



Champaign-Urbana
Jewish Federation

ANNUAL REPORT **2023-2024** —

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MISSION AND STAFF

MISSION

The Champaign-Urbana Jewish Federation is a non-profit organization that serves the Jewish community in the cities of Champaign and Urbana, Illinois, and their environs. It provides and supports local Jewish programs and activities; provides help to local community Jews in need; supports humanitarian causes locally, in Israel and in other places on behalf of the local Jewish community; and educates about Jewish issues and against antisemitism.

STAFF



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Ma'ayan Weinberg

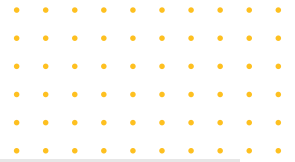


FINANCIAL OFFICER
Marcey Goldstein



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
Azer Matten

Letter From the President



Tania Ionin

Dear friends,

It is not easy to write this report. October 7, 2023 was the worst massacre of Jews since the Holocaust. Some members of our community lost family and friends in the vicious Hamas attack, but even those of us (including myself) who did not experience any personal losses found ourselves at most two or three degrees of separation from the victims of October 7. It is hard to imagine that any Jew in our community, or in the world, could be left untouched by the horrific events of October 7, or by its aftermath – the Israel-Hamas war, the continuing ordeal of the hostages, the skyrocketing levels of antisemitism, the anti-Zionist and often blatantly anti-Semitic campus protests and encampments. Yet the Jewish community – around the world, around the U.S., and here in Champaign-Urbana – has come together more than ever in the face of hatred and attacks against us. As we stood together and mourned together at our community Israel Solidarity Gathering a week after October 7, it was clear that whatever our differences (of background, of religious affiliation, of political opinion), we are all part of one family, and when a single member of this family is killed or hurt, all of us experience that pain.

All of the local Jewish community organizations – Sinai Temple, Illini Hillel, Illini Chabad and CUJF – have worked together to support our community, to support Israel, and to fight antisemitism. Over a hundred members of our local community (including 85 students and the leaders of all four local Jewish organizations) participated in the March for Israel in Washington, D.C. on November 14. We once again, for the third year in a row, participated in the Champaign County's Parade of Lights on Thanksgiving weekend, proudly marching with a Hanukkah float, spreading light and showing that we are not afraid. Individual members of our community organized to put up posters of the hostages, to gather on the quad in support of Jewish students, and to speak out against antisemitism and vicious anti-Israel rhetoric during public input sessions at the Urbana City Council. And just a few weeks ago, we all came together for our annual community celebration of Yom Ha'atzmaut, a celebration which felt different this year than ever before.



Over the difficult months since October 7, we have learned that even though members of our Jewish community have many different views and political opinions regarding the Israel-Hamas war, we are nevertheless able to come together and stand united, not divided. This is reflected in the statement by the CUJF Board of Directors that was presented in February to the Urbana City Council, which stated that “[a]ny discussion concerning the Israel-Hamas war needs to unequivocally (i) condemn the massacre of October 7, 2023 perpetrated by Hamas; (ii) demand the immediate return of the remaining hostages in Gaza; (iii) call for the dismantling of Hamas, a terrorist organization that has explicitly called for the killing of all Jews; and (iv) acknowledge the responsibility of Hamas in the current plight of the civilians in Gaza” and which concluded that “We fervently hope for a lasting peace for all in the Middle East and recognize that this is a painful time for many Champaign-Urbana residents with familial and other connections to the region. We believe that the way to acknowledge and respect the pain in the community is to work on forging human connections and building bridges through communication, tolerance, and compassion.” The full statement is available on the CUJF website.

Our community has shown its strong support of Israel through our donations: in the past year, we have given a total of \$59,703.18 in emergency relief to the JFNA Israel Crisis Fund; \$5,000 of this was from the CUJF emergency funds, while the rest was donated by community members. Emergencies occur elsewhere, too: our community gave \$509 to the JFNA Moroccan Earthquake Relief Fund, and a total of \$3,243 (\$500 from the CUJF emergency funds, and the rest sent by community members) to the JFNA Hawaii Wildfire Relief Fund.

Life goes on, and so do the various events and services hosted and provided by CUJF. Chai Seniors have started having in-person events again for the first time since the start of the pandemic, while PJ library has held all kinds of fun and educational events for young families. The Human Services and Chevra Kadisha committees have continued to provide much-needed services to our community. CUJF, together with the UIUC Program in Jewish Culture and Society, has hosted two movie screenings at the Savoy 16 theatre this year: a pre-release screening of “Golda” last August, and a screening of “The Commandant’s Shadow” in May. The Holocaust Education Center has continued outreach to schools and teacher education workshops. Last December, the CUJF annual end-of-year event included a touching ceremony in which the Holocaust Education Center honored community partners for their work with the HEC. In April, CUJF held two major events: a benefit performance of the musical “The Falsettos” at Station Theatre, and a very successful and fun Super Sunday. I am very grateful to all of the CUJF staff and volunteers who have made all these and other events and services happen, making sure that Jewish community life goes on in these difficult times.

I would like to thank our executive director, Ma’ayan Weinberg, who took the lead in organizing our community in the face of ever-growing antisemitism and both global and local challenges, while continuing to carry on with the everyday duties of leading the organization. This has been a very difficult year for all Jewish organizations, and CUJF has been fortunate to have Ma’ayan’s leadership and initiative.

I am very grateful to all CUJF staff: Andréa Aguiar, who stepped down as our community program manager after many years of great work organizing CUJF events; Marcey Goldshtein, our dedicated financial officer, who is retiring at the end of this year; and Azer Matten, our new community engagement coordinator, who has become very involved in all aspects of CUJF event organizing. I would like to thank all of our staff for the amazing work that they do for CUJF. I would like to thank all of our donors for their continued support, and all our volunteers who have donated their time and energy to help CUJF grow. Special thanks go to outgoing CUJF board member Julia Robinson, who has served two consecutive terms on the board. Big thanks are due to all the members of the executive committee for the work that they have put in over the past year: Arielle Weinstein (VP of allocations), who has continued in her second year in this position; Diane Gutenkauf (treasurer), Jessica LeRoy (secretary), and Dana Mor (VP of campaign), who have completed their first year on the executive committee; and Lee DeVille, who this past year was both president-elect and chair of the new committee on antisemitism. I am grateful to Allison Rosenblum and Diana Jaher for stepping into the chair roles for the nominations committee and the Chai Seniors committee, respectively, and to Jess LeRoy for continuing to chair the PJ Library committee. Big thanks to Brian Kahn, Becky Lawson and Bob Lehmann for their work as chairs of the Holocaust Education Center, and to Lee Melhado and Jessica Kopolow for chairing Chevra Kadisha. I would like to thank Andrea Klein and Lee Melhado, the prior and current chairs of the Human Services committee, for the important work that they do.

