



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2025



AGENDA

INTRODUCTIONS

YEAR IN REVIEW

TREASURER'S REPORT

Q & A



**Whether you are religious or secular;
practicing or not; newly Jewish or identify
as Jewish; however you Jew, the WRJCC
welcomes you.**

**The WRJCC's primary function is to
connect the Jewish community within the
Region.**

**Our mission is to promote and develop
social and cultural activities and to
increase our outreach and awareness in
the Waterloo Region to the greater
community as a whole.**

**The operation is 100% based on
volunteers, who contribute thousands of
hours of their time.**





WHO WE ARE

RAVIT LECHTER

Chair



AMIT HOCHMAN

Treasurer



AUGUST ADELMAN

Secretary





Achievements

INCORPORATED AS A
NOT-FOR-PROFIT

APPLIED FOR AND RECEIVED
REGION OF WATERLOO'S
UPSTREAM GRANT

FORMED A BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HAVE A LARGE SOCIAL MEDIA
PRESENCE

Highlights

- monthly community gatherings
- collaborative events within the community
- collaborative events outside the community
- Amazing volunteers
- Committed leadership

Year in Review

(JULY 1, 2024 - JUNE 30, 2025)

Board of Directors



3

events



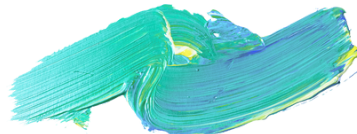
43

attendance



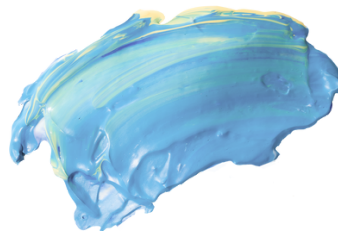
7-193

social media
groups



9

collabs



11

new volunteer
positions



13

WRLC



WATERLOO REGION JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Shana Tova

JOIN US FOR THE 3RD ANNUAL
ROSH HASHANAH
ISRAELI STYLE
POTLUCK DINNER

When & Where:
September 29th
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Location will be shared after registration
Cost: \$ 5 per person (Max of 20\$ per family).

Please RSVP
ASAP
<https://forms.gle/20h3311Sep2288>

INTRODUCING
JOEL CHASNOFF

Need a good laugh?
Joel's got you covered!
Let's come together for an evening of community and laughter.

Date:
November 30, 2024
Tickets and info:
www.wrjcc.com

www.joelchasnoff.com

Beth Jacob, Temple Shalom, and WRJCC are proud to sponsor our first
FREE COMMUNITY SWAP MARKET

SWAP THIS: You can bring something (e.g. clothes, toys, etc.)
FOR THAT: Take something you need

We are also collecting non-perishable food items for Food4Kids. Their most needed food items are listed on their website: www.food4kidsr.ca

Sunday, Nov. 24, 2024 from 2:30pm - 4pm
Beth Jacob Synagogue, 161 Stirling Ave S., Kitchener

*Items must be clean and in good condition. Drop your items off here:
Friday, Nov. 22 from 2pm - 4pm at Beth Jacob Synagogue (161 Stirling Ave S., Kitchener)
OR
Saturday, Nov. 23 from 10:30am - 12pm at Temple Shalom at the Cedars (543 Beechwood Dr, Waterloo)

Temple Shalom and WRJCC invite you to celebrate Hanukkah at our
Hanukkah Workshop & Potluck
Saturday, December 14, 2024 from 4:45pm-8:00pm
Temple Shalom, 543 Beechwood Dr., Waterloo

4:45pm - 6:15pm:
Salt Dough Hanukkah workshop, \$7/person, max \$18/family
6:30pm - 8:00pm:
Potluck

Get ready for Hanukkah with a new Hanukkah!
Sufganiyot and more surprises!
Hanukkah Songs!
Best Salt Dough Hanukkah Contest!

HAPPY HANUKKAH

Re)Opening Celebration!

The WRJCC is excited to invite ALL community members to our (re)opening celebration! There will be food, drinks, and a variety of entertainment for people of all ages!

JAN. 12, 2025
11AM-2PM
VICTORIA PARK PAVILION
80 SCHNEIDER AVE., KITCHENER

RSVP required by January 10th, 2025
Register HERE:
<https://forms.gle/NxXfy3DuQkGDvr8n8>

The event is free but donations are welcome.
Please consider donating to help us cover our costs for this and future events by sending an e-transfer to info@wrjcc.com. Thank you!
security will be on site

TEMPLE SHALOM AND THE WRJCC ARE PROUD TO PRESENT

HAPPY PURIM

KIDS PURIM PARTY
KIDS OF ALL AGES!
COSTUME CONTEST!
DANCE PARTY!
BIG BALLOON SHOW!
BRING YOUR OWN MISHLOACH MANOT TO EXCHANGE WITH OTHER KIDS (NO MONIES)
SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 2025
10AM-12PM
GET YOUR TICKETS HERE ASAP!
<https://forms.gle/20h3311Sep2288>

*NATURALIZATION TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THOSE IN REMOTE AREAS. PLEASE CONTACT INFO@WRJCC.COM
**BABYSITTER AVAILABLE - PLEASE CONTACT INFO@WRJCC.COM
TEMPLE SHALOM AT THE CEDARS, 543 BEECHWOOD DR., WATERLOO

TEMPLE SHALOM AND THE WRJCC ARE PROUD TO PRESENT

BYOB! COSTUME CONTEST!

