Note: All gifts reflected in this report were received between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020 (unless otherwise noted.) All names in this report are listed alphabetically.
2020 In Hindsight.

It is a year we likely won’t forget and each of us carry with us memories, lessons, regrets, and growth. As we reflect on the giving from our congregants over the year, there are two Hebrew lessons that stand out.

Who is rich? One who finds happiness in what she has. (Pirkei Avot 4:1)
At the same time, we have learned again that, for those of us who are lucky enough to have our basic needs met, money alone cannot create meaning. This year reminded us: what we already have is incredible. When we recognize the good in our lives, we experience riches indeed.

Our fate is bound up in each other (BT Shevuot 39a)
In 2020, we learned the extent to which the fate of every single one of us is in each other’s hands. We are woven together inextricably. We need each other. We depend on each other. We must be here for each other.

As we have said throughout the year, *chazak, chazak v’neitchazek*, be strong, be strong, and together we are strengthened. In no other recent year have we lived this more truly.

Credit: Rabbi Jordana Schuster Battis; https://reformjudaism.org/blog
OUR MISSION

Judea Reform Congregation is a vibrant, welcoming community where Jews in the greater Durham-Chapel Hill area and beyond gather to worship, learn, serve, and actively engage in the sacred traditions of our shared heritage.

OUR VISION

We are inspired by Jewish history, the wisdom of our sacred texts, and the tenets of Reform Judaism. We use these in order to nurture our souls and our connection to God, to educate our children as well as ourselves, to cultivate leadership among all congregants, to celebrate our joys, to comfort those among us who are suffering, to serve our community and the world at large, and to promote peace and understanding. We preserve the great traditions of Judaism, respond to the current concerns of our community, and plan for a future of sacred engagement for generations to come.

GUIDING PILLARS

TORAH: Teaching
We nurture meaningful connections to God and to the core ethics and values of Judaism, illuminating modern times through the study of Torah and our sacred texts.

AVODAH: Worship
We worship together as a community with spirit, joy, and song, encouraging members to fully participate in the cherished rituals and practices of our faith.

LIMUD: Study
We encourage continual Jewish learning and intellectual growth for people of all ages.

KEHILLAH: Community
We join together as a diverse congregation, bound by a common desire to belong to and support our Jewish community in times of joy and sorrow, need and plenty.

TIKKUN OLAM: Healing
We share a commitment to advance the welfare of the members of our congregation, our local community, the People of Israel, and of the world.

KEDUSHAH: Sanctity
We sanctify life's sacred moments, from birth to death, through tradition and ceremonies that unite the hearts of loving companions, celebrate the bond between parents and children, and welcome people into the covenant of our faith, honoring our heritage while reflecting with sensitivity and creativity the insights of our time.
Dear Friends,

I grew up thinking the word *tzedakah* meant “charity,” an act of going above and beyond, to help others. Something here, however, was lost in translation—and it so happens to be the most exciting part of our tradition. “How do you know a fish is alive?” asks an old Yiddish Proverb. “You know it’s alive if it swims upstream!” Judaism is more than a culture; it is a counter-culture, a way of living, which swims upstream against the “world-as-it-is,” parched with brokenness and in desperate need of healing.

*Tikkun olam*, our age-old obligation to repair (within and beyond ourselves), is part and parcel of the value proposition of Judaism. Our tradition exists for a holy purpose, our mission, borne out of the memory of our own people’s journey from enslavement in Egypt to liberation and freedom. Yet, this journey does not end there. As we remind ourselves while sitting around the Seder table, the journey continues beyond the Sea of Reeds. It bends onward, to the foot of Sinai where we received our Torah, onward through the Wilderness where we endure countless trials, onward toward a Promised Land. Even then, after entering the Land, our people’s obligations to be “a kingdom of priests and a holy nation” endure, as both mandate and gift, for all generations to come.

The Passover narrative is not an event of the past but a continuous call—in times such as this, a painful and unrelenting cry. Judea Reform Congregation lives and breathes as a mighty response to the cry of a broken world, and in this mission of ours there is no greater power-tool than *tzedakah*. *Tzedakah* defines both our heritage and our legacy.

