



Jewish Federation®
OF LOUISVILLE



2021

ANNUAL REPORT





Dear JCL Family,

Our religious teachings and our history offer many examples of overcoming struggles. In many ways they provide a roadmap for resilience. This year we had to draw on our innermost strength and support one another more than ever. Not since the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic has Jewish Louisville known a time resembling the challenges of this past year.

But we are a resilient people, and this year we have learned to pivot, to respond, and to continue to ask how we can help. We have partnered in creative ways, shared online activities and programming and made new opportunities available to our members and donors that allowed us to stay connected to each other. It has been an honor to have witnessed how our JCL community came together in this year of separation, to help one another and to meet the multi-faceted needs of so many.

In this annual report, we hope that you enjoy reading short synopses of stories that we pulled from *Community* that highlight the JCC and Federation's unique 2020-21 year.

Although it was a year of unprecedented challenges, it was also a year of new beginnings. We are forever grateful to each of you, as well as our JCL board of directors, our wonderful staff, our donors, volunteers and our JCC members. Together, we carried our JCL through this pandemic year and together, we achieved once-in-a-lifetime milestones and memories.

B'Shalom,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ralph Green'.

Ralph Green
Board Chair,
Jewish Community Center
and Jewish Federation

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sara Klein Wagner'.

Sara Klein Wagner
President & CEO,
Jewish Community Center
and Jewish Federation

2021 Incoming Board Members

Nominated to serve 3-year terms commencing with the fiscal year 2021:

Ross Cohen
Jasmine Farrier
Amy Joseph Landon

Re-elected to serve 3-year term commencing with the fiscal year 2021:

William Altman

Nominated to serve as officers of the Board for fiscal year 2021:

Ralph Green – Chair
David Kaplan – Chair Elect
Becky Ruby Swansburg – Vice Chair
Jeffrey Goldberg – Treasurer
Beth Salamon – Secretary
Jon Fleischaker – Immediate Past Chair

Appointed to serve on the Board in accordance with the By-laws due to the positions they hold:

Ariel Kronenberg - Program Cabinet Chair
Cantor Sharon Hordes - President of the Louisville Board of Rabbis and Cantors

Jewish Community of Louisville 2021-2022 Board of Directors

Ralph Green, Chair
David Kaplan, Chair Elect
Becky Ruby Swansburg, Vice-Chair
Dr. Jeff Goldberg, Treasurer
Beth Salamon, Secretary/JCRC Chair
Jon Fleischaker, Immediate Past Chair

Madeline Abramson
William Altman
Mark Behr
Chris Brice
Ross Cohen
Jasmine Farrier
Cantor Sharon Hordes, LBRC Chair
Amy Joseph Landon
Ariel Kronenberg, Program Chair
Robin Miller
George Polur
Linda Spielberg
Ben Vaughan

Jewish Federation and JCC of Louisville Senior Staff

SARA KLEIN WAGNER
*President &
Chief Executive Officer*

STACY GORDON-FUNK
*Senior Vice President
& Chief Philanthropy
Officer*

THOMAS WISSINGER
*Vice President &
Chief Operating Officer*

ALISON ROEMER
*Senior Director of
Jewish Journeys*



JUNE
2020

Kids returning to JCC as Camp J, ELC reopen their programs



“We’re really excited to be reopening, even with all the restrictions,” said Early Learning Center Director Jessica Bush. “We are ready to have our kiddos back and to get back towards normalcy.” Students will have their temperatures checked every morning, and their parents will answer a series of questions (have their children had contact with someone known to have the virus, are they eating and sleeping normally, etc.). Teachers will undergo the same routine. Camp J began its seven-week season with about 125 campers. Each unit will accommodate up to 10 kids and two camp counselors.

LIFE & LEGACY tops more than \$11 million in commitments in Louisville

JULY
2020

In Louisville, LIFE & LEGACY has secured 333 local donors, who have made 467 commitments (Some donors are supporting more than one agency or synagogue). The effort is part of a national LIFE & LEGACY initiative that has that has secured more than \$1 billion in commitments. “Our work continues,” Shelly Gillman, chair of Louisville’s LIFE & LEGACY initiative, said in a statement. “While it has been made more difficult because of COVID-19 issues we continue to pursue our Jewishly committed supporters who give us hope that we will be successful in our efforts to make Louisville a meaningful Jewish Community for all of us and our heirs.”