Purim Masquerade Party
SATURDAY, MARCH 15TH, 2025 AGES 18+
7:00PM - 10:30PM
COME IN COSTUME. BEST COSTUME WINS A PRIZE!
PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS HERE!
<https://forms.gle/20h3311Sep2288>

*NATURALIZATION TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THOSE IN REMOTE AREAS. PLEASE CONTACT INFO@WRJCC.COM
**BABYSITTER AVAILABLE - PLEASE CONTACT INFO@WRJCC.COM
TEMPLE SHALOM AT THE CEDARS, 543 BEECHWOOD DR., WATERLOO

WRJCC

The 4th Annual Community Passover Dinner 2025

Let's celebrate together! Join us for the 4th Israeli-style Passover Community Seder!

When- April 13, 2025 (Sunday), At 6 PM.
Where- Temple Shalom- 543 Beechwood Dr, Waterloo

- Potluck Style
- The cost per Family is \$10.
- Please e-transfer to info@wrjcc.com***
- Please register through [this link](https://forms.gle/20h3311Sep2288) by April 10.

We hope to see you all there!

*** Complimentary tickets are available for those in financial need. Please reach out to info@wrjcc.com

WRJCC

Sukkot Slumber Party
Oct 19th 5:00-8:30pm

Wear your PJ's and join us for the Sukkot Slumber Party at Temple Shalom Waterloo

5:00-6:30pm
Games in the sukkah for children and adults!
Bring some board games and play with friends. Craft Stations for kids, make your own edible sukkah and more!

6:30-7:00pm
Dinner in the sukkah
Pizza and drinks for everyone

7:00-8:30pm
Movie & Snacks in the sukkah!

Please RSVP by filling up the attached form by Wednesday, Oct 16th

**NEED A NEW JOB?
LOOKING FOR WORK?
THINKING ABOUT
A NEW CAREER?**

JOIN US FOR A **FREE INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP** ABOUT WWW.FINDYOURJOB.CA

TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 2025
7:00PM - 9:00 PM
COLLABHIVE,
72 VICTORIA ST. S., 3RD FLOOR, KITCHENER
(PARKING IN THE BACK)

RSVP REQUIRED BY FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 2025
[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/GPPGLBSURCIVWPH8](https://forms.gle/GPPGLBSURCIVWPH8)

*** BRING YOUR LAPTOP OR TABLET AND ALL YOUR QUESTIONS FOR AN ENGAGING, HANDS-ON SESSION.

WRJCC Workforce Planning Board of Waterloo Region's Diverse

WRJCC WATERLOO REGION HOLOCAUST EDUCATION COMMITTEE AND WRJCC WATERLOO REGION JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL ARE PROUD TO PRESENT:

CHEATING HITLER
SURVIVING THE HOLOCAUST

A FREE SCREENING OF CHEATING HITLER, THE AWARD WINNING DOCUMENTARY THAT FOLLOWS THE JOURNEY OF THREE HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS REVISITING THEIR PAST.

STAY AFTER THE SCREENING FOR A CONVERSATION WITH ROSE, ONE OF THE SURVIVORS IN THE FILM.

SUNDAY, NOV 17 2024
2:30PM - 6PM
FILM STARTS AT 3PM

THE CEDARS
543 BEECHWOOD DR. WATERLOO
SECURITY WILL BE ON SITE.
REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.

FREE BUT RSVP REQUIRED:
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/4UTPR1B](https://tinyurl.com/4UTPR1B)

HOPE PRESENTS

Beyond the Menorah
ILLUMINATING JEWISH FAITH AND RESILIENCE

FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2025 // 12:00-1:00 PM
The HUB Woolwich Memorial Centre, 24 Snyder Avenue South, Elmira
NO COST // OPEN TO PUBLIC
Lunch Provided

Discover the richness of Jewish traditions, stories of strength, and the deep cultural roots that go beyond the Menorah.

SPEAKERS

Rene Lechter (She/Her)
Chair, Waterloo Region Jewish Community Council (WRJCC)

August Adelman (She/Her)
Secretary, Waterloo Region Jewish Community Council (WRJCC)

Register at <https://shorturl.at/C9B8v>

SPECIAL THANKS TO:
The Jewish Family Service of Waterloo Region
HOPE HEARTS OPEN FOR EVERYONE

HOPE PRESENTS

MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL OF ELMIRA
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2024, 12-5PM
GIBSON PARK 17 FIRST ST. W., ELMIRA

FREE ENTRY

FEATURING:
INDIGENOUS FIRST SOCIETY NATAYALAYA DANCE ACADEMY
WATERLOO KUNG FU ACADEMY
DR. MIKE AND THE NIGHT HORSES
RESCUE JUNCTION
CONEXION LATINA
STEEL PAN BASH
AFRODANCE
TABLA CRAFT
FOOTURES

PLUS:
FOOD TRUCKS
KIDS ACTIVITIES
ARTS & CRAFTS
CULTURES UNITED TENT
A multi-sensory experience
CHINESE DANCE WORKSHOP
WRJCC Asian Culture Club
CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINERS
MR. J and the Grammy Gang

HOPE HEARTS OPEN FOR EVERYONE

Join us for
Multicultural Connections 2025

Embracing Diversity,
Narratives of Belonging from Waterloo Region's Ethnocultural Communities

Come together, connect, and celebrate our diverse community, everyone is welcome!

Thursday, May 8, 2025
5 - 8 PM

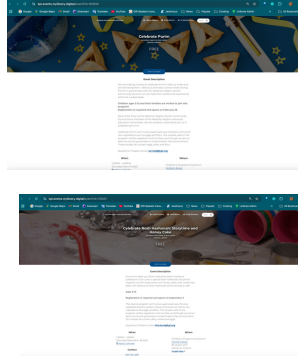
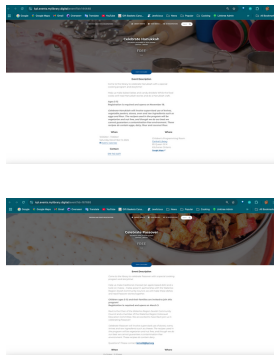
YMCA of Three Rivers
2500 Queen St. N., Cambridge

5 - 8 PM: Meet and greet, ethnocultural organizations and so much more!
8-8:45 PM: Formal welcome & Indigenous opening
6:30 - 7:30 PM: Multicultural Library

Snacks & children's activities provided. Transportation offered in multiple languages.

Free Event

For more details visit: <https://www.ymcawaterloo.ca/multicultural-connections>



WRJCC WATERLOO REGION HOLOCAUST EDUCATION COMMITTEE AND WRJCC WATERLOO REGION JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL ARE PROUD TO PRESENT A
FREE SELF-DEFENSE CLASS

Join us for a free, fun, and engaging workshop that is a safe and welcoming environment. Learn the fundamentals of Krav Maga self-defense with training, feedback and enjoying a great workout!

7:30PM-9:00PM
MONDAY FEB 10 2025

REGISTER NOW!

Princess Cinemas, in partnership with the Waterloo Region Holocaust Education Committee, the WRJCC - Waterloo Region Jewish Community Council, and Hillel Waterloo & Laurier, is honoured to present
Schindler's List

to commemorate
International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

In addition to the film screening, the story of Rene Ferber Finder, one of Schindler's survivors, will be on display.

Monday, Jan. 27, 2025, 7pm
"Doors open at 6pm for display viewing"
Princess Twin Cinema
44 King Street North, Waterloo
Seating Capacity: 144

Tickets:
Member \$11.50 | non Member \$15.50
Student/Senior \$11.50

For tickets, please visit www.princesscinemas.com.

*Proceeds from ticket sales will be donated to the Waterloo Region Holocaust Education Committee.

WRJCC AND TEMPLE SHALOM ARE PROUD TO PRESENT:
Lag B'Omer Picnic

Free truck visit
Potatoes on the bonfire
Bonfire
Marshmallows

Bring your own picnic, games, lawn chair, blanket, marshmallow roasting stick, and an instrument to play around the bonfire!

Bring your own picnic!

Saturday, May 17 at 5:00PM.
Temple Shalom, 543 Beechwood Dr., Waterloo

WRJCC

Picnic in the Park!
Sunday, June 29, 2025
at 4:00PM - Sunset

Join us for a community vegetarian/dairy potluck picnic at Kiwanis Park (by the Playground) (1000 Kiwanis Park Dr., Kitchener)!

Everyone welcome! All ages!
Bring some of your favourite games and connect with others in the community!

WRJCC AND TEMPLE SHALOM ARE PROUD TO PRESENT:
SHAVUOT BAKE-OFF!
COMMUNITY TICKET SALES NOW OPEN!
MORE INFO AND TICKETS HERE:
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/MSNU9UK](https://tinyurl.com/MSNU9UK)

SNACKS!
PRIZES!
HOT DRINKS!

THIS OR THAT?

OR

ICE CREAM SANDWICH MAKING STATION!

DATE: SATURDAY, MAY 31, 2025 TIME: 5:00PM - 7:00PM
LOCATION: TEMPLE SHALOM, 543 BEECHWOOD DR., WATERLOO

LADIES SUNDAY BRUNCH!

Date: Sunday, Aug. 18th
Time: 10:00am
Location: will be shared after you register
8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
www.wrjcc.com

WRJCC LUNCH
For Men and Women
All Ages Welcome

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH
AT 11:00 PM

RSVP to info@wrjcc.com or by email: info@wrjcc.com

WRJCC LADIES GROUP DINNER

WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 19TH, 2025
@ 6PM

LOCATION WILL BE SHARED UPON REGISTRATION

PLEASE RSVP BY SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 16TH TO
[INFO@WRJCC.COM](mailto:info@wrjcc.com)

WRJCC BREAKFAST
For Men and Women
All Ages Welcome

TUESDAY, MAY 27TH
9:30 AM

RSVP to info@wrjcc.com or by email: info@wrjcc.com

SAVE THE DATE
50+ Hanukkah Potluck
Monday, December 16th

Stay tuned

WRJCC

JOIN MY FREE BAKING ONLINE
BISCOTTI
WORKSHOP
FEBRUARY 9, 2025

Join me for a fun and interactive baking session where you'll learn how to make delicious homemade biscotti from scratch!
No special equipment is needed—just your ingredients and enthusiasm.