With our amazing group of both volunteers and staff, I am certain that CUJF will continue to be an important resource for all members of the local Jewish community, and will continue to work closely with our partner organizations as we provide services, host events, and stand proud in the face of antisemitism. As I step down as president, I am confident in the future of CUJF under our new president Lee DeVille and our executive director Ma'ayan Weinberg, and with our excellent Board, committee chairs and staff. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to contribute to this important community organization.

The past year has been a very difficult one for the Jewish community, both globally and locally, and there are likely more difficult times ahead. Nevertheless, I am optimistic that things will get better, as long as we remain strong, stand up to hatred, and continue to work together with each other and with our non-Jewish friends and neighbors. Am Yisrael Chai!

CUJF activities are made possible by the support of our generous donors, and by the work of our staff and volunteers. Please continue to give generously, and please consider volunteering your time to CUJF.

Tania Ionin
President

2023-24 Board of Directors

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President:

Tania Ionin (2022-2024)

President-Elect:

Lee DeVille (2023 - 2024)

VP, Allocations:

Arielle Weinstein (2022-2024)

VP, Campaign:

Dana Mor (2023-2024)

Secretary:

Jessica LeRoy (2023-2025)

Treasurer:

Diane Gutenkauf (2023-2025)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Datia Rosenberg Bross (2023-2024)

Arne Fliflet (2023-2025)

Mitch Harris (2023-2025)

Barry Isralewitz (2023-2025)

Marisa Natale (2023-2025)

Lawrence Rauchwerger (2022-2024)

Julia Robinson (2022-2024)

Allison Rosenblum (2023-2025)

Robert Silverman (2023 - 2025)

EX-OFFICIO

Marc Snir, Former Board President

Rabbi Dovid Tiechtel, Chabad

Alexander Scheeline, CU Jewish
Endowment Foundation

Erez Cohen, Illini Hillel

Rabbi Jody Cook, Sinai Temple

Eugene Avrutin, Program in Jewish
Culture and Society at UIUC



Holocaust Education Center

COMMITTEE REPORT

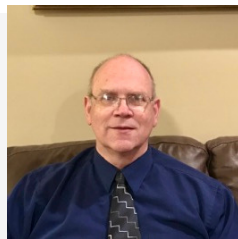
Co-Chairs: Brian Kahn, Becky Lawson, Bob Loehman



**HOLOCAUST
EDUCATION
CENTER**



This was another busy year for the HEC! Your three co-chairs, Becky, Bob, and I, could not have accomplished all we did without the support of all the HEC members. Thank you, Azer for all your energy, your social media skills, and your never-ending enthusiasm for getting out the word concerning all of our events. Thanks to all members who volunteered their time to docent at the Courage to Remember Exhibit and the Auschwitz Art Exhibit this past year. And thank you, Ma'ayan Weinberg, for your leadership and support as we continue to work with teachers across the region to meet the state mandate.



The Auschwitz Experience in the Art of Prisoners Exhibit had a three-week run in Decatur, Illinois at the Decatur Public Library. While in Decatur, Bob gave a presentation on the background of Auschwitz and Bill Gingold shared his family's story. In addition, we held a teacher workshop, organized and contributed to by Becky Lawson, Robin Goetell, Bob Lehmann, and myself.



Courage to Remember, another Holocaust exhibit, was spearheaded by Dr. Bill Gingold and was hosted at the American Evangelical Lutheran Church in Gibson City during the month of September. From here, the exhibit went to Danville for the month of November and was hosted by the Vermilion County Museum and museum director, Sue Richter. During the month of March, the exhibit was hosted by the Cross County Mall in Mattoon, Illinois. More than twenty-five local volunteers served as docents for the exhibit while in Mattoon. Also during the stay, Bill Gingold spoke to over one hundred local residents at the Mattoon Public Library. Students from schools in Sullivan, Effingham, Oakland, Charleston, and Mattoon and a home school took docent-led field trips to the exhibit. Brian Kahn and Becky Lawson led them through activities created by the HEC for the exhibit.

Thanks to Erez Cohen, Becky Lawson, and Bob Lehmann for hosting a total of twenty-five undergraduates this past year for the School Community Partnership Volunteer Program. Students in EDUC 201

We thank the **Jack and Sadye Marco Holocaust Fund** and the **Harry Nelson Memorial Award Endowment** for partial funding of the HEC. Contributions can be made at cujef.org.

completed twenty hours of service and learning online and at the Cohen Center for Jewish Life – special thanks to Erez and Carly for providing dinner for the students during their four visits to the center. The students also heard Bill Gingold, Linda Bauer, and Erez Cohen share their family's stories. Each of the students completed a mini-research project sharing the accomplishments of one rescuer and/or resistance group active during the Holocaust.

Through Their Eyes, our annual student art exhibit, was held in May at Sinai Temple in commemoration of Yom Hashoah. Students from four schools, working with five different teachers and impacting over 450 students, shared their class projects with those who attended.

Bill Gingold continued his speaking tour this year, driving to twenty-five schools and civic organizations in a five-county area, sharing his story with over one thousand students, teachers, and community members! Thank you, Bill! Your impact continues to resonate across central Illinois, as students and teachers experience the on the students in this region is nothing short of phenomenal!

This year also saw the return of Through Their Eyes Student Art and Writing Contest. Forty-one students from east central Illinois submitted art and writing pieces for the first "Through Their Eyes: A Holocaust Art and Writing Contest" sponsored by the HEC. Judges from across the country were impressed by student work that focused on Jewish and non-Jewish victims of the Holocaust, resisters, rescuers, and liberators. Over 80 people attended the awards ceremony at the Cohen Center for Jewish Life on April 28. Rebecca Lawson, contest director, was pleased by the number and quality of the entries that were received, the positive impact the contest had on Holocaust education and encouraging student creativity, the work of the dedicated judges, the support shown to the students at the awards ceremony, and the cooperative efforts by members and staff of the HEC, CUJF, and Illini Hillel.

