



Jewish Community Alliance
of Southern Maine

2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT



OUR MISSION

The Jewish Community Alliance (JCA) is a nonprofit organization serving the Jewish Community of Southern Maine by providing educational and social programming and fundraising. Our mission is to build Jewish community locally, in Israel and throughout the world. The JCA develops, provides, and supports diverse programs, education and services. We work with an array of organizations and local congregations, and function as the hub of Jewish programming in Southern Maine.

A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

As the Jewish year 5780 draws to a close, we reflect on the choices we've made and the people we have been over the past 12 months. This year has challenged us all in ways we could not have anticipated, as COVID-19 impacted nearly every aspect of our lives. Yet our community and our State's response to this crisis has been clear-eyed, steadfast, and full of hope for the future.

This report demonstrates the power of the JCA's work, both in person during the first part of the year, and virtually and physically distanced during the second. This year we continued to forge strong ties both within and beyond the Jewish community. We inaugurated new initiatives and rekindled old projects. Our work changed quickly with the closure of the building, but it never slowed down. Goldman Family Preschool teachers continued to sing songs and read stories to children; the KJFS diaper bank and food pantry continued to provide necessary supplies; program staff created new kinds of engagement opportunities and the CRC continued its work to combat racism, anti-Semitism and bias. The JCA's work has always required flexibility, innovation, and collaboration, and we are proud of the way the J's Board and staff rose to the challenges of this year. We are also deeply grateful for those who supported our Emergency Fund, which along with Federal PPP support, allowed us to maintain services and end the year in a strong financial position.

Our tradition offers comfort, celebrates joy, and requires us to continue to grow in our capacity to make the world better for others. The dream of those who created the Jewish Federations, the JCC's, and the Jewish Family Services network was that in times of crisis, existing infrastructure would offer support, resources, and leadership. Together, our Board and staff, supporters, members, and friends made that dream a reality this year, and we are so grateful for their support and commitment.

The JCA is more than a beautiful new facility: it is the people of this strong, caring community. Whatever the coming year holds, together with all of you, we look forward to meeting evolving needs, collaborating in new ways, and proudly living our Jewish values.

L'Shalom,



Molly Curren Rowles
Molly Curren Rowles
Executive Director



Rachael C. Alfond
Rachael Alfond
Board President

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019 - 2020

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Mary Lilly

**Early Childhood Education
Assistant Director**
Janel Goodman





CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING, COMMUNITY, AND CONNECTION

The 2019-2020 [Arts & Culture Series](#), generously supported by the Sam L. Cohen Foundation, our donors and community, included a wide array of programs designed to celebrate the diversity and richness of Jewish life. We welcomed culinary historian Michael Twitty, and hosted book talks by novelist Jenna Blum, Margaret Hathaway, and Rabbi Ariel Burger. The [Shalom Maine](#) Community Collaboration continued with offerings including *Jews, Baseball, and Social Justice*; *Teaching Jewish Values through Film*, and *Passover Themes and Rituals*. As part of the JCA's commitment to raising awareness and appreciation of Israel, we continued to offer content from the Shalom Hartman Institute, including the Israeli/Palestinian Conflict "iEngage" curriculum. We collaborated with the Maine Jewish Film Festival on their Yiddish Culture Festival, and honored Black History Month with a screening of *It Must Swing – The Blue Note Story*. [PJ Library](#) also hosted a series of engaging programs in partnership with community organizations, including *Jonah and the Whale* with the Children's Museum & Theatre of Maine. Our Eco-Celebration honoring Francis and Melvin Stone was a wonderful way to mark Tu B'Shevat and learn more about the amazing ecological work being done throughout our community.

In mid-March, we transitioned to virtual programming due to COVID-19, redesigning our offerings and developing new platforms. What we initially perceived as a hardship became an opportunity to reach across geographical and denominational boundaries, and to access content by leading thinkers, experts and presenters all over the globe.

This year we held our Yom HaShoah Holocaust Remembrance Day Community Observance online, and participated in JFNA's wonderful Yom Ha'atzmaut Global Celebration. We hosted virtual talks with scholar Joy Ladin, Israeli photojournalist Daniel Tchetik, and ADL expert Rabbi David Sandmel, and continued our partnership with MJFF through remote screenings and discussions. We also launched online Mah Jongg and book groups, and offered virtual yoga and "socially distant" outdoor Oula.