BLACK LIVES MATTER

A FEMALE PERSPECTIVE

JULY 17, 2020 • 12 P.M.

JULY
2020



Alice Houston



Keshia Swan



Jackie McGranahan

Moderated by Krystal Goodner

The Jewish Federation of Louisville and the NCJW co-hosted a virtual community conversation about how racial inequality specifically affects women, families, and neighborhoods and what we can do to bring about change. The event included activist and philanthropist Alice Houston, VoteNowKY chair Keshia Swan, and ACLU policy strategist Jackie McGranahan and was moderated by Krystal Goodner, Director of Communications at Simmons College of Kentucky.

JCC program offers 'normalcy' for students as schools stay closed

AUGUST
2020

Helping parents to cope with the shutdown of schools and virtual classes, the Jewish Community Center opened a camp-style school support program – Camp J 365 – which facilitated school instruction at the Dutchmans Lane campus while also offering extracurricular activities. Kids from Jefferson County Public Schools and other area school systems participated.



OCTOBER
2020

Kaplan to chair a Federation Annual Campaign unlike any other

HEREfor**GOOD**



David Kaplan knows well that the Jewish Federation of Louisville's 2020-21 Annual Campaign will be unlike any other. But for Kaplan, a Louisville attorney and the newly minted chairman of the campaign, those very challenges are why he took the job. With Kaplan's appointment, the Annual Campaign is underway. This year's goal is to raise \$2 million, an increase from the \$1.8 million garnered by the 2019-20 drive. He touted the Early Learning Center and the fitness center, but he especially singled out the work for seniors, noting that the JCC and JFCA have continued providing outreach, meals and person-to-person connections despite the social distancing. He called the JCC the "front porch of the Jewish community," saying all of Louisville is welcome at its pools, playing fields, gyms, fitness center and social programs.

JCC breaks ground for future center; meets matching grant challenge

OCTOBER
2020

Community leaders kicked off construction of the new Jewish Community Center in early October with a groundbreaking ceremony that was done in person on the campus, though streamed via Zoom. The event capped a two-year campaign to raise at least \$40 million for the project, which it exceeded. In addition to speeches by Jewish and secular leaders, many of whom shared their recollections going to the JCC to play basketball or attend camp, dozens of children from the Early Learning Center, wearing yellow hardhats and brandishing homemade signs, looked on as the grownups ceremoniously turned dirt in boxes with gold-painted shovels.





Louisville Jewish Film Festival returns

The 23rd Louisville Jewish Film Festival happened in February as scheduled, though not in a cinema. Because of COVID-19, the LJFF took on a whole new look: No in-theatre screenings, no post-screening receptions, a totally virtual experience. In addition, many of the 11 films slated for pay-per-view screening reflect the theme of diversity, reflecting the struggles for social justice that were, and still are, happening in America.



Trager Family JCC Named

MARCH
2021

The state-of-the-art facility will be named the Trager Family JCC, honoring the family that made the first major significant pledge to the campaign. “This campaign has just been amazing,” said Dr. Ralph Green, chair of the Jewish Community of Louisville board of directors. “We set out on this goal years ago thinking we that we could raise this amount of money, but we were truly blown away by how quickly and passionately the Trager family, our community, JHFE and many granting organizations came forward to contribute.”



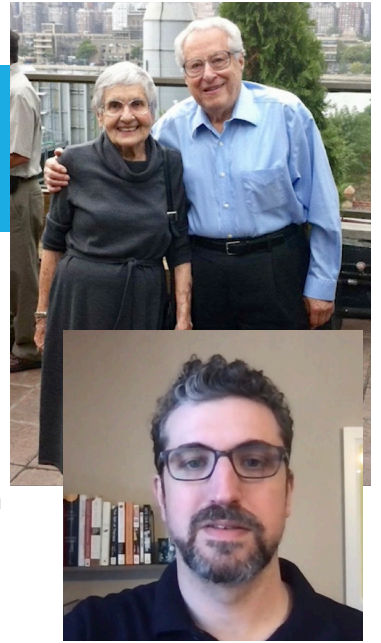
“The Trager family has demonstrated over and over again their passion for our JCC and the entire Louisville community,” said Stacy Gordon-Funk, senior vice-president and chief development officer for the JCC and Federation. “We could not be more proud to have leaders and philanthropists like the Trager family support our new JCC in such a meaningful way.”