As individuals and a congregation, may we honor our past with gratitude and bless our future with generosity. *Ken y’hi ratzon*, through our deeds, may we fulfill God’s will.

Rabbi Matthew V. Soffer
PRESIDENT’S LETTER  2020 in Review

As Jews, the act and art of philanthropy, tzedakah, is deeply connected to our beliefs, our behaviors, our social awareness. Giving to our synagogue is a statement of the value we place on Judaism— for ourselves, our families, and future generations. It is both a responsibility (mitzvah/commandment) and an honor. The current pandemic has raised awareness of the vulnerability of our community. For me, it has also brought to light our human need for community, compassion and belonging. Other challenges we face in our country seem to be pushing us toward a stronger sense of needing to surround ourselves in community, including social & racial injustice and rising Anti-Semitism.

Tzedakah at Judea Reform means much more than “charity.” For several years, the leadership of Judea Reform Congregation has sought to develop a stronger culture of philanthropy among our members. That culture can be seen in the pages of this Tzedakah Times, representing your passion and commitment. Your support over this remarkable year means that we have been able to thrive — bring meaningful worship into your homes, celebrate holidays as a community virtually, provide pastoral care to members in need, engage in learning for all ages, and support our social action projects throughout the area.

Giving at JRC takes the form of membership support, our annual appeal, tribute and memorial gifts, legacy gifts, matching gifts and so much more. As we look to the future, we will be transitioning to a new normal. Whatever comes next, we will continue to reimagine, reinvent and re-engage.

**Judea Reform Congregation gives!**

Thank you. *Todah Rabah,*

Ziva Starr Raney (she/her/hers)  
President
LIFE AND LEGACY GIFTS

Gale and Peter Adland
Anonymous (5)
Heidi Aycock
Sheldon Balbirer
Lois Eve Ballen
George Baroff (z”l)
Emily Berman and Jaime Stein
Farley and Roger Bernholz
David and Linda Birnbaum
Bill and Pat Blau
Jason Block and Scott Stauble
Lisa Brachman and Robert Roubey
Joan Brannon
Peg Carlson and Andrew Geller
Chip and Jane Carnathan
Joan Cohen
Marc and Sherree Drezner
Bruce and Rebecca Elvin
Sherri Evans-Stanton and Mark Stanton
Gabriel and Ilene Farkas
Martin Feinstein and Vicki Kowlowitz
Rabbi John and Nan Friedman
Joyce Gordon
Nancy Gordon
Gary Greenberg (z”l)
Henry Halbert (z”l)
Cora and Paul Harrison
Ivy Hoffman and Megan Valentine
Ed and Judy Holland
Barbara and Bruce Jentleson
Ray Jones
Marc Joseph and Betsy Polk Joseph
Kevin and Michelle Kahn
Anna Klein
Dick and Lynne Kohn

Arnie Lerman
Dick Levin (z”l)
Norm and Sonna Loewenthal
Mark Margolis
Jo and Sy Mauskopf
Janice and Jeff Monsein
Carrie and Doug Norry
Chris Pankow and Steve Simon
Penny and Stan Paskoff
Jonathan M. Hess (z”l) and Beth Posner
Mitch and Tina Prinstein
Donna Rabiner
T.J. and Ziva Raney
Melvin and Zora Rashkis (z”l)
Gracie Robinson (z”l)
Larry and Nancy Rocamora
Mark Rodin
Deborah Roth
Sandra Roth
Judith Ruderman
Jennifer Rudinger
Lisa Salzman
Isabel Samfield
Laurel Sherman (z”l)
Barbara and Barry Silver
Rochelle and Jack (z”l) Silver
Lila Singer
Joel and Barbara Smith (z”l)
Graham and Mandy Summermson
Larry Trachtman
Gary and Heidi Tyson
Gerhard and Janet Weinberg
Iris and Steve Weiss
Tom Wolf
Bonnie and Jim Yankaskas
Caryn Zimmerman Zoffer and Bill Zoffer