We miss gathering as a community and look forward to seeing everyone again in person. Until then, we remain committed to creating community through gatherings of all kinds to learn, commemorate and celebrate Jewish culture in all its vibrancy!

SUPPORTING VIBRANT JEWISH LIFE IN MAINE AND WORLDWIDE

As the Jewish Federation serving Southern Maine, the JCA helps to raise awareness of the work done by our synagogues and other Jewish communal institutions. We also provide information and connection to Israel through supporting speakers and courses, bringing Israeli Shlichim to Center Day Camp, and supporting travel to Israel. A significant portion of the JCA's Annual Campaign is dedicated to supporting local organizations, as well as programs and activities in Israel. This year, the **JCA allocated \$115,000** outside of its walls, providing critical support for our Southern Maine Hebrew Schools, Documenting Maine Jewry, MJFF, and Birthright, as well as Israeli nonprofits like Hand in Hand, Yad L'Kashish and Big Brothers/Big Sisters Jerusalem. We continue to be deeply grateful for our community's support of the JCA Annual Campaign which makes this work possible.

Once again this year, our **Community Relations Council (CRC)** worked to increase awareness of issues related to Israel, Combatting Antisemitism, and protecting the rights of minority communities. We offered courses, wrote op-eds and statements, brought in speakers, and engaged in longer term projects. We recognize the unique role the JCA can play as a place where those of all political perspectives can participate, learn, and grow together.

Creating communal space for engagement on issues related to pluralism, and combatting bias, antisemitism and prejudice, is urgent and necessary work. With the support of the Sam L. Cohen Foundation, we planned to offer the "Community Seder" interfaith program for the second year in a row, but the event was postponed due to the COVID-19 outbreak; we treasure the relationships built through this program and look forward to offering it again as soon as possible.





MEETING IMMEDIATE, URGENT NEEDS WITH RESPECT & DIGNITY

The **Michael Klahr Jewish Family Services** Food pantry and diaper bank extended its distribution hours this year, which enabled us to serve 25% more families each week, so that clients could consistently access non-perishable goods, fresh produce, meat, milk, baby food, and formula on a more regular basis. We were thrilled to share recipes and sample baked goods prepared by the JCA After School students, and welcomed Goldman Family Preschool students to help sort diapers, label items and organize on non-distribution days as they learned about the importance of *mitzvot* (good deeds). We are so grateful to the volunteers who helped out every day of the week, delivering food, wrapping diapers and period supplies, assisting with data entry, and working on special events like the annual “Stuff a Truck,” Hanukkah Lights winter gear drive, and community picnics with Wayside Food Programs. KJFS also hosted a documentary screening and discussion of the film *Don’t Talk About the Baby* to share experiences, resources, and support following a miscarriage or infant loss.

This year saw the development of a new partnership between KJFS and MaineHealth. Each baby seen in select clinics is screened for diaper need, and a referral is automatically made to the Diaper Bank at KJFS. Since January, we have received 78 referrals through the system. We are proud to work with MaineHealth to address this critical need and are excited to continue the partnership this year!

When COVID-19 interrupted our regular distribution model, volunteers contacted each client to provide support and updates on service changes and referrals. Volunteers logged over 40 hours of calls in the first couple of weeks, and we established our diaper drive-through distribution model. Through collaborating with area pantries, we have ensured that families experiencing food insecurity have been able to access larger amounts of food with fewer trips to different locations during this time. KJFS staff also provided online cloth diapering classes for the 14 families who opted to try cloth over disposable. We continue to work with local, state, and federal agencies to bring consistent and top-quality services to our community.

TEACHING INFUSED WITH JEWISH VALUES AND TRADITIONS

The **Goldman Family Preschool** had a wonderful year. Despite the interruption to our structure and schedules posed by the building's closure in mid-March, our teachers and parents worked together to create warm, inviting virtual classroom experiences throughout the spring. During the first ¾ of the year, along with our rich Reggio Emilia-inspired Highscope curriculum, we continued to offer Spanish classes as well as Palaver Strings music classes weekly, and started a bi-monthly all school sing-along.

