DEAR COMMUNITY,

Although it may feel hard to remember, 2020 began with a sense of great optimism and hope. We were readying ourselves for a year full of excitement: an integration with Arts for All, Inc., an immersive seminar in Israel, and a plethora of new programs and events for our community to enjoy. That all quickly changed on March 16th when we, like so many others, were ordered to close our doors in order to protect against the coronavirus.

The shock of our initial closure could have stopped our team and our community in our tracks. Instead, we braced ourselves and leaned in to our brit (covenant) with our community: We create community based on Jewish values by providing the HIGHEST quality programs and services in a safe and secure environment to ALL people of ALL ages.

It is said that when one door closes, another opens—and nothing has proven to be truer for the Tucson J this year. Though we were devastated to close our doors for 12 long weeks, it was not wasted time. In the wake of closure, we pivoted to build robust online offerings filled with programming and conversation, providing new opportunity and meaning for our community so that they could be safe at home. We also used this time to prepare for our community’s inevitable return: we completed construction on the Sarver Tennis Center, installed a new 68,000 ft² roof over the main area of the building, and received a generous security grant from the Department of Homeland Security to upgrade several security systems at the J.

When we reopened in June, it was as a changed (and significantly smaller) operation. As the year went on, we continued to face challenges and meet them head-on each time. Now, more than a year since our initial closure, we are planning for a future that still feels unclear in so many ways.

In the Jewish tradition, we observe a mourning period known as shiva. During shiva, mourners’ needs are met by the community so that those experiencing loss can process and begin to heal. Whatever loss you have experienced, we have all been in mourning for the world that we had before went on, we continued to face challenges and meet them head-on each time. Now, more than a year since our initial closure, we are planning for a future that still feels unclear in so many ways.

In the Jewish tradition, we observe a mourning period known as shiva. During shiva, mourners’ needs are met by the community so that those experiencing loss can process and begin to heal. Whatever loss you have experienced, we have all been in mourning for the world that we had before the pandemic began, and we hope that the Tucson J has been able to meet your wellness needs so that you can begin to heal. The work of building and strengthening community is ever-changing and ongoing, and our ability to do this work is why—even when we are apart—the Tucson J remains the town square of the community.

The mourning period traditionally ends with a brief walk to symbolize re-entry into the world. Some of what was may not be again, but there will be new doors that open as we move into the next chapter together. So I encourage you to get up, walk around the block, and join us as we plan for a tomorrow filled with the lessons and inspirations from the past.

Despite all the trials and setbacks we have experienced, we continue to believe Mah Tovu: how good it is, and how good it will be.

And remember: The Comeback is always stronger than the setback.

Respectfully,

Todd Rockoff
President and CEO

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COMMUNITY IMPACT

- More than $489,000 in scholarship awarded in 2020.
- We serve 1,588 active dues-based units (down from 2,034 pre-COVID) and 1,631 insurance-based members, for a total of 2,152 units.
- In partnership with Pima Council on Aging, we provided more than 1,000 meals to low-income seniors each week.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2020 Operating Fund Revenue

- Program Revenue 33%
- Membership Dues 19%
- Contributions/Grants 25% **
- Federation Allocation 4%
- Government Funding 12%
- Other 7%

** Includes PPP loan

2020 Operating Fund Expenses

- Payroll and Benefits 67%
- Contract Fees for Services 8%
- Facilities 10%
- Program 8%
- Administrative 7%
PHILANTHROPY

710 donors provided $680,336.66 in charitable gifts.

LIST OF GRANTORS

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REOPENING OUR CARE PROGRAMS

• All care programs at the J moved to exclusively curbside drop-off and pickup using an app called PikMyKid. This has helped keep the number of people in the building lower to decrease exposure and has been received positively by parents for the convenience.

• Class sizes were limited and a pod system was implemented to keep groups separate and safe.

• With the support of our medical advisory committee, teachers and counselors were trained in the most recent COVID-19 recommendations from the CDC and AZ Health Department.

CAMP

• Camp J 2020 provided a summer of fun for **174 unique campers**, including 19 campers who participated in our inclusion program.

• The relationship building, skills building, and fun that we expect as outcomes of Camp J were in full force and in some ways stronger than ever due to the smaller more intimate group sizes and mutually exclusive groups.

• An average of **59 kids** per day registered for Winter Camp J 2020 (**a 13% increase from 2019**).
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EARLY CHILDHOOD

• We provided early childhood education to hundreds of students, including offering online support and virtual activities while our school was closed.

