



 **Bender JCC**
of Greater Washington

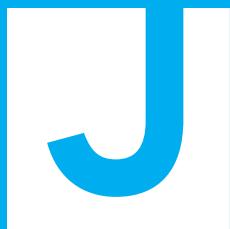
There's Something
About This Place!

FY16

Annual Report

July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016





*There is something
about this place...*

The support that our generous donors provide has a direct and immediate impact on the lives of so many individuals and families in our community. Here are some highlights from FY16:

*The Bender JCC is that special place, filled with
the energy of a thriving community.*



**BENDER JCC
AWARDS
\$113,000**

in scholarships to 177 individuals and families, which lowers the barriers to participating in Jewish life.



1,650

PATRONS OF THE ARTS
attend the Polinger Artists of Excellence Concert Series featuring rising stars and renowned artists.



6,000

HOT KOSHER MEALS
are served to meet the nutritional needs of senior adults helping them to age in place with dignity.

**191
STUDENTS**

are starting their Jewish journey at the Sondra and Howard Bender Early Childhood Center.

**97
STUDENTS**

of Hebrew and Yiddish learn new ways to communicate through our native languages.

**700
CAMPERS**

attend Camp JCC, the only area day camp offering an inclusion program where **118** children and young adults with disabilities enjoy camp alongside their typically developing siblings and friends.



Bender JCC of Greater Washington | 6125 Montrose Road • Rockville, MD 20852
301.881.0100 | benderjccgw.org



WELCOME

The Bender JCC embraces and welcomes the diversity of our community and encourages everyone to seek meaning and fulfillment by participating in our rich programming inspired by our Jewish heritage.

We open our doors to everyone, including people of all backgrounds, religions, abilities and sexual orientations, and interfaith couples and families.

Inclusion permeates our Center. Inclusion is belonging.

CORE VALUES

- **Respect for one another (*Kavod Ha-briot*)**

We respect the dignity of every person.

- **One people (*Klal Yisrael*)**

We welcome all Jewish traditions and backgrounds.

- **Community (*Kehilla*)**

We connect individuals to the community and communities to each other.

- **Israel (*Eretz Y'israel*)**

We connect our community to the people, history, culture and land of Israel.

- **Working together (*B'yachad*)**

We partner with Jewish and secular organizations to build a stronger community.

- **Welcoming guests (*Hachnassat Orchim*)**

We open our doors to everyone.

- **Acts of loving kindness (*Gemilut Chasadim*)**

We help those in need through acts of loving kindness.

- **Repairing the world (*Tikkun Olam*)**

We make the world a better and more just place.

- **Preserving nature (*Shmirat Ha-teva*)**

We respect our environment.

- **Jewish Learning (*Torah*)**

We promote Jewish learning and intellectual enrichment.

- **Preserving our selves (*Shmirat HaNefesh v'HaGuf*)**

We promote the well-being and fitness of every person.

- **Spirit (*Ruach*)**

We infuse spirit and fun into our activities and programs.



Clockwise from top left, Ellie Gottdenker, Sarah Solomon, Nathan Gertler and Daniel Kuhnreich are four of the athletes who participated in the 14th European Maccabi Games.

**“At the JCC Maccabi Games...
we are connected through
our Jewish heritage. ”**

There's something about this place that leads to lifelong friendships.

The United States delegation to the 14th European Maccabi Games in Berlin in the summer of 2015 included several athletes who had previously participated in the JCC Maccabi Games as part of Team Bender JCC.

Swimmer Sarah Solomon said that she has made many best friends through her participation in the games. "The JCC Maccabi Games reminded me why I enjoy swimming. I love swimming because of the people who I get to swim with. We all come from different backgrounds, but swimming is the connection we all share. At the JCC Maccabi Games, we are connected not only through our love of swimming, but also through our Jewish heritage."

Nathan Gertler, a basketball player, says that his most memorable experience at the Games in Berlin was getting to know his teammates and other Jewish athletes from all over the world. "I made lifelong friendships."

IMPACT

692 campers

were served at Camp JCC and the camp's nationally-recognized program for children and young adults with special needs, enjoying a typical summer experience while building bridges through inclusion.