We continued to meet as a school weekly to celebrate Havdalah and Shabbat and brought our Shabbat Celebrations out to the JCA's atrium once a month to invite the community in! We celebrated the Jewish Holidays together with whole school gatherings for Shofar blowings, a Sukkah decorating party, Hanukkah celebration, Purim Carnival, and Passover gathering. Parent committee activities included offering Mitzvah Meals, social gatherings, selling hamantashen, and participating in KJFS Hanukkah Lights, as well as diaper drives, snack drives, and monthly hot lunches.

After we moved online, we provided daily lessons for the children via zoom, sent packets of materials home to families, and offered virtual activities like read-alongs, sing-alongs, and shabbat gatherings, as well as parent groups and happy hours. In June, we celebrated our graduating Pre-k classroom with a very festive drive-through graduation.

While it was certainly a year we won't forget, we are so grateful to our community, staff, students and parents who made sure that the essence of our connection to one another has remained strong! We reopened the school for our summer program, and are excited to have our students back in person for 2020-2021!





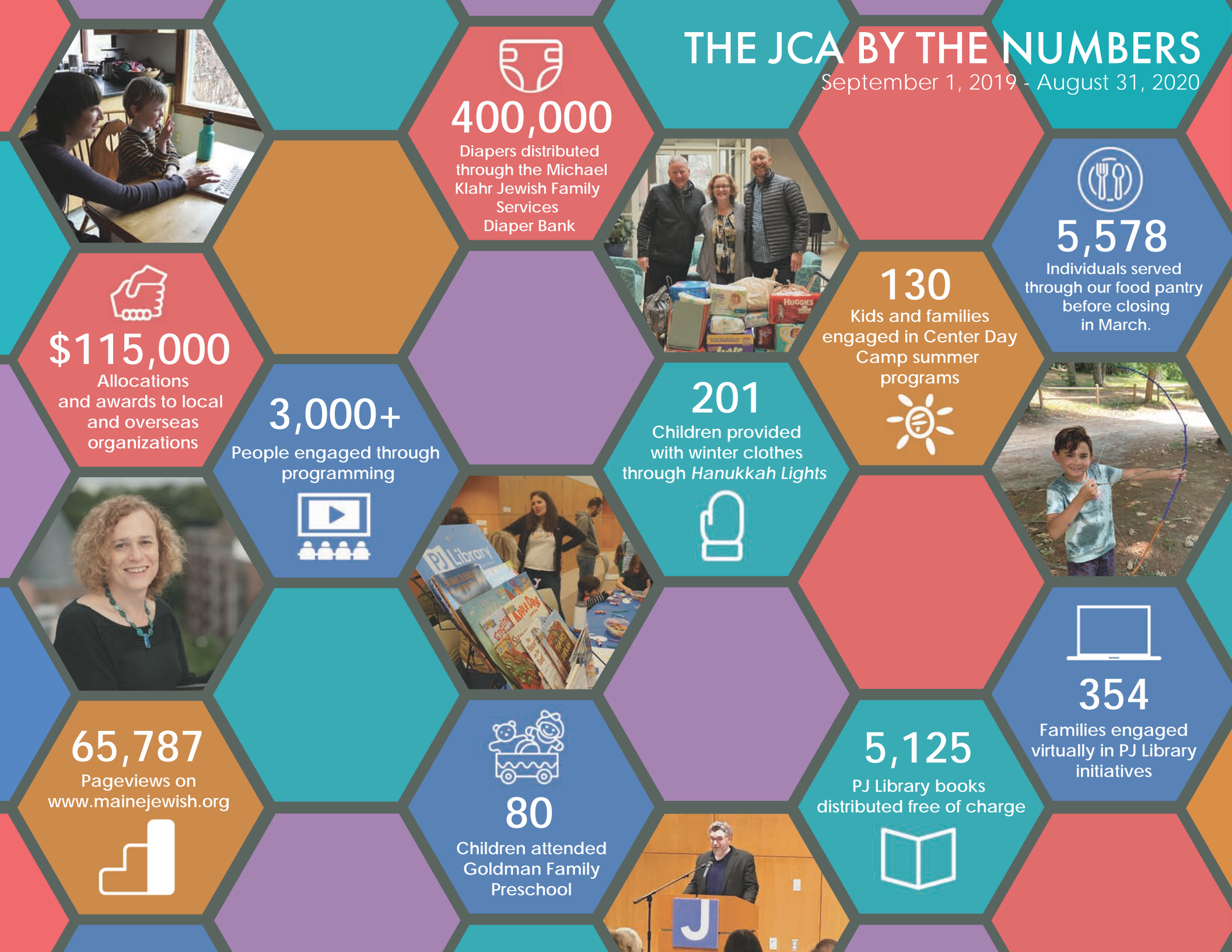
SERVING AND INSPIRING YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES

For the first time in its 71 year history, [Center Day Camp](#) did not open to campers in summer 2020. Through the winter and spring, we had a successful registration process, with significant gains in new camper recruitment and returning camper retention. Our leadership staff was preparing for summer, and we had an amazing counselor mix of former campers and first-time counselors looking to leave their footprint on the CDC experience. While we remained hopeful through May that we could offer some type of camp season, based on the guidelines issued by the state, we determined that we could not operate in a way that would meet our campers needs. CDC and JCA staff quickly pivoted to thinking about different ways to interact with and positively impact our camp community.

In lieu of our regular program, we offered Center Day Family Camp, where families could spend the day at camp, participating in swimming, arts & crafts, athletics, and many of the other experiences that make CDC so special. For those who couldn't make it out to Sebago Basin, we brought camp to them through "Center Day Camp in a Box", a themed package with multiple activities, recipes, supplies and CDC swag.

This fall, our Director Chris will be running a new [J All Day](#) Youth program for kids in K-5th grade enrolled in hybrid programs, and we'll continue to explore ways to connect with the Center Day Camp community through the winter.

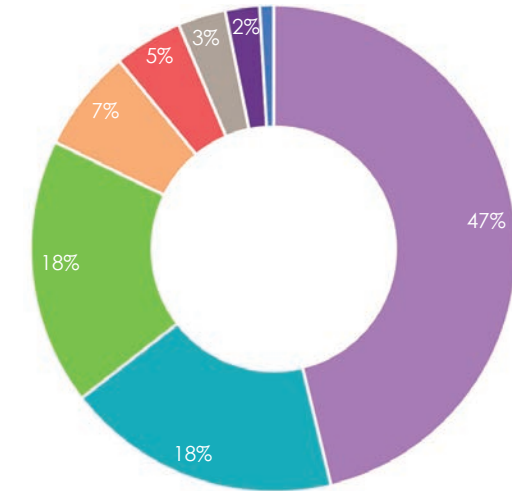
As we look ahead to next summer, we are confident that Center Day Camp will return to continue fostering the lifelong friendships, memories, and experiences that have been enjoyed by so many generations!



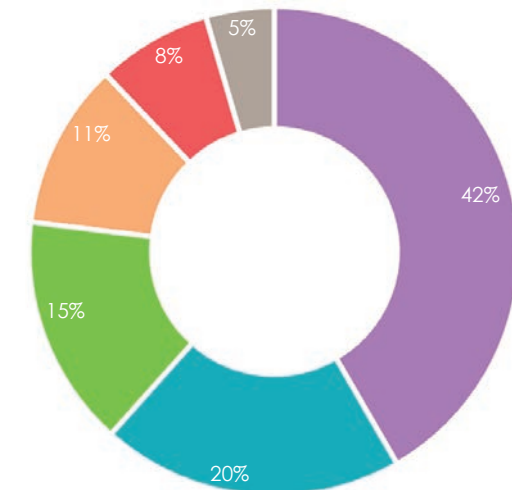
2018-2019 FINANCIALS

The information in these graphs is derived from financial reports on operating income and expenses and excludes all information related to the Capital Campaign. Our audit, performed by Purdy Powers & Associates, for the year ended August 31, 2019, reports total liabilities and assets for the JCA, including the building project. That report states JCA total assets at \$12,218,866 with \$751,661 in current liabilities and \$11,467,205 in net assets.

