



Champaign-Urbana® JEWISH FEDERATION

Serving the Jewish community in Champaign-Urbana and worldwide since 1929

2021–2022 INTERIM ANNUAL REPORT

This interim report covers the 11 months from July 2021 to May 2022. A final report covering the 12 months of the 2021–2022 fiscal year will be published in August.



January 23 @ 6:30 pm via Zoom

Big Trends Shaping The World Today: Economics, Technology, and Geopolitics"

CUJF is excited to announce an opportunity to learn about joint Muslim-Jewish initiatives around the world that are focused on social justice, co-existence, and community building.

2022
Champaign-Urbana
Jewish
Film
Festival

City of Desire

Showing March 24-27

Post Film Discussion with
Prof Benjamin Bross
March 27 @ 8:00 pm via Zoom



Apr 26 @ 7:00 pm via Zoom

In anticipation for Israel's independence day, join CUJF for a presentation and discussion by Tony Shaw and Giora Goodman authors of the book Hollywood and Israel.

The Auschwitz Experience in the Art of Prisoners

When: April 27 - May 4
10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Grand Opening Event
April 27 @ 6:00 pm

Antisemitism in Russia:



Yom Haatzmaut Israel's Independence Day

May 5,
5-7pm

Bring a picnic dinner for your family and friends, while you catch up with old friends and meet new ones!

Fun activities and crafts led by Rabbi Jody

Israeli dancing led by Andréa Aguiar

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Letter from the President



Marc Snir

Dear Friends:

My second and last year as Champaign-Urbana Jewish Federation President is coming to an end. Externally, this has been a year of many events, some happy, some sad. As I write this message, the war in Ukraine is going on for three months. Our community came to the help of the Jewish community in Ukraine with donations of \$8,000 transferred through JFNA: \$3,000 donated by members directly, and \$5,000 spent from our emergency fund. This is a good example of the ability of CUJF to act rapidly when emergencies occur. Unfortunately, there is no end in sight to this war, and more help will be needed. The number of antisemitic acts of assault, vandalism and harassment in the US continued to grow and the critique of Israeli policies all too often veered into a denial of its right to exist. Champaign-Urbana did not escape this national trend. Our reaction included the impressive and heartbreaking exhibition of Auschwitz art. We are grieving the untimely death of Dara Goldman, who created a strong bridge between the Program in Jewish Studies and Community she headed and the local Jewish community. We are confident that this collaboration will continue. We also have strengthened our collaboration with the other Jewish institutions in town, Hillel, Sinai, and Chabad. Our joint appearance in the Champaign Parade of Light, and our joint campaign, are two examples of this increased collaboration.

Internally, this has been a year of consolidation. Our Financial Director, Djavid Novrouzov, left us soon after the start of the fiscal year. Djavid had served CUJF for 20 years and had become essential to the smooth running of the organization. We owe him many thanks for his service. Much of the institutional memory of the organization resided with him. Replacing him was hard and required a significant effort from our new Finance Officer, Inbal Elazar, from Mitch Harris, our Treasurer, and from our Executive Director, Linda Bauer. This was an opportunity for streamlining our financial processes. We switched to a new software system to manage the interactions with our members and Alex Scheeline, our Campaign VP, worked hard to bring it to production. We updated our Bylaws to increase the flexibility of our organization, an activity driven by Paula Kaufman.

Change is in the air. Linda Bauer, our Executive Director of the last five years, is stepping down. Linda was a great asset to CUJF at a time the organization was in crisis; without her dedication CUJF might not exist today. We thank her for her service and hope she will continue her involvement with CUJF. Ma'ayan Weinberg replaces her. The Sinai Temple recently celebrated the rededication of its Sanctuary, after its renovation. The contributions of Rosalind Weinberg, Ma'ayan's mother, to this renovation and to Sinai over the years, were repeatedly mentioned. It is a strong sign of continuity to have her daughter start to serve our community. It also is a strong sign of renewal, as a new generation takes over, bringing a new outlook, a new vitality, and new knowledge and experience to CUJF. I am confident that CUJF will flourish under Ma'ayan's direction.

CUJF can serve the Champaign-Urbana Jewish community because this community contributes time and money to CUJF. I wish to thank our donors for their continued support and thanks those that volunteered their time to CUJF. I thank the outgoing officers of CUJF, Lynn Wachtel, Alex Scheeline, Paula Kaufman, Natalya Matatov, and Julia Robinson. And thank the incoming officers, Liat Maggid Alon, Jen Lask, Lee DeVille and Lawrence Rauchwerger for accepting to serve.

I am confident of the future of CUJF under our new President, Tania Ionin, and our new Executive Director. I trust they will not only continue current activities, but also strive to evolve CUJF to fulfill the needs of a younger generation. CUJF is much more than an organization that collects and donates money. It exists to unite and serve the local Jewish community, irrespective of the nature of the Jewish identity of its members. CUJF has evolved during its 90 years of existence and will continue to evolve in the coming decades.

I am thankful for the opportunity given to me to contribute to this evolution.

This report below covers our activities from July 2021 to May 2022. It is distributed to our membership in preparation for our annual meeting. An updated report, covering all 12 months of the fiscal year, will be available in a couple of months.

Marc Snir

President

Executive Director Report



Linda Bauer

The past year has posed challenges for Champaign-Urbana Jewish Federation, but with some creativity, we have maintained our programs and services. I want to thank our CUJF Board President and our Board of Directors for their leadership during this time.

We had many interesting programs about Jewish culture and events and were able to venture into in-person events. For the first time, CUJF participated in the Champaign Center Partnership Parade of Lights, as the event was not tied to a religious holiday. See the Events Committee report for more information.