Gifts noted here include those to our L’Dor V’Dor Legacy Gift Society and Grinspoon Life & Legacy Program.
MAZEL TOVs

Births
Roy Stein, grandchild of Jeannette and Roy Stein
Brigida Sarah Cino, grandchild of Bill Friedman and Jill Ryder Friedman
Jonah Clarence and Miles Joseph, child of Katherine Goldstein and Travis Morrison, grandchild of Buck and Kay Goldstein
Benjamin Jamie Zeisel-McHugh, child of Jeff McHugh and Becky Zeisel, grandchild of Steve and Susan Zeisel
Adelaide Barbour, child of Aaron and Kelly Barbour, great-grandchild of Dr. Floyd Fried and Mrs. JoAnn Weissman
Talulla Rose Bogart, grandchild of Carol and George Retisch-Bogart
Meredith Evaleen Morrison, child of Casey and Kristen Morrison
Kaylee Eloise, child of Carly Rousso and Ethan Schlapper, grandchild of David and Gabe Rousso
Asher Wells Fleischman, child of David and Gitanjali Fleischman
Evelyn Brodsky, child of Erika and Peter Brodsky
Thomas William Simon, child of Erika and Howard Simon, grandchild of Chris Pankow and Steve Simon
Toby Miles Kudert, child of Grant and Sally Kudert, grandchild of Glenn and Jodi Preminger
Georgiana Miriam, child of Brianna and Eric Hoerger, grandchild of Susan and Tom Hoerger
Julia Watson, child of Jennifer Brookland and Joshua Watson
Maya Sylvia Krucoff, child of Max and Kate, grandchild of Carol and Mitch Krucoff
Andrew Harry Silverstein, grandchild of Carol and Elliot Silverstein
Maggie Lee Gentry, child of Lauren and Jon Gentry, grandchild of David and Gabe Rousso
Sophia Claire Schnautz, child of Brian and Elyson Schnautz, grandchild of Kenny Dalsheimer and Marybeth Dugan
Olivia Reese Meyer, grandchild of Paul Silverman
Benjamin Ingram, child of Sarah Dotters-Katz and David Ingram
Edward Post, child of Aaron and Anne Post Hollings Brown, child of Britton and Julia Brown, grandchild of Alex Lichtler and Robin Schwartz
Dora Elyse, child of Jessica Friedman and Mack Zalin, grandchild of Bill Friedman and Jill Ryder Friedman
Leon “Leo” Penland, child of Corbin and Leah Penland, grandchild of Larry and Nancy Rocamora
Audra Lior Gordon, child of Laura and Maurice Gordon, grandchild of David and Ruby Jo Hiller

B’nei Mitzvah
Daniel Barth, child of Chris Barth and Pam Barth
Chance Biehn, child of Kersten and Neil Biehn
Jacobo “Coby” Chambers, child of Heather and Randy Chambers
Jack Fishkin, child of Allan and Julie Fishkin
Elijah Foster, child of Jill and Matt Foster
Elise Fricklas, child of Betsy and Ethan Fricklas
Lily Goldin, child of Debby Bussel and Steve Goldin
Gabriella Goodman, child of Steve Goodman and Julie Shermak
Caroline Kaye, child of Rhonda Kaye and Deana and Ken Kaye
Anderson Levin, child of Bob and Laura Levin
Leah Lipsitch, child of Joel Lipsitch and
Abbie Melnick
Zachary Maiorana, child of Brendan and
Lisa Maiorana
Alexandra Mantis, child of Brian and
Tatyana Mantis
Melinda Nelkin, child of Bruce and Deana
Nelkin
Maxwell Niedel, child of Ian and Jen Niedel
Ezra O’Mansky, child of Andrew Barron and
Karen O’Mansky
Megan Oliver, child of Christopher and
Sarah Oliver
Samuel Pickus, child of Peter Pickus and
Jennifer Woodward
Ian Platts-Mills, child of Arin Isenstein and
Tim Platts-Mills
Rebecca Rimon, child of Valerie Flax
Simon Schreiber, child of Carrie and Jason
Schreiber
Kara Tendler, child of Amy Tendler
Kevin Wechsler, child of Alex and Natalie
Wechsler
Samuel Wilcox, child of Dirk and Marlo
Wilcox