Income	Amount	%
Goldman Family Preschool & Afterschool	\$1,125,861	47%
Annual Campaign Contributions	\$445,638	18%
Center Day Camp	\$431,972	18%
Other Contributions	\$165,844	7%
Grants	\$111,661	5%
Other Income, Incl. Rentals	\$77,181	3%
Investment Income	\$56,229	2%
Program Service Fees	\$22,422	1%
Total	\$2,436,808	100 %



Expenses	Amount	%
Goldman Family Preschool & Afterschool	\$997,810	42%
KJFS & Other Program Services	\$477,819	20%
Center Day Camp	\$366,906	15%
Fundraising	\$262,728	11%
Management & General	\$181,540	8%
External Allocations	\$108,401	5%
Total	\$2,395,204	100 %





Report on Giving

The Jewish Community Alliance of Southern Maine
gratefully acknowledges our donors who contributed to the
2019-2020 Annual Campaign and Programs

Annual Campaign Women's Division Societies
Lions of Judah: individual gifts of \$25,000+, \$10,000+, \$5,000+
Pomegranate Society: individual gifts of \$1,800+

\$25,000+

Lisa Gorman

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Joseph & Deborah Bornstein

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Yamartino

Building on Our Past

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this report. Please contact
the Development Office at 207.772.1959 ext 261, with any omissions or corrections.

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Anonymous	Alan & Karen Lerman
Bradley Kauffman & Joan Adler	Stephen & Cecelia Levine
Adam & Lisa Arens	Moser Family Foundation
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Daniel Fishbein & Ilene Schuchman	David & Katharine Stone
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Breana & Ari Gersen	Szanton
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Walter Goldfarb	Abe & Jean Peck	
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Nancy Greenblatt	Sophia & Brian Ranta	
Mickey & Sheryl Haas		
James Isaacson & Kristen Isaacson-Lape		
Helen Isenman		

Up to \$199

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Susan Adler	Marc Daniels & Lynne Eldridge	Peggy Greenhut Golden
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		KeyBank Foundation
		Michael Kleinman

Up to \$199 (continued)

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Up to \$199 (continued)

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Drew & Robin Stevens	Anonymous <i>in honor of Karli Efron</i>	Donald & Heidi Levi <i>in memory of Judith Nelson</i>
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Michel & Ellen Taupin	Eva & Halsey Frank <i>in memory of Rachel Finifter</i>	
Paul Tetzlaff	Martin & Mary Gavin <i>in honor of Andrea Krasker-Gavin</i>	
Tux Turkel & Amy Sinclair		
Lisa Van Dyk		
Kenneth & Diane Volk		
Jacques Weinstein		
Jane Weinstein & Linda Meyer		
Rachel Weinstein & Chris Lowenstein		
Rita Weisberg z'l		

Annual Campaign Gifts
In Honor and In Memory
(continued)

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Simon Muller *in honor of Ashley DiPietro*

Leonard & Nancy Nemon *in memory of Arthur Nemon*

Raymond Oransky *in memory of JoAnn Oransky*

Nancy Rallis *in memory of George Rallis*

Joshua Rosenberg & Alex Furth *in honor of Elena Rosenberg*

Phillip & Laurie Rubin *in honor of Sarah Allenby*

Stephen Selkowitz *in honor of Chude Family*

Gerald Shannon *in honor of Ariana Solodar-Wincele*

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Max Staplin *in honor of Ashley DiPietro*

Stuart & Stephanie Stern *in memory of Pearl & Saul Gerber*

David & Katharine Stone *in memory of Mel & Fran Stone*

Paul & Susan Sugarman *in memory of Ben & Lil Brilliant*

CAPT's Lee & Lisa Tabenken, USN (ret) *in memory of Ruth & Gerald Tabenken*

Lisa Van Dyk *in honor of Ashley DiPietro*

Alan & Sarah Weinstein *in memory of Rose & Jack Novick*

Jacques Weinstein *in honor of Rachael Alfond*

Rachel Weinstein & Chris Lowenstein *in memory of Grandma Superbunny*

Rita Weisberg z"l *in memory of Edward Weisberg*

Debbie & John Whitney *in memory of Ron & Connie Jacobson*

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Arts & Culture

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Stuart & Carol Gilbert

Laura Kittle & Jeremy Moser

Samuel & Bette Novick

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Rhoda Butler

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Jordan Peck

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Ari & Natalie Solotoff

Jonathan Stavis

Leigh Turitz

Hanukkah Lights

Rachael & Justin Alfond

Daniel & Julia Bailin

Michael & Natalie Brown

DJ Caldwell *in honor of Larry Hyatt*

Lawrence & Nanette Chern

Congregation Bet Ha'am

Joan G. Fischer

Chip Gavin & Andrea Krasker Gavin *in honor of Karli Efron*

Susan & Daniel Hoffman

Harold & Samantha Johnson *in honor of Ruby Johnson*

Zoe Lang

Alan & Karen Lerman

Ted & Naomi Mayer

James & Deborah Meagher

Charlie & Ellie Miller

Sylvia Most & Alan Cardinal

Samuel & Bette Novick

Diane Newman Pappin

Eugene & Alice Peters

Doris & Stanley Pollack

Bonnie Ryan

Catherine Share

Temple Beth El

David & Barbara Turitz

Unum Matching Gifts Program

Thomas Velez

James & Patricia Wasserman

Samantha Wood and William Mill

The Charitable Fund of the Zimmerman Family

Michael Klahr Jewish Family Services

Morgan Lake Adams & Tim Schneider

Rachael & Justin Alfond

Mr. & Mrs. Dean and Arlene Bandes

Mollie & Evan Barnathan *in memory of Marcia Light*

Teri Berenson

Margaret E. Burnham Charitable Trust

Rhoda Butler

Bright Star World Dance Studio

Megan Carmellini

David & Janis Cohen

Sam L. Cohen Foundation *in honor of Ellie Miller*

Connected Catholics of Maine

Congregation Bet Ha'am

Gilbert & Barbara Dichter

Ashley DiPietro *in honor of Ellie Miller, Molly Curren Rowles & Karli Efron*

Sharon Efron

Joy Engel & Ben Hagopian

Sheridan Faber

Julie & Matthew Forsyth

David Freidenreich & Sara Kohn-Troster

Judy & Daniel Gatchell

Mary and Marty Gavin *in honor of Sophia Gavin*

Susan Gladstein & Shel Horowitz

Harris Gleckman & Riva Krut

Brian & Connie Goldberg

Matthew & Lynn Goldfarb

Frances Goldstein *in honor of Sarah Szanton*

Chrisanna Greeley

The Hudson Foundation

Hannaford Helps Fight Hunger

Kagan Family Foundation

Meaghan Knowlton *in honor of Ashley DiPietro*

Cathy & Jeffrey Kline

Richard & Edna Krull

Evan & Linda Lelansky

Alan & Karen Lerman *in honor of Gary Rosenthal & Adam Arens*

Levey Day School Girl Scout Troop

The Little Elf Fund

Maine Community Foundation

Michael Klahr
Jewish Family Services
(continued)

Michael & Margaret Nobel *in honor of Sheri Faber*
National Diaper Bank Network
Morton & Evelyn Panish
Bartley Parker & Jessica Thomas *in memory of Augusten Thomas-Parker*
Natalie Petrovsky
Doris & Stanley Pollack
Howard & Geraldine Polinger Family Foundation
Portland Provident Association
Paul & Marion Rausch
Claire Catherine Ray *in honor of Emily Alpers*
Molly Curren Rowles & Dustin Rowles *in honor of Miriam Efron*
Steve Brinn & Jody Sataloff
Karl Schatz
Rachel Schwartz
Aditi Seferian *in honor of Sheri Faber*
Marc Seferian *in honor of Sheri Faber*
Ashton Hunter-Sildve *in honor of Ashley DiPietro*
Gary J. Stern
Gladys Stokinger