A very important and unique event was CUJF's live exhibit of art from the Auschwitz Museum. CUJF is the first in the United States to sponsor the exhibit. Thank you so much to our Holocaust Education Center volunteers, and particularly Chairman Brian Kahn for their months of work.

We raised money to send to Ukraine through a campaign by Jewish Federations of North America. Twenty-two donors sent more than \$3,000 to aid those whose lives have been disrupted.

We had a second PJ Library grant for empowering parents. Our PJ Parent Connectors recruited other PJ families for their groups and planned and implemented initiated virtual and in-person activities. The variety of activities included Challah making and Shabbat dinners.

With COVID receding, Jewish summer camps opened again and CUJF was able to provide scholarships to young people in our community.

A major transition was the departure of Djavid Novrouzov who had been our Finance Director and involved with Federation for 20 years. Djavid decided to move back east to be closer to family. Finance operations are now divided between other staff, with most of the financial tasks done by our new part-time Finance Director, Inbal Elazar and CUJF Treasurer, Mitch Harris.

The biggest news is that after nearly 5 years with CUJF, I am stepping down as Executive Director and stepping into retirement—or at least taking on smaller roles or volunteering.

I'm pleased to announce our new Executive Director is Ma'ayan Weinberg. Ma'ayan grew up in Champaign-Urbana and is the daughter of the Elliot Weinberg and his late wife Rosalind. See Ma'ayan's introduction which is included in this annual report.

CUJF's mission is made possible by you, our generous, caring donors! Read the Annual Report to learn about the other accomplishments and activities of CUJF this past year. In the coming year, we plan to continue to aid, education and celebrate our Jewish community. Thank you for your support!

Linda Bauer

Executive Director

2021–2022 Board of Directors and Current Staff

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Marc Snir (2020–2022)
President-elect: Tania Ionin (2021–2022)
VP, Allocations: Lynn Wachtel (2021–2022)
VP, Campaign: Alex Scheeline (2020–2022)
Secretary: Robert Silverman (2021–2023)
Treasurer: Mitch Harris (2021–2023)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Yael Gertner (2020–2022)
Paula Kaufman (2020–2022)
Natalya Matatov (2020–2022)
Julia Robinson (2020–2022)
Barry Isralewitz (2021–2023)
Marissa Barlaz (2021–2023)
Arne Fliflet (2021–2023)
Richard Ross (2021–2023)
Jess LeRoy (2021–2023)
Arielle Weinstein (2021–2023)

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Yael Gertner, Community Engagement
Brian Kahn, Holocaust Education
Andrea Klein, Human Services
Lee Melhado, Chevra Kadisha
Julia Robinson, Nominations
Alex Scheeline, Campaign
Lynn Wachtel, Allocations

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Rabbi Dovid Tiechtel, Chabad
Maury Topolosky, CU Jewish Endowment Foundation
Erez Cohen, Illini Hillel
Rabbi Jody Cook, Sinai Temple
Dara Goldman (Z"L), Program in Jewish Culture and Society at UIUC

CURRENT STAFF

Linda A Bauer, Executive Director
Inbal Elazar, Financial Officer
Andrea Aguiar, Program Coordinator
Elena Kiselev, Communication Coordinator

2022–2024 Slate of Nominees

Champaign-Urbana Jewish Federation recognizes the dedication and commitment of all our Champaign-Urbana Jewish community members who work together to ensure that our welcoming, vibrant, and thriving Jewish community continues to grow for future generations.

This year's committee was chaired by Julia Robinson and co-chaired by Deborah Katz-Downie. Tania Ionin also served on the committee.

The CUJF Nominations Committee strives to nominate Board Members who reflect the diversity of our Champaign-Urbana Jewish community, and we present below the Nominees for CUJF Members of the Board.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President: Tania Ionin (2022–2024)

President-elect: (to be elected in June 2023)

Treasurer: Mitch Harris (2021–2023)

Secretary: Rob Silverman (2021–2023)

VP, Campaign: Yael Gertner (2022–2024)

VP, Allocations: Arielle Weinstein (2022–2024)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Liat Maggid Alon (2022–2024)

Jen Lask (2022–2024)

Lee DeVille (2022–2024)

Lawrence Rauchwerger (2022–2024)

Julia Robinson (2022–2024)

Marissa Barlaz (2021–2023)

Arne Fliflet (2021–2023)

Barry Isralewitz (2021–2023)

Jess LeRoy (2021–2023)

Richard Ross (2021–2023)

Thank you to Julia Robinson for accepting a second term on the Board.

A special thank you to our departing Board Members: Paula Kaufman, Natalya Matatov, Alex Scheeline, and Lynn Wachtel. We greatly appreciate their service and contributions. Thank you to continuing Board members for the important work they did this past year for the Champaign-Urbana Jewish Federation.

And, last, but not least, our sincere gratitude to departing Board President Marc Snir who will serve in an ex-officio capacity as past president.

Tribute to Linda Bauer

Linda Bauer began her work as the Executive Director of the Champaign-Urbana Jewish Federation in 2017, at a difficult period for CUJF. As trends in the Jewish community and philanthropic practices were shifting, the sustainability of our Jewish Federation was coming into question. Linda was asked to serve as director and help get CUJF back on its feet. This is exactly what Linda has done and today CUJF is in a better place and continues to serve the entire Champaign-Urbana Jewish Community with a wide range of programs.

