

Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington
6125 Montrose Road
Rockville MD 20852
jccgw.org

Address Service Requested



Upcoming Events

Goldman Art Gallery

Your Fortunate Eyes: Photographs by Rudi Weissenstein
Through October 13

ARTsy Holiday Boutique & Craft Show

October 20-November 5 and November 19-December 4

Music

DANIEL PEARL MEMORIAL PROGRAM

Lecture on *Lost Childhood: A Concert Opera* | Thursday, October 3

POLINGER ARTISTS OF EXCELLENCE CONCERTS

Joyce Yang, Piano | Sunday, October 20

Jonathan Biss & Miriam Fried, Piano + Violin | Sunday, November 17

Hermitage Trio, Piano Trio | Sunday, December 15

AIR FORCE BAND CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT

Celtic Aire Folk Quartet | Tuesday, November 5

Annual Events

The Lessans Family Annual Book Festival | November 8-17

Dinner of Champions: An All-Star Celebration | Saturday, November 23

Chanukah Celebration | Wednesday, December 4

Planned Giving

**Create a Jewish Legacy and Ensure the JCCGW's Future:
Join the Flora M. Stetson Legacy Society**

Flora M. Stetson's love of the arts led her to volunteer at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington (JCCGW)'s Goldman Art Gallery. Ms. Stetson's passion for her volunteer work at the Center, combined with her joy in being part of the Center's warm and welcoming community, led her to make a generous legacy gift that will continue to have an impact for generations to come. We are proud to name the Flora M. Stetson Legacy Society in memory of Ms. Stetson, who died in 2003.

Bequests or other planned gifts—such as charitable gift annuities, trusts or gifts of life insurance—enable you to provide major support to the JCCGW that you might not be able to offer through an outright gift. By remembering the JCCGW in your estate plans, you help ensure the Center's continued viability. A planned gift is a reflection of everything that is most important and meaningful to you and an opportunity to make it possible for our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren to experience the JCCGW as you have—as the heart of our community and everyone's home away from home.

Planned giving is a worthwhile choice for donors of all income levels and ages, and is often beneficial to you and your family by providing income sources, tax relief or other advantages.

To make a planned gift or learn more about the Flora M. Stetson Legacy Society, please contact Tasha Museles, Chief Development Officer, at 301.348.3815 or tmuseles@jccgw.org.

Fall 2013

There Are No Words

"When I arrived at the JCCGW to drop Devin off, she was so excited to be there! She was greeted enthusiastically when she got out of the car. The content smile on her face was priceless. As a parent, to see that, there are no words to describe the feeling."

So states Devin's mother, Gena Mitchell, of Devin's reaction upon arriving at the JCCGW for the first day of summer camp.

Summer 2013 marked the second year at Camp JCC for 10-year-old Devin, who has Down syndrome. With the support of an inclusion counselor, Devin participates in all camp activities alongside her typically-developing peers.

The Camp JCC Inclusion Program welcomes approximately 100 campers with a wide range of special needs each year. No other camp in the community accepts individuals with such complex or multiple disabilities. The American Camp Association has presented a national award to Camp JCC for setting the U.S. standard for inclusion in a recreational setting.



No words are needed to describe how happy these JCC campers are; their smiles say it all. Devin Mitchell is second from left.

To Gena Mitchell, it is abundantly clear why Camp JCC has earned this national recognition:

"Devin is embraced at Camp JCC. Devin wants acknowledgement for her thoughts and feelings, just as we all do; Camp JCC gives that to her. She is appreciated for what she brings to the table," Gena commented.

The life skills that Devin learns at camp certainly benefit her in daily life throughout the year, Gena asserted.

Devin is learning how to act appropriately in different situations and how to follow directions, Gena believes. The support of a buddy—a one-on-one counselor—gives Devin the independence and the confidence to take risks. "All of these factors will help Devin as she grows older," she noted.

Just as Gena has no words to describe the feeling she gets in knowing that her daughter is so happy and safe at Camp JCC, there are no words to express the value of the Camp JCC Inclusion Program for not just the campers with disabilities, but also for the typical campers, the counselors and the community.

"Camp JCC is so much more than just a summer camp," said Gena. "While it gives campers like Devin a safe and nurturing environment in which to figure out how to navigate the world, it also provides a strong model for typical children for how to interact with individuals who have disabilities. This can't be taught; it must be experienced, as it is at Camp JCC," she explained.

"The life lessons that all the children and counselors are learning at Camp JCC will be fruitful to those individuals, their families and society as a whole," believes Gena.

While the JCCGW is proud to be nationally-recognized for our unique inclusion program, we look forward to a time when including those with special needs is more widely accepted. To that end, the JCCGW is helping spread the benefits of inclusion.

"We often conduct workshops for other agencies, camps and institutions to promote the concept of creating an inclusive environment," said Heather Strauss, JCCGW Director of Inclusion Programs.

Just like its commitment to inclusion, the JCCGW is dedicated to ensuring that parents of all campers—whether in the inclusion program or not—pay the same tuition. Many families of children with special needs already have substantial financial obligations. Economic considerations should not be a barrier for a child with special needs to spend a rich and full summer at Camp JCC. However, this does come at a significant financial cost.*

Our community's commitment to and passion for this program are truly what make the stories of Devin, and countless other children, possible. JCCGW CEO Michael Feinstein remarked, "We are grateful to our donors whose generous support has enabled us to offer this extraordinary program to our community for more than 20 years."

