



# Foundation *Insider*

## Message From the Investment Committee Chair



As I write this commentary in early February, it is useful to reflect on the last calendar year. 2020 was not an “ordinary year,” as if there is such a thing. This was a time of a rapidly spreading, life threatening Coronavirus, that decimated our economy and dramatically changed our lives. After a sudden downturn in the equity markets in early Spring and then a recovery in the investment world well ahead of a recovery on “main street,” this was a year of increased volatility and risk.

Our endowment is focused on appropriate risk taking in order to maintain attractive growth over a long horizon. Capital preservation in times of unusual risk is a fundamental tenet for long term success. While it is typical for our endowment to be invested in equities in a range of 55 to 65%, our investment committee, with strong advice from our OCIO (Outsourced Chief Investment Officer), Masood Vojdani chose to dial down the risk in our equity exposure to 50%.

We are pleased with our 2020 investment returns yielding a 7.36% return, above our 10 and 15 year returns of 6.92% and 6.51%, respectively. We realized that our conservative posture could result in missing some upside in a very strong market, which occurred in the fourth quarter of the year. Today, our equity exposure has again risen to over 60%, as we see optimism in the expansion of vaccinations and the slowing of new virus infections (even though from a very high level). It will still take several months for the economy to reach prior levels.

During the period of lower equity exposure, our conservative posture had our fixed income assets at higher-than-normal levels, and we earned very little income with our short duration policy (again to avoid risk in these bond holdings).

Today our total endowment assets are at new highs. We thank all endowment fund holders for their continued confidence in the Jewish Foundation mission and our investment committee management.



Thomas R. Sloan  
Investment Committee Chair

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