



"To create and sustain an environment that perpetuates and celebrates Jewish traditions, observances and sense of community."

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Presented for the virtual Annual
Meeting of the Members
June 20, 2021 @ 10am

2021 RABBI ANNUAL REPORT

Dear JCOGS family,

What a difficult year. Millions of lives were taken at the hands of the pandemic. Economic troubles across the globe, including right here at home. The needs of the community and the need for community have not been more forcefully on display in a great many years.

JCOGