

2020-2021 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.

We are proud to present the full scope of the J's work and impact during 2020-2021. This has been another year of great innovation and transition as we rallied to navigate ongoing challenges and changes, which have continued at an exhilarating pace.

Our tradition honors the balance between generativity and renewal. Every week, our tradition of Shabbat as a separate, holy experience outside of normal time and responsibilities reminds us to appreciate the reflection and spaciousness that makes creativity possible and ensures that our energy is directed in the right ways.

The past year has created space for us to ask deep questions about our goals and methods, and to explore new ways of delivering services and meeting needs that we might not have considered before. This summer we reopened Center Day Camp with a session-based structure, in which campers spent 4 weeks at a time rather than 1. We quickly saw the way in which this model facilitated deeper relationships, stronger skill building, and a beautiful sense of belonging and engagement for our campers and staff. We plan to retain the multi-week structure in future – as well as the spirit of inquiry and openness that allowed us to make the change.

Other examples of new initiatives this year include expanded virtual programming, support for regular Kosher food delivery to Portland, broadening our food pantry to include "essential items," and growing the diaper bank to nearly three times its prior capacity to meet the unprecedented needs of our community.

Meeting the evolving needs of our community will continue to require significant resources. This year we were thrilled to launch the Harold Grinspoon Foundation's "Life and Legacy" program, a collaboration with local synagogues that will help us build endowment support through legacy gifts to ensure a vibrant future for all of us throughout Southern Maine. In addition, our "Tree of Life" society honors those who doubled their Annual Fund commitments, which enabled the JCA to exceed its Annual Campaign goal for the first time in over 10 years.

As we bring in a new year, we are grateful for the laughter of the Goldman Family Preschool students as they chase one another around our beautiful playground. We appreciate the faces of each participant in our Zoom classes and meetings. And we marvel at the strength of our community, which continues to inspire us every day. May the new year bring sweetness, refreshment, and resilience to all!

L'Shalom,



Molly Curren Rowles Executive Director



Rachael Alfond Board President



CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING, COMMUNITY, AND CONNECTION

This year, the JCA presented more than 70 diverse virtual programs and creative initiatives, independently and through partnerships including our Southern Maine congregations, Maine Jewish Film Festival, the University of Southern Maine, the Maine Jewish Museum, the Holocaust and Human Rights Center, the Jewish Literary Consortium with the Atlanta JCC, the National JCC Adult & Senior Alliance with the Osher Marin JCC, and the Jewish Book Council. In addition, we were pleased to share virtual programs from the Shalom Hartman Institute (Israel), Temple Emanuel Streicker Center (NYC), JArts (Boston), Jewish Federations of North America, and many others. We are proud to report that JCA programming reached over 3,000 community members of all ages across the state.

Programs included films and author talks on history, legacy, grief and mourning, holiday themes, parenting, the environment, the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, and combating white supremacy and hate.

Exceptional Adult Education instructors Ellie Miller and Anna Wrobel taught popular virtual courses, and we also offered cooking and baking demos with Margaret Hathaway and Karl Schatz, as well as programs exploring virtual travel, and musical genres. Yoga instructor Ashley Flowers led a variety of online and outdoor classes, and Rebecca Bass led a virtual second annual Recovery-Oriented Passover Seder with the Portland Recovery Community Center.

We partnered with the Center for Small Town Jewish Life (CSTJL) on several statewide virtual Shabbat and Holiday observances, and together launched a new community initiative, Shlichei Tzibur - Prayer Service Leader Training, led by Cantor Sheila Nesis, with financial support from the JCA's Cantor Kurt Messerschmidt Memorial Fund. The Fund also helped to support an interactive virtual concert for Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel Independence Day).

PJ Library had a vibrant year of programming. We visited with authors, created holiday activity kits for Rosh Hashanah, Hanukkah and Purim, crafted edible sukkahs and trees, as well as tzedakah boxes, following craft-along videos. We welcomed babies with curbside deliveries of Shalom Baby bags, connected parents, curated resources in our Holiday Hubs, and collaborated with local partners on an interactive Musical Passover Seder Experience. This spring we launched a PJ Library Parent Advisory Group and are excited to grow our programs with this group of parents.

