

# 2021-2022

## ANNUAL REPORT



Our mission is to be an inclusive and thriving center of Jewish spiritual, cultural, and social life in the Lawrence area. We welcome a diverse spectrum of Jews and people interested in Judaism.



# President's Letter

Dear LJCC,

In spite of a tumultuous environment: an ongoing pandemic, a chaotic economy, a divisive political climate, and an ongoing reckoning with some of the age-old problems of the world, such as war and violence, I am optimistic about the future of our community.

We are lucky to count dedicated and talented people among the members and leaders of our community. Our staff members bring complementary skills and experiences to bear on the various maintenance and initiatives they each manage. The LJCC is a source of fond memories for people of all ages in Lawrence and throughout the country. All of that is to say that we have a storied past and, in my opinion, a bright future as a community.

People are eager to connect and reconnect even as we navigate a world with ongoing pervasive COVID concerns. While a top priority continues to be the health and well-being of those who come to the LJCC, we look forward to expanding our in-person gatherings in the coming year. We will maintain access to services for people who can join us only virtually (and we'll keep working on the logistics of how best to do that).

Of course, we can't take anything for granted. So, my optimism is contingent on the continued contributions of our dedicated members. We need money to run, and as a lay-led congregation, we need lay leaders. You are all invited to help us shape this community in the years to come, by leading services, joining a committee, bringing a new program idea to us, or showing up.

All the best,

Carrie

# LJCC Staff



**Jordan Wade (she/her) - Programs and Operations Manager:**

I work remotely from Durham, NC where I live with my partner Julia Barnard, our son Simon, and two cats. I lived in Lawrence for two years and my family has deep ties there that I am grateful to maintain through the LJCC.



**Nixx Sandidge (they/them) - Administrative Assistant:**

I'm originally from Smyrna, TN and have been in Lawrence for 14 years. I'm the lucky mom of one rambunctious 6yo, Izzy. We live in North Lawrence with our beloved pets Squirt and BootswiththeFur.



**Rachel Downs-Doubrava - Religious School Director:**

I reside in Lawrence, KS with my husband Michael and my two feline daughters Matilda, and Gwendolyn. I teach visual art at Free State High School.



**Steve Hurst - Security Coordinator:**

Been attending LJCC for over 30 years. Have served two terms as LJCC President, Board Member 15 years, Blintz Brunch Coordinator 3 yrs, Community Outreach Coordinator 3 yrs, Security Coordinator 2 1/2 yrs.

# LJCC Board Members



## **Carolyn (Carrie) Caine (she/her) - Board President:**

Born in Harleysville, Pennsylvania, she has lived in the midwest for fifteen years and in Lawrence for seven years. Carrie is the congregation president and serves on the ritual committee. She loves dogs, books, and trees.



## **Jordan Yochim - Interim Treasurer:**

Jordan was born and raised in Lawrence and has literally been a lifelong member of the LJCC. He and his family have spent many happy times, and a few sad times, in the very good company of this quirky, loving, and dedicated congregation. After several terms as congregation president, he is now proud to serve as its treasurer.



## **John Hoopes:**

John Hoopes and his wife Lauren have been members of the LJCC since 1989. They have two children, Alexandra (28) and Nathaniel (24). John is a professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Kansas with a specialization in in the archaeology of Latin America.



## **Robin Rosenberg:**

Robin Rosenberg has lived in Lawrence for three years with her husband, long-time Lawrencian, Barry Shalinsky and their boys Shane and Elijah. Robin works from home as a children's rights lawyer advocating for systemic reform benefiting foster children in Florida.





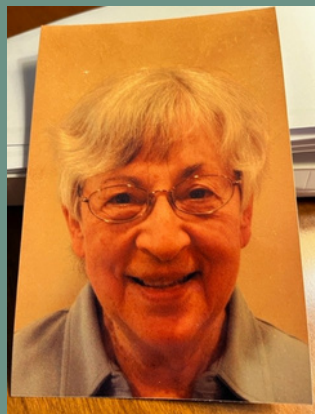
**Jill Kleinberg:**

My tenure on the LJCC board began when COVID restrictions first shaped our lives and I have never experienced an in-person board meeting. Nevertheless, I have been impressed by the thought and effort board members have given to keeping the LJCC community cohesive. Like others on the board, my goal is to strengthen LJCC as a welcoming space for spiritual and social well being.



**Michael Hennecke - Vice President:**

I am a long time Lawrence resident and have been active in the LJCC community for approximately 15 years. I currently serve on the Tikkun Olam and Religious School Action Committees."