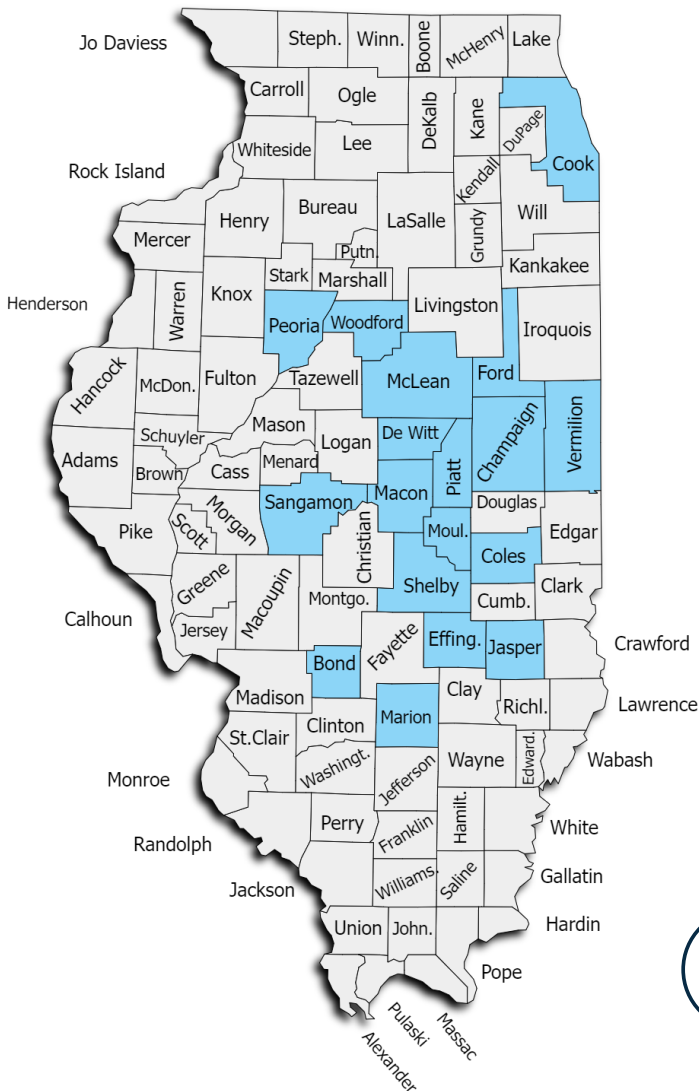


Impact 2023-2024

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTER

The HEC's reach this year includes:

- **4000** Individuals
- **27** Schools
- **18** Counties
- **5** Traveling Exhibits



24 UIUC students in the School of Education participated in a course on teaching about the Holocaust

to research the historical events leading up to the Holocaust and as well as resistance and rescuers during the Holocaust



343 books gifted with the Holocaust Education Book Trunks to Unit 4 Schools



19 locations hosted a Holocaust speaker

1613 students and **622** adults heard these stories

Chevrah Kadisha

COMMITTEE REPORT

Co-Chairs: Lee Melhado, Jessica Kopolow



Founded in 1993, the Chevra Kadisha provides preparation of the dead for traditional burial, education about Jewish death and mourning practices (this year including two lectures at the UIUC School of Social Work), 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 at least 100 burials. This year, approximately 60 volunteers served as shomrim (those who watch over the deceased from death until burial). Nearly 30 volunteers are currently trained to serve on tahara teams (those who wash and dress the deceased and place the body in a casket).

During FY 2023-24, the Chevra Kadisha provided shomrim and/or tahara for two individuals and assisted several additional families in other ways (providing information and support, making sure that a minyan is present for burial and shiva, 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.

52

**roles of shomer and/or tahara fulfilled
this fiscal year by volunteers**

125+

volunteers, anonymous by tradition

Human Services



COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair: Andrea Klein, July – December 2023
Lee Melhado January – June 2024

Members: Lianne Anderson, Barbara Kaplan, Marion Smith, and Janis Topolosky



The Human Services Committee has three primary purposes: to assist individuals and families in financial crisis, to distribute scholarships to Jewish summer camps, and to choose the recipient of the annual Bernice Wax Award. Expansion of a fourth purpose, to provide direct personal assistance, is under consideration.

Financial Assistance:

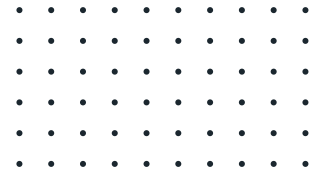


This year, expenditures to help those in financial distress included rent, mortgage payments, home repairs, work uniforms, car payments, and cleaning and moving expenses. The budget for this effort was just over \$14,000. When deciding how to allocate scarce resources, the committee gave priority to efforts that allowed recipients to maintain employment and safe, stable housing. In years past, the committee has also approved a wide range of additional payments, including child care, insurance premiums, prescriptions, counseling fees, clothing, food, gasoline, and bus passes, among others. The committee treats each request confidentially and individually, identifying with the recipient what assistance would be most essential and beneficial.

As in past years, the Human Services Committee distributed Matanot L'Evyonim (money for the poor) collected by Hillel on Purim and disbursed by CUJF on that same day. This year, donations were divided equally and given to four local households. In addition, for the first time, the committee collaborated with students from Hillel in a project that they staffed and created to provide financial assistance to students, local community members, and men housed at the Strides Shelter in Champaign. The total cost of these efforts on Purim was \$1,400, offset in part by contributions raised by Hillel.

Human Services Continued

COMMITTEE REPORT



Camp Scholarships:

Each winter, CU Jewish Federation accepts applications for scholarships to Jewish summer camps, both overnight and day camp. In February, CUJF convenes a joint meeting with representatives from CUJF, CU Jewish Endowment Foundation, and Sinai Temple to allocate funds in such a way as to maximize the number of children able to attend. This year, scholarships were granted to seven children. The Human Services Committee's budget for camp scholarships was \$7,000, with additional money provided by Sinai Temple and CUJEF endowment funds.

Bernice Wax Award:

In March 1979, Bernice Wax became the first chair of CUJF's Human Services Committee. Over the next 11 years, she defined its mission and many of the policies and procedures by which it still operates. After her passing in 2006, CUJF established the Bernice Wax Award to be given annually to a child or children demonstrating special care and concern for the needs of others. This year, Jacob Epstein, Shira Harkins, Lily Smyser, and Asher Watson were chosen for the year-long project that they developed and implemented delivering home-baked challot and visiting with individuals in the community who are ill, isolated, or homebound. Most years, the award has been granted as a single, \$350 camp scholarship: this year, that amount was made available to the group to be donated to a charity of their own choosing.

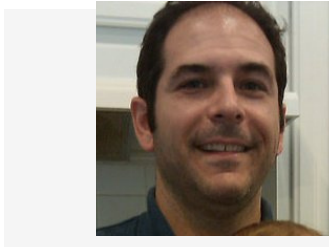
In-Person Assistance:

Although its primary focus is financial assistance, the Human Services Committee has always provided some direct, in-person service. The amount provided has varied widely, being most abundant during years when CUJF staff was certified to supervise interns, which is no longer the case. Nevertheless, this past year, the committee has contributed many hundreds of hours of personal interactions, including help with cleaning and moving; advocacy with health care, contractors, realtors, and other providers; psychological counseling; transportation to social events and medical appointments; and home and hospital visits. Despite the expressed desire of the board and the community to expand these in-person services, the committee simply does not have the manpower to maintain, much less expand such activities. During the upcoming year, the committee intends to explore the possibility of recruiting additional volunteers to fulfill these duties or, preferably, to collaborate with the Caring Committee at Sinai Temple to do this important work.

Committee Against Antisemitism

COMMITTEE REPORT

Members: Lee DeVille (chair), Mitch Harris, Tania Ionin, Barry Isralewitz, Dana Mor, Lawrence Rauchwerger, Alison Rosenbaum, Arielle Weinstein



The Committee Against Antisemitism was formed mid-year (in November 2023) in response to an increased need to combat antisemitism in our local community in the wake of the October 7 attacks. The committee was charged with designing plans to address antisemitism in Champaign-Urbana, including communication plans and marketing materials; collecting records of antisemitic incidents in Champaign-Urbana; and initiating the redevelopment of a CUJF Jewish Community Relations Council.

The committee was put to work almost immediately to address anti-Israel resolutions submitted to the Urbana City Council and Cunningham Township. We worked on communicating to, and engaging with, our local Jewish community throughout the process, as well as writing the official Board statements in response to these developments. The committee remains engaged in this process, as we anticipate more resolutions of this type in various local governmental bodies.

The committee also designed a form: (located at <https://forms.gle/uAhzMNdudPMfFBvc6>) where members of the local community can report any incidents of antisemitism in Champaign-Urbana.

Finally, we have worked with the Board in general, and our Executive Director and Campaign Director in particular, on developing strategies to build relationships with local elected officials and other leaders in the Champaign-Urbana community. Our hope is that these relationships will form the foundation of a future re-invigorated JCRC in Champaign-Urbana.



COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair: Jessica LeRoy

Committee Members: Sadie Braun, Amy Regenbaum, Rachel Roegman, Alison Rosenblum, Sara Schwebel



Just a few short weeks ago, I celebrated the bris of my son, giving him the name Noah and welcoming him into his place within the Jewish people. Not long afterward, Noah checked off a second milestone of Jewish newborn life and signed up for PJ Library. Noah will receive a free Jewish book each month until his 9th birthday, when he'll graduate into the PJ Our Way program and get to select his monthly book. These books explore Jewish holidays and values like tikkun olam and bikur cholim. PJ families also have access to special opportunities like the PJ Library Get Together program, which provides financial support and ideas for families to host a fun Jewish gathering. CUJF supports the participation of 63 children from 51 families in the PJ Library and PJ Our Way programs.

The PJ Library Committee also provides local Jewish programming focused on parents and children. This year, we connected to our Jewish heritage with our taste buds! Families gathered at Sinai Temple, Chabad, and Hillel to bake rugelach and hamantaschen, knead challah, and decorate hanukkah donuts. We put Jewish values into action as we volunteered with the Feeding Our Kids organization and at Boneyard Creek Community Day. Even the littlest hands were a big help! We also teamed up with the Holocaust Education Center to host a table at the Read Across America fair, where we displayed Jewish books, handed out Jewish-themed Mad-Libs activities, and did a letter match activity for pre-readers. Over 150 children and 125 adults visited our table!

Small but Mighty

As a Jewish community located in Central Illinois, PJ Library provides invaluable access to information on Jewish holidays, culture, and values that are not easily available to those surrounded by corn and soy. We are proud to share the wonderful resources PJ Library creates with our friends and families.

63

Jewish children from 51 families received books every month in the mail.

Champaign-Urbana PJ Library® Impact



9

CUJF events for
PJ Library families



Collaborations with

5

Community partners

Sinai Temple
Illini Chabad
Illini Hillel
Feeding Our Kids
Urbana Park District



7

Get Togethers
hosted by local
families



PJ Library at Read Across America

For the second year in a row, PJ Library has been a sponsor of the Champaign-Urbana Read Across America celebration held at Lincoln Square Mall in Urbana.

CHAI Seniors

COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair: Diana Jaher

Committee Members: Andy Bernstein, Art Siegel, Cecile Lebenson, Janet LeRoy, Janie Yairi, Joyce Eisenstein, Lauren Senoff, Linda Bauer, Paula Kaufman, Sara Druker-Rosenberg, Sherry Steigmann, Steve Wolf, Tamarra Bernstein, Wynne Korr



The Chai Seniors program hosts daytime programs of interest to seniors – most often, a lunch, talk/lecture, and post-event discussion. The committee met for the first time since COVID in December; I joined in January and have organized two meetings (February and March). We’ve discussed the kinds of events we’d be interested in, including hearing from members of the community with interesting stories to share.

Since January, the committee has been holding monthly luncheons, which are detailed below.

January – Schmooze & getting to know each other:

CHAI Seniors members were able to catch up with old friends and to connect first time attendees.

February – Falsettos Sneak Peek with Jacki Loewenstein and Ruth Ionin:

We were joined by Station Theater {INSERT JACKI TITLE HERE} Jacki Loewenstein and Ruth Ionin, a cast member in the production of Falsettos in March. In addition to a beautiful sneak peak song, they also discussed the Jewish roots of the musical and brought back many fond memories of our members' childhoods

March – Private concert with musicians Jake Shulman-Ment and Laurel Premo:

Combining Jake’s Klezmer background and Laurels Americana roots, the CHAI Seniors got treated to a fusion of incredible original songs. Both performers shared their deep knowledge of music and their specific expertise, and the Klezmer tunes stirred up old emotions of our members.

April – Datia Bross discusses volunteering in Israel:

After October 7th, Datia's life changed completely, as it did for many of us. She discussed how her volunteer experience started with her fears of her sons safety, who was in Israel for his gap year with Young Judea. She talked about her visit to many farms all around the country that were in urgent need of people to help harvest, and inspired everyone to take action in whatever way they could.

May – Barbara Jones discusses banned books:

In her presentation, Barbara shared the extreme rate at which books are getting banned from libraries, schools, and other institutions compared to the last 20 years, and what might be contributing to that. She also talked about the workshop on banned books that she did with the Sinai Temple Hebrew School students in March of 2024, and how surprised she was with their thoughtful responses.

Campaign

COMMITTEE REPORT

VP Dana Mor



We are pleased to report that our 2023 Annual Campaign raised \$243,000, marking our strongest campaign in the last four years. A total of 252 households contributed to this success, demonstrating the incredible generosity and commitment of our community.

Building Our Community Legacy Event

In December 2023, we hosted our Annual Event, Building Our Community Legacy, at the elegant Orpheum venue. This event honored the 16 endowment funds that sustain our organization’s vital work. We also recognized external community partners who have gone above and beyond in their support of Holocaust education through their partnerships with our Holocaust Education Center.

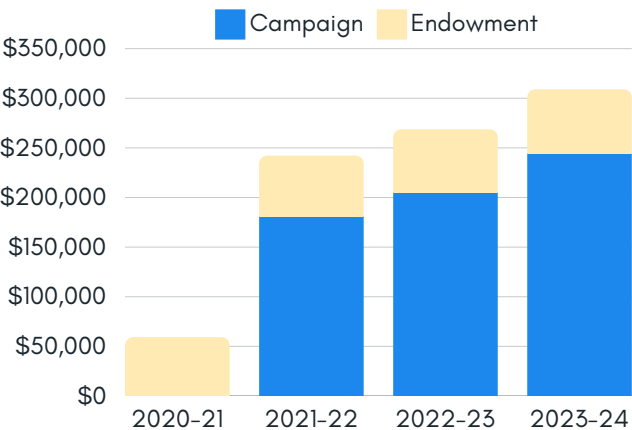
With over 135 people in attendance, the event was a resounding success. It featured a silent auction sponsored by many local businesses, raising \$3,325, while ticket sales generated \$6,241.93.

Additional Fundraising Initiatives

We brought back Super Sunday, a lively day of community calls and camaraderie, which helped us finish our campaign on a high note. We also held a benefit performance of Falsettos at The Station Theatre, providing another opportunity to engage and fundraise.

Looking Forward

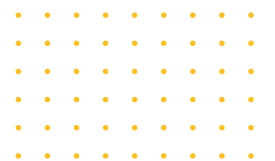
As we look ahead to the 2024-2025 campaign, we are committed to continuing our tradition of offering free community events while also introducing ticketed events to support our fundraising efforts.



Allocations

COMMITTEE REPORT

VP Arielle Weinstein



Members: Arielle Weinstein (chair), Dana Mor, Julia Robinson, Alison Rosenblum, Marc Snir, Diane Gutenkauf (ex-officio), Tania Ionin (ex-officio)



This year the Allocations Committee provided thoughtful adjustments to the grant process for our local Jewish organizations. Through these adjustments we are better able to communicate our goals, and the organizations can better communicate their goals to us.

The horrific events of October 7th shook us to the core. The Allocations Committee was in touch with organizations in Israel that we support to see how some of them have nimbly shifted priorities to address the needs of Israel during this very difficult time. In a new initiative this year, we are pleased to support the renovation of bomb shelters that are in great disrepair in poor areas of Israel through the new work of Tenufa Bakehila.

Through the tremendous support of our community we were able to increase the funding of each category (organizations in Israel, local Jewish organizations, and CUJF committees) by five percent. Thank you to the Jewish community for enabling this increase so that we can be a strong community that supports Israel, stands up to antisemitism, and contributes to sustain a vibrant Jewish community in the Champaign-Urbana area.

Allocations Principles



Klal Yisrael



Apolitical



Jewish Causes



Earmarking



Stability



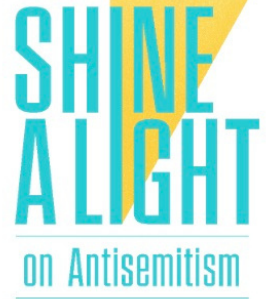
Focus



Accountability

Community Programming

The Champaign-Urbana Jewish Federation won a microgrant from Shinealight.com to Shine a Light on antisemitism and dispel the darkness for the 2023 Chanukah Season. CUJF shared the funds with our partner organizations to spread programming across the month and encourage partnerships around fighting antisemitism.



The Parade of Lights

CUJF, Illini Chabad, Illini Hillel, and Sinai Temple marched through downtown Champaign in a very Rugrats Chanukah float.

Shine a Light Shabbat

Illini Chabad hosts Shine a Light Chanukah Shabat

Interfaith Latkes and Lights

Illini Hillel partners with the YMCA of The University of Illinois, Religious Workers Association, and Interfaith in Action to light candles, eat latkes, and learn about Chanukah with the interfaith community.



“Shine a Light” Dinner and Concert with Rabbi Neal Katz

Sinai Temple hosts a concert with special guest Rabbi Neal Katz.

Shine a Light on Antisemitism and Anti LGBTQ Hate

CUJF partners with Uniting Pride and Keshet to host a panel on the intersectionality of antisemitism and anti LGBTQ sentiment in America.

The C-U Jewish Community Travels to Washington DC

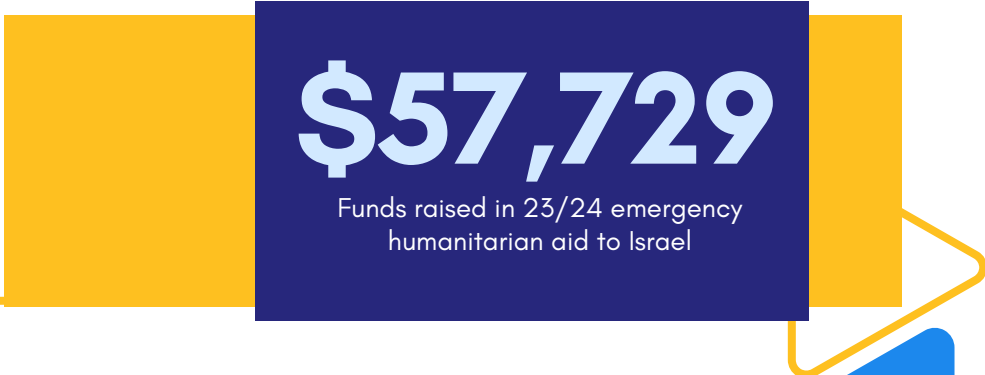
On Tuesday, November 14th, 2023, more than 200,000 individuals amassed on the national mall in Washington DC to demand Hamas frees the hostages and speak out against antisemitism. Of those, Champaign-Urbana sent a total of 103 people to the March, including 85 students and leadership from Sinai Temple, Champaign-Urbana Jewish Federation, Illini Chabad, and Illini Hillel. This unprecedented show of unity and shared purpose was made possible through the collaborative efforts of all four of these organizations.

The journey to the March for Israel was not only a physical one but a testament to the strength of our community when we join forces for a common cause. Bringing together these four organizations was a powerful statement of solidarity, showcasing our collective commitment to our community.

A significant factor in the success of this venture was the financial support we received by the generous underwriting of the participation of the Champaign-Urbana community and University of Illinois community by the Ellenbogen Charitable Trust. Their contribution is greatly appreciated. Additionally, we express our deepest appreciation to A. Mark Neuman for his facilitation of these gifts and orchestrating a pivotal experience for our students. It is truly significant that this gift came to our community on the occasion of the 9th yearzeit of Rabbi Isaac Neuman z"l. It is an honor and appropriate to mark our late Rabbi's yearzeit by this investment in the Jewish future. Furthermore, these generous contributions were complemented by the matching funds raised by Illini Chabad and Illini Hillel.

These contributions were not just monetary transactions; they were investments in education, advocacy, and the future of our community. They enabled us to send 103 passionate individuals to Washington, DC, to be a part of our national and global community of Jewry.

During our brief stay students got to personally meet and hear from an incredible array of luminaries, including Senator Richard Durbin, Representative Nikki Budzinski, Henry Ellenbogen, Managing Partner & Chief Investment Officer at Durable Capital Partners LP, Louis Dubin, Principal & Managing Partner, Redbrick LMD, Edward Luttwak, author, strategist and advisor to the US Department of Defense, Andy Hochberg, Chair of Domestic Policy and Government Affairs at JFNA, and Mark Neuman, Community Member and Benefactor (to us Ari, the Rabbi's son).



\$57,729

Funds raised in 23/24 emergency humanitarian aid to Israel



Thank you Lindsey and Henry Ellenbogen, your generosity has helped open the door to a brighter tomorrow.
Champaign-Urbana Jewish Federation



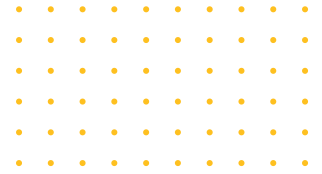
Financial Summary 2023-24



INTERNAL PROGRAMS	Budget	Revenue	Expenditure	Balance
Human Services	\$14,147		\$13,944	\$223
Chevrah Kadisha	\$10,184	\$2,110	\$2,883	\$9,412
Community Events	\$6,000	\$55,529	\$59,879	\$1,696
CHAI Seniors	\$6,063	\$1,851	\$5,598	\$2,323
Holocaust Education	\$12,554	\$7,415	\$20,065	\$ -96
PJ Library	\$4,000	\$396	\$4,389	\$7
Camp Scholarships	\$7,000		\$6,530	\$470
OPERATIONAL COSTS	Budget	Revenue	Expenditure	Balance
Administration	\$23,854		\$25,127	\$-1,272.67
Campaign	\$8,000	\$6,111.97	\$10,422.11	\$4,189.86
ED Discretionary	\$ 1,000	\$ 0.00	\$ 644.18	\$356
Payroll	\$139,021	\$3,205	\$133,674	\$8,552
JFNA Membership	\$9,400		\$8,572	\$828
General Reserves	\$ 25,000	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 25,000
Emergency Fund	\$ 10,000	\$53,372	\$57,729	\$5,644
TOTAL				
TOTAL BUDGET	\$276,223	\$129,990	\$349,456	\$57,332

EXTERNAL ALLOCATIONS	
Local Organizations	
Illini Chabad	\$9,300
Illini Hillel	\$38,000
Sinai Temple	\$23,000
Israel Organizations	
Aviv for Holocaust	\$2,000
Bina	\$2,000
Birthright Israel	\$2,807
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	\$92,457

Budget & Allocations 2024-25



PROGRAM	ALLOCATED	CARRYOVER	EARMARK/OBLIGATED	TOTAL
INTERNAL PROGRAMS				
Camp Scholarships	\$7,000			\$7,000
Chai Seniors		\$2,744		\$2,744
Chevra Kadisha		\$9,162		\$9,162
Community Events	\$6,000			\$6,000
Holocaust Education	\$11,200		\$1,600	\$12,800
Human Services	\$7,000		\$3,473	\$10,473
PJ Library	\$4,500			\$4,500
Total				\$56,679
GRANTS				
Local Organizations				
Illini Chabad	\$9,765		\$186	\$9,951
Illini Hillel	\$40,000			\$40,000
Sinai Temple	\$24,150			\$24,150
Israel Organizations				
Aviv for Holocaust	\$2,525		\$500	\$3,025
Bina	\$2,525			\$2,525
Birthright Israel	\$3,200			\$3,200
Friends of IDF	\$1,400			\$1,400
Jaffa Institute	\$2,525			\$2,525
Hand in Hand	\$2,525			\$2,525
No2 Violence	\$2,525		\$83	\$2,608
Save a Child's Heart	\$2,525		\$500	\$3,025
Yad Sarah	\$1,400		\$150	\$1,550
Tenufa Bakehila	\$2,525			\$2,525
Total				\$99,009
OPERATIONAL COSTS				
Administration	\$31,958			\$31,958
Campaign	\$9,400			\$9,400
Discretionary	\$1,000			\$1,000
Payroll	\$136,958			\$136,958
Emergency Fund	\$0	\$5,644		\$5,644
General Reserve	\$0	\$25,000		\$25,000
TOTAL				\$209,960
TOTAL BUDGET				\$361,648