All my name is Olga, and I love working with dough and creating homemade breads, cookies, and baked goods. Baking is a big part of my life, and I also share my creations through my business. In this free community workshop, I'll guide you through making delicious biscotti from scratch in a relaxed and enjoyable way.

Events

Volunteers



WRJCC



WRJCC HAS A NEW HOME!

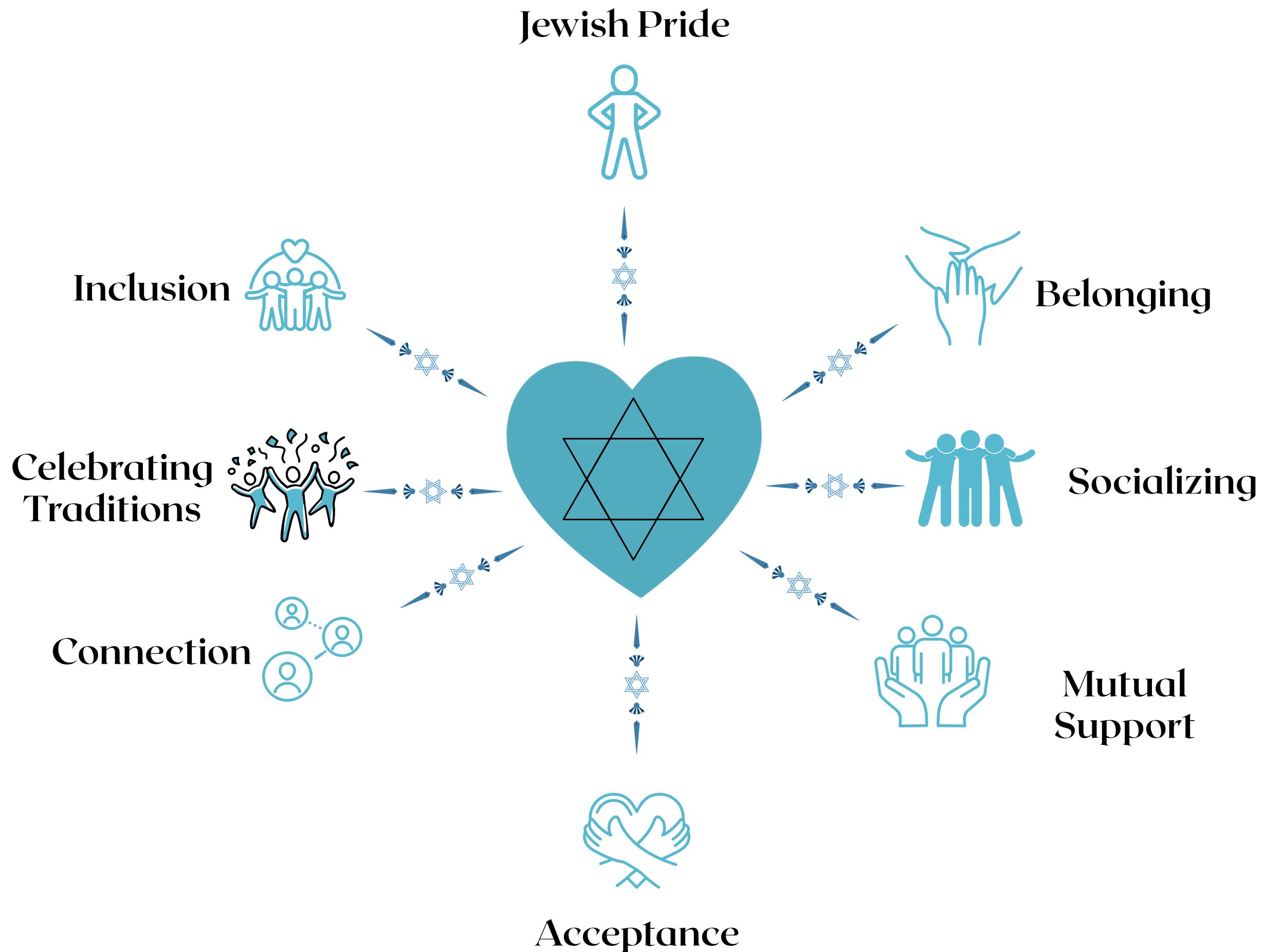
**72 VICTORIA ST. S.,
3RD FLOOR**
PARKING IN BACK (SAY THAT
YOU ARE GOING TO
COLLABHIVE)

COME AND VISIT!
OFFICE HOURS ARE
BY APPOINTMENT VIA
INFO@WRJCC.COM

New Space



Why is Jewish Community important to you?

