

# Annual Report

June 2024 through May 2025

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

# Mission Statement

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton strives to create a caring, vibrant, enduring community locally, in Israel and worldwide. The Federation uses its assets and contributions to strengthen local Jewish institutions and organizations, to support Jewish people in need, and to educate the people in the Southern Tier about Jewish values and identity.

## Message from Leadership

Dear Community Members,

The Jewish people around the globe have been challenged both physically and emotionally in recent years. Our collective souls remain in despair as the war in Gaza drags on. The continued captivity of the hostages, global uncertainty, campus protests, the rise in antisemitism, and political divisiveness have added to our stress.

However, amid the darkness, we have discovered the strength of our spirit as our community has come together on many occasions. Together we prayed for a peaceful resolution to the war, helped the most vulnerable among us, and worked hard to create a safe and compassionate space for the Jewish people of the Southern Tier of New York for today and for generations to come. These are the ideals that bring us strength and inspire us. These are the reasons the Federation exists, and these accomplishments are what we hope to share with you in this year's Annual Report.

We want to thank you, the community, for believing in the Jewish Federation. Every dollar you gave, every program you attended, and every time you reached out, you gave us the strength to continue to do the work of bettering our community. Let's never forget, "A community is too heavy to carry alone." (Deuteronomy Rabbah 1:10)

