100 YEARS
EDLAVITCH
DCJCC

Edlavitch DCJCC Centennial Campaign

Celebrating 100 Years
at the Intersection of
Tradition and Innovation

We aspire to be both **a gateway and a home** for Jewish life and a leading institution of **Jewish culture, ideas, and service** in the nation's capital and beyond.

Our Centennial Commitment

Over the past century, hundreds of thousands of individuals and families have found a home at our JCC.

As the town square for the Jewish community, **the Edlavitch DC Jewish Community Center has sat at the nexus of tradition and innovation since we opened our doors in 1926.**

OUR STORY

100 YEARS

1925 | GROUNDBREAKING

President Calvin Coolidge presided at the groundbreaking ceremony on what is now our Jewish Community Center at 16th and Q.

1926 | OPENING

The DC Jewish Community Center (DCJCC) opened its doors and flourished as a welcoming space for new immigrants and a gathering spot for Washington's Jewish society.

1939 - 1967 | SOCIAL HUB

The DCJCC became a social hub for the Jewish community known for dances and summer camps on the roof, an annual Purim Ball, sports leagues, and much more.

1969 | MOVE TO MARYLAND

As Jews in the city moved to the suburbs, our building was sold to the city and a new JCC was constructed in Rockville, MD.

1979–1985 | INDEPENDENCE

The Rockville JCC opened a downtown DC branch in 1979 – six years later in 1985 the branch "declared its independence" and reopened as the new DCJCC.

1990 | THEATER J

Theater J was founded as a black box theater in the JCC's townhouse near Dupont Circle.

1997 | REOPENING

After repurchasing the original building back from the city, an extensive fundraising campaign, and a major restoration, the DCJCC reopened for the second time on 16th and Streets.

2006 | GLOE

The JCC founded GLOE, the nation's first program for the LGBTQ+ Jewish Community at any JCC in North America.

2016–2019 | EDCJCC

The Center was renamed the Edlavitch DC Jewish Community Center in recognition of a lead Capital Campaign gift from Ginny and Irwin Edlavitch. The Capital Campaign marked the first renovation of the building since it was repurchased from the city in the 90s.

2020–2022 | COVID CRISIS

With the building closed due to the pandemic, the EDCJCC parking lot became a home for Jewish life with Shabbat meals, Passover seders, and a vaccination party for DC children.

OUR IMPACT

For 100 years, our historic building at the intersection of 16th and Q Streets, NW has stood at the intersection of tradition and innovation.

THEATER J

We are home to Theater J, the nation's most prominent Jewish theater.

JXJ

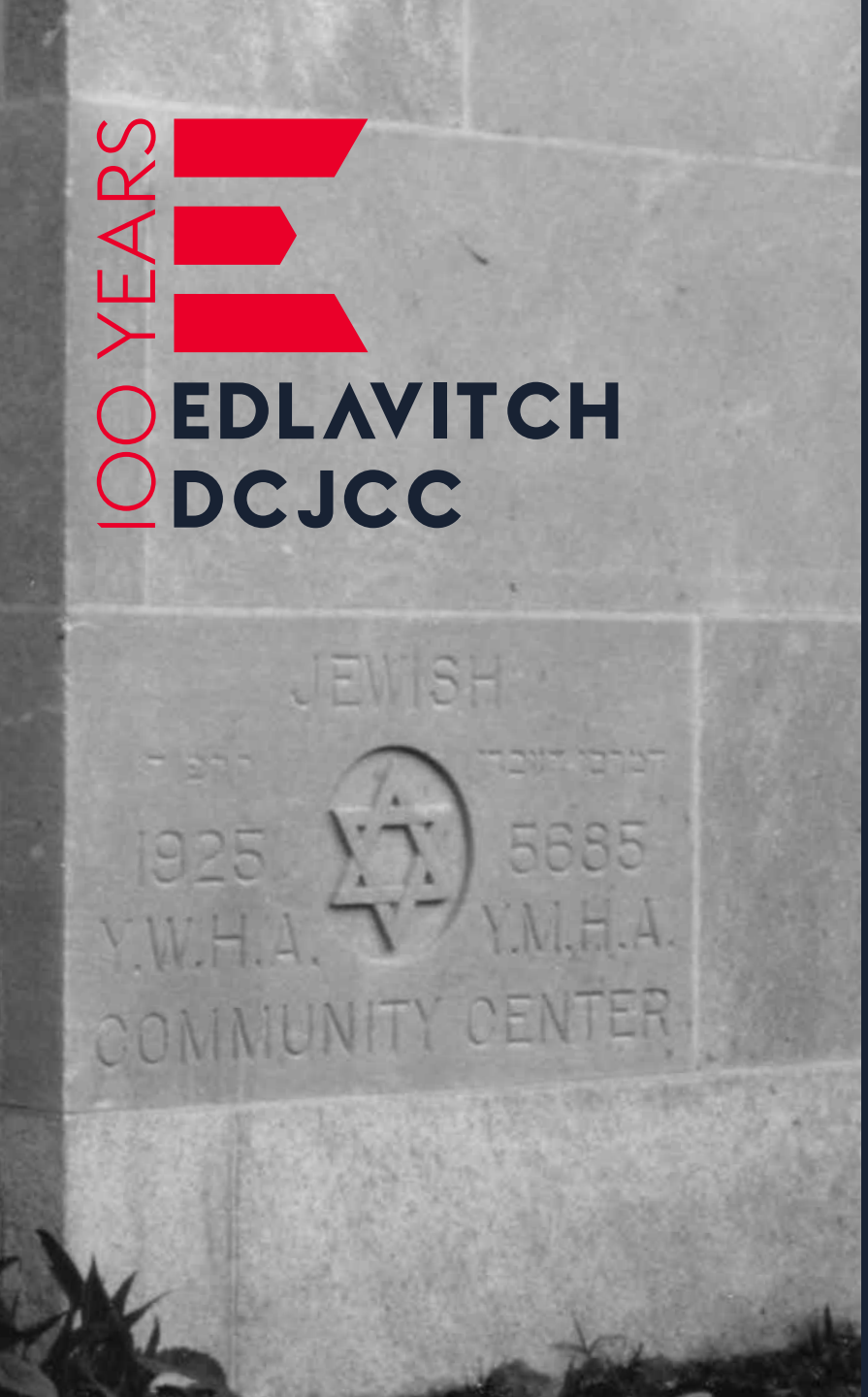
JxJ's Matthew Harris Ornstein Short Film Fund is the only fund of its kind to support emerging Jewish filmmakers.