APRIL
2021

Grandson remembers Ann, Sandor Klein at annual Yom HaShoah program

Ann and Sandor Klein lived a truly American story. Childhood sweethearts from Hungary, Sandor left for America in 1938, serving as an Army Air Corps sergeant during World War II. Ann survived the Holocaust, went on to recount her story many times and became the inspiration for a state law mandating Shoah education in Kentucky. Their grandson, Zach Kleinsmith, a Louisville native retold his grandparents' stories at this year's community Yom HaShoah program on April 8 – the second year in a row that the program has had to be pre-recorded due to the pandemic. Zach's brother, Eli, recorded and produced his brother's video. Their parents, Linda Klein and Marc Smith, still live in Louisville.



APRIL
2021

JCC hires senior adult, and senior camp directors

Two additions to the JCC staff were named in April: Dara Cohen, senior adult programming director; David Siskin, director of camping. Cohen served on the board of the Meyer Food Pantry at the Jewish Family & Career Services for many years. She will provide Meals on Wheels to seniors and coordinate senior lunches, activities, events and classes. Siskin has worked for JCCs in Phoenix, Tampa, Charleston, as well as Louisville, where he was previously the middle school director.



Dara Cohen



David Siskin

MAY
2021

Filson digitizes past newspapers, available online



After two years of work, a browsable, searchable platform for past issues of *Community* has debuted. The Filson Historical Society and the Jewish Community of Louisville hosted a virtual program for the *Community* Newspaper Digital Archives on May 10. The platform will give Jewish Louisville a powerful tool to research the history of the community in general or in segments: synagogues, agencies, historic dates and individuals, or just someone's bar mitzvah or wedding announcement. The Filson will eventually add digitized issues of the *Kentucky Jewish Post & Opinion* and the *YMHA Chronicler*. The JCL Archive Committee, co-chaired by Frank Weisberg and Fred Joseph, have also been a major part of the effort.

Time for Transformation concludes with reveal of New Beginnings quilt

MAY
2021

A four-month JCC program meant to help people through the darkest days of the COVID-19 pandemic has culminated in May with a work of art that exudes light. At the final session of the virtual program, Time for Transformation, on May 3, participants were treated to a “reveal” of the program’s crowning achievement: a quilt they worked on with fiber artist Pat Sturtzel, which celebrates their faith in the future. “New Beginnings,” as the quilt is called, is a multicolor 53-by-67-inch work of art depicting a dawning over a lake; several symbols of hope are stitched into the design. As many as 40 participants contributed embroidered pieces to the project.



