



Another Tremendous Milestone Celebrated at the JCC Dedication Ceremony

On Wednesday, October 24, the Asheville JCC celebrated the opening of our new early childhood wing and lobby with a dedication and mezuzah ceremony. We were overjoyed to be joined by the Mandel family, as well as so many of our capital campaign donors, community partners, families and friends. Children from Shalom Children's Center and JCC Kids After School Program performed with our beloved song leader Penny White and our Youth Programs Director, Seth Kellam. Rabbi Justin Goldstein and Rabbi Shaya Susskind dedicated the new wing of our facility with a mezuzah ceremony and spoke of the importance of humility, wisdom and kindness in building strong communities and the role of the JCC as a place that exemplifies justice and right action. Mayor Esther Manheimer proclaimed the day "Morton L. Mandel Day" as a way to honor Mr. Mandel's incredible

donation of \$4.5 million to the JCC's capital campaign, helping to make our dream of "Tomorrow's JCC" a reality. Following the ceremony, guests enjoyed a tour of the new spaces. We are so grateful to the more than 350 donors who contributed to the campaign.



Mezuzah Dedication



Shalom Children's Center Performing During the Ceremony

Our Early Learning Philosophy and the Sheva Framework

Early childhood education has been a centerpiece of Jewish Community Centers for almost a century. A child's early years are critical for individual development, and early childhood education centers are an important element in a families' identity and connection to their Jewish journey. The success of early childhood education depends not only on the classroom educators, but also on the partnership with and involvement of the children, families, and program director. The JCC Association's Sheva Early Learning Framework, is an innovative approach to early learning based on seven core concepts rooted in child development research. The Asheville JCC is one of several JCCs to implement the Sheva