Linda worked to bring back to life a variety of important programs. She ensured the continuation of regular meetings for the Chai Seniors, with interesting lectures and luncheons. She grew the film festival into an exciting event, with opening night festivities. Through the PJ Library program, she created more programming aimed at young children, and used her grant writing skills to obtain increased funding for this initiative. She supported the Ladies' Night programming, bringing her energetic spirit to fun events such as dancing at the Krannert. A child of Holocaust Survivors, she worked closely with CUJF's Holocaust Education Center as the committee worked to enhance its programming. During COVID, Linda worked with the Events Committee, creating many on-line Zoom programs and keeping the community personally connected while we studied our Jewish history and present day realities.

Linda—we know that this was an exhausting task and we are indebted to you. We wish you some well-deserved R&R in your retirement. Speaking personally, Linda, I want to tell you that working together with you on Federation programming was an honor for me. I learned so much from you and valued your friendship throughout. And speaking for all of us, I thank you so very much for your invaluable contributions to CUJF and to our future. We would not be where we are today without you.

Yael Gertner

Community Engagement

Message from the Incoming Executive Director



Ma'ayan Weinberg

It is an honor to have been offered the position as incoming executive director. As I get to more closely know the unique opportunities and challenges that Champaign-Urbana Jewish Federation has faced in its history, one thing is apparent. There is a clear need for the work that we do to unite and uplift the Jewish community of Champaign-Urbana. I am excited to bring my children back to the community where I grew up. My Jewish identity was greatly shaped by many of the people I now get to work with so closely. Looking to the future, we have some big questions to ask. Thankfully we are not the only community asking them. I am looking forward to working with each of you as we evolve and grow as an organization. Your passion and energy drives us forward.

Ma'ayan Weinberg

2021–2022 Committee Reports

Champaign-Urbana Jewish Federation provides programs and services for our local community in the areas of education, support for those in time of need, and community engagement. Staff and volunteers work together throughout the year to host events, share information, and distribute funds, following the mission of CUJF and the priorities defined in the financial allocations (budget) process for the current fiscal year.

Community Events

Chair: Yael Gertner



Yael Gertner

The Champaign-Urbana Jewish Federation's goal is to help sustain, strengthen, and creatively engage our vibrant local Jewish community. CUJF Events Committee's role is to create opportunities to bring individuals together to connect with Jews locally and around the world, while learning about, celebrating and enjoying our rich and diverse Jewish history, culture and traditions. This year we organized events tailored to the interests of different groups in our community—seniors, families with young children, women, teens, and the community at large. Events varied from more intimate book discussions and conversations with community members, to presentations to larger groups about topics in the arts, politics, and society, films, music concerts by professional musicians, and community dancing and singing. We have selected some items to illustrate the breadth of events and how they tie into our mission.

- Film Festival: *One More Story*, an Israeli romantic comedy, and *City of Desire*, a documentary about rediscovering the unique architectural beauty of Tel Aviv.
- *Racism in Modern Russia: From the Romanovs to Putin*, a talk and a chance to reflect on current events with community member Prof. Eugene Avrutin.
- A presentation by Thomas Freedman, bestselling author of *The World is Flat* and New York Times foreign affairs columnist.
- Hike in Allerton Woods coordinated with Young Professionals Group and CUJF.
- Post Purim event with Hannah Leskosky, a ventriloquist for over 20 years and daughter of May Berenbaum
- Israeli dancing and games for Yom Haatzmaut
- *Hollywood and Israel*, presentation and discussion by Tony Shaw and Giora Goodman, authors of the book *Hollywood and Israel*.
- *Shtisel and Fauda: A Window Into Current Israeli Society and Its Dilemmas*, a presentation and discussion featuring community member Professor Liat Alon.
- *The Architecture of Community: Discussions on Building Community in the Face of Conflict* with community member Professor Liat Alon.
- Klezmer music workshop and concert with world-renowned violinist Jake Shulman-Ment

The programming committee is composed of Andréa Aguiar, Stav Ashur, Yael Gertner, Tania Ionin and Natalya Matatov, who always welcome community members' feedback and suggestions.

Human Services and Summer Camp



Andrea R. Klein

Chair: Andrea R. Klein

The Human Services Committee (HSC) has continued to provide financial help for members of the CU community (utility bills, prescriptions, childcare expenses). Andrea accepted heading this committee at the beginning of 2022. Currently, two past chairs, Janis Topolosky and Lee Melhado, serve on the HSC, along with long time member Iris Band and Linda Bauer as an ex-officio member. We are looking to expand membership so suggestions for new members are appreciated.

The HSC worked with Sinai Temple to allot \$7,000 in camp scholarships for this summer. Our budget is typically an additional \$7,000 for financial assistance. Given that there is only about \$3,000 left until the end of this fiscal year, the HSC has decided that these remaining funds will be used only for Jewish community members.

The HSC is expanding its vision to assist members of the Jewish community who are struggling in any way by providing emotional and organizational support to access needed services, in addition to financial aid. One family in particular has very difficult circumstances and the committee will work to assist them.

Thank you to Linda Bauer for assuming responsibility for committee duties when the chair position was vacant, mentoring Andrea into her new role and fielding various calls for help. We look forward to working with our new director Ma'ayan Weinberg! We also wish to acknowledge the great work of Michael Langendorf, previous chair. May his memory be for a blessing.

PJ Library

Chair: Linda Bauer



Linda Bauer

PJ Library sends free Jewish children's books to families across the world every month. PJ Library shares Jewish stories that can help families talk together about values and traditions that are important to them.

A program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, PJ Library is made possible through partnerships with philanthropists and local Jewish organizations like CUJF. Families raising kids from birth through 9 years old with Judaism as part of their lives, are welcome to sign up. PJ Library welcomes all Jewish families, whatever their background, knowledge, family make-up, or observance may be.