Nikol Kozlov



Romi Dan

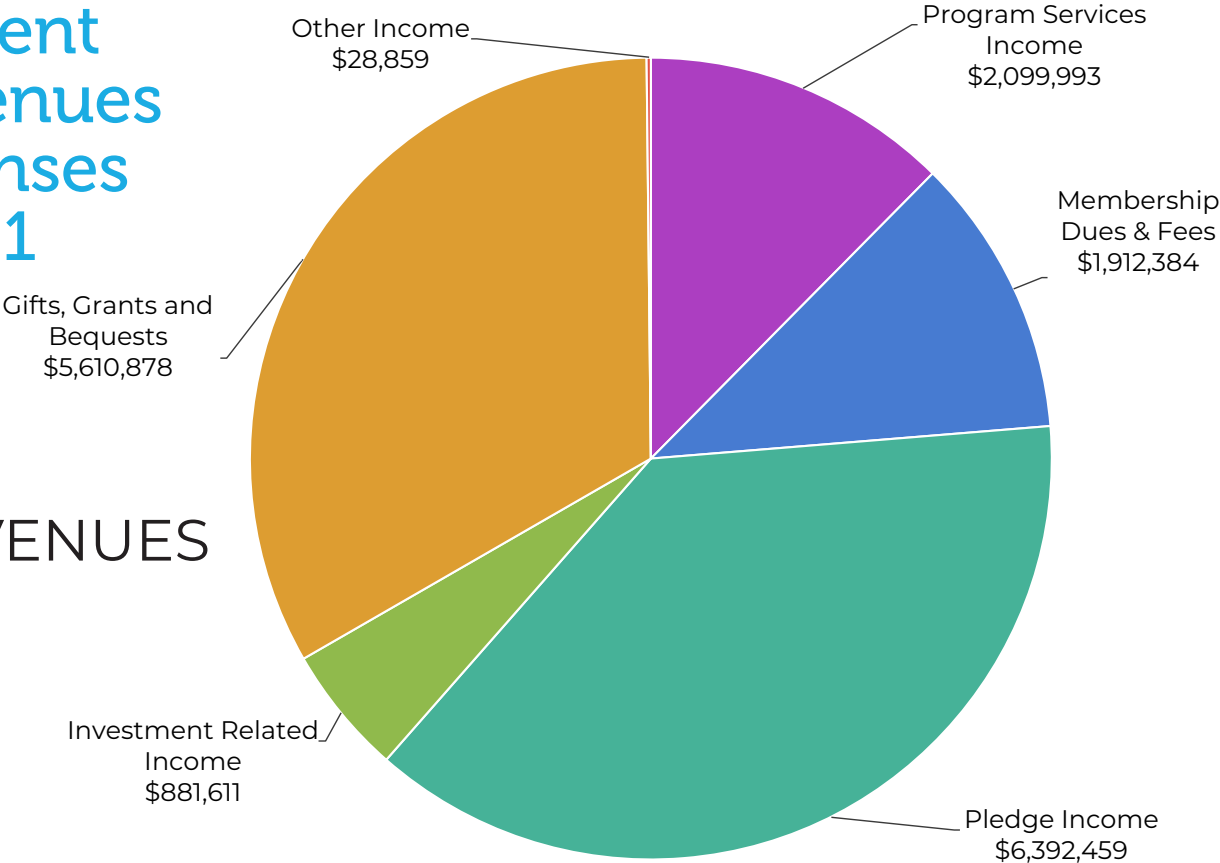
New shlichim bound for Louisville

MAY
2021

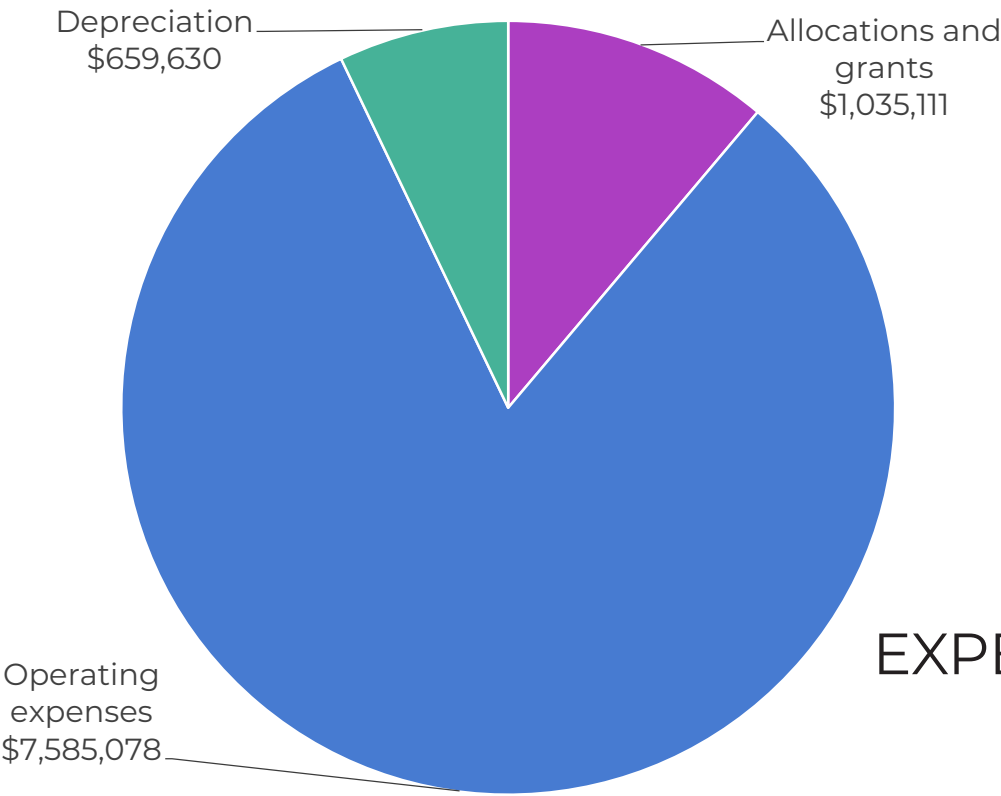
Two Israeli shlichim joined Camp J for the summer: Nikol Kozlov and Romi Dan. Shlichim are teachers and cultural emissaries at Jewish summer camps, bringing the Israel experience to the campers. Originally from Holon, Kozlov, 20, was a mashakithod (teaching and command NCO) during her military service, commanding a course that prepared lone soldiers and combat soldiers for life as “citizens.” Dan, 20, who is from Kefar Yona, led soldiers as a search and rescue guide during her military service. Kozlov and Dan will be in Louisville through Aug. 7.