The annual Dinner of Champions is the primary source of funding for the JCCGW special needs and inclusion program. For information about the event, to be held this year on November 23, please visit jccgw.org/champions.

*Expenses associated with accommodating children with special needs—such as lift equipped buses, one-to-one counselors, nursing support, sign language interpreters and additional lifeguards—can be three times as much as it costs to accommodate a typical camper.

A Photographic Retrospective

You Make a Meaningful Difference
Every day, the JCC of Greater Washington is here for you and because of you.

On these pages are photos taken at our recent major fundraising events, interspersed with photos of Center programs. It is because of your generosity that we can continue to provide high quality programs and services. Thank you for all of the support that you have shown to our Center and community.



Barbara Winnik, JCCGW Adult Services and Special Programs Director, presented member Morris Erger with a cake at a Center celebration in honor of his 100th birthday on December 12, 2012. Coinciding closely with the JCCGW's centennial in 2013, the festive event was attended by members and staff, and covered by local media.



Hundreds of community members gathered at the Center on January 6, 2013 for a birthday bash which officially kicked off a year full of special events to celebrate our centennial.



The intergenerational technology program links tech-savvy teens with senior adults who are eager to learn new skills. Teen mentor Daniella Otarola, left, and student Ruth Greene are shown during a session in April, 2013.



More than 500 guests attended the JCCGW Centennial Gala on April 24, 2013 to celebrate the JCCGW's 100 years of service to the community, and to raise funds to support the Center. Chairing the event were, from left, Brad and Susan Stillman, Gilly and Renee Arie, and Lisie and Michael Gottdenker.



At the Centennial Gala on April 24, 2013, John Ourisman (r), grandson of Benjamin Ourisman, presented Neil and Marcy Cohen with the Benjamin Ourisman Award for Civic Achievement.



Mark Shriver, author of "A Good Man: Rediscovering My Father, Sargent Shriver," was keynote speaker at the 4th Annual Health & Wellness Expo held at Leisure World on May 30, 2013. The event was co-sponsored by the Jewish Residents of Leisure World.



Run primarily by volunteers, the Gudelsky Exceptional Swim Program is for children, teens and adults with physical, orthopedic-related disabilities. This free program offers a supportive network for participants and their families. This photo was taken at a session on May 18, 2013.



At the JCCGW Annual Meeting on May 23, 2013, Brad Stillman was installed as president, and Ellen Elow-Mintz received the Flora M. Stetson Distinguished Service Award for being a dedicated Center volunteer for many years.



Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett presented outgoing JCCGW President Scott Cohen with a proclamation at the JCCGW Annual Meeting on May 23, 2013.



Bernie Weisz, JCCGW past president, and Zach Mann were ready to tee off at the JCCGW Golf & Tennis Tournament on June 10, 2013. The event raises funds for services and programs for senior adults.



Tennis Tournament Co-Chairs Harris Rosenblatt and Robin Taub, foreground, posed with tennis players at the Golf & Tennis Tournament on June 10, 2013.

Annual Giving

The JCCGW strives to serve all who walk through our doors, regardless of ability to pay. Your donations make it possible for us to offer more than \$500,000 every year in financial assistance and vital support services to children and adults in our community.

With your generous support, the JCC of Greater Washington was able to achieve the following in the past year (FY13):

- The JCCGW served 7,500 nutritious kosher meals and provided exercise and wellness programs, referral services and the opportunity to socialize to more than 600 seniors;
- 95 campers with special needs were able to fully participate in camp alongside their typically developing siblings and peers;
- 26 children were provided scholarships to attend Camp JCC, where they could have a fun and carefree summer;
- 32 children were provided scholarships to attend the JCCGW preschool, where they could learn and grow in a nurturing, inclusive Jewish setting;
- 46 adults with disabilities living in group homes were provided reduced rate memberships so they could stay active and connected;
- Through the Gudelsky Exceptional Swim Program, 28 children, teens and adults with physical, orthopedic-related disabilities had the opportunity to learn to swim, gain physical strength, increase self-confidence, and build relationships;
- 80 immigrant seniors participated in our ESOL and citizenship classes to learn English and prepare for the United States citizenship exam. (Our graduates have a 100% pass rate on the citizenship exam!)

On behalf of all of those who have benefited from your generosity – thank you!

For more information about the impact that your support makes, please contact Tasha Museles, Chief Development Officer, at 301.348.3815 or tmuseles@jccgw.org.

Take Credit Where Credit is Deserved!

How Tax Credits Can Benefit You and Our Preschool

The Maryland Community Investment Tax Credit Program (CITC) helps support the JCC of Greater Washington Preschool's new Early Identification and Intervention Program – a program that helps identify children in our preschool who may be at risk for developmental delays so that they can receive help at an early age to mitigate, prevent or overcome long-term issues.

Individuals and businesses that make charitable contributions benefit by:

- Earning tax credits to reduce their Maryland tax liability
- Receiving charitable deductions on federal and state taxes
- Helping a local nonprofit organization achieve an essential community goal
- Making a targeted community impact
- Improving community relations and increasing their visibility

For further information about this exciting opportunity, please visit jccgw.org/tax or contact Tasha Museles, Chief Development Officer, at 301.348.3815 or tmuseles@jccgw.org.