Samudra Yoga Studio
Sara Tasker *in honor of Sophia Gavin*
Anita Taylor
Tracey Tremblay
Temple Beth El
United Way of Greater Portland
Robin & Patrick Woodcock
Samuel and Tracy Zager
The Charitable Fund of the Zimmerman Family

Center Day Camp
Scholarship & General Funds

Laurence Bader
Anna Berke
Karli & Jacob Efron
Alicia Faller
Rachel Gitelson
Jonathan Greven
Delina Hurder
Samantha Kamras
Tracy Kolian
Robert & Jacqueline Laskoff *in memory of Stephen Laskoff*
Edward Levine
Mark & Sharon Levine
Armand Lucier & Rachelle Mack

John & Andrea Mason *in memory of Patricia Hoffman and Sydney Vane*
Becky McKinnell
Hester & Harriet Mishkin
Barak & Miriam Olins
Chelsea Parady
Virginia Rangel
Micah & Katherine Roberge
Robert & Judith Rosen *in memory of Ralph Zieff*
Toby Rzepka

Kristi Sanfasin
Alexandra Sax
Jenifer Shapiro
Janet Shaw
Sarah Kutzen Strait
Carrie Sturgeon
Lawrence & Kay Waxler
Joel and Julie Williams
Jordan Young

Mildred & Ernest Baker
CDC Scholarship Fund

Laurence Bader
James & Cindy Baker *in memory of Rose Novick*

Gene & Madelyn Cohen
Campership Fund

Scott A. Cohen

Jack Novick
CDC Scholarship Fund

Alan & Karen Lerman *in memory of Bella Cowan*
Samuel & Bette Novick *in memory of Rita Weisberg, Honey Goldman and Barbara Arens*
Molly Curren Rowles & Dustin Rowles *in memory of Bella Cowan*
Alan and Sarah Weinstein *in memory of Jack & Rose Novick*

Ezra Finberg
Playground Fund

Frederick Finberg *in memory of Ezra Finberg*
Alan & Karen Lerman

Stephen Brent Jacobson
Fund

Mr. & Mrs. James and Cindy Baker *in memory of Phyllis Rosen*
Stanley & Judy Elowitch
Jeffrey & Paula Finegold *in memory of Phyllis Rosen*
Frances Jacobson *in memory of Larry Lewis, Phyllis Rosen, Benjamin Barr, Domenic Barnabie, Margaret Honey Lucas, Rabbi Sky, and Rita Weisberg*
Alan & Karen Lerman *in memory of Ronald Jacobson*

Southern Maine Hillel

Bernard & Phyllis Givertz
Kermit Lipez & Nancy Ziegler
The Little Elf Fund
The Lunder Foundation
Samuel & Bette Novick

Green Building Initiatives
In Memory of Francis M. & Melvin L. Stone

Charles Stone
David Stone

Emergency Relief Fund

Morgan Lake Adams & Tim Schneider
Rachael & Justin Alfond
Sarah and Brian Allenby
Mollie Barnathan & Evan Barnathan
Sherrie Bergman & Donald Quaid
Scott Black
Benjamin & Lauren Bornstein
Kathryn & Daniel Brouillette
Ilona & Nathan Davis
Nate & Melissa Delois
Caitlin and Chris Eldridge
Nancy Finberg
Lisa Gorman
Joy Engel & Ben Hagopian
Lisa & Tin Ha-Ngoc

Dan Herzlinger & Abby Fleisch
Ayumi and Chloe Horie
Cathy & Jeffrey Kline
Judith Glickman Lauder
Ben Marcus & Anita Bernhardt
Yael and Daniel Mayer
Jason Middleton & Eden Osucha
Samuel & Bette Novick
Fiona & John Osborn
Bronwen and Dan O'Wril
Jennifer & Joe Peterson
Stuart & Laura Piltch
Steven Pogson & Rebecca Falzano
Sophia and Brian Ranta
David & Julia Redding
Josh Reiman & Addy Smith-Reiman
Elaine Rosen
Thomas Rosen
Jared H. Saks and Kirk Boettcher
Jonathan Swartz & Jessica Rosenthal
Carl Szanton & Katie Berenbaum Szanton
Nadine Twagirayezu
Marilyn & Frederic Weingberg
Cornelia & Robert Wood