Statement of Revenues & Expenses 2020-21

REVENUES



EXPENSES



Change in Unrealized Net Investment Gains: (\$354,630)	Fund Balances Beginning of Year: \$34,401,553	Fund Balances End of Year: \$41,693,258
--	---	---

2021 Award Winners

Blanche B. Ottenheimer Award

ALICE AND WADE HOUSTON



Ronald and Marie Abrams Volunteer of the Year Award

MARSHA ROTH



Arthur S. Kling Award

KATHLEEN HORN



BBYO TEEN AWARDS



THE TONY LEVITAN AWARD 2020-21

The Tony Levitan Award goes to an outstanding high school senior who was an athlete while in high school and demonstrated outstanding character and leadership throughout their participation in team sports and Jewish communal events.

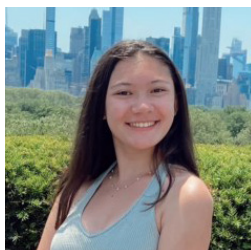
The Tony Levitan Award goes to Yael Wagner and Eli Schramko.



THE STACY MARKS NISENBAUM AWARD 2020-21

The Stacy Marks Nisenbaum Award is presented to an incoming junior or senior in high school who is a leader in their BBYO chapter, working to strengthen and grow the BBYO program. The recipient is also active in his/her school and in the community at large.

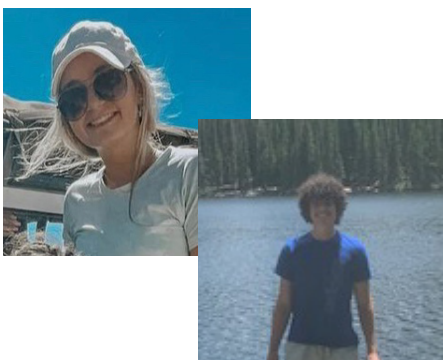
The Stacy Marks Nisenbaum Award goes to Jenna Shaps and Katy Roemer.



THE ELLEN FAYE GARMON AWARD 2020-21

The Ellen Faye Garmon Award is awarded to an incoming junior or senior in high school who is involved in their BBYO chapter and community, working to strengthen and grow the BBYO program.

The Ellen Faye Garmon Award goes to Nila Rothman.



THE STUART PRESSMA AWARD 2020-21

The Stuart Pressma Award is awarded to an incoming junior or senior in high school who is involved in their BBYO chapter and has a strong devotion for community service while working to strengthen and grow the BBYO program.

The Stuart Pressma Award goes to Reagan Rothschild and Alex Schwartz.



jewishlouisville.org

