In a year of transition and growth, more and more people are realizing that The Roth Family JCC is the ideal place for them to live up® to their aspirations. Our J University after-school program has its highest enrollment in five years. Camp J also grew for the fourth summer in a row. In addition, our award-winning Richard S. Adler Early Childhood Learning Center graduated FOUR pre-kindergarten classes full of happy, smiling faces.

We also saw improvements in our sports and fitness programs, including major renovations to our gymnasium in memory of our longtime friend Charles Schwartz, our first tennis tournament honoring JCC member-in-perpetuity and past president Jodi Krinker, and new flat-screen televisions in our fitness center thanks to the Homburger Jacobs family.

We also expanded new technology in the preschool, thanks to the continued support of the Adler family, so that every classroom has an iPad and a new app that allows teachers to communicate more seamlessly with parents.

If you haven’t been by lately, I invite you to reach out to us for a personal tour to see how we can be a part of your journey towards a healthier you.

It’s been a journey for me this year as well, serving as the J’s interim executive director. As a former participant in our early childhood, camp, and after-school programs, it’s been an honor and a privilege.

—Robby Etzkin
Interim Executive Director
HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2015-2016 YEAR

- Our amazing preschool continued its excellence. In order to provide parents a greater picture of their child’s day, we began to include more technology into the classroom, thanks to Jeff and Rita Adler. In addition, we honored our treasured, longtime teachers at Party after Dark.

- We introduced an inaugural Tennis Tournament, honoring past JCC President, Jodi Krinker, and renovated our gymnasium in memory of Charles Schwartz, thanks to the fundraising of his nephew, Marvin Shapiro and the leadership of David Wayne.

- We introduced a new athletic partnership—Orlando City Soccer Camp, and Camp J grew by 18% last summer.

- After school, we launched a street hockey partnership with the Orlando Solar Bears and introduced American Sign Language, as after school activities.

- Thanks to a grant from the JCC Manhattan and The Gottsman Fund, we introduced Shabbat Shabbang Jr., bringing together families with young children to share in a Shabbat dinner with top performers.

- J-Serve, the international day for Jewish teens to participate in community service, expanded into a bigger Mitzvah Day for the community, and engaged nearly 200 Jewish teens, families, college students, and young adults. This was made possible in part by a grant from the Jewish Federation.

- Not only did our 3rd Annual Middle School Dance exceed past attendance, but Lori Cento, who leads the our teen programming, won BBYO’s international staff person of the year award.

- Our marketing director, Amy Schwartz Kimlat, was recognized by the JCC Association with three awards in marketing for our new data-driven (and mobile-responsive) web site, J-TV in our lobby featuring our own content videos, and the lead management system to process preschool inquiries.

- Our J-Lunch, business networking lunches, brought in prominent Orlando businesspeople like Josh Wallack, Mark Freid, and Jennifer Lee as speakers.

- Our J39ers, Senior Adult Group, enjoyed trips to Leesburg for The King and I, along with Kissimmee to see Gypsy. In addition, they enjoyed their Yiddish groups, holiday celebrations, and Dining Around Town.

- We relaunched our Theater at the J program with its first full year of shows, and in addition, we staged Kindertransport, a collaborative Kristallnacht show with the Holocaust Center, thanks in part to a grant from the Jewish Federation.

- The JCC came together at the Orlando Museum of Art to celebrate the JCC and honor Dick and Dottie Applebaum. Harriet Weiss received the JCC Legacy Award, which was named in her honor, for her long-time, and continued support of the JCC.

- Our JCC was the first in the country to have its own Snapchat geofilter. Snapchat is an app on your phone that allows users to send pictures or videos up to 10 seconds to their friends that then disappear. It’s like an instant, virtual postcard that you can send to your friends.

- 18 JCC supporters participated in the first year of our Life and Legacy program. This program allows JCC members past and present, JCC staff past and present, and friends of the JCC past and present, to provide the J an after-life gift.

- For the past 42 years, the JCC has been the center of Jewish life in Orlando, and in that time, the J has treated quite the legacy.

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.

Innovative Program of the Year:
Shabbat Shabbang Junior

Volunteer of the Year:
Heidi Zissman

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