Champaign-Urbana
Jewish Endowment Foundation

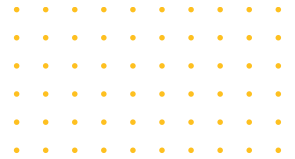
ANNUAL REPORT **2023-2024**—

503 E John St
Champaign, IL

217.367.9872

www.cujef.org

Letter From the CU Jewish Endowment Foundation

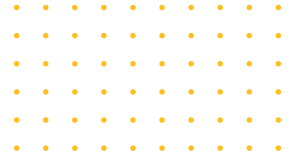


Chair Alexander Scheeline

Dear friends,

A subsidiary of the CU Jewish Federation, the CU Jewish Endowment Foundation is dedicated to preserving and enhancing the quality of Jewish life in our community by establishing and maintaining a secure financial base for the wide range of programs and services supported by its individual funds. To secure long-term support for Jewish organizations and individuals in the Champaign-Urbana area, CUJEF was established to receive, hold, invest, and manage endowments and quasi-endowments. It acts semi-independently of CUJF to manage and administer its assets and to provide the community with a means for long-term support of Jewish programs and institutions, either through donations to an existing endowment or creation of new ones, tailored to the donor's focus. CUJEF manages endowments for CUJF, Sinai Temple and Illini Hillel. Certain endowments also support targeted opportunities at Illini Chabad.

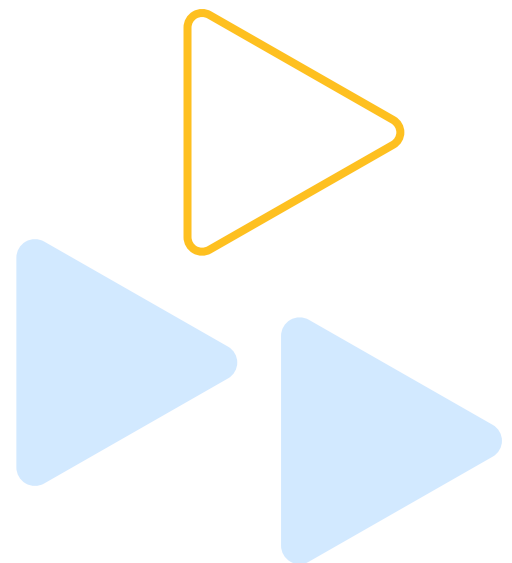
The majority of CUJEF investments are in a diversified pool of low-expense stock and bond index funds. Earnings are allocated to each endowment in proportion to its share of total funds managed. All funds are audited annually by an independent certified accounting firm as part of CUJF's audit. CUJEF disburses funds following review of proposals submitted to its Board.



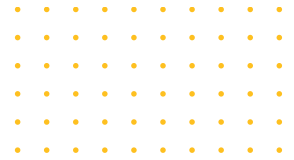
Board minutes are publicly available upon contacting the CUJF office. Anyone interested in establishing a new endowment should contact either Ma'ayan Weinberg or Alex Scheeline. While donor interests are paramount in choosing the focus of an endowment, the Foundation maintains a list of unmet needs that could benefit from additional long-term investment.

In addition to acting on requests to support programs at Sinai, Chabad, and Hillel, we supported such on-going activities as the CHAI Seniors program supported by the Goldberg-Gordon-Yairi and Miller funds, we welcomed the following new endowments: Donald M. and Joli L. Ginsberg Lecture Fund, CUJF Infrastructure Fund, Mitchell and Frances Harris Golden Peacock Fund for Yiddish and Other Jewish Heritage Culture Programs, Mitchell A. Harris and Frances F. Harris PACE Fund, Andrea Hoffman Honorary Fund for Illini Hillel, and Abram L. Sachar Memorial Fund for Hillel. In addition, we anticipate two more funds to be active by the end of the fiscal year: Lilly and David Gingold Holocaust and Tolerance Education Outreach Fund and Howard (Howie) Jacobson Fund for Illini Hillel. The Development subcommittee of CUJEF met with 21 community members to encourage development of additional legacy gifts.

We thank those Board members ending their service on June 30, 2024 including Datia Rosenberg Bross, Jennie France, Margie Harris, Tania Ionin, Ira Levenson, Holly Rosenkranz, and Kathryn Weisbaum, for their insight and integrity. We also thank Marcey Goldstein for her work on bookkeeping and helping us segue to our new fund accountants, PGCalc.



CUJEF 2023-2024



At the end of FY2023-24, funds entrusted to CUJEF totaled \$5,028,590.
The operating and investment costs for the year were \$44,968.