L'Shalom,

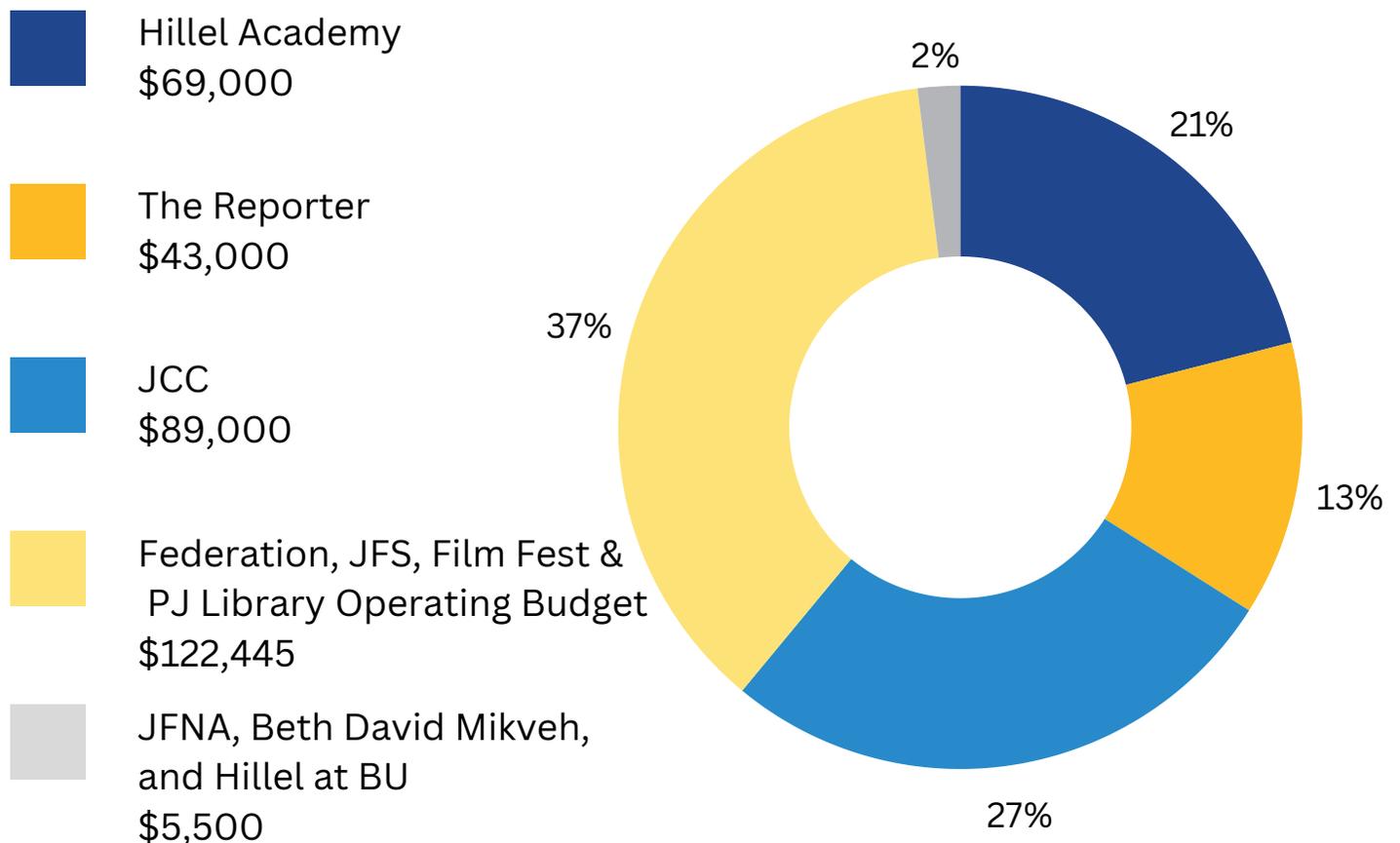
Shelley Hubal  
Executive Director

Suzanne Holwitt  
Board President

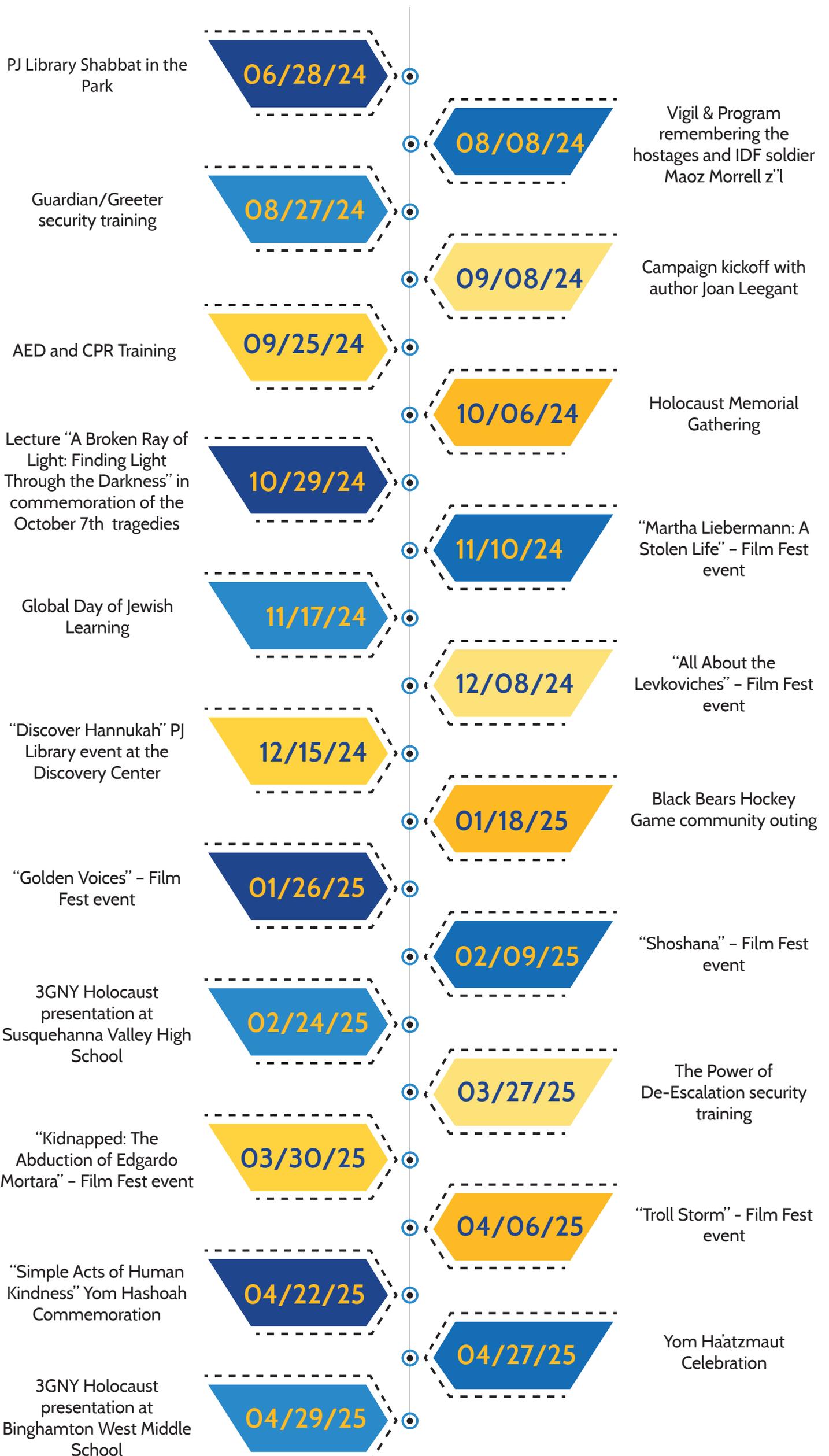
# Federation Supported Organizations and Financials:

