free for JCC members - another way to add value to JCC membership. Each party featured themed food donated by Winn Dixie of Fern Park, music and fun for the whole family.
- The Jewish Film Festival celebrates its 15th year and expands its program by one day with financial support from the Jewish Federation of Greater Orlando.
- Our 13,614 year-old boy’s basketball team wins a bronze medal at the JCC Maccabi Games in Memphis. Over 1,100 Jewish athletes from North America and Israel participated.

Southwest Orlando
- The Women’s Multi-Faith Seder was a collaborative effort led by Candace Martin and Shoshana Buchanan, along with community members representing different faiths. We shared the traditions and symbols of Passover, specifically, the Passover Seder. Through text, song and dance, we retold the story of Passover in an interactive, educational and spiritual platform. Connections between the themes of Passover and other faiths were highlighted. The 130 women in attendance were inspired and looking forward to future programs in this new and innovative series called “Building Multicultural Connections”. Multi-Faith Women’s Seder at Rosen Campus featured in Orlando Sentinel.
- The JCC hosted a Multi-Faith Celebration in partnership with the Muslim Women’s Organization.
- Now completing its fourth year as a full-service facility, the JCC on the Jack & Lee Rosen Campus continues to grow. The preschool was at 94% capacity, summer camp numbers have exploded, and senior programming are also on the rise. We are in the process of discussing an addition of three preschool classrooms in the fall of 2014 as well as long-term plans to determine further expansion and independence of the campus.

AGENCY-WIDE
- Board of Directors votes unanimously to open JCC for five additional Jewish holidays.
- Orlando’s Community Foundation awards the JCC a $3,800 grant for a strategic assessment. The strategic assessment is designed to assist our agency with performance improvement, understanding core and influential factors in strategy, and realigning to a new strategy.
- Orlando Sentinel features ECLC’s teaching of Rosh Hashanah.
- FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment tool used as part of the process for our financial assistance program in 2013-14.

AWARD WINNERS
- Each year our Board of Directors votes on our most outstanding programs, volunteers, and leaders for their contributions toward our mission of building community, strengthening family life, and promoting Jewish values.

Maitland
- INNOVATIVE PROGRAM
  Summer Sundays
- VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR
  Tara Harris & Harriet Weiss
- LEADERSHIP AWARD
  Daniel Coultoff

Southwest Orlando
- INNOVATIVE PROGRAM
  Women’s Multi-Faith Seder
- VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD
  Jody Murphy
- LEADERSHIP AWARD
  Jeff Imber

- ECLC is involved in a health and wellness program - Discover CATCH (Coordinated Approach to Child Health) - through JCC Association. The staff participated in a two-day training and is excited to implement this health and wellness component into their weekly activities.
- 23 children attend sleep away camp in collaboration with NJV Camps.
- New soccer clinic is planned to begin with Euro Soccer School for Grades K-6.
- New cardio equipment is being enjoyed by JCC members.
- A new “Sponsor A Mezuzah” campaign has begun with levels of $100, $500 and $1000. Some rooms have been pledged already and there is a great buzz about this new campaign. Mezuzah Dedication Ceremony led by Rabbi Hillel Sholnik from SOJC.
- Club J - 100 children and parents enjoyed Havdalah, followed by a night of dancing, games, food and fun. “Tween Lounge” and the DJ Two Left Feet were highlights of the night.
- Winter Festival was a great success and netted $5600 more than budgeted which included J-IDOL was a huge success at the JCC’s Winter Festival - 70 contestants participated in a J-IDOL competition.
- 100+ women attended the Girls Night Out event which included a fashion show and auction. The event raised over $5000.