Kabbelat Torah
Elena Brosnan, child of Sylvia Novinsky and
Graham Brosnan
Alexa Chambers, child of Heather and Randy
Chambers
Michaela Foster, child of Jill and Matt Foster
Max Gray, child of Christy Brooks and Jeff
Gordon
Lars Kahn, child of Kevin and Michelle Kahn
Amelia Posner-Hess, child of Jonathan Hess
(z”l) and Beth Posner
Sara Rogerson, child of Rachel Mandel and
Mark Rogerson
Izaac Wohl, child of Alison Hilton and David
Wohl

Marriages
Andie Cantor and Sam Miesmer
Casey Farin* and Nick Jeffreys
Ian Hainline and Mallory Shelbourne
Sonia Laurie* and Daniel Benzion
Hilary Lerner* and Francie Gottsegen
Eric Stern and Evan Zuzik

*JRC members

IN MEMORIAM
May these Judea Reform congregant’s memories be a blessing.

George Baroff          Diana Celenza          Robert Gilgor          Jeannette Ross
Nicholas Bogen         Gail Dowd             Morton Green           Beatrice Serotkin
Malvina Brady          Mark Feinglos         Arlene Gura            Joel Smith
Anthony Brannon        Donald Forman         Hal Myers              Simone Soltan

The life cycle events listed here all occurred 2020.
Circle of Shalom  
$7,200-$9,999
Lisa Brachman and Robert Roubey  
Arnie Lerman  
Lisa and Scott Josephs

Circle of Mitzvah  
$5,000-$7,199
Lenore and Victor Behar  
Dan and Karen Berman  
Peg Carlson and Andrew Geller  
Buck and Kay Goldstein  
Carol and Nortin Hadler  
Susan and Tom Hoerger  
Ivy Hoffman and Megan Valentine  
Norm and Sonna Loewenthal  
Allen and Claudia Mangel  
Janice and Jeff Monsein  
Glen and Jodi Preminger  
Mitch and Tina Prinstein  
T.J. and Ziva Raney  
Harry Rosenberg  
Judith Ruderman  
Lisa Salzman and Larry Trachtman  
Bob and Dale Sandler  
Gary and Heidi Tyson

Circle of Tzedakah  
$3,600-$4,999
Gale and Peter Adland  
Sol Aronson and Leena Sharma  
Ben and Heidi Aycock  
Bruce Boehm and Nancy Luberoff  
Bill and Pat Blau  
Ed and Roxana Bossen  
Joan and Tony (z”l) Brannon  
Sally Deutsch  
Mike Fried and Beth Jonas  
Peter Geoffrion and Amy Glass  
Ed and Judy Holland  
Debbie and Mitch Horwitz  
Barbara and Bruce Jentleson  
Kevin and Michelle Kahn  
Jackie Kaufman and Henry Rice  
Dick and Lynne Kohn  
Joan Krause and Richard Saver  
Linda Levitch and Andrew Olshan  
Christine and Jonathan Mark  
Gerri and Mark Mattson  
Ellen Mickiewicz  
Chris Pankow and Steve Simon  
Beth Posner  
Bea and Len Prosnitz  
Deborah A. Roth  
Barbara and Barry Silver  
Aron Silverstone and Tai-ping Sun  
John Stephens and Renee Zimmerman  
Jack and Renee Twersky  
Carol and Jim Vorhaus  
Gerhard and Janet Weinberg  
Iris and Steve Weiss  