## 2024 Beneficiary Agencies & Allocation Distribution

In November of 2023, the Federation Executive Committee and Board of Directors voted to allocate a total of \$328,945 to be distributed in the calendar year 2024. These allocations supported 7 organizations plus the local Jewish Family Service, Film Fest and PJ Library programs. Funding for allocations comes from Annual Campaign dollars and the Federation endowment.



# Timeline of Sponsored or Co-Sponsored Events



# Jewish Family Service

In November 2024 Jewish Family Service welcomed a new director, Merryl Wallach. We are grateful for Merryl's expert guidance as she continues the tradition of leading JFS with compassion. It is with this spirit that JFS delivers essential human services to individuals and families facing challenges to their well-being. Financial assistance is provided within specific guidelines as funding permits. It is through thoughtful listening and compassionate caring that JFS can help people move from instability to a more secure and positive place. JFS collaborates with the human service network in Broome and Tioga Counties to meet the needs of the community.

## JFS impact June 2024 – May 2025:

- \$8,120 to Jewish families through the "We Remember You" program
- \$2,740 miscellaneous emergency financial help
- \$6,709 rent or moving assistance
- \$967 grocery assistance
- 32 emotional support calls
- 68 well check calls
- 32 referrals to food pantries
- 21 referrals to NYSEG for funding support
- \$1,962 in assistance for NYSEG bills
- 16 referrals for housing and rent support
- 3 referrals for home care
- 23 referrals for mental health support
- \$200 in gas cards for emergency travel
- 5 home visits
- 45 collaborations with other agencies
- \$850 in scholarship support

*"Without the generosity of the community, JFS could not continue to do this essential work. A sincere thank you to all our donors."  
-Merryl Wallach*

## Annual Campaign



*This year it's different.*

"This year it's different" is the theme for the 2025 Annual Campaign. Whether it's the war in Gaza, the increase in antisemitism, political divisiveness or the struggle to make ends meet, "This year it's different" describes the changing times in which we are living.

Despite our challenges, one thing remains the same; we are, as always, grateful for the community's support.

Every donor and volunteer makes a difference.

The Annual Campaign for 2024 raised \$279,887 from 310 donors. To date, the 2025 Campaign has raised \$251,569 from 326 donors.

A special thank you to all our generous donors and especially the David and Virginia Eisenberg Foundation. We pledge to use our precious resources to keep the Greater Binghamton community connected, safe and vibrant.

