IMPACT REPORT

We Grow Stronger Together

THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF OMAHA

AWARDS NIGHT & ANNUAL MEETING
Monday, June 1, 2020 at 7PM
Visit WWW.JEWISHOMAHA.ORG to join us virtually!
Broadcasting LIVE on YouTube and Facebook
For the first time ever, you will be able to enjoy the Jewish Federation of Omaha’s Awards Night and Annual Meeting from the comfort of your home! Join us on Monday, June 1 at 7:00 p.m. Be sure to visit www.jewishomaha.org to connect to our Facebook page or YouTube channel to participate in honoring our award recipients. The evening will also include performances by the JCC Dance Training Company, the Potash Twins and more!

Welcome
ALAN POTASH, CEO

President’s Remarks
JON MEYERS

2020 Annual Campaign Report
2019 Volunteer of the Year Awards
Community Service Award
Robert & Ellen Gordman Jewish Teen Leadership Awards
Jody & Neal Malashock Award for Professional Excellence
COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund Report
Lois Jeanne Schrager Memorial Young Leadership Award
Bruce Fellman Memorial Young Leadership Award
Capital Campaign Report
Phil & Terri Schrager Spirit of Federation Awards
Humanitarian of the Year

MISSION
To build and sustain a strong and vibrant Omaha Jewish community and to support Jews in Israel and around the world.

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We are excited to share this Impact Report and invite you to join us June 1st from your homes for the Jewish Federation of Omaha’s Awards Night and Annual Meeting. With our current situation, it was no small feat getting here! This Impact Report will serve as a program for the event, honoring our amazing volunteers and highlighting the work we have done on our campus for our community.

As the JFO, we are a unique and complex organization tasked with building and sustaining the Omaha Jewish community. Jewish Omaha – our parents, our grandparents, our children has seen and experienced a great deal in our 117-year history. We are a $23 million organization recently completing our largest annual campaign. We have the strongest JCC membership in our history. Enrollment at the Pennie Z. Davis Child Development Center is the highest it’s been in a long time. The Rose Blumkin Jewish Home has a strong census and is looking ahead to possible expansion. It remains a jewel on our campus. We saw a significant energy and vitality in the work of our agencies.

The arrival of the coronavirus saw our staff nimbly pivot – to closing RBJH to visitors and vendors, to closing the campus itself, to providing online content. The Virtual J is really something special with nearly 200 videos available with content ranging from exercise, cooking, story time, science experiments, dance classes and theater games. The CDC teachers are posting content to stay in touch with their students. To date our Financial Resource Development team and JCC staff have made nearly 2,000 phone calls checking in with community members. Jewish Family Service has conducted nearly 200 virtual therapy sessions via their Telemental health services. We commemorated Yom HaShoah and celebrated Yom HaAtzmaut apart from one another but still together. We established a COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund to help address community needs related to the coronavirus and expect requests for assistance to increase as this continues. We are so proud of these creative and flexible efforts to keep our community connected. Equally commendable is the collaborative nature of this work.

Construction continues on our JCC renovation project. The indoor family rec pool will be complete soon. The family locker room is one of a kind in Omaha. Work is progressing on the men’s locker room and health spa. We are excited to show off the progress that has been made! Work has been done to prep the outdoor pool so we’ll be ready to go when we are able.

We have strong and committed leaders on our campus, eager to do the heavy lifting to stay in touch and bring the campus through COVID-19. We would like to personally thank each one.

We are also fortunate to have an involved and supportive Board of Directors. They hold the community’s best interests front and center. They share their experience, knowledge and understanding on a regular basis. We would like to acknowledge each of our board members and thank them for their service.

Thank you!
With the involvement of over 150 volunteers and almost 1,500 donors, this year’s Campaign raised $3,447,955.

Thanks to your generosity, our community showed that “We Grow Stronger, Together.” For the second year in a row, we have established an all-time record for Campaign funds raised...eclipsing last year’s results by almost $100,000. This only happens because of YOU and we are grateful!

Your support allows our agencies to weather the storm of a global pandemic, care for community seniors and friends in need, provide enriching Jewish experiences for our youth, strengthen our relationships with the global Jewish world, and maintain a vibrant and active Jewish Omaha campus. Additionally, and most importantly, your support helps us build meaningful relationships with individuals empowering them to make a lifelong connection to the Jewish community.

Thank You

2020 Campaign Co-Chairs
Bruce Friedlander and Sharon Kirshenbaum
FEDERATION SPONSORED EVENTS

This year 955 unique individuals attended one of the following Federation sponsored events. Additionally, 118 of those individuals attended more than one event.

A NIGHT WITH THE STARS
Community Event Chairs
Jess & Shane Cohn and Danny Cohn & Andrew Miller

We kicked off our 2020 Annual Campaign with 380 community members representing every Jewish organization in Omaha to honor our agencies and listen to the inspirational message of Hollywood guest speaker, Joshua Malina.