CUJF pays half the cost of the books for families who sign up for our PJ Library program.

PJ library also promotes connections between local PJ Library families by providing engagement grants to sponsoring organizations like CUJF. In the past two years, CUJF has had a Parent Connector grant, where parent connectors have created "pods" of parents to engage in activities for the families in their pods. The grants have provided \$8,000 in funding each year.

Holocaust Education Center



Brian B. Kahn

Chair: Brian B. Kahn

This spring, Champaign-Urbana Jewish Federation's Holocaust Education Center provided a unique opportunity for students and community members to see a different aspect of the Holocaust by curating the exhibit *The Auschwitz Experience in the Art of Prisoners*.

This was the first time the exhibit has been shown outside of Europe.

The artwork came directly from the Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum in Poland via digital images. Once printed in Champaign there were 24 panels sized 69"x38".

Auschwitz was one of the largest concentration and death camps run by Nazi Germany with the goal of murdering the entire Jewish population in Europe. 1.1 million of them were systematically murdered in the camp.

Bringing the exhibit to Central Illinois was the idea of HEC volunteer Bob Lehmann, who has taught about the Holocaust to his students for more than 20 years. The exhibit featured artwork from artists who survived Auschwitz during World War II. Some of the art on display was created soon after the prisoners were freed. They depict what the concentration camp was like from the artist's point of view.

Funding came from a grant from the Champaign-Urbana Endowment Foundation, and the Holocaust Center annual budget. Illini Hillel provided space to CUJF for the exhibit.

Many thanks to HEC committee members Brian Kahn, Becky Lawson, Bob Lemann and Robin Goettel who were responsible for much of the planning and publicity for the exhibit. Other committee members are Valerie Prescott, Katherine Coyle, Jennifer Lask, William Gingold, Tamara Gingold, Yael Gertner and Don Francisco.

HEC had originally planned to bring the exhibit to Hillel on January 27, Holocaust Remembrance Day, but in January, COVID was still a concern in Champaign.

Instead, the first setup was in Danville at the Vermillion County Museum, which had booked the program for the month of March. Several clubs and groups had tours of the exhibit.

Here's a quote from Dr. Stephen Nacco, a Rotarian and President of DACC: *"Today's presentation and tour at the Vermillion County Museum gave us Rotarians an unforgettably moving experience. Bob's PowerPoint provided a chillingly vivid overview of Auschwitz. . ."*

At the end of March, the exhibit went to Danville Area Community College (DACC). The exhibit and related programs were well received.

Next The Auschwitz exhibit came to Hillel in Champaign, where it ran from April 27th through May. Nearly 100 people attended the Grand Opening on Yom Hashoah April 27th .

CUJF would like to thank Hillel Director Erez Cohen and Program Director Abby Fabishenko of Hillel for their time and effort to host the Exhibit ad related events.

Holocaust Education Center conducted a teacher training and docent training prior to the exhibit opening. *"This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about the Holocaust through the fine arts and to help teachers meet the Illinois state mandate for Holocaust education and contemporary genocide,"* said Brian Kahn, co-chair of the Holocaust Education Center of the Champaign-Urbana Jewish Federation (CUJF-HEC).

People volunteered to be docents for the exhibit at Hillel: Thank you to Lee Melhado, Katherine Coyle, Andréa Aguiar, Jennifer Lask, Robin Goettel, Tamara Gingold, Gabe Cook, Brian Kahn, Bob Lehmann, Rabbi Jody Cook.

A comment from a person who viewed the exhibit at Hillel: *"the emotion of the survivors is apparent more so in this exhibit than I have experienced before. The potential for humans to be so vile and full of horror is beyond my experience. It is numbing."*

In addition to the exhibits held in Danville and Champaign, the HEC also held two teacher workshops, one in Danville and one in Champaign. They also trained five high school students to act as docents for the exhibits. In all, about 45 classroom teachers were trained to work with the art in the classroom.

The HEC also sponsored our annual *Through Their Eyes: Student Exhibit on the Holocaust*—both virtually and in-person this past April.

In Holocaust education classroom visits, both Bill Gingold and Brian Kahn spoke to a number of schools/organizations this past spring, including Unity Junior High in Tolono, Uni High School, Barkstall and Southside Elementary Schools, Franklin Steam Academy, International Prep Academy, Chabad, Atwood Junior High, Next Generation Middle School, Tuscola Junior High School, Gifford Middle School, Champaign-Urbana Jewish Federation, Hoopston Middle School. Bill Gingold spoke to approximately 800+ students, educators, and community members and shared his story of survival of the Gingold Family. Brian Kahn addressed approximately 500 total students and teachers in the months of March and April.

Chevra Kadisha (Jewish Burial Society)

Co-chair: Jessica Kopolow

Co-chair: Lee Melhado

Members: Anonymous by tradition



Jessica Kopolow

Founded in 1993, the Chevra Kadisha provides preparation of the dead for traditional burial, education about Jewish death and mourning practices, and respectful, low-cost burial for the indigent. All work is performed by volunteers who give their time anonymously as an act of true loving-kindness. Costs are covered entirely by contributions from families served.

Since 2000, the Chevra Kadisha has participated in more than 90 burials. In any given year, about 100 volunteers serve as shomrim (those who watch over the deceased from death until burial). Nearly 30 volunteers are currently trained to serve on taharah teams (those who wash and dress the deceased and place the body in a casket).