Circle of Judea  
$3,000-$3,599
Marian Abernathy and Dan Kaplan  
Benjamin and Zena Alman  
Jay and Rachel Baker  
Sheldon Babirer and Joyce Rudick  
Adrienne and Ken Baroff  
Andrew Barron and Karen O’Manksy  
Ben and Sarah Birken  
David and Linda Birnbaum  
Nick Bogan (z”l) and Emily Klein  
Hayden Bosworth and Rebecca Essinger-Bosworth  
Debby Bussel and Steve Goldin  
Chip and Jane Carnathan  
Mark and Pam Cohen  
Barbara and William Dahl  
Kenny Dalsheimer and Marybeth Dugan  
Marc and Sherree Drezner  
Bruce and Rebecca Elvin  
Martin Feinstein and Vicki Kowlowitz  
Bill Friedman and Jill Ryder Friedman  
Janet and Jeffrey Furman  
Mike Giara and Ellen Michelson  
Carol and Lowell Goldsmith  
Kris Herkens and Betty Rider  
Risa Hitler and Edward Levin  
Onyi Iweala and Andrew Spector  
Herman and Kelly Jeffer  
Jonathan Krome  
Carol and Mitch Krucoff  
Liz Losos and David Schanzer  
Rachel Mandell and Mark Rogerson  
Rebecca and T.C. Morphis  
Amy and Mark Newman  
Bill and Ronni Nichamin  
Carrie and Doug Norry  
Chuck and Denise Pascarelli  
Penny and Stan Paskoff  
Andrew and Eliana Perrin  
David and Ingrid Pisetsky  
Vera and Yul Reinstein  
Joe and Tamara Rice  
Gita Schonfeld and Marvin Swartz  
Bill Shrago  
Stephanie Simon and Chuck Solomon  
Lila Singer  
John Steege and Rosi Ziegler  
Sari and Stu Teplin  
Jim and Martha Tepperberg  
Jane and Morris Weinberger  
Janice and Rick Woychik  
Bonnie and Jim Yankaskas
CIRCLE OF HONOR DONORS 2020-2021

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Arnie Lerman
Lisa and Scott Josephs

Circle of Mitzvah
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$3,000-$3,599
Marian Abernathy and Dan Kaplan
Karen Abrams and Brandon Garrett
Benjamin and Zena Alman
Sheldon Balbirer and Joyce Rudick
Andrew Barron and Karen O’Mansky
Leslie Brandon-Muller and Eric Muller
Ken and Marjorie Broun
Chip and Jane Carnathan
Annie Cone-Liptzin and Mike Liptzin
Emily Coward and Raphael Ginsberg
Kenny Dalsheimer and Marybeth Dugan
Sue Dennison and Tom Wolf
Sally Deutsch
Thad Domina and Emily Katz
Marc and Sherree Dreznner
Allison and Douglas Eisner
Bruce and Rebecca Elvin
Debbie and Doug Fein
Jill and Matt Foster

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Steve and Susan Zeisel

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Friedman
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Barry Katz and Belinda Novak
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Beth and Rick Keena
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Graham and Mandy Summerson
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Jim and Martha Tepperberg
Jane and Morris Weinberger
Bonnie and Jim Yankaskas
Caryn Zimmerman Zoffer and Bill Zoffer

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Helena and Stephen Perlman  
Alex Peroff  
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Beth Posner  
Glenn and Jodi Preminger  
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Ilene and Markus Procida  
T.J. and Ziva Raney  
Erin and Jerome Reiter  
Carol and George Retsch-Bogart  
Larry and Nancy Rocamora  
Karen and Mark Rodin  
Daniel and Joyce Romm  
Cindy Rose  
Harry Rosenberg  
Carol Rosenfeld and Jonathan Viventi  
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Sandra Roth  
David and Gabe Rousso  
Judith Ruderman  
Dino and Wendy Ruggiero  
Lisa Salzman and Larry Trachtman  
Bob and Dale Sandler  
Anne Marie and Rob Schneider  
Michael and Wylli Shenhouse  
Daniel and Ruth Siegel  
Barbara and Barry Silver  
Aron Silverstone and Tai-ting Sun  
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