*"As chair of the Federation Annual Campaign, I have the opportunity to speak with many community members and the common theme is they all care about the Binghamton Jewish community and want to see it thrive. Many thanks to each and every donor. You make our community better."  
-Marilyn Bell, Campaign Chair*

# *The Reporter*

*The Reporter* keeps our area informed of Jewish activities, programming and important news (local, national and global). Our staff continues to find ways to remain solvent and relevant during the ongoing struggles of print media. *The Reporter* is received in more than 1,000 homes by people in 41 states. *The Reporter* Committee is also looking for ways to increase our digital presence and offer more digital opportunities to our readers. In 2024, *The Reporter* won a Syracuse Press Club award for an article by columnist Bill Simon and two American Jewish Press Club Simon Rockower Awards for Excellence in Jewish Journalism, one by columnist Bill Simon and the second by guest author Arie Ullmann.

*The Reporter* staff wants to thank its loyal readers and generous supporters. We are dedicated to continuing the important work of keeping the Binghamton Jewish community connected and informed.



PJ Library sends free Jewish themed children's books to families across the community every month, enabling young children to connect with their Jewish roots in a meaningful way.

In the last year, we provided monthly PJ Library subscriptions to 79 young Jewish children in our community. PJ Library also sponsored three programs in the last year. Our Hannukah party at the Discovery Center had more than 75 participants. That is a great investment in our future!

The 2024-2025 Binghamton Jewish Film Fest consisted of 6 films. Five of these films were viewed virtually and one was an in-person screening. Our monthly screenings began in November and ended in April. The Binghamton and Ithaca communities combined for more than 294 views of our six films. Our thanks to the Victor & Esther Rozen Foundation and all our contributing members for their generous donations that helped to make the Film Fest a success.

**BINGHAMTON  
JEWISH**  

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**FILM FEST**

# Safety & Security Committee Annual Report

LIVE**SECURE**



Jewish Federation  
OF GREATER BINGHAMTON

As an affiliate of the Central-Western NY Region of the Secure Community Network, the Safety and Security Committee of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton maintains direct communication with regional director Mark Henderson. With the increase in global unrest, this relationship has become integral to our community's safety planning and preparation. Consultation and communication with Mark Henderson improved the day-to-day security posture of our local institutions and helped them to apply for grant funding. Additionally, the committee chairs maintained relationships with the FBI, the Department of Homeland Security, local police, state police and the Broome County Sheriff's office.

Consistent with its purpose statement, the Safety and Security Committee accomplished the following between June 2024 and May 2025:

- Established a text alert system for community leadership.
- Obtained armed security for Federation sponsored events.
- Made the safety & security committee a permanent committee of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton.
- Three community-wide security training courses were held, educating 96 community members. The trainings included a "Guardian Training", "AED & CPR" and "The Power of De-Escalation".
- \$8,600 raised for our community security fund.
- Two staff training courses for the JCC

The Safety and Security committee would like to thank Adam Weitsman and family for their generous support of the community's security initiatives.

*"A commitment to security comes with a financial cost, but we feel it is well worth it. Behind the scenes, leadership is working hard to create an impactful security posture for the Binghamton Jewish community."  
- Shelley Hubal*

# Fed By Numbers



community-wide  
sponsored or  
co-sponsored  
programs



**3GNY** Descendants of  
Holocaust Survivors

Two Holocaust testimony  
presentations by 3GNY presenters

**\$6,709**

distributed  
for rent or  
moving  
assistance

**1,004**

copies of The Reporter  
delivered to homes  
every other week



safety

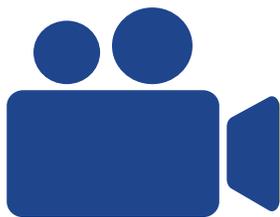
and

security training



**\$8,120**

in funds distributed to Jewish families  
through the "We Remember You" program



**6** Binghamton  
Jewish Film  
Fest screenings

**79**  
Children

receiving PJ  
Library books