In 24 hours, 285 donors pledged $1.1 Million. This is the most money a campaign has ever raised in a single day. Not only did this generosity unlock $50,000 from a Community Challenge Grant, the increased pledges and new gifts totaled $74,863!

HANUKKAH EXTRAVAGANZA WITH PJ LIBRARY
Event Chairs
Bradley, Marissa, Dayton & Austin Abramson; Zachary, Libbie, Ilana, Ziva & Netanya Appleby-Leo; David, Jennie, Sadie & Walter Beckman; Danny Cohn, Andrew Miller & Nora Miller-Cohn; Joshua, Anna & Ariella Priluck; Chad, Michelle, Hannah & Charlotte Whyte

350 children, parents and grandparents came together to celebrate Hanukkah, Tzedakah and community at the Omaha Children’s museum. Each child went home with a moon jar and a dollars worth of pennies from Young Jewish Giving, to teach the importance of spending, saving, and sharing.

FED EVENT
Event Chairs
Mike Chapman, Jessica Feinstein, and Charity Murow

At this year’s two FED events, 107 members of Omaha’s Generation NOW (Under 45) community came together to show that the next generation of Jewish Omaha is in strong hands. The first one was a summer Happy Hour in the Blackstone District and the second was a “Night in the Country” Pub Crawl through Countryside Village.

SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL HAPPENS WHEN COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER
Event Chairs
Kelly Kirk and Stephanie Patsalis

345 educators, students, Holocaust survivors, and Jewish, Greek and Omaha community members came together to show how hope will outshine hate as we heard how residents of a Greek island saved the lives of one Jewish family and how that narrative connected multiple generations across three continents 60 years later.
2019 AGENCY VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE/COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE – CAROL AND ALAN PARSOW

The ADL/CRC are deeply grateful to Alan and Carol Parsow for their time and energy spent as volunteers. Alan served four years on the board and this past year, together with Carol chaired the ADL/CRC’s annual summer fundraiser, Rosé at the Rose. The event successfully raised $25,000, $10,000 more than the previous year. Alan and Carol have garnered increased support for the ADL/CRC by reaching out to community members who had not been involved previously with the agency.

JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER – KAREN FLAYHART

Karen became involved with the Omaha JCC as soon as her family relocated to Omaha three years ago. She immediately agreed to be a board member and takes an active role in the JCC’s youth programming. Her past experience in working with non-profit organizations has helped Karen provide assistance at the CDC in fundraising efforts. Her children participate in many of the J’s sports and summer programs and Karen is always willing to lend a helping hand if any of the coaches and instructors ask.

INSTITUTE FOR HOLOCAUST EDUCATION – IHE HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR AND 2G SPEAKERS - DR. FRED KADER, KITTY WILLIAMS, HAZZAN MICHAEL KRAUSMAN AND DR. STEVE WEEES

These four members of the IHE community speak to groups throughout Nebraska and Western Iowa and together have logged hundreds of miles to speak with the message of “Never Again”. Dr. Fred Kader, a hidden child and Kitty Williams, a survivor of both Auschwitz and a labor camp are direct survivors of the Holocaust. Hazzan Michael Krausman, tells his father’s story and Dr. Steve Wees, tells his Mother’s story. Their lessons teach of empathy, understanding and the importance of not being a by-stander. Each, through sharing their story, further remind the listener that they have the power to change the world and that hope and love will defeat hate.
JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE – BRUCE MEYERS
For years, Bruce has been a willing and faithful volunteer at Jewish Family Service. He coordinates the Tzedakah Project from start to finish. He prepares food bags for over 60 families and delivers them locally with the help of other community volunteers. Bruce is truly a “one of a kind” volunteer. His attention to detail and loyalty to the community has endeared him to our clients. They are always delighted to see him. Bruce and his siblings, Mike Meyers and Vicki Perlmeter established the Meyers Family Legacy of Laughter Endowment Fund at the Jewish Federation of Omaha Foundation in honor of their beloved parents, Bernie and Roie Meyers. The mission of the Endowment is to keep laughter alive, to spread joy to the residents of care facilities and communities in Omaha and other cities.

JEWISH FEDERATION OF OMAHA – FAIGE JEIDEL
Faige made a positive difference in the Omaha Jewish Community by helping to cultivate a Jewish student community on the campus of the University of Nebraska-Omaha, called J-Connect. After her student experience at UNO, she saw a need and volunteered her time to ensure that future students would benefit from an organized Jewish community on campus. Faige has been the backbone of this program spending hours working with Jewish students and campus leaders to ensure that J-Connect was a positive experience.