187 tweens and teens

participated in the JCC Maccabi Games and the Mid-Atlantic Jr. Games, forming enduring bonds with peers from across the country and around the world through athletics.

There's something about this place that connects people to their roots.

Following knee replacement surgery, Patricia (Trish) Wolff Hartman originally joined the Bender JCC to use the indoor pool and take exercise classes. Now, she also enjoys other events here, including concerts and book talks.

Working out and attending programs at the Bender JCC makes Trish happy, and she remarks that it feels like a very inclusive, friendly community. "I don't really have that sense of community anywhere else in my life currently and it makes a huge difference in my overall quality of life."

Trish says she is grateful to be a part of the Bender JCC community. "My father was a non-religious German Jew who had escaped Germany; some of his extended family perished in concentration camps. I was raised in various Protestant denominations. I am really happy to learn about and feel more a part of my half-Jewish roots."

IMPACT

11,500 hours of service

were given by 300 volunteers who donated their time to support the Center in countless ways while enriching their own lives through connecting with staff and members.

22,500 attendees

participated in our cultural arts lectures, performances, classes and festivals, broadening horizons and providing opportunities for self-expression.



Trish Wolff Hartman finds the Bender JCC to be inclusive and friendly.

“I am really happy to learn about and feel more a part of my half-Jewish roots.”



Paul Levy has always been passionate about vigorous exercise and healthy eating.

“Not only are great physical fitness programs offered, but diverse cultural and social programs are available as well.”

There's something about this place that promotes health for the body, mind and spirit.

Nonagenarian Paul Levy has been a Bender JCC member since it opened in Rockville in 1969. With a lifelong passion for vigorous exercise and healthy eating, Paul's primary interest in joining was to become physically fit in a Jewish environment. "I became a member of the Men's Health Club, where I formed friendships that have lasted for over 40 years."

Paul says that the Bender JCC is a place where Jews and all others can feel most welcome. "Not only are great physical fitness programs offered, but diverse cultural and social programs are available as well. The Bender JCC offers a unique opportunity to interact with Jews and non-Jews from all over the world, and to learn about their cultures and traditions."

IMPACT

50 individuals

with Parkinson's disease participated in the Edmond J. Safra National Parkinson's Wellness Initiative at the Bender JCC, which provided them with a critical resource to stay fit and active.

90+ exercise classes

are offered each week, affording members the motivation and support that come from working out in a group.

There's something about this place that brings education to life.

The Bender JCC received a generous grant from the Howard and Geraldine Polinger Family Foundation to support the Center's program, Engaging Children through Music Appreciation. The funds were used to present the famous Serge Prokofiev orchestral work of the timeless musical tale, Peter and the Wolf.

Engaging Children through Music Appreciation is designed to expose children to music as a source of inspiration, positivity, inspired listening, and communication of complex ideas and thoughts. It helps to establish a foundation for a lifelong love of music and its positive effects on learning.

Following the concert, children had the opportunity to meet the musicians and try out their musical instruments.

Early Childhood Education Director Ora Cohen Rosenfeld says that nothing can replace the experience of actually meeting a musician to spark a young child's imagination.

"We are so fortunate to be able to offer this opportunity to our preschoolers, planting a seed that will foster a deep and enduring appreciation of the arts."

IMPACT

400 children

were served in our preschool and after-school activities, allowing them the opportunity to grow and thrive, academically and socially.

45 students

came to the Center each week for private music lessons, enhancing their lives while developing discipline, patience and self-esteem.



Through the program “Engaging Children through Music Appreciation,” a deep and enduring appreciation of the arts is fostered.

“Nothing can replace the experience of actually meeting a musician to spark a young child’s imagination.”

Centennial Capital Campaign

On July 6, 2016, we announced our new name. What began as the Jewish Community Center of the District of Columbia and was renamed the Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington over 50 years ago will now be named the Bender JCC of Greater Washington (Bender JCC), as the result of a \$6.25 million gift from the Sondra and Howard Bender family to name the JCC and the Early Childhood Center.

On September 29, 2016, we held a grand re-opening ceremony to celebrate our new name and to dedicate the Sondra and Howard Bender Early Childhood Center, which has been renovated.

The Bender family has a long and meaningful connection with the JCC starting in the 1940s when, as a teen living in Washington D.C., Sondra would take a bus across town to get to the JCC (then located in Washington, D.C.). That link has spanned four generations and continues today.

We thank the Bender family for their transformative gift. We also thank Janyse and Bernie Weisz, Howard Forman, Carole and Barry Forman, and Gail and Paul Chod for dedication-level gifts (\$25K or more) for spaces in the Bender ECC.

In September 2016, we also opened the new Herman Indoor Aquatic Center, the proud home

of the Isadore Morton Gudelsky Pool. Swimming has always been a critical part of JCC life. When we moved to Rockville in 1969, the Gudelsky family fulfilled the dream to continue the aquatics program in our current location.

Thanks to an extraordinary gift from Sheila and Sy Herman, we undertook an extensive renovation of this nearly 50-year-old pool. The Hermans have been members since the building opened in 1969, and aquatics has been a big part of their life.

We also acknowledge the sustained investment by the Isadore and Bertha Gudelsky Family Foundation over the years by generously contributing to the pool renovation and maintaining the Gudelsky Exceptional Swim Program. The program allows children, teens and adults with orthopedic-related disabilities the opportunity to have an aquatic experience.

We also renovated the adult locker rooms. We thank the following donors who made dedication-level gifts for the renovation of the locker rooms: Linda and James Cafritz, the Sanford and Doris Slavin Foundation, and Mark Levitt and Kay Klass. Thanks to the support of the Wagner-Braunsberg Family Foundation we were able to refresh the family locker rooms, which served as a temporary home for our adult fitness users during the past renovation.



Scott Cohen, Centennial Campaign Co-Chair and Past President, and Lisie Gottdenker, current Board Chair, hold the ribbon at the entrance to the Bender Early Childhood Center for Julie Bender Silver, assisted by granddaughter Sienna.



Julie Bender Silver and David Bender with Michael Feinstein (left) at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.



Sy and Sheila Herman at the opening of the renovated indoor pool.

We sincerely thank those who have committed to being a part of the Centennial Capital Campaign*.

Cornerstone – \$3,000,000+

The Bender Foundation

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**as of February 13, 2017*

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\$25,000+

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 Kaiser Permanente
 KochSmith Capital
 Matchbox Food Group, LLC
 Mid-City Financial Corporation
 Mitchell P. Rales Family Foundation
 -Emily and Mitchell Rales
 Moss Chiropractic and Wellness
 Oculus Realty, LLC
 Pinstripes, Inc.
 Sagel Bloomfield Danzansky Goldberg Funeral Care, Inc.
 Scheer Partners, Inc.
 Site Realty Group
 Steven J. Karr, AIA, Inc.
 Steven VanGrack Law, P.C.
 StonebridgeCarras, LLC
 The Chasen Spero Family Fund
 -Nancy Chasen and Don Spero
 The Jewish Studio
 The Meltzer Group, Inc.
 Tikkun Olam Women's Foundation of Greater Washington
 Torchinsky Hebrew Funeral Home
 Village of Friendship Heights
 Warman Home Care
 Winmar Construction Inc.
 Zalco Realty, Inc.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. We apologize for any omissions or errors. If you have any questions or corrections, please contact Development Director Adam Tennen at 301.348.3815 or atennen@benderjccgw.org.

Did You Know?

In fiscal year 2016, we raised:

\$547,508 to include individuals with special needs in all of our programs and activities

\$285,533 to provide senior adults the opportunity to remain active through educational, social and health & wellness programs

\$138,656 to offer high-quality cultural arts programs to the community

\$120,551 to provide scholarships to those who otherwise would not have the means to participate

Why We Fundraise

Community support is necessary to ensure that our services are available to all; membership dues and program fees are not enough. Only through the generosity of our donors is it possible for us to welcome and include those who wish to participate but cannot afford to do so. With your help, we can:

- grant scholarships to preschool and camp families in need
- provide services and support for children and adults with special needs
- offer cultural arts programs for the entire community
- serve hot kosher meals and host exercise and wellness programs for senior adults
- make space available to other community groups at little or no cost

Financials

Bender JCC of Greater Washington

Statement of Activity | Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2016

REVENUE AND SUPPORT

Program fees	\$5,802,000	
Membership dues	2,214,000	
Contributions	5,821,000	
Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, Inc.	784,000	
Grants	2,734,000	
Special events, net of direct benefit costs	500,000	
Other Revenue including Investment gains (losses)	154,000	

TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT 18,009,000

EXPENSES

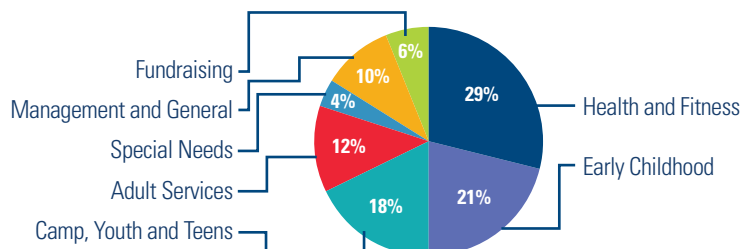
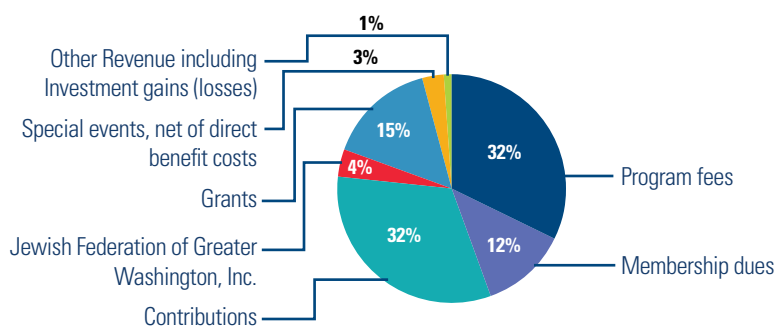
Health and Fitness	3,775,000	
Early Childhood	2,756,000	
Camp, Youth and Teens	2,304,000	
Adult Services	1,535,000	
Special Needs	533,000	
Management and General	1,315,000	
Fundraising	765,000	

TOTAL EXPENSES 12,983,000

Unrecognized actuarial gain (loss) on pension plan (1,609,000)

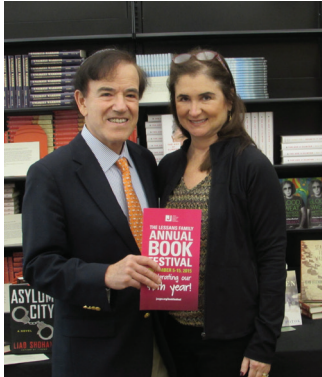
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS \$3,417,000

Includes non-cash expenses such as depreciation of \$705,406



Thank You

We thank all those who supported the Bender JCC during fiscal year 2016. Here you will find photos from some of our major events.



Drs. Stuart and Ellen Lessans at the 2015 Lessans Family Annual Book Festival



Book Festival Chairs Helen Rubin and Tracy Bloom Schwartz



Marty and Randi Meyrowitz presented the Irene and Abe Pollin Humanitarian Award to Ron and Joy Paul at the 2015 Dinner of Champions
rlstevensphotography.com



Matthew Weinberg; Benjamin Oursiman Award for Civic Achievement honoree Liza Levy; and Robin Weinberg at IMAGINE, a Night Supporting Scholarships at the J
rlstevensphotography.com



Sports Hall of Fame inductees at the 2015 Dinner of Champions rlstevensphotography.com



Hyman M. and Phillip D. Perlo Award recipients at the 2015 Dinner of Champions
rlstevensphotography.com



Dr. Richard Reff presents the JCC Maccabi Legacy award to Jacky Loube at the 2015 Dinner of Champions
rlstevensphotography.com



Andy Chod and Scott Cohen at IMAGINE, A Night Supporting Scholarships at the J
rlstevensphotography.com



Bender JCC of Greater Washington

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^{z"l} of blessed memory

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Officer

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Chief Operating Officer

Adam Tennen
Chief Development Officer

Tom Rogers
Chief People Officer

Robert H. Weiner ^{z"l}
Executive Director Emeritus

Contact Us

Phone
E-mail
Donate

301.881.0100
info@benderjccgw.org
donate@benderjccgw.org

Address

Bender JCC of Greater Washington
6125 Montrose Road • Rockville, MD 20852

benderjccgw.org