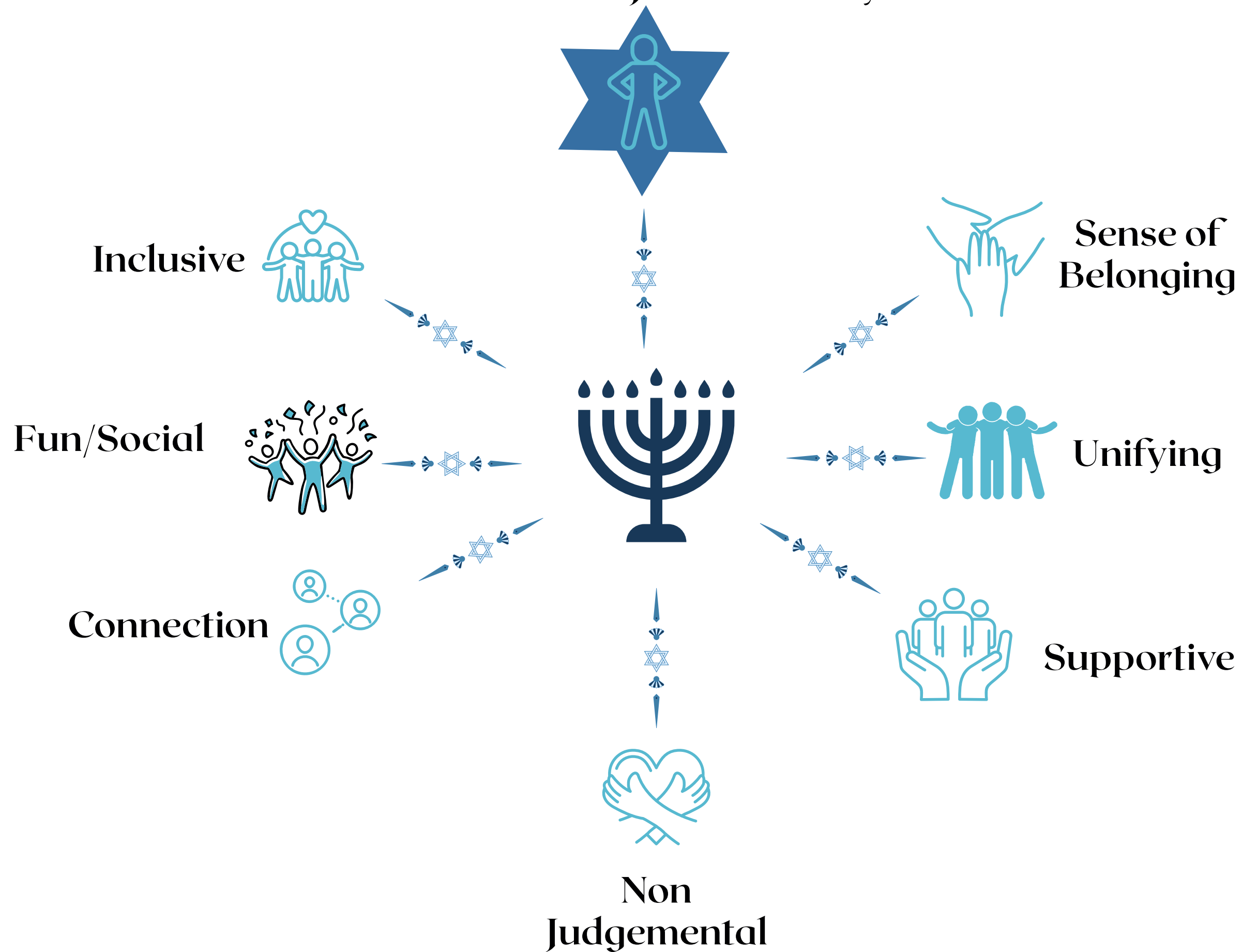


Grand (re)Opening
Responses



What would you like your Jewish Community to be like?