JEWISH FEDERATION OF OMAHA/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION – ARIELLA ROHR
Ariella volunteers with PJ Library as a Parent Connector. In a collaborative effort with PJ Library and Temple Israel, Ariella formed a baby playgroup which met weekly until social distancing was mandated. Ariella is continuing to keep the group connected via a private FB Group now that they are unable to meet in person. As a result of her commitment to the group, many of the families have increased their frequency in attending both PJ Library programming and Jewish events in general.

JEWISH PRESS – ANDY ISAACSON
Andy has been an enthusiastic contributor on the Jewish Press Board of Directors and in that role, took the lead in the time-consuming search for a new vendor for the Press’ website. Because of Andy’s excellent communication skills, knowledge and experience, the Press was able to select a partner who understands what a community newspaper needs online. Andy was supportive and generous with his time and energy! Andy regularly volunteers at the Pennie Z. Davis Childhood Development Center’s Family Shabbat, where he sings and plays the guitar to our youngest community members.

ROSE BLUMKIN JEWISH HOME / JSS – SHEILA TOMPS
Sheila has been volunteering at the Rose Blumkin Jewish Home for well over 25 years and exemplifies a volunteer who makes a difference. Sheila defines what it means to give without expectation of praise quietly and humbly. Extending herself to others and bringing joy is the fiber of who she is. She is a model volunteer, community ambassador and has been giving of herself for most of her life. Sheila is also an active volunteer at Temple Israel. Sheila often supports residents at the Home that have no family to visit them. Sheila recently stated, “I care about the Residents of the Home; it’s part of who I am. Volunteering is still my true vocation in life. I’ve not retired.”
We Grow Stronger Together

Advocating for social justice and educating about Anti-Semitism and hate

IMPACT
IN NUMBERS

25 schools completed the ADL’s No Place for Hate® curriculum

489 people attended the performance of Anne Frank on Jewish Heritage Day

525 “Moral Courage” Essays

910 Middle School Art Submissions

"The best part of the PEW workshop was talking with other teens and hearing new perspectives. The leaders were very open-minded and kind”
- Millard North Student

ADVOCATING & EDUCATING

Since 2018, Nebraska has experienced 78 HEAT (Hate, Extremism, Anti-Semitism Terrorism) related incidents according to the Anti-Defamation League's (ADL) HEAT Map, with 35 of those being anti-Semitic in nature. As intolerance in the community increases, the educational work of the ADL/CRC and the Institute for Holocaust Education (IHE) becomes even more vital.

In October, 160 local high school students participated in the ADL/CRC’s Promoting Empowerment in our World (PEW) workshop. This intensive one-day interactive training empowered students to take a stand against hatred and bigotry. They learned how to recognize and challenge bias in order to return to their schools as advocates for tolerance and respect.

The IHE partnered with the Rose Theater for their showing of The Diary of Anne Frank. As rehearsals started, IHE Executive Director, Scott Littky met with the cast to give them historical context about the Holocaust, deepen their understanding of the Jewish elements included in the play and even hosted a Shabbat experience for them. During the shows run, David Radler’s “Portraits of Survival” exhibit highlighting Nebraska's Holocaust survivor community was on display. PJ Our Way hosted “Jewish Heritage Day” on March 1, which included a Creative Journaling Workshop for children ages 8-14 after the show.

As the pandemic hit Nebraska at the very height of these organizations busy season, both transitioned quickly to virtual platforms allowing them to build upon the impact of their work. The IHE created a virtual Gallery from their year’s Art in the Holocaust exhibit which allows this work to be shared worldwide.

“"I am thankful to have recently had a second experience hearing a survivor with the IHE. Hearing Kitty’s story and the things she accomplished in her life were inspiring, and came at a time when I really needed to hear them. I am thankful to the Institute for Holocaust Education for providing me and countless others these experiences before we will unfortunately no longer be able to have them.”
- Katti Suter, a Central High School alumna
Something Beautiful Happens When Community Comes Together

ADL/CRC, INSTITUTE FOR HOLOCAUST EDUCATION,
JEWISH FEDERATION OF OMAHA

Something Beautiful Happens When Community Comes Together featured two amazing women, Yvette Corporon and her cousin, Mindy Corporon for an author luncheon and moderated discussion. Yvette is the author of the memoir “Something Beautiful Happened”, about her search to find the Jewish family her grandmother hid from the Nazis on a tiny Greek island. After years of dead ends, she finally finds them. But in a tragic twist of fate, just days after she finds the Jewish family, her own family is devastated by an act of anti-Semitic violence here in the U.S. Mindy’s son and father are murdered by a neo-Nazi who mistook them for being Jewish outside of the Kansas City JCC. This event brought together lessons of the Holocaust and how to find light in the darkest of times.

345 people attended the program that was a collaboration of the agencies, the Jewish, Greek and non-Jewish communities. Following the presentation, an ADL facilitator lead a discussion about anti-Semitism and bias. Participants left the event understanding that anti-Semitism is not just a Jewish issue and were inspired to not be a bystander when they experience anti-Semitism or other acts of bias.

“I deeply appreciated the speakers ability to share such painfully difficult moments, helping others to gain understanding and hopefully improve other’s lives.”

-Jan Wayne
Funding and facilitating Jewish youth experiences

**COMMUNITY TEEN TRIP**

In December, 27 Omaha juniors & seniors spent winter break in Israel with our community shlicah & clergy from all three congregations. **Participants paid only $600 for the trip with $3,000 per person in subsidies being covered by Israel Experience Grants, Foundation grants and support from local synagogues.**

This pluralistic trip allows teens from across the community to get to know one another, establish their relationship with Israel before going to college and strengthen their personal Jewish identity.

Peer-to-peer relationships are an emphasis as the teens spent 4 days living and learning with Israeli teens from our Israeli partnership region. Following their time in the north, they explored Jerusalem, the Negev and Tel Aviv experiencing both ancient and modern Israel.

**In the trip survey, all participants said this trip made them proud to be Jewish!**

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**IMPACT IN NUMBERS**

27 Jewish teens participated on the Community Teen Trip

172 Jewish education scholarships totaling $338,000

63 youth attended Jewish summer camp thanks to scholarships and Jewish Experience Grants

"It was funny how we just interacted like a bunch of teenagers who like sports and eating, the common language of teens. When you get down to it, sports and food can bridge far more gaps than they create."

"We spent New Year's Eve camping in the desert. Some of us went stargazing that night. It was really nice to end the year by looking at the infinity of the universe and reflecting on how amazing it is to experience it."

"It was mind-boggling to think of all of the people, from powerful to common, ancient to modern, who walked the same steps and paths that I did."
ZOE BERMAN

Zoe is the daughter of Beth Cohen and Harry Berman and a 2020 graduate of Omaha Central High School. Community service and involvement has always been a part of her life. Zoe is an active member of Beth Israel Synagogue and has proven to be a tremendous youth leader, leading classes for middle school girls on Shabbat morning and by running an engaging B’nei Akiva style group for kids on Shabbat afternoon. In addition, Zoe has served as the President of the local NCSY chapter for the past three years and has held a position on the chapter board for NCSY JR. Zoe is passionate about her Judaism and is highly effective in encouraging other teens to participate in events that they never would attend otherwise.

LAUREN KUGLER

Lauren is the daughter of Lance and Traci Kugler and has just finished her junior year at Westside High School. Lauren is President (N’siah) for both Council and MZ Yoshanah BBG Chapter and is the regional Coordinating Committee Member. She also served as the 2018-2019 Aym HaChaverot (New Member Educator & Recruiter) for Council and MZ Yoshanah and was awarded the BBG Eternal Light Award in 2018. As Aym HaChaverot she grew the BBYO membership by 8 members and strengthened the BBYO community. Lauren has worked tirelessly, as president, to find new ways to improve our local programming and set new standards and expectations for our chapters.

IMPACT IN NUMBERS

$11,500 allocated to 5 local & 3 Israeli non-profits

131 total Young Jewish Giving Accounts

YJG welcomes 5 new account holders

For more information about Young Jewish Giving contact Danielle Gordman, Program Director at 402-334-6446 or dgordman@jewishomaha.org

Young Jewish Giving is supported by the Esther K. Newman Memorial Fund, the Morton A. Richards Youth Endowment Fund, the Lois Jeanne Schrager Memorial Fund, the Murray H. and Sharee C. Newman Supporting Foundation, Fred and Eve Simon Foundation, the Special Donor Advised Fund, and the Sokolof Foundation.
We Grow Stronger Together

Caring for our seniors and those in need

IMPACT
IN NUMBERS

96 Yachad programs including a special cooking class at No More Empty Pots

216 hours of medical support offered through the Senior Health Maintenance Clinic

1,060 JFS therapy sessions, with 33% of clients served living in poverty

“I’ve always enjoyed working with the elderly. They’re special. I’m here to give them the attention they deserve.”
-Kathy O’Connell, R.N., Health Maintenance Clinic

JEWISH SOCIAL SERVICES

The agencies of the Jewish Social Services work hard to honor and respect the dignity of both our esteemed community elders and those in our community who are in need.

Jewish Senior Outreach allows community elders to remain vital and active by guaranteeing they have proper nutrition, medical care, social opportunity and reside in a safe environment. In addition to providing 3,500 hot Meals on Wheels, JSO offers a monthly Health Maintenance Clinic for seniors at both Livingston Plaza and the Rose Blumkin Jewish Home.

Rose Blumkin Jewish Home staff arranges intergenerational programs for the residents. Friedel Jewish Academy students paired up with RBJH residents in the fall for a five-day artist-in-residence program with storyteller, Rita Paskowitz. They also launched the new “Opening Minds through Art” (OMA) project. OMA (grandma in Dutch) helps adults with dementia by using art-making to build genuine friendships between residents and student volunteers.

“Opening Minds through Art is on the leading edge of therapy, and really benefits dementia patients. I think art has amazing healing capabilities along with being fun.”
-Haley Jessen, a UNO senior majoring in Gerontology and Social Work, OMA volunteer

Jewish Family Service is a human service agency that supports community members in need. In 2019, $63,117 financial aid grants went to 57 Jewish families with 27% going to fight food insecurity, 26% supplementing rent/mortgage and 8% covering the cost of utilities. Additionally, visits to the JFS Kosher food pantry doubled this year causing operation costs to reach $15,395. To ensure everyone is able to celebrate Jewish holidays 411 Tzedakah baskets & 61 Hanukkah presents went to families in need.
**JODY AND NEAL MALASHOCK AWARD FOR PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE**

**SHELLY FOX**

Shelly began her career with Jewish Social Services in 2003 and currently is the Director of Community Outreach and Admissions. Her position requires that she find innovative ways to fulfill the needs of our community elders, helping them remain independent for as long as possible. Shelly has organized programs such as in-home handyman services, community transportation and the Meals on Wheel’s program. Helping guide and assist new residents of the Rose Blumkin Jewish Home with the admissions process and getting them acclimated to their new surroundings is another role of Shelly’s position. The many people that Shelly has helped over the years will all say the same thing; she did everything to help them, regardless of what day it was, what time of day it was or whether she gave up her own personal plans to provide that help. She makes herself available 24/7/365 to her clients and their families.

Shelly Fox is potentially the Omaha Jewish Community’s most valuable secret. All that she does, she does with complete and total confidentiality. She wants no accolades or recognitions; she simply wants to help those that she serves. Shelly’s love for the Omaha Jewish Community is immense and she has spent a lifetime building that love through her service to the community that she grew up in. Her commitment to serving others, in particular the Jewish elder in Omaha, is second to none.

The Jewish Federation of Omaha Foundation has partnered with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation to bring the Life & Legacy™ program to Omaha. This program is actively assisting nine of our local beneficiary organizations in securing after-lifetime giving and integrating legacy giving into the philanthropic culture of our Jewish community.

**Jewish Federation of Omaha Life & Legacy™ Donors**

Mike Abramson  
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Marti Rosen-Atterton  
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Eugene “Speedy” Zweiback

**IMPACT IN NUMBERS**

**13 Jewish Agencies participating**

**176 Life & Legacy donors to the JFO**

**652 Life & Legacy commitments totaling $2,165,380**

*Of Blessed Memory*
Engaging & educating our local Jewish community

IMPACT IN NUMBERS

31 PJ Library programs
198 Families receive PJ Library books
3,837 books distributed this year

EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT

PJ Library Omaha is part of the 2020 B’nai Mitzvah Class! Over the last 13 years, we’ve gifted 18,684 books to our community.

PJ Library subscriptions are free to families across the globe thanks to the generosity of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and other donors. Locally, all PJ Library programming is coordinated out of the Jewish Federation of Omaha.

“The beauty of PJ Library is not just that each child (ages 0-8) receives a Jewish book every month; we’re even more thankful that Jennie is able to make PJ Library families a priority with her time and creativity. If we see a program run by PJ Library, we’ll be there.”

- Shoshy Susman

An ongoing focus of Omaha’s PJ Library is building partnerships with local Jewish Institutions to offer meaningful programming for young families. Since 2016, Director of Community Engagement & Education, Jennie Gates Beckman, has brought the number of enrolled children from 165 to 309. She has also expanded the reach of the program by adding PJ Our Way which serves children to age 12. Visit www.pjlibrary.org and www.pjourway.org for more information.

Partnership with Friedel Jewish Academy

For the past two years, the JFO and Friedel have received a national grant from Prizmah & PJ Library enabling them to host 27 collaborative events to expand the reach of their resources to all families with young children, regardless of whether they send their kids to Jewish day school.
KIDS CAMPAIGN

Each year the Kids Campaign is a way to include our youngest community members in the mitzvah of tzedakah. *This year it included the distribution of Moonjars which teach the lessons of Spend, Save, Give.* The campaign kicked off at the Hanukkah Extravaganza in December at the Children’s Museum. Beth El, Beth Israel and Temple Israel participated by including lessons of tzedakah and the campaign culminated at the Pennie Z. Davis Child Development Center Purim celebration. Students were able to pour their tzedakah canisters in a coin counter and see the impact of their giving.

IMPACT IN NUMBERS

98 kids participated in the Kids Campaign

490 Moon jars distributed to community youth

$514 raised during the Kids Campaign

JESSICA COHN

Jess is an active member of Temple Israel and has devoted countless hours as a volunteer, committee and project leader. She serves on the Temple Israel Board of Trustees, is the Membership Chair and serves as the New Baby/Family Support team leader for Temple’s Caring Committee. An ardent supporter of The Jewish Federation of Omaha, Jess and her husband, Shane have co-chaired the JFO Kehillia Cup for the Jewish Federation of Omaha’s Campaign and served as co-chairs of the 2020 Annual Campaign Kick-Off Event. Jess was honored to be a past participant of the Omaha delegation on a MOMentum journey to Israel (formerly JWRP). Her experience on this trip helped her to forge new friendships with the other participants as well as a lifelong love of Israel.