**Suzanne Sherr - Corresponding Secretary:**

Arriving in Lawrence, Ks. in 1965 for my husband, Larry, to begin teaching in the Business School at KU we immediately joined the LJCC. It's been a wonderful association. My children were born here, and raised in our Jewish community. I've served on the Board as corresponding secretary in the past, and hope to do so again.



**Shelley Skie:**

I am a Lawrence native and KU alumna. I joined the LJCC about 20 years ago and have served on the Board multiple times.



**Rebecca Swinburne Romine:**

Rebecca Swinburne Romine is a statistician at the Lifespan Institute at KU, who has been involved with the LJCC since shortly after she moved here from MN in 2012. She lives with her husband, Russell, three children, Henry, Roz, and Charles, and three cats, Jasper, Miranda, and Kevin.



**Gregory Rudnick:**

Gregory Rudnick moved to Lawrence in 2008 to take a faculty position at KU and has been on the LJCC board since 2016. He is married to Anke and has a 15 year old child Jakob.

# Financial Overview 2021-22

The LJCC ended our 2021-22 fiscal year in good shape thanks to the generosity and hard work of our members. Contributions included funds donated to offset the cost of cantorial services for High Holidays this year and a significant donation to the LJCC general fund. Contributions outpaced the previous year by about \$20,000, and dues outpaced the previous year by about \$7,000. We welcomed some new members into the community and are grateful for their presence and their contributions.

The blintz brunch, the LJCC's signature fundraiser, raised about \$7,000 for the community thanks to the hard work of the committee and volunteers under the leadership of Beth Schwartz.

Our expenditures on staff for the last year are fairly consistent with the prior year. We anticipated that expenses will increase in the coming year now that we have two part-time staff members managing administrative organizational work (Nixx Sandidge) and programs and operations (Jordan Wade). These staff work alongside the LJCC security coordinator (Steve Hurst), custodian (Brandon Steinke), and handyman (Jeff Ridgeway). We benefit from professional services provided for our accounting (Jan Stewart) and technology (Patrick Wong).

Religious school expenses were minimal in the most recent year given that students attended school online with Topeka Beth Shalom.

Cemetery expenses were closely in line with cemetery income for the last year. After some review and discussion of records and funds related to the capital campaign for the cemetery conducted a number of years ago, the board and cemetery committee agreed that funds for capital improvements to the cemetery are designated for cemetery use in the coming year.

Any report of LJCC finances for 2021-22 would be incomplete without recognition of the significant work Les Schwartz accomplished for the community. Les oversaw a shift to a new bank, streamlined accounting practices, and helped direct the community to a more fiscally sound position. We ended the year with a budget overage of more than \$35,000 due in no small part to his guidance and leadership. In addition, after stepping down from the treasurer role, Les continued on in the position to keep the congregation running smoothly and assist in the transition to Jordan Yochim.



# Committee Reports

## **Cemetery Committee:**

The LJCC owns and is responsible for the Beni Israel / B'nai Israel Cemetery near Eudora. The historic Beni Israel portion of the cemetery is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This year saw some important changes at the Cemetery.

The Cemetery Committee installed new decorative fencing to designate the "halachic" section of the cemetery. In that area of the cemetery, the traditional Jewish burial laws are strictly adhered to. The cemetery bylaws mandate that there be a halachic section, and the new fencing is an important part of establishing that area.

The committee also purchased a storage shed and had it moved into the northwest corner of the cemetery. This will permit secure storage of grave marking materials, garden tools, hoses and other cemetery tools and supplies.

Priorities for the next year (and beyond) include improving the cemetery road, repairing broken historic tombstones, installing signage, creating small seating areas and doing decorative plantings on the north and west sides of the cemetery. The plantings will also serve as windbreaks and create more privacy. Some of these projects could be eligible for grant funding, which the Committee will study, and recommend to the Board if deemed feasible.

The Cemetery Committee thanks Jonathan Paretsky for several years of ably and tenaciously leading the Committee, and Michael Fox for serving as a valuable committee member. Both gentlemen have stepped off of the committee. John Hoopes joined the committee this year and is the new chair. John is working on compiling all cemetery procedures into one easy to read document. Neil Shanberg and Barry Shalinsky continue serving on the committee, and spearheaded the shed acquisition and halachic fencing projects respectively.

The Committee could use 1 – 3 new members and is actively seeking interested volunteers. We are also seeking regular and/or one-time donations for ongoing cemetery maintenance.