From March 2020 until October 2021, the ability of the Chevra Kadisha to operate was severely curtailed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Fortunately, once effective vaccines became widely available and substantial portions of the local population were vaccinated or recovered from COVID, the Chevra Kadisha was able gradually to resume its usual work. It was fitting that reactivation began in October 2021 with provision of shomrim and taharah for Rosalind Weinberg, who was one of the founders of the organization and was instrumental in maintaining its activities for nearly 30 years.

Following a community-wide meeting of the Chevra Kadisha in December 2021, which included discussion of how to manage residual risks due to COVID and other contagious diseases and demonstration of the tahara ritual, the organization once again began operating normally. Since reactivation, the Chevra Kadisha has provided shomrim and/or tahara for five individuals and has assisted additional families in other ways (providing information and support, emailing obituaries and funeral announcements, etc.).

Bereaved families and the Jewish community in general are very grateful to the many individuals who serve as Chevra Kadisha volunteers. For a variety of reasons, we are in urgent need of additional men willing to perform tahara. Anyone interested in volunteering for tahara or any other role within the Chevra Kadisha, is encouraged to contact Lee Melhado (leemelhado@gmail.com). Opportunities include serving as shomer, performing tahara, making phone calls, maintaining inventory, and transporting equipment. Training is provided.



Lee Melhado

Allocations



Lynn Wachtel

Chair: Lynn Wachtel

Members: Yael Gertner, Lee Melhado, Joyce D Meyer, Julia Robinson, Richard Ross, Ma'ayan Weinberg, Arielle Weinstein

Ex-officio Members: Marc Snir (President of CUJF), Mitch Harris (Treasurer), Linda Bauer (Director).

The Allocations Committee met monthly throughout the year, and we submitted our funding recommendations to the CUJF Board of Directors in early June, 2022. Often the work of the Allocations Committee is completed by May, but this year, because of May international travel by the chair, as well as changes in our administration, financial and computer systems, our decisions were delayed. During our meetings this year, the Allocations Committee focused on learning about and better understanding the needs and funding of important local CUJF Committees: Human Services and Camp Scholarships, Chevra Kaddisha, The Holocaust Education Center and CUJF Events.

As in the previous year, the members of the committee brought many years of knowledge and experience to our discussions. And this year, we were fortunate to welcome younger members of our community, who brought creative ideas, youth, energy and dedication to our meetings. I thank all the volunteers on the committee for their commitment and work on behalf of the Jewish Community.

The Allocations Committee met monthly, beginning in September. Due to the Pandemic, we continued to meet via Zoom. Zoom meetings remained an efficient vehicle for committee discussions.

- This year we kept in touch with the Israeli organizations we fund, via Zoom, e-mail or other means: The Jaffa Institute, Yad Sarah, Save A Child's Heart, No2Violence, BINA, Aviv for Holocaust Survivors, The Friends of IDF and Hand In Hand K-12.
- As mentioned at the beginning of my report, The Allocations Committee carefully reviewed the work and funding levels for CUJF Committees. The importance of our CUJF Committees is growing, as is their need for funding. Much more information about our CUJF Committees is available in their specific reports withing this Annual Report.
- We continue to provide funding to three local organizations: Sinai Temple, Hillel and Chabad. Continued discussions about collaboration going forward is needed, in order to understand and clarify the best way to address future needs.

No further changes or modifications were needed to last year's revised CUJF Rules for Earmarking. Within the rules of this policy, an Earmarked gift to CUJF can be designated to any organization or committee to which CUJF has made an allocation in the last three years. The complete, updated policy and rules are posted on our CUJF Website. If there are questions about the policy, please direct your inquiries to the CUJF Office at cujf@cujf.org.

I will be stepping down from my three years on the Board of CUJF and my position as VP for Allocations as of June 30, 2022. It has been an honor to serve as the committee chair for the last two years, and I thank the community for your support and suggestions during my tenure. Arielle Weinstein will be the next Chair of the Allocations Committee, beginning on July 1, 2022. Thank you so much, Arielle, for your future leadership.

And, thank you to the Champaign-Urbana Jewish Community for your generous donations that make our work possible.

Campaign



Alex Scheeline

Chair: Alex Scheeline

Co-chair: Paula Kaufman

Members: Elizabeth Weiss, Yael Gertner

Adoption of Bloomerang as our data and donor management system dominated those aspects of campaign not otherwise contorted by COVID19. CUJF has evolved from using 4 by 6 cards in a shoebox (prior to 1989) to databases written by community members, and is now operating with licensed, commercial software. Undergraduate student Ben Zavell “delinted” the database, updating address information, merging records, and otherwise making the data more useful for identifying and contacting community members. Marc Snir and Mitch Harris linked Bloomerang to QuickBooks and the Donate button on the CUJF website. The level of automation of our financial interactions has never been higher.

Campaign income this year was slightly higher than last year. This represents a balance of increased generosity of continuing donors, but a decrease in the number of long-standing major donors due to death or moving to other parts of the US. The continued economic vitality of the CU Jewish Community is a prerequisite to the fiscal health of CUJF. As keeping our current donors young is, alas, not an option, bringing in more young donors and cultivating current donors to increase their financial commitment to CUJF are two of the best ways that we can continue to serve the many vital needs of the community. Obtaining grants from external agencies may be a third possibility; indeed, grants from PJ Library and Jewish Federations of North America during COVID helped us provide some human services that would otherwise have been impossible.