BRUCE FELLMAN MEMORIAL YOUNG LEADERSHIP AWARD

DR. ARI KOHEN

Dr. Ari Kohen is a dedicated leader and active community organizer with a deep passion for Israel. This deep passion was shared with many of our community's men who Ari led on multiple MoMENtum (formerly JWRP) trips to Israel, in which he served as the Omaha trip leader. Active in Beth El Synagogue, Ari serves as the Chair for both the Religious Life and Strategic Planning Committees. Ari is also a tireless volunteer and ardent supporter of Friedel Jewish Academy, serving in several leadership positions since 2015, currently serving as co-president and the chair of the school’s strategic planning committee. During Ari’s tenure, Friedel has seen a significant increase in enrollment and was instrumental in securing Friedel’s place in the new cohort of the national PRESIDE leadership program, one of fifteen Jewish organizations from across the country to participate.

LOIS JEANNE SCHRAGER MEMORIAL YOUNG LEADERSHIP AWARD

JESSICA COHN

Jess is an active member of Temple Israel and has devoted countless hours as a volunteer, committee and project leader. She serves on the Temple Israel Board of Trustees, is the Membership Chair and serves as the New Baby/Family Support team leader for Temple’s Caring Committee. An ardent supporter of The Jewish Federation of Omaha, Jess and her husband, Shane have co-chaired the JFO Kehillia Cup for the Jewish Federation of Omaha’s Campaign and served as co-chairs of the 2020 Annual Campaign Kick-Off Event. Jess was honored to be a past participant of the Omaha delegation on a MOMentum journey to Israel (formerly JWRP). Her experience on this trip helped her to forge new friendships with the other participants as well as a lifelong love of Israel.

BRUCE FELLMAN MEMORIAL YOUNG LEADERSHIP AWARD

DR. ARI KOHEN

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On six separate occasions since 1991, our amazing Omaha Jewish community has stepped up to help fellow Jews in need in vulnerable regions of the world. Whether it was for resettling Soviet or Ethiopian Jews or crises in Israel, we, as a collective community, have made over 1,500 donations in excess of $2.5 million to these vital causes.

Today, we are faced with challenges in our own backyard brought on by the coronavirus. We have all been impacted by this emergency in some degree. To some of our own neighbors, however, the COVID-19 pandemic has created very real and dire consequences. Many Jewish seniors in Omaha are homebound and, in addition to feeling lonely and isolated, they are challenged with eating nutritiously and receiving necessary healthcare. We have young Jewish families in our community that are faced with job losses and are struggling to pay rent, utilities, and to put food on their tables.

As an organization, the Jewish Federation of Omaha has worked hard to find unique ways to offer vital programs and services despite the challenges of a closed campus and mounting loss of revenues.

Your Federation has also united Jewish Omaha and brought us together as a community...virtually in some cases, adhering to ‘physical social distancing’ guidelines in others. Thank you to those who have participated in any of the dozens of online fitness videos created by JCC staff. If you have participated in a car parade to show appreciation for Rose Blumkin Jewish Home Staff and to wave to the residents...Thank You! If you helped deliver the hundreds of Seder to Go kits or Yom HaAtzmaut packages...we are grateful!

**COVID-19 EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND**

Thank you, to the **149 donors** who have contributed **$293,962** towards the Jewish Federation of Omaha’s COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund, including a **$50,000** match from the Jewish Federation of Omaha Foundation. You truly are helping sustain a strong and vibrant Jewish Omaha.

If you are interested in learning more about the COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund, you will find information on our website at [www.jewishomaha.org](http://www.jewishomaha.org).
As the world shifted in the last 2 months to a virtual platform, the Jewish Federation of Omaha and our agencies have pivoted to ensure our community stays strong and connected.

227,965 total minutes of Zoom meetings or events

6,009 participants on the 770 Zoom Meetings held on the JFO account

680 care packages to Western Galilee IDF Soldiers

327 Yom HaAtzmaut at Home packets distributed to families with children

300 Seder to Go kits ordered, packed and delivered in collaboration with Chabad

260 views of Ron’s Shakshuka Israeli Cooking Workshop

190 Virtual J videos with more than 62,000 views (since inception)

140 cars participated in campus car parades

100+ virtual therapy sessions held by Jewish Family Service

62 families have received aid from the COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund
Connecting with Professionals & Out-of-Towners

**JEWISH BUSINESS LEADERS OF OMAHA (JBL)**

Jewish Business Leaders of Omaha brings together the Jewish business community to showcase the entrepreneurs, founders, and change-makers in our community while creating the opportunity to connect, teach and leverage each relationship.