GLOE

GLOE - the Kurlander Program for GLBTQ Outreach and Engagement, the nation's first program for the LGBTQ+ Jewish community at any JCC in North America.

COVID-19

When the building closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the EDCJCC parking lot became a hub for Jewish life with Shabbat meals, Passover seders, preschool sing-a-longs, and even a vaccination party for school-aged children.



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The Next Chapter

To lay the foundation for the next hundred years, we are embarking on **a bold $12M+ campaign** to sustain our signature programs, launch new initiatives, grow our endowment, and invest in our historic building.

CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES

Strengthen Our Roots: Double Our Endowment

An endowment ensures we can continue meeting the changing needs of the community and withstand periods of uncertainty.

Nurture Jewish Life for the Next Century

The Jewish community is engaging with their heritage in diverse and often non-traditional ways. This moment calls for thoughtful innovation to keep Jewish life vibrant, modern, and relevant.

Ensure our Building Remains Safe, Vibrant, and Inviting for All

To continue offering exceptional programs in a warm and safe environment, we must be proactive stewards of our building.

Strengthen Our Roots: Double Our Endowment

ENDOWMENT GOAL: $6 Million

For nearly 100 years, the EDCJCC has evolved with our community. To continue adapting and thriving, the Center requires a strong financial foundation. By raising $6M in endowment funds and doubling our endowment, we aim to not only provide this stability but also offer the flexibility to innovate and respond to the evolving needs of future generations.

A robust endowment will enable us to

- Withstand periods of uncertainty
- Invest in attracting and retaining talented staff
- Experiment with new initiatives in response to an ever-changing world

At the heart of this endowment is a promise: the Edlavitch DCJCC will always be a vibrant, welcoming space for Jewish life in our nation's capital ready to meet the needs of future generations.

Nurture Jewish Life for the Next Century

PROGRAM & INITIATIVES GOAL: $3 Million

As we step into our next century, the EDCJCC is launching three new initiatives to nurture Jewish engage for the future.

The Jewish Community's Living Room

We are reimagining our lobby as the Living Room of the Jewish community. Not only a warm and inviting gathering space, the EDCJCC's Living Room will be a welcoming place where thought-provoking conversations take place and Jewish connections and community are built.

Capital J

This new initiative positions the EDCJCC as the hub for Jewish conversations on the day's most pressing issues. Capital J will foster meaningful dialogue and elevate the EDCJCC's profile to attract new audiences, drive growth, and create a vibrant space for thoughtful exchange.

New Artists Fund

As a hub for Jewish culture, we will invest in new Jewish works by emerging playwrights and filmmakers. And in doing so,, we will not only preserve Jewish culture but tell the stories of a new generation, reflecting the diversity of the Jewish and human experience.

STEWARDING OUR HOME ON 16TH AND Q

CAPITAL FUND GOAL: $3 Million

Our building has been the physical heart of our community for much of the last century. As we look ahead to the future, one of our highest priorities is ensuring that the Edlavitch DCJCC's home on Sixteenth Street remains a safe, modern, and inviting place for all.

A $3M capital fund will support essential building needs, including:

- Upkeep of our Historic Home - A robust capital reserve will allow us to plan for and proactively implement maintenance of our building.
- Security Enhancements - To ensure the safety of our constituents, we must continue to invest in the physical security of our building.
- Energy-Efficient and Sustainable Upgrades - By investing in energy-efficient upgrades, we will not only serve our community but also contribute to a healthier planet, reduce our carbon footprint, and lower our operation expenses.

LEADERSHIP GIVING

Leadership gifts will be the cornerstone of this campaign.

They will set the pace and inspire others to give, demonstrating a strong commitment to the campaign's vision and goals. These significant contributions will not only provide the momentum to reach our targets but also signal confidence in the project's impact, encouraging the broader Edlavitch DCJCC community's participation and support.

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Join Us!

Your leadership and dedication to our community has been **instrumental in shaping our community** into the vibrant, welcoming space it is today.

You are uniquely positioned to help us **build on this legacy** and ensure the EDCJCC **continues to thrive as a hub for Jewish life, connection, and culture** for generations to come.

> *"Jewish culture and identity are a light to the world. It is up to us, through this campaign, to stand up and invest in what matters most — for today, tomorrow, and generations to come."*
>
> *Sara Cohen, Campaign Chair*

100 YEARS EDLAVITCH DCJCC

Campaign Leadership*

Sara Cohen, Chair

Campaign Executive Committee

Johanna Chanin

Patti Herman

Daniel O. Hirsch

Billy Kreisberg

Saul Pilchen

Janis Schiff

Bob Schlossberg

Jennifer Zwilling, Chief Executive Officer

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