Total donations were close to \$180,000; including income from CUJEF endowments, income exceeded \$240,000. This is about 2/3 of the highest total dollar income CUJF had in the 1990's; it is 1/3 of the purchasing power of those long-ago days. Granted, we no longer are rescuing Jews from the Former Soviet Union or Ethiopia, but one expects that we will be rescuing Jews from Ukraine and supporting refugees, perhaps even immigrants to CU in the near future. CU is an idyllic island in a sea of pain, and yet even here the needs of the young, the poor, and the infirm cry out for our support. Elsewhere in this report, one can read of wonderful programming that CUJF and its partner organizations have presented in the past year. None of it is free. Feeling beneficent is of course good, but backing those feelings with donations is essential if we are to rebuild the world.

In an effort to build the financial strength of multiple Jewish organizations, every Jewish organization in Champaign County was approached this year to be part of a coordinated effort to promote the needs of each of the organizations in parallel with appeals for those organizations individually. Thus, when Sinai Temple appeals for additional support for building renovations (you should give!), it also notes that CUJF helps support the Sinai Religious School and that the Champaign-Urbana Jewish Endowment Foundation manages Sinai Temple's endowed funds and helps support the Chai program, so additional support for CUJF and CUJEF are in Sinai Temple's interest as well (you should give!). Similarly, Hillel in appealing for support on its upcoming centennial notes the support that would help the other organizations in town, since Hillel sprang from the community a century ago. While Chabad has not formally become involved with this collaboration as yet, we hope that it too will become part of the collaboration. The Program in Jewish Culture and Society has some constraints in partnering, as it is part of a State agency, but it is certainly helping the well-being of the East Central Illinois Jewish community by initiating an archive of its history (you should give!). So many possibilities, many of which require both volunteer time and funds. YOU SHOULD GIVE! We did!

Treasurer



Mitch Harris

Chair: Mitch Harris

It has been a year of transition for CUJF financial management, with changes in personnel, software, and procedures. During the first year of my term as volunteer treasurer I worked to make our financial procedures accountable, cost-effective, automated, and online.

Djavid Novrouzov, our long-time financial officer, moved out of town during the fall. Djavid gave us many years of service with reliability and integrity, and this year has helped us remotely with the transition. We are very lucky to have brought on Inbal Elazar. Inbal excels with our bookkeeping duties, and critically, lends a fresh eye to everything we do.

We upgraded our accounting software and moved it, and much of our banking, online. Also, after several months of work during the last fiscal year, we started using a new donation management package. These new systems allow for more integration and automation than before.

Accordingly, with new personnel, new software, and coronavirus restrictions, we have modified many of our financial procedures. Please bear with us if you experience a hiccup or two as we all learn new skills. Our new procedures not only accommodate remote work, but enhance transparency and dramatically reduce the paper we have to file. Most of all these changes help us improve communication among our volunteers, professionals, and members.

C-U Jewish Endowment Foundation

Co-chair: Maury Topolosky

Co-chair: Paula Kaufman

Members: Inbal Elazar, Ben Fox, Marge Harris, Hagit Itzkowitz, Ira Lebanon, L. Lee Melhado, Julia Robinson, Alexander Scheeline, Arthur Siegel, Kathryn Weisbaum



Maury Topolosky

A subsidiary of CU Jewish Federation, the CU Jewish Endowment Foundation is dedicated to enhancing and preserving the quality of Jewish life in our community by establishing and maintaining a secure financial base for the wide range of programs and services designated by its individual funds. So as to secure long-term support for Jewish organizations and individuals in the Champaign-Urbana area, CUJEF was established to receive, hold, invest, and manage contributions and to utilize the earnings accordingly. It acts semi-independently to manage and administer endowments and to provide all members of our community with the means to arrange for long-term support of Jewish programs and institutions, either through donations to an existing endowment or creation of a tailored one. The majority of CUJEF investments are in a well-diversified pool of low-expense stock and bond index funds.

Earnings are allocated monthly to each endowment in proportion to its share of total funds managed. All funds are audited annually by an independent certified accounting firm. CUJEF disperses funds through quarterly reviews of proposals submitted to its Board.



Paula Kaufman

Table 1 Income & Expenses FY 2021–2022 (July 2021 to May 2022)