Since 2017, JBL has honored and inducted local Jewish businesses into the JBL Hall of Fame. These businesses include Borsheims and Nebraska Furniture Mart (2017), Noddle Companies (2018), and Seldin Company (2019). We will be honoring the Baker Family in 2020.

**OMAHA JEWISH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (OJAA) #STILLHOMAHA**

This year, OJAA hosted three wonderful events. Our Rosh Hashanah tailgate party, a Purim celebration luncheon and a wonderful reunion event held in Dallas, Texas hosted by Kenny and Sherry Josin Goldberg and Bob and Caryn Rifkin.

We are looking to host more reunions around the country! If you live in Chicago, Denver, Kansas City, or any other major city and would like to help plan a reunion, please reach out to Jay Katelman at jkatelman@jewishomaha.org

The OJAA continues to reach out through articles, updates, events and social media. The OJAA was created to help you connect so please reach out to us by posting. We have 851 followers! Join the group at www.facebook.com/OmahaJewishAlumni
The shrieks from an excited 7 year old flying down the new indoor aquatic center slide for the first time...the click-click-click of tap shoes on a new dance floor...hundreds of people meeting in the Shirley and Leonard Goldstein Community Engagement Venue...

Yes, there’s no question we are truly living through unprecedented times, but your JCC represents the beacon of light for a bright future. A place where our broad and diverse community can come together in harmony to enjoy an amazingly transformed facility.

Thanks to the generosity of almost 100 donors! This is truly a community-wide effort! Every gift matters and is essential to complete the transformation. Please consider a donation in support of this project.

Our Future. Now! BE A PART OF IT

For more information about the Capital Campaign contact Steve Levinger at 402-334-6446 or slevinger@jewishomaha.org
Connecting to Global Jewry & Israel

**IMPACT IN NUMBERS**

- **8** weekly Israel classes taught by our shlichah across the community
- **72** adult Jewish educational experiences since the first Momentum trip
- **680** Passover Packages sent to IDF soldiers on base lock down because of COVID-19
- **$85,000** allocated to 7 international Jewish non-profits

**ISRAEL TRAVEL**

The Jewish Federation of Omaha’s ongoing commitment to Jewish peoplehood can be seen through our emphasis on Israel education and travel and our support to Jewish causes throughout the world.

Since 2016, 61 mothers and fathers traveled to Israel on one of our Momentum trips - 48 women and 13 men. This year’s trip highlights included a surprise gas station meeting of the men’s and women’s trip, a day spent in the Western Galilee our Partnership2Gether region, a morning climb of Masada, floating in Dead Sea and spiritual awakenings in Jerusalem.

In November, 30 women gathered for a Momentum reunion Shabbat to reunite in sisterhood and celebrate the recent trips return. Momentum is a yearlong experience with monthly learning and group gatherings before and after the trips enhancing friendships and involvement within the Jewish Community.

“**The Momentum trip solidified in me my membership in the Jewish community and impressed upon me the importance of my role in the continuation of the Jewish people. It is not an exaggeration to say that the Momentum trip gave my life meaning**”

- Kate Murphy

Love for Israel is important to be shared beyond the Jewish community. In October, 14 people participated in an Israel Art Trip; travelers met artists, visited galleries, collections and museums, and enjoyed the best cuisine Israel has to offer. In December, Executive Director of the Omaha Conservatory of Music, Ruth Meints participated in a Partnership quartet trip to Israel where she performed with other musicians from across our partnership and taught students at the Akko and Matte Asher Conservatory.
PATTY NOGG
Patty Nogg has worked fervently and proudly for the Omaha Jewish community for over 40 years. The breadth and depth of her passion, devotion and willingness to serve Beth El Synagogue, the Jewish Federation of Omaha and its agencies, NCJW and the B’nai Israel Cemetery Committee is undeniable and unquestioned. There is no job too big or too small for Patty. From chairing the Lion of Judah Division, to baking hamantashen, sharing her love of music and theater or to simply stuffing envelopes, Patty can be counted on to be first to volunteer. Patty brings “spirit” to everything she does and is excited and passionate when given the opportunity to volunteer.

BRUCE FRIEDLANDER
Bruce is a committed and tireless volunteer for the Jewish Federation of Omaha. As his term as JFO Board President was closing, Bruce jumped at the chance to serve as the Annual Campaign Chair with his family. He is now finishing his second term as the 2020 Campaign Chair. His leadership and support for the Federation and the Campaign volunteers, has led to the 2019 and 2020 Annual Campaign being record setting. Bruce sets the bar high for himself, is appreciative to both volunteers and staff and has helped to increase the volunteer base. He promotes the work of the JFO in his conversations with community members. Bruce has been a role model to many, showing how to give time and energy to further build and sustain a strong and vibrant Jewish community.

