



A NEW CHAPTER AT SID JACOBSON JCC

WELCOMING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MICHAEL SCHLANK

ALLISON CAGGIA, IN CONVERSATION WITH MICHAEL SCHLANK

Just three months into his new role as Executive Director of Sid Jacobson JCC, Long Island native Michael Schlank has already made a warm and thoughtful impression on the community he proudly calls home. He stepped into the position on November 3, following the retirement of longtime leader David Black, whose fourteen years of service helped shape SJJCC into a thriving center for Jewish life, wellness, culture, and connection.

Schlank brings decades of experience in Jewish communal leadership, education, and nonprofit management. Before joining SJJCC, he served as CEO of NJY Camps, the largest Jewish residential camp organization in North America. He guided the agency through the challenges of the COVID era and introduced innovations that received national attention from major news outlets. His earlier career includes senior roles at Oasis Children's

Services, work in public policy and community programming, and leadership training at NYU's Wagner School of Public Policy.

Even with this impressive background, returning to Long Island is what feels most meaningful to him. "Long Island shaped who I am," he says. "Now I have the privilege of giving back to the community that gave me so much. It feels like coming full circle."

Schlank believes that each chapter of his career prepared him for this moment. Camping taught him the power of immersive experiences, education reinforced the value of lifelong learning, and public policy work strengthened his ability to think strategically. Jewish communal service, he says, grounded him in values that guide his leadership every day. "At SJJCC, I want to bring all of that together and continue building a community rooted in compassion and connection."

His vision for the JCC includes expanding social services, strengthening programs for families and youth, enriching cultural and intellectual offerings, and continuing to deepen the community's relationship with Israel. Schlank also expresses deep admiration for the foundation created by his predecessor. "David Black led with humanity and kindness. I hope to carry that spirit forward in everything we do," he says. Now entering his third month, Schlank describes his leadership style as collaborative and community-centered. Listening, he says, is where leadership begins. "I want people to feel heard, supported, and inspired. Leadership is not about standing above. It is about standing with. And I am grateful to stand with this community."



SID JACOBSON JCC'S

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