	Initial Budget	Revenue Grants & Earmarks	Expenses	Surplus/ Deficit	Prorated Salaries Approximate
INTERNAL PROGRAMS					
Humanitarian Services	\$17,918	\$2,071	\$7,686	\$12,304	\$2,741
Human Services	\$9,996	—	\$6,662	\$3,334	\$2,106
Chevrah Kadisha	\$7,922	\$2,071	\$1,024	\$8,970	\$635
Community Engagement	\$10,000	\$1,475	\$5,355	\$6,120	\$15,298
Community Events	\$6,000	\$1,475	\$3,415	\$4,060	\$6,659
Holocaust & Antisemitism	\$9,140	\$3,359	\$12,755	\$255	\$4,990
Holocaust Education Center	\$9,140	\$3,359	\$12,755	\$255	\$4,990
Education	\$12,505	\$8,065	\$15,460	\$5,109	\$10,570
PJ Library	\$3,843	\$5,197	\$5,290	\$3,750	\$8,985
Camp Scholarships	\$7,000	\$2,868	\$9,868	—	\$1,533
Seniors	\$1,662	—	\$302	\$1,360	\$52
Total Internal Programs	\$49,563	\$14,970	\$41,256	\$23,278	\$33,599
GRANTS					
Local Organizations	\$68,200	\$1,715	\$69,915	—	
Chabad	\$8,150	—	\$8,150	—	
Hillel	\$37,150	\$1,600	\$38,750	—	
Sinai	\$22,900	\$115	\$23,015	—	
Israel	\$26,407	\$1,850	\$28,347	\$90	
Aviv for Holocaust Survivors	\$2,500	—	\$2,500	—	
Bina	\$2,500	\$750	\$3,250	—	
Birthright Israel via JFNA	\$2,807	—	\$2,897	\$90	
Friends of IDF	\$1,800	—	\$1,800	—	
Jaffa Institute	\$2,500	\$500	\$3,000	—	
Hand in Hand	\$2,500	—	\$2,500	—	
No2Violence	\$2,500	\$75	\$2,575	—	
Save a Child's Heart	\$7,500	\$25	\$7,525	—	
Yad Sarah	\$1,800	—	\$1,800	—	
JFNA donation	—	\$500	\$500	—	
Emergency Response Ukraine	—	—	\$5,000	\$5,000	
Total Grants	\$94,607	\$3,565	\$103,262	\$5,090	
JFNA MEMBERSHIP					
JFNA FairShare	\$7,824	—	\$8,563	\$739	—
CAMPAIGN & COMMUNICATIONS					
Campaign	\$7,300	—	\$3,291	\$4,009	\$3,376
Communications	\$4,000	—	\$1,940	\$2,060	\$8,639
Total Campaign & Communication	\$11,300	—	\$5,231	\$6,069	\$12,015
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION					
Audit	\$3,800	—	\$2,800	\$1,000	—
Insurance	\$4,100	—	\$2,058	\$2,042	—
IT equipment & services	\$5,200	—	\$5,273	\$73	—
Total Salaries	\$104,396	—	\$76,718	\$27,678	—
ED Discretionary & Misc	\$1,000	—	—	\$1,000	—
Other	\$7,578	\$312	\$4,003	\$3,887	\$31,104
Total General Administration	\$126,074	\$312	\$90,852	\$35,535	\$31,104
Grand Total	\$289,368	\$18,848	\$249,163	\$59,053	\$76,718

Table 2 Available Funds June 2022

Allocated	\$292,754
2021–2022 Campaign	\$171,300
2020–2021 Campaign Carryover (late arrivals)	\$9,936
Endowments (PACE + Robinson)	\$60,990
Budget Surplus from FY 2021 (estimate)	\$36,210
Allocated Reserves	\$11,750
Gift of Israel Liquidation	\$1,130
Interest	\$132
Miscellaneous Sales + Uncategorized Revenue	\$1,306
Unallocated	\$61,026
Unallocated Reserves	\$23,499
Earmarks	\$8,360
Targeted Endowment	\$1,288
Special Emergency & Reserve Funds	\$30,000

Table 3 Budget FY 2022–2023

INTERNAL PROGRAMS	
Humanitarian Services	\$7,000
Human services	\$7,000
Chevrah Kadisha	—
Community Engagement	\$6,000
Community events	\$6,000
Holocaust and Antisemitism	\$10,000
HEC	\$10,000
Education	\$11,000
PJ Library	\$4,000
Camp Scholarships	\$7,000
Total Internal programs	\$34,000
GRANTS	
Local Organizations	\$69,300
Chabad	\$8,300
Hillel	\$38,000
Sinai	\$23,000
Israel	\$22,550
Aviv for Holocaust Survivors	\$2,000
Bina	\$2,000
Birthright Israel (via JFNA)	\$3,200
Friends of IDF	\$1,000
Jaffa Institute	\$2,000
Hand in Hand	\$2,350
No2 Violence	\$2,000
Save a Child's Heart	\$7,000
Yad Sarah	\$1,000
Total Grants	\$91,850
JFNA MEMBERSHIP	
JFNA (FairShare)	\$9,420
CAMPAIGN & COMMUNICATIONS	
Campaign	\$7,300
Communication services	\$1,184
Communication outsource	\$13,000
Total Campaign & Communication	\$21,484
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	
Audit	\$3,000
Insurance	\$2,500
Salaries	\$120,000
ED Discretionary & Misc	\$1,000
Travel	\$1,500
Other	\$3,000
Total General Administration	\$131,000
EMERGENCY FUND	
Fund Refill	\$5,000.00
Total Budgeted Expenses	\$292,754.00

Table 4 Programs Supported by CUJF Grants in FY 2022

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS	
Chabad	Adult education via the Jewish Learning Institute
Hillel	Activities serving local Jewish community (Chambana Schmooze, Holiday celebrations, Holocaust remembrance, and special events)
Sinai	Partial support of Sinai Temple Religious School
ISRAELI ORGANIZATIONS	
Aviv for Holocaust Survivors	Ensures the full realization by Holocaust Survivors of their rights, with no charge.
Bina	Works to advance democracy, pluralism and justice in Israel, emphasizing Jewish culture and values of Tikkun Olam
Birthright Israel (via JFNA)	Subsidizes young adults' trips to Israel
Friends of IDF	Provides social, financial and education support to IDF soldiers
Jaffa Institute	Assists the city of Jaffa's severely disadvantaged children and their families by providing educational, nutritional, therapeutic, and social enrichment programs
Hand in Hand	Builds inclusion and equality between Arab and Jewish citizens of Israel through a growing network of bilingual, integrated schools and communities
No2Violence	Help women and children suffering from domestic violence to start a new life by providing them with shelter, professional help, vocational training, and legal aid
Save a Child's Heart	Brings life-saving cardiac care to children in need around the world
Yad Sarah	Provides medical equipment and home-based healthcare support services, to enable chronically ill, disabled, infirm, and terminally ill people to live at home
EMERGENCY RESPONSE	
Ukraine	Support to the Jewish Community in Ukraine, transferred via JFNA to the Jewish Agency for Israel, JDC, and World ORT.