In the coming year, we remain committed to creating and curating online and in-person programs by leading thinkers, experts, and presenters. Our goal is to provide many pathways to access high quality cultural, educational and social programming in a variety of safe settings to inspire engagement and connection!

SUPPORTING VIBRANT JEWISH LIFE IN MAINE AND WORLDWIDE

Perhaps best known popularly as the model for the United Way's giving structure, the Jewish Federation system has provided a strong foundation for vibrant communal life here in Portland for over 70 years. As Southern Maine's Jewish Federation, the JCA helps to improve and enrich Jewish life in our area by raising funds, raising awareness about issues of Jewish concern, addressing antisemitism and bias, and helping to build capacity in our local synagogues and other Jewish institutions.

A significant portion of the JCA's Annual Campaign is dedicated to local organizations, as well as programs and activities in Israel and around the world. This year, the JCA allocated \$117,000 to outside organizations, providing critical support to Southern Maine Hebrew Schools, Levey Day School, Documenting Maine Jewry, the Maine Jewish Film Festival, WorldORT, and Birthright, as well as Israeli nonprofits like Hand in Hand, Yad L'Kashish, Big Brothers/Big Sisters Jerusalem, and the Jerusalem Rape Crisis Center. This year was particularly financially challenging for many Israeli NGO's and our continued support despite the pandemic made a significant impact.

Once again this year, our Community Relations Council (CRC) worked to represent the Jewish community in public fora and to increase awareness regarding issues related to Israel, fighting white supremacy, and protecting the rights of minority communities. In support of these goals, we issued community statements, appeared on "MaineCalling," and created communal space for engagement and support.





MEETING IMMEDIATE, URGENT NEEDS WITH RESPECT & DIGNITY

Michael Klahr Jewish Family Services has continued to meet the dynamic and changing needs of our community through the COVID-19 pandemic. This year the Hanukkah Lights program transitioned into the Joe Bornstein Winter Warmth Drive. Joe was a champion of Jewish Family Services for so many years, and it was a perfect fit to honor Joe's memory by helping to make sure kids can enjoy the winter in safety and comfort! We received so much support for the initiative, which delivered 500 pairs of boots to six local schools, and we hope to keep growing in future years.

Our food distribution involved close collaboration with Wayside Food Programs; initially we provided financial support to Wayside to enhance their ability to distribute food effectively, and this spring we started KJFS food delivery and pick up, which allowed us to bring over 250 boxes of pre-packed goods out to our clients. We have expanded our pantry to include essential items beyond food, such as toiletries and paper goods, to best meet the ongoing needs of our client population at this time.

We have been overwhelmed by the outpouring of support for the KJFS Diaper Pantry, which has allowed us to keep pace with the exponential growth of diaper need. We established bi-monthly diaper drive-through distributions, with rising attendance numbers culminating on July 18th with 163 families picking up over 30,000 diapers. Our dedicated volunteer team has continued to grow, and since the beginning of the pandemic, KJFS distributed over 1 million diapers! We will to continue to build on our strong network of organizational relationships with 15 partner agencies as well as sponsors, individual donors and supporting foundations.

TEACHING INFUSED WITH JEWISH VALUES AND TRADITIONS

The Goldman Family Preschool had another amazing year. Navigating the pandemic together made us appreciate the many ways in which we rely on one another in this community. Despite masking and social distancing, we were able to help children continue their educational journeys. We feel blessed and fortunate that in a time of so many disruptions, our incredible staff and parents collaborated to keep our community healthy.

As part of adapting to the needs of families, throughout last year we continued to offer both in person as well as virtual lessons, meetings, and gatherings. Weekly virtual Shabbat celebrations, which continue this year, allowed us to connect with parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins from all over the country and the world each week!

Our committed and talented parent community has maintained connections through monthly meetings. Families were eager to participate in the Joe Bornstein Winter Warmth Drive, to provide mitzvah meals for families at times of transition or crisis, and to contribute to the community through "Giving Tuesday" activities organized by each classroom.

Last year, we embraced the outdoors as much as possible, engaging each season as a learning opportunity. Under the leadership of our new director, Wendy Getchell, we look forward to continuing to expand use of the outdoors, including our incredible playground, green space, and Portland Trails as we seek to spend even more time outside.