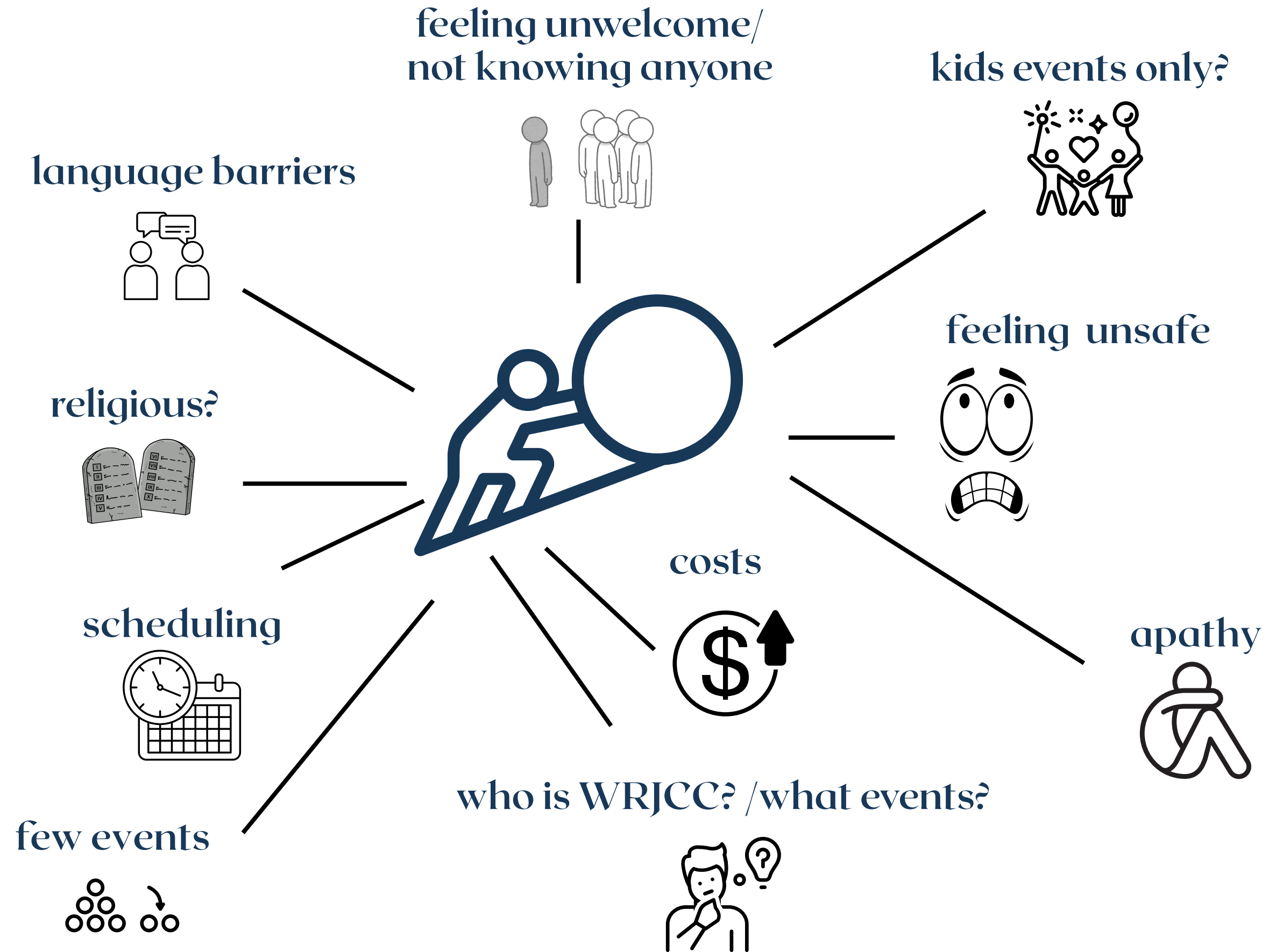
Contribute to Jewish identity



Grand (re)Opening
Responses



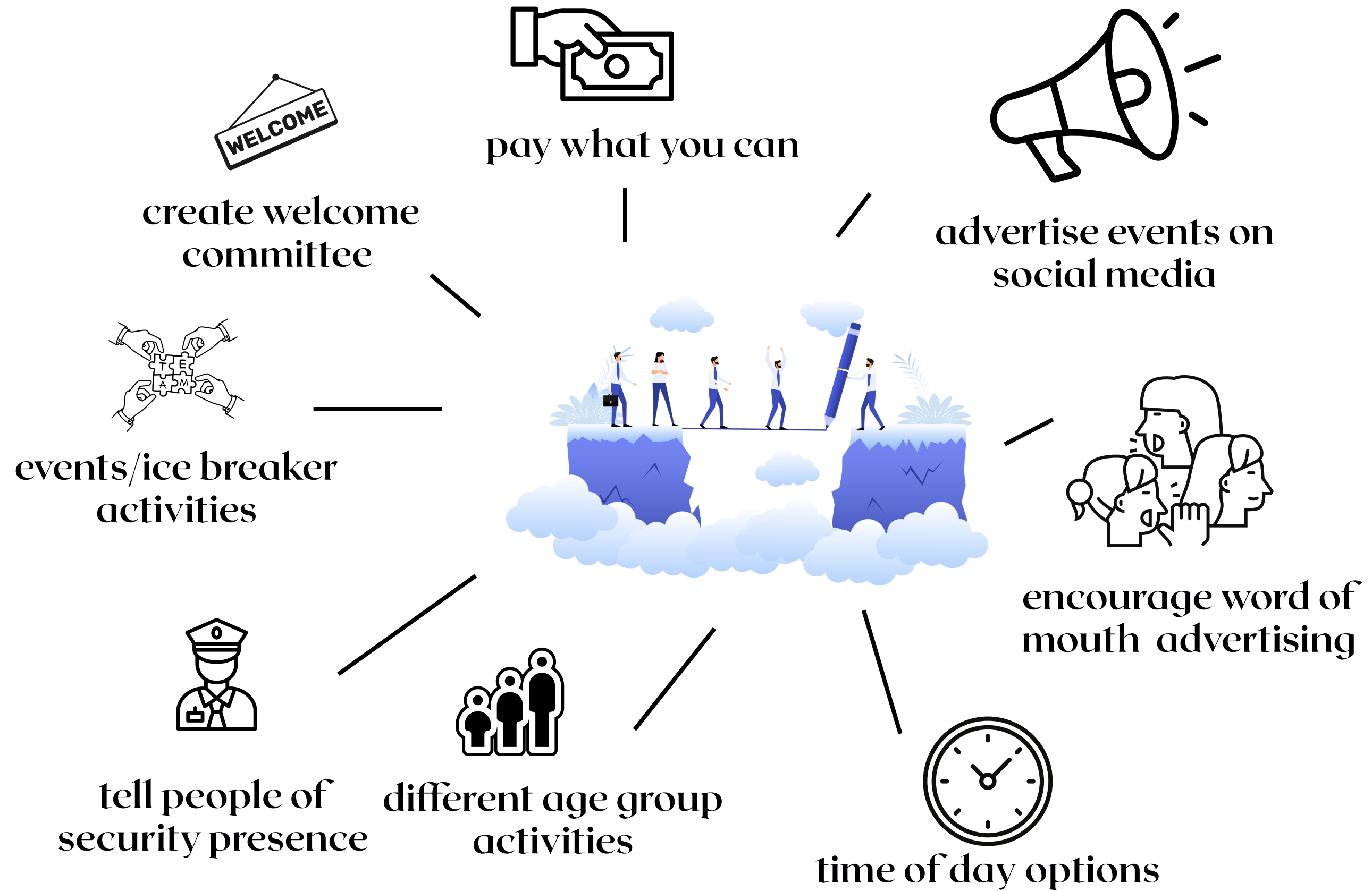
What are the Barriers to people attending events and activities?