## **Religious School Action Committee:**

Our second year of pandemic religious school was again online with our friends at Temple Beth Shalom in Topeka. We were thankful for the opportunity to join with them online. But we are very excited to report that now that all our little ones can be vaccinated, Religious School will return in-person in the fall.

We have hired Rachel Downs-Doubrava to serve as our Religious School Director. Rachel is a long-time Lawrence resident who teaches art at Free State High School. She has lots of great ideas about bringing her passion for Judaism, children, and art to our religious school. We are still looking for teachers -so if you have any prospects, send them our way.

This coming year we also will initiate a new program for teens called Kulam. The Kulam program equips Jewish teens of all genders to engage in dynamic and authentic conversations in order to think reflectively, act courageously, and develop healthy, honest relationships. In this program, Jewish teens ask big questions about where, why, and how they belong, while exploring issues of identity, equity, and justice.

We can't wait to see how we can grow once we're back in the building!

## Ritual Committee:

Committee: Sam Brody (chair), Carrie Caine, Caryn Mirriam-Goldberg, Barry Shalinsky

This year, the ritual committee continued to grapple with the challenges of ever-changing pandemic conditions. There were several moments in 2021 when it seemed as though we were on the verge of a permanent return to in-person weekly services, only for a sudden renewed surge of COVID-19 to send us back to Zoom. Recently, however, we have been pleased to re-introduce Friday night services at the LJCC itself, in hybrid form, as well as Saturday morning services once a month.

On the holiday front, we had a wonderful Days of Awe last fall, made all the more poignant by the news that our beloved cantor, Rachel Black, will finally be moving on in her career to a permanent position elsewhere. We are hot on the trail of leads for new cantors or service leaders. Other highlights of the year happened outdoors as well, including our Passover scavenger hunt and potluck, with creative contributions and natural knowledge provided by Ken Lassman, and our Sukkot and Lag Ba'Omer gatherings on the LJCC patio.

The ritual committee welcomes anyone who enjoys thinking about, celebrating, and planning Jewish holidays, from Shabbat to Purim. If you think you have ideas about how the LJCC can expand or enrich its observations, please be in touch with Sam Brody ([sam.brody@gmail.com](mailto:sam.brody@gmail.com)) about joining the committee.

These are challenging times for religious communities, but we hope in the coming year not just to have a High Holidays that live up to the past but to revitalize and re-energize our ordinary weekly practice, by building an ever-larger bench of lay leaders ready and willing to assume responsibility for service leadership.

## **Tikkun Olam Committee:**

The Tikkun Olam Committee is excited to gather in the coming weeks to reengage with issues important to our Jewish lives. Join us in person or online for these events:

### **Monday, June 20. Religious Freedom and Reproductive Justice.**

Sharon Brett, Legal Director, ACLU of Kansas will share timely information about the upcoming proposed amendment to the Kansas state constitution that would allow legislative limitations on abortion. We will examine questions related to reproductive rights from a Jewish lens and understand how this proposal relates to religious freedom.

### **July 2022. Forum on Antisemitism and Justice.**

Sam Brody, associate professor of religious studies at the University of Kansas, will present on the history and current expressions of antisemitism in the US. With that as a starting point, we will consider the relationship antisemitism has to other barriers to justice in our time and how our Jewish community can chip away at those barriers.

### **August 2022. What We Can Do About Violence.**

The decades-long conversation we have had in America about violence has led many people to feel hopeless and out of control. We will focus on steps that each of us can take, right away, to mitigate the scourge of violence and the sense of threat that our communities experience.

### **Summer 2022. LJCC Blood Drive**

The LJCC is seeking potential donors for a blood drive this summer. We aim to recruit at least 40 donors. Write to [lawrencejcc@gmail.com](mailto:lawrencejcc@gmail.com) or call 785-843-7636 to let us know if you are willing to be one of those donors. We'll know more about timing in the coming weeks.

## **Programs and Adult Education:**

The Board recently decided to combine the Adult Education Committee with the programs and operations staff position since the two are doing overlapping work. Jordan Wade works with Suzanne Sherr and others on the former committee to plan educational programming and events.

In the past year we have worked hard to keep online programming going during the times when we could not meet together in person. Events in 2022 have included four Lunch and Learn programs, a book club meeting, monthly in-person Rosh Chodesh meetups, and programming associated with various Jewish holidays.

Our Rosh Chodesh program has been bringing in lots of new faces and we are excited to continue these events at the beginning of every Hebrew month. The event is meant to celebrate the new moon and create space for creativity, rest, and conversation among female-identified, non-binary, and trans folks in our community.