Though last year was unique in many ways, we continue to feel such gratitude for the resilience of the children in our care, their families, and our wonderful teaching staff. Together, we all learn and grow as we face new challenges and opportunities.



INSPIRING AND ENGAGING YOUTH PROGRAMS

After missing out on Camp for the first time in over 70 years last summer, the Center Day Camp team was overjoyed to welcome campers and staff to the shores of Sebago Basin this summer! The program followed rigorous health and safety procedures that ensured the safety of all participants, and we were able to successfully offer over 600 uninterrupted camper weeks! A significant change this year was the reintroduction of two four-week sessions, rather than the prior week-to-week model. Extended sessions at Camp made it possible for campers to both build more meaningful relationships and to grow and learn so much over time. We are excited to maintain a multi-week session structure, and recently launched a new website to help share the past, present, and future of CDC. Please visit centerdaycamp.org to see our newly designed site.

In addition to reopening Center Day Camp, during this unusual year our team stepped up to meet the needs of the families in our community by offering "J All Day," an educational program supporting 18 elementary students attending public schools on a hybrid school schedule. We welcomed students five days a week from September through June, ensuring each participant was accountable for their assignments, projects, and daily school check-in's. We offered a small classroom setting that included enrichment activities such as physical education, science and nature, creative arts, performing arts, and more.

As we look ahead to the new year, we will be exploring ways for our campers to interact and connect with the Center Day Camp community throughout the year. We also remain committed to making continuing improvements to our beautiful facility in Windham, and thanks to generous community donors, this year we made upgrades to our tennis courts, sound system, and the "Sleepy Hollow" camping area.

Center Day Camp continues to foster the lifelong friendships, traditions, and experiences that have been enjoyed by generations of campers, and we look forward to providing an adventurous, fun, and meaningful experience for all campers and staff for years to come!

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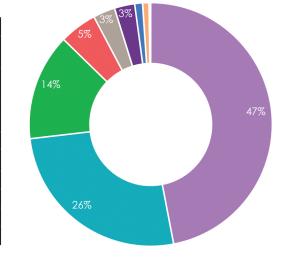
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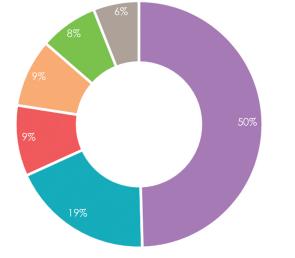
2019-2020 FINANCIALS

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, 2020, reports total liabilities and assets for the JCA, including the building project. That report states JCA total assets at \$12,045,746 with \$574,235 in current liabilities and \$11,471,511 in net assets.

Income	Amount	%
Goldman Family Preschool & Afterschool	\$980,806	47%
Annual Campaign & Emergency Fund Contributions	\$546,198	26%
Paycheck Protection Program	\$295,700	14%
Grants	\$104,249	5%
Other Income, Incl. Rentals	\$60,727	3%
Investment Income	\$56,651	3%
Program Service Fees	\$21,747	1%
Other Contributions	\$17,430	1%
Center Day Camp	\$4,785	0%
Total	\$2,088,293	100 %



Expenses	Amount	%
Goldman Family Preschool & Afterschool	\$956,376	50%
KJFS & Other Program Services	\$359,190	19%
Management & General	\$179,022	9%
Fundraising	\$172,022	9%
Center Day Camp	\$147,148	8%
External Allocations	\$115,505	6%
Total	\$1,929,263	100 %



Report on Giving

The Jewish Community Alliance of Southern Maine gratefully acknowledges our donors who contributed to the 2020-2021 Annual Campaign and Programs

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

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z"l - zichrono/a livracha (of blessed memory)

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Tree of Life Society

With endless gratitude to Rachael and Justin Alfond for pioneering this giving society in 2020, along with the individuals listed below who stepped up to show their unwavering support as inaugural members, we are so proud to announce that the Tree of Life Society is here to stay. This giving circle perpetually recognizes donors of any giving level who double their Annual Campaign gift. Those who step forward embrace *Tikvah*—hope—for the future, and ensure the ongoing strength of this amazing community, *I'dor v'dor*, from generation to generation.

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