Table 1

2023-2024 Disbursements and Grant Expenditures		
Annual Campaign Disbursements		
CUJF Annual Campaign	PACE funds, PAGE fund, and disbursement from Robinson Quasi-Endowment	\$64,457.62
Sinai Temple	Ginsburg, Libman, Sudman, Cohen, Hamburg, Korry, Linowes, Avner, General, Klein, Robinson	\$33,864.27
Illini Hillel	Centennial, Kiddush, Eruv, Robinson, Weiner	\$5,445.70
Total		\$103,767.59

Grant Expenditures to Support Specific Programs in 2023-2024		
Camp Scholarships for five campers	Shapiro Fund, Sinai Sisterhood Fund	\$500
Michael Winograd Performance	Small Fund	\$3,000
Install accessible door openers in Illini Hillel bathrooms	Hillel Robinson Building Fund	\$9,056
Pamela Rae Schuller Disability Workshops	Zimmerman Fund	\$4,635
Review CU Torahs for repairs	Hymowitz Fund	\$2,700
Community Chanukah Celebration	Small Fund	\$1,500
Jewish Learning Institute Classes with Illini Chabad	Small Fund	\$3,000
CHAI Seniors Programming	Goldberg-Gordon-Yairi and Miller Funds	\$6,000
Purim Drag Show	Allen Fund	\$2,695
Russian Students Judaism Initiative	Allen Fund	\$1,350
Terry Schwartzberg; Community Yom Hashoah observance	Marco Fund	\$1,700
Zach Mayer concert (September, 2024)	Small Fund	\$3,000
Yiddish Songs of Social Change (Fall, 2024)	Small Fund	\$2,500
TOTAL		\$41,636

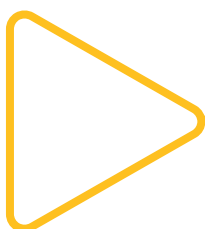


Table 2

Market Value of CUJEF Funds as of June 30, 2024	
General Endowment	\$272,214
Designated Endowment	\$4,202,872
Robinson Quasi Endowment	\$398,890
Klein Quasi Endowment	\$17,535.85
Operating Account	\$15,396
Designated Checking Account	\$121,682
Total	\$5,028,590

Table 3

Operating Expenses for CUJEF 2023-24	
Professional Services	\$7,237.01
Operating Costs	\$24,267.49
Bank Fees	\$13,463
Total	\$44,968

Table 4

Donated Capital		
Fund Name	Donations in 2023-24	Cumulative Donations
Supporting Community Cultural Program		
Dr. Samuel and Sadie Small Fund for Jewish Arts and Culture	\$490.70	\$88,634.70
Supporting CUJF		
CUJF PACE Fund	\$300.00	\$257,371.49
Allen and Elaine Avner PACE Fund	\$0.00	\$53,010.00
Dan and Frances Bloomfield PACE Fund	\$0.00	\$30,921.00
Lebenson PACE Fund	\$5,000.00	\$15,000.00
Helen and Ezra Levin PACE Fund	\$0.00	\$15,000.00
Lefkovitz-LeRoy PACE Fund	\$0.00	\$9,798.00
Eli Benjamin Mandel PACE Fund	\$0.00	\$10,864.00
Lee Melhado PACE Fund	\$2,000.00	\$23,010.00
Jack Simon PACE Fund	\$0.00	\$61,000.00
Leo and Anne Weisel PACE Fund	\$0.00	\$18,108.12
Lynn and Ira Wachtel PACE Fund	\$1,000.00	\$14,545.00
Linda Bauer PACE Fund	\$9,610.73	\$13,952.83
Supporting CUJF Human Service Committee		
Guttenberg PAGE Fund	\$0.00	\$50,000.00
Supporting Educational Enrichment for Youth		
Josh Gottheil Youth to Israel Fund	\$100.00	\$71,270.80
Sinai Sisterhood Camp Scholarship Fund	\$0.00	\$17,378.80
Ehud and Janie Yairi Fund for Tel Aviv University	\$0.00	\$82,104.00
Michael and Elizabeth Shapiro Camp Scholarship Fund	\$166.25	\$10,706.25
Supporting Program for Seniors		
Goldberg-Gordon-Yairi Fund for Seniors	\$0.00	\$26,749.00
Libby and Harry Miller Memorial Fund	\$0.00	\$11,204.00

Table 4 Continued

Donated Capital Continued		
Fund Name	Donations in 2022-23	Cumulative Donations
Supporting the University of Illinois Hillel Foundation		
Susan Linowes Allen Memorial Fund	\$0.00	\$124,978.00
Hillel Director's Fund	\$57.59	\$28,893.09
Hillel Centennial Fund	\$24,525.00	\$105,520.46
Hillel Kiddush Fund	\$280.00	\$11,580.00
Hillel Robinson Building Fund	\$0.00	\$89,491.95
Hillel Robinson Programming Fund	\$0.00	\$75,553.42
Dorothy Denzig-Krakower & David Krakower Memorial Torah Endowment Fund	\$0.00	\$10,186.00
Weiner Endowment Fund for Hillel	\$0.00	\$30,772.57
Hillel Eruv Fund	\$9,458.36	\$19,566.27
Supporting Holocaust Education and Memorials		
Jack and Sayde Marco Holocaust Fund	\$1,813.18	\$66,398.59
Harry Nelson Memorial Award Endowment	\$0.00	\$7,867.53
Supporting Sinai Temple		
Cohen Garden Fund	\$0.00	\$4,648.95
Joli and Donald Ginsberg Library Fund	\$36.00	\$13,541.00
Glaser Concert Fund	\$100.00	\$27,526.00
Hamburg Childhood Education Fund	\$0.00	\$16,583.50
Korry Confirmation Fund	\$0.00	\$19,935.42
Lewis Family Fund	\$0.00	\$20,083.00
Clarence and Adele Libman Religious School Fund	\$144.00	\$50,234.00
Linowes Bequest	\$0.00	\$50,000.00
Loeb Education Fund	\$0.00	\$23,679.00
Sudman Rabbinic Endowment	\$0.00	\$158,722.45
Alfred and Natalie Smith Building Endowment	\$20,000.00	\$73,632.05
Sinai Avner Fund	\$0.00	\$200,000.00
Sinai Board Discretionary Fund	\$0.00	\$24,764.00
Sinai General Endowment Fund	\$0.00	\$200,521.82
Marvin Steinberg Scholar-in-Residence Fund	\$225.00	\$33,863.50
Blanche and Seymour Sudman Rabbi's Discretionary Fund	\$0.00	\$158,722.45
Stanley and Joan Levy Youth Leadership Fund	\$400.00	\$22,401.00
Zimmerman Lecture Fund	\$0.00	\$11,314.00
Supporting Sinai Temple, Illini Hillel, Illini Chabad		
Hymowitz Fund (repair, purchase, cleaning of religious objects)	\$100,000.00	\$100,150.00
Unrestricted		
General Fund	\$500.00	\$68,235
Total		\$2,729,993.01



Champaign-Urbana
Jewish Federation



Contact Us :



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217-367-9872



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