Table 5 CUJEF Funds

At the end of FY22, funds entrusted to CUJEF total \$2,792,450.19. The operating and investment costs for the year were \$21,987.40, or 0.52% of the current market value of the CUJEF.

CUJF Annual Campaign (including disbursement from Robinson Quasi-Endowment)	\$60,989.57
Sinai Temple (including disbursement from Robinson Quasi-Endowment and Klein Funds)	\$31,475.90
IN SUPPORT OF PROGRAMMING FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES	
New equipment at Hillel (Hillel Director's Fund)	\$1,290.34
Hillel Kiddush Fund	\$188.65
Support programming at Hillel (Hillel Robinson, Allen & Weiner Funds)	\$10,504.84
Nelson fund for Holocaust education	\$667.27
Finance the CUJF-run CHAI program for seniors (Goldberg-Gordon-Yairi Fund; Libby and Harry Miller Memorial Fund)	\$5,087.27
Augment rabbinic salary (Sudman Rabbinic Fund; Smith Rabbinic Fund)	\$8,102.51
Support CUJF Human Services Committee (Guttenberg Fund)	\$1,287.91
Support program with Rabbi Mark Glickman at Sinai Temple (Marco & Steineberg Funds)	\$3,450.00
Chanukah Menorahs and subsidy of Parade of Light float (Small Fund)	\$2,500.00
CUJF-administered Gift of Israel program (Lynn and Ira Wachtel Gift of Israel Fund)	\$589.32
Camp Scholarship & educational programming at Sinai Temple (Shapiro, Lewis, Loeb and Youth Funds, S. Camp)	\$2,868.00
Support of educational trip to Israel of one local children (Gottheil Fund)	\$3,000.00
SUPPORTING COMMUNITY CULTURAL PROGRAM	
Dr. Samuel and Sadie Small Fund for Jewish Arts and Culture	\$88,144.00
SUPPORTING CUJF	
CUJF PACE Fund	\$257,071.49
Allen and Elaine Avner PACE Fund	\$52,010.00
Dan and Frances Bloomfield PACE Fund	\$30,921.00
Lebenson PACE Fund	\$10,000.00
Helen and Ezra Levin PACE	\$15,000.00
Lefkovitz-LeRoy PACE	\$9,798.00
Eli Benjamin Mandel PACE Fund	\$10,864.00
Lee Melhado PACE Fund	\$19,730.00
Jack Simon PACE Fund	\$61,000.00
Leo and Anne Weisel PACE Fund	\$18,108.12
Arthur Robinson Quasi Endowment (current market value)	\$367,162.03
SUPPORTING CUJF HUMAN SERVICE COMMITTEE	
Guttenberg PAGE Fund	\$50,000.00
Ted Hymowitz	\$100.00

SUPPORTING EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT FOR YOUTH

Josh Gottheil Youth to Israel Fund	\$70,877.20
Michael and Elizabeth Shapiro Camp Scholarship Fund	\$10,540.00
Sinai Sisterhood Camp Scholarship Fund	\$17,378.80
Lynn and Ira Wachtel Gift of Israel Fund	\$13,545.00
Ehud and Janie Yairi Fund for Tel Aviv University	\$82,104.00

SUPPORTING THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS HILLEL FOUNDATION

Susan Linowes Allen Memorial Fund	\$124,978.00
Hillel Director's Fund	\$28,835.50
Hillel's Kiddush Fund	\$11,204.00
Hillel Robinson Building Fund	\$88,991.95
Hillel Centennial	\$54,155.11
Hillel Eruv Fund	\$10,107.91
Arthur Robinson Fund for Hillel	\$75,553.42
Torah Fund	\$10,168.00
Weiner Fund	\$30,772.57

SUPPORTING HOLOCAUST EDUCATION AND MEMORIALS

Jack and Sadye Marco Holocaust Fund	\$63,350.07
Harry Nelson Memorial Award	\$2,597.00

SUPPORTING SINAI TEMPLE

Cohen Garden Fund	\$4,648.95
Joli and Donald Ginsberg Library Fund	\$13,505.00
Glaser Concert Fund	\$27,426.00
Hamburg Childhood Education Fund	\$16,497.50
Korry Confirmation Fund	\$18,989.74
Lewis Family Fund	\$19,983.00
Clarence and Adele Libman Religious School Fund	\$49,970.00
Linowes Bequest	\$50,000.00
Loeb Education Fund	\$23,679.00
Arthur Robinson Sinai Quasi Endowment (current market value)	\$69,935.63
Sudman Rabbinic Salary Fund	\$158,722.45
Smith Rabbinic Salary Fund	\$33,632.05
Sinai Avner Fund	\$200,000.00
Sinai Board Discretionary Fund	\$15,715.00
Sinai General Endowment Fund	\$200,421.82
Marvin Steinberg Scholar-in-Residence Fund	\$33,638.50
Blanche and Seymour Sudman Rabbi's Discretionary Fund	\$24,764.00
Stanley and Joan Levy Youth Leadership Fund	\$22,101.00
Zimmerman Lecture Fund	\$11,064.00

SUPPORTING PROGRAM FOR SENIORS

Goldberg-Gordon-Yairi Fund for Seniors	\$26,749.00
Libby and Harry Miller Memorial Fund	\$11,204.00

UNRESTRICTED

General Fund	\$66,735.00
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MARKET VALUE OF CUJEF FUNDS

Total General	\$207,314.27
Total Designated	\$3,601,363.78
Checking Account (Operations)	\$1,099.26
Robinson Quasi Endowment	\$437,097.66
Klein Quasi Endowment (current market value)	\$8,001.38
TOTAL	\$4,254,876.35