In the upcoming year we are planning a live musical event, several speaker series in conjunction with other committees, a continuation of the Lunch and Learn programs, and several unique lecture opportunities for our congregation.

The goal of this committee is to provide the types of Jewish programming that our community wants, both religious and secular. In the time of Zoom and hybrid programming many things are possible for our small community that we did not previously have access to. If you have a program that you would like to see at the LJCC in the next year please reach out to Jordan and she will be happy to talk about planning and organizing.



# Financial Highlights for 2022-23

- This is a deficit operating budget, but the board anticipates that fundraising and/or the sizable carryover from last year can be used to offset most if not all of the deficit
- The board took a very conservative approach to estimating operating revenue and a liberal approach to estimating operating expenses
- The budget committee, in preparing the proposal for the board's and congregation's consideration, looked at the actual revenue/expense outcomes from the full year pre-pandemic to help inform this year's budget
- The board wants to adhere to the congregation's decision to provide religious education at no cost to members. To do so we hope tzedakah will cover the costs of the school (~\$15,000) for the year. Non-members will be asked to pay a fee
- We are separating out the cemetery expenses - some annual operating expenses that must be covered every year were incorporated into other expenses (e.g. groundskeeping) that clouded the true cost of maintaining the cemetery
- Kitchen upgrades are not part of the operating budget but represent tzedakah opportunities. Similarly, cemetery upgrades will rely on the use of funds that were dedicated for the cemetery some time ago and are not part of this year's operating budget

# Proposed Budget 2022-2023

## Operating Revenue

Dues	50,000.00
General Fund	55,000.00
LINK Donations	1,000.00
Religious School	15,536.00
Designated Funds Donations	6,500.00
Cemetery Income	6,250.00
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$ 107,250.00</b>

## Fundraising

Total Blintz Brunch	15,000.00
<b>Total Fundraisers</b>	<b>15,000.00</b>

## Total Operating Revenue

**122,250.00**

# Proposed Budget 2022-2023

## Operating Expenses

<b>Administrative Expenses</b>	
Corporate Fees	40.00
Bank and Service Charges	500.00
Computers/Equipment	200.00
Equipment Rental	
Gifts	100.00
Insurance	6,600.00
Supplies	1,700.00
Postage & Delivery	450.00
Printing and Copying	200.00
Books & Publications	123.00
Software	1,584.00
Professional Services	24,504.00
<b>Total Administrative Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 36,001.00</b>

# Proposed Budget 2022-2023

## Operating Expenses

<b>Facility Expenses</b>	
Utilities	7,000.00
Repairs and maintenance	6,000.00
Building Supplies	500.00
Groundskeeping	2,500.00
Telephone and Internet	1,440.00
Custodial	4,000.00
Cemetery groundskeeping, maintenance	4,000.00
Burial expenses	1,250.00
<b>Total Facility Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 26,690.00</b>

# Proposed Budget 2022-2023

## Operating Expenses

<b>Payroll Salaries &amp; Expenses</b>	
Security	10,000.14
Office Manager	14,040.00
School Director	10,000.00
Teachers	4,536.00
Payroll Taxes	4,133.38
<b>Total Payroll Salaries &amp; Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 42,709.52</b>



# Proposed Budget 2022-2023

## Operating Expenses

<b>Program Expenses</b>	
Religious Programs	750.00
Ritual Committee	10,500.00
Other	200.00
Cemetery	
Religious School	2,000.00
Adult Education	1,000.00
Blintz Brunch	
General BB	7,500.00
LINK expenses	1,000.00
Security	2,850.00
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 25,800.00</b>

## Total Operating Expenses

**\$ 131,200.52**

# Proposed Budget 2022-2023

## Other Revenue and Expenditures

<b>Other Revenue</b>	
Grocery Certificates	18,500.00
Gift Shop Income	500.00
Bank Interest Income	
Total Other Revenue	\$ 19,000.00
<b>Other Expenditures</b>	
Gift Shop Expenses	<b>100.00</b>
Grocery Certificate Expense	15,000.00
Total Other Expenditures	\$ 15,100.00
<b>Net Other Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 3,900.00</b>

<b>Capital Expenses</b>	
Kitchen equipment	10,000.00
Cemetery upgrades	10,000.00

# Proposed Budget 2022-2023

## **Total Operating Revenue**

**\$ 122,250.00**

## **Total Operating Expenses**

**\$ 131,200.52**

## **Net Revenue**

**-\$ 5,050.52**

# Fundraising Goals

We aim to raise funds to support the initiatives below. These initiatives are not contingent on raised funds.