Grand (re)Opening
Responses



How to overcome barriers?



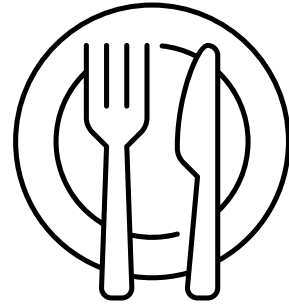


What interest you? How would you like to get involved? What would you attend? What would you help organize?

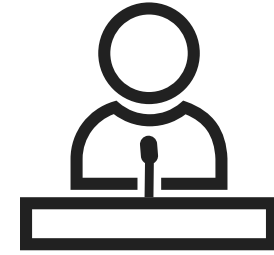
Grand (re)Opening Responses



Adult events/
Kids events



Dinners, food



lectures/classes



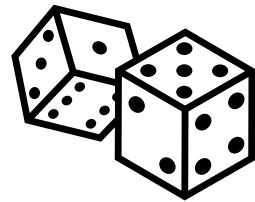
sports:



Jewish movie night



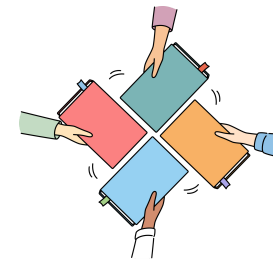
Musicians/
entertainment



Board game



Holiday
celebration



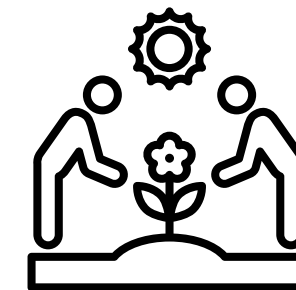
Book club



Newcomer
information Kit



Tikkun Olam events



Community garden

Willingness to pay:

\$ 20 for non-food event \$80 \$100 for family of 4 Charge nominal fee for events.
Cost relative to time and activity Willing to pay for food and venue cost



What can we do better?

Multiple events

Advertise and communicate on Social Media, newsletter, shuls,

Regular meetups

Trying to be inclusive, too crazy, too noisy, unsupervised activities for kids.

Difficult to circulate and meet new people at big events, too noisy

More targeted activities and groups

Targeted campaigns on FB

Stop the loop paying for event -people show up and get value- need money to pay for event

Have an internet site with babysitters/ small businesses

Update information on fairs and events in the area
KW Job searching site

Need emails to find out about events rather than FB



What are we doing right?

Enthusiasm, doing a great job/Doing phenomenal job, community feels much closer KOL
HAKAVOD

Multiple events/Variety of events

Central meeting places

Easy parking

Good food

Entertainment

Support/Very welcoming

Having security at events

Bringing people together

Large community events/ celebration without agenda



“The WRJCC has helped me find community as a new person in Waterloo Region, especially during a time when we’ve all been hurting post-Oct 7 and needing to surround ourselves with people who get it. You introduced me to ... and a friendship blossomed - we became instant friends, and thus I found meaningful community. We even have a small group that we do regular Shabbat dinners with, which is so nice. I’ve never really had a Jewish friend group, so I am very grateful to have found one here. Thank you for giving me a hug on that sad day at City Hall, introducing yourself, and welcoming me into the community with open arms. You are amazing!”

Impact



“To me, WRJCC represents a very important community voice and gathering place for our Jewish people who wish to have Jewish social events and Jewish cultural events/invitations regularly throughout the year - so that no one in our community feels alone and isolated. United together makes us laugh and enjoy all the great things about being Jewish in our community. Thank you so much for this labour of love, Ravit. The WRJCC is a valuable opportunity to join together in strength and pride and it is vital for our community, especially at this time of rising polarization and hatred of Jews and of Israel. Keep up the great work being there for our Jewish community.”