COMMUNITY SHLICHA
Our community shlicha, Ron Lugasy, will be heading back to Israel in August after 2 years in Omaha. She has truly brought the taste of Israel to Omaha by teaching a series of 13 cooking classes with 40 Israeli recipes that represent Jewish culinary influences from around the world. She was responsible for the Yom Ha’Atzmaut packages delivered to over 300 families. She tried to help make sense of the Israeli elections. Her creativity and energy will be missed - another friend to visit in Israel.

Ron has brought an enormous spirit and creativity from Israel to Omaha. She also brings a wonderful quality of humanity and personal engagement while delivering a meaningful message from Israel.

- Alan Potash
“Michael is a tremendous energizer and doer. If it weren’t for him, I don’t think we could have ever accomplished as much on this campus project. He is like a one-man steam engine. I admire and appreciate him and often wish I had his energy! Howard and I are so proud to be his partners.”

-Tom Fellman

“I believe with all my heart that without him, we would not have been able to do anything like this. He is a inspiration to all of us.”

-Howard Kooper

“Michael has been a source of dedication, commitment and expertise, supporting numerous JCCs across the country. In doing so, he has encouraged all he works with to adopt a culture of excellence. He invests countless hours as the driving force behind any transformation. His generosity is motivated by his desire to ensure that there remains a Jewish community for future generations as there was for him.”

-JCC Association of North America

“Much of Michael’s knowledge comes from his hands-on expertise. His fondness for Omaha is obvious: he visits often and always has time for the Omaha J.”

- Mark Martin, JCC Executive Director

“Walk through our Jewish Community with Michael Staenberg and it quickly becomes obvious: this man notices everything. A builder by profession—he is the president of The Staenberg Group (TSG)—and a philanthropist by choice, Staenberg has an inspiring history of giving. His generosity stretches from his hometown St. Louis where he transformed the Jewish Community Center to Denver, Colorado, where his family foundation recently launched the “Michael H. Staenberg Anything Grants,” providing a broad range of support for a variety of Jewish organizations as well as synagogues.”

-Annette van de Kamp-Wright, The Jewish Press Editor

-Thank You!
MICHAEL STAENBERG

It all started with a Jewish Omaha Reunion in 2014. Michael Staenberg, an Omaha native, saw a well-used, well-maintained facility but also the prospect of a more contemporary, vibrant facility which could serve as a catalyst for the future of our Jewish Omaha. Soon we witnessed a campus transformation and Michael Staenberg has been with us every step of the way. The initial project included the Fitness Center renovation, a beautiful new indoor and outdoor Aquatics Center and the creation of the Community Engagement Venue. And the revitalization continues! To Jewish Omaha, Michael has become a dear friend, trusted advisor, generous donor and a man of vision and commitment. For this reason, we are proud to recognize Michael Staenberg as the 2019 Humanitarian of the Year for the Jewish Federation of Omaha.

Michael Staenberg has earned great respect and admiration for his amazing achievements and the support he has offered to so many throughout his career. What makes Michael stand out, however, is his humanity. He is passionate about quality of life issues, particularly in the areas of education, arts, health and wellness. He coupled these concerns with his deeply held Jewish beliefs and found a way to help and strengthen Jewish communities while developing their abilities and resources to maintain and grow their services into the future. Jewish Community Centers in St. Louis, Denver, Omaha, St. Paul and Kansas City are thriving thanks to Michael Staenberg. He has positioned these Jewish organizations to achieve quality programs and facilities, which not only bolster Jewish community but also improve life for each individual and family.

The Staenberg Family Foundation exemplifies Michael's altruistic and compassionate outlook on giving. “My dad always made sure we understood that we had a roof over our head, food on our plate, and that there were people that needed more help than we did. So early on, we got the lessons.” Michael has made his father's message his mantra for countless acts of kindness, tzedakah, and humanity over the years. With the Family Foundation donations in excess of $100 million, over 70% has been given to Jewish causes.

Michael Staenberg accomplished far beyond most in a stellar career of building, development and sales but his legacy will be all that he has done for others. From his shared story of grandparents immigrating through Ellis Island, dependent on the help of a new community to his hands on work building and enhancing Jewish community centers, Michael has perpetuated the value of Tikun Olam and is living, day to day the lessons of his father - to give back and make the world a better place.

The time is right for the Jewish Federation of Omaha to take this unique opportunity to honor Michael Staenberg as he has honored our community. There could be no greater act of humanity than helping our community develop and sustain the resources we need to continue to serve the Jewish people of Omaha. From our most vulnerable community members who need help with life's basic needs to our young families who are building Jewish lives, we are grateful for the opportunities that Michael Staenberg has made possible.

Michael has perpetuated the value of Tikun Olam and is living, day to day the lessons of his father - to give back and make the world a better place.
Thanks to you we are Stronger Together

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