• After an initial closure in March, ECE reopened on June 1, 2020 with approximately 1/3 of our pre-COVID enrollment.

J-CARE

• We provided support for our families through our J-Care afterschool and J-Care Plus full-day programs for **176 children** throughout the calendar year (+14% compared to 2019).

• We offered a new option called J-Care plus, a full-day remote learning support program. We also offered fully-customized care schedules to be as accommodating to families as possible and to best complement hybrid school schedules.

TAGLIT

• Taglit re-opened in June at Congregation Or Chadash with 30 participants and grew to **35 full-time young adults** by the end of the year.

• Taglit participants continued to make meaning through safe experiences such as virtual museum tours, zoom exercise classes, music therapy, and outdoor fun at the J.

• Central Sparks, our social club for people with and without disabilities, met online and provided valuable social interaction amidst the pandemic.
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• Our virtual Yom Limmud (Day of Learning) program brought together 150 people of all ages. Yom Limmud was supported by the Palchick Fund held at the Jewish Community Foundation of Southern Arizona.

• We launched Amplifying Voices, a series designed to explore the intersectional relationship between Black and Jewish identity. 606 people participated in this important conversation. Our partners included 10 JCCs from across the country, as well as the UA Hillel Foundation, the Dunbar Pavillion, the UA Center for Judaic Studies, and Safety, Respect, Equity Network.

• J-Pride, our home for LGBTQIA+ Jews, participated in Pride Shabbat with UA Hillel Foundation.

• In partnership with JCCs from across the country, we participated in the virtual Z3 experience, providing an opportunity to engage with the shared visions and aspirations of Israeli and diaspora Jews.

• Young Jewish Tucson, provided in partnership with the Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona, continues to be a convener for Jews in their 20s, 30s, and 40s.

• PJ Library provided free books to families raising Jewish children in our community. PJ Library is a gift from the Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona’s Community Engagement Department made possible by the Einstein-Sim, Loebl, Margolis, Rosenzweig, and Sharpe families in partnership with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.
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ARTS + CULTURE

- The 30th annual Tucson International Jewish Film Festival took place online and had 2,400+ attendees. We screened 14 full-length films and 3 shorts.

- Our 2020-2021 Sculpture Garden show was installed in October and brought in 125 visitors for socially-distant art tours.

- Although the pandemic caused many shows to be postponed, we sold $12,613.75 in art. A portion of each sale supports Arts and Culture at the J.

- The Garden of Hope, designed by Barbara Grygutis and featuring sculptures by Norma Lewis and work by Lauri Kaye and Lynn Rae Lowe, continued to inspire harmony, rest, and spiritual exploration in a turbulent year.

ADULTS

- While many of the clubs and support groups made the difficult decision to cancel meetings amidst the pandemic, others--such as Spanish--continued to be popular even in their new virtual format.

- We hope to welcome back programs like Mahjong, studio art classes, and the Widow Circle when it is safe and appropriate to do so.
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RACQUET SPORTS

- The Sarver Tennis Center building was completed while the J was closed.

- Adult drop-in tennis clinics generated $11,000. More than $42,500 was earned through private and semi-private tennis instruction, which resumed in June.

- We began to offer Net Generation training with USTA for high school coaches.

- Our outdoor pickleball program grew in popularity, offering drop-in play and round robin games. In the last quarter of the year, we began to offer clinics and private lessons, earning $1,500 in program income.

SPORTS

- We completed a mill-build on our newly finished basketball courts in spring 2020. Programs like our men’s 30+ and youth basketball leagues were operating at full-capacity in Q1.

- The Purple Minions Youth Tri-Team safely returned in the Fall with 16 participants (the maximum allowed) training together regularly.

- In September, we began to offer private and semi-private gymnastics lessons that have been incredibly popular.
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**WELLNESS**

- Every week since March, the J has offered **34 virtual group exercise classes for free to our community every week**. These classes take place over Zoom and have been an important lifeline to our most isolated community members.

- The Fitness Center re-opened in August with safety protocols in place, including advanced registration, masking, capacity limits, and stringent sanitization protocols between reservations.

- We began offering virtual training to members during our closure. After reopening, our training program operated at about **33% capacity** through 2020.

- The Group Exercise and Mind-Body studios were sanded and refinished for the first time since 2014.

**AQUATICS**

- Prior to March, the **Stingrays swim team had 109 swimmers**. They resumed practice in September with **50 active swimmers**.

- J-Rays Swim School offered more than **400 private and semi-private swim lessons** to swimmers of all levels.

- Masters swim team returned with **16 dedicated swimmers** (the maximum allowed).
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