Impact



“בוקר טוב ותודה רבה Ravit@ KW
Lechter ושאר המארגנים אתם
אלופים!!! ממש כיף לראות את
הקהילה/משפחה ברגעים כאלו.
מאחל לכולנו עוד כאלה 🍷❤️🙏”

“We love the kids programming
and holiday events!
It’s so special for our kids to get
together with other Jewish kids
to share in some fun. Great
work,
WRJCC & team! ❤️”

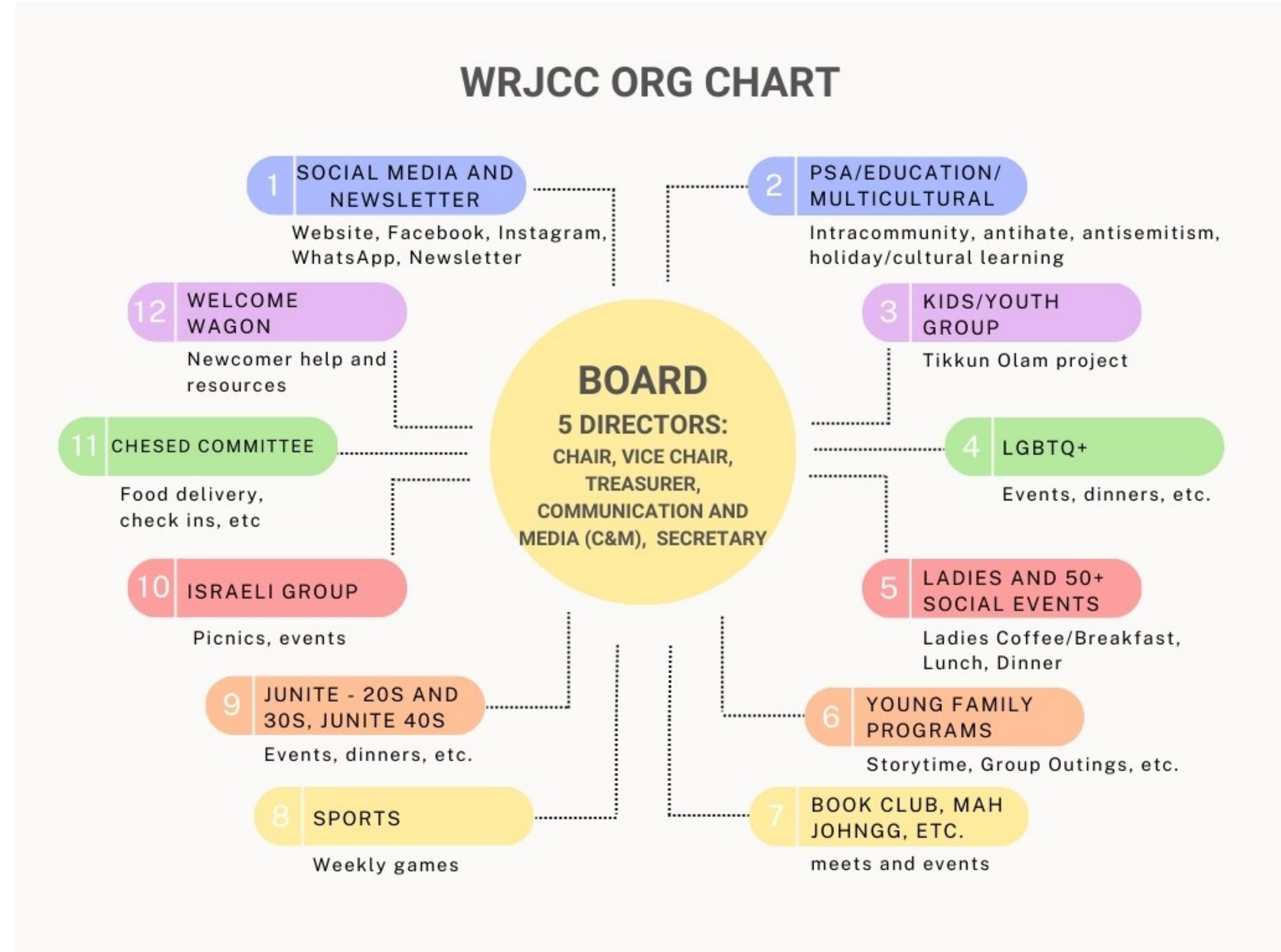
תודה לכולם, היה
ממש מושקע וכיף.
לעד הרבה אירועים
כאלו.

“My family and I moved to Waterloo last year.
As newcomers, the WRJCC has been
instrumental in creating a sense of
community for us. Through its activities, we
connected with like-minded people and were
able to share some of the beautiful traditions
of Judaic culture with our daughters. I would
like to take this opportunity to thank the
WRJCC and its organizers for the amazing
job they are doing.”

“תודה רבה לכל מי שלקח חלק
להפקת האירוע היה מקסים
נעים וטעים 😊❤️ שנמשיך
להיפגש ולחגוג ולייצר קהילה
מדהימה ומיוחדת יחד 🙏”

“It takes 4 Jews to
change a light bulb
but an amazing one
to pull off a joyful
and fun event.”

Impact





grow the Board,
apply for charitable status,
library cart
game nights
junite 20s, 30s, 40s
return of book club
and more... 😊

Future Plans

Worship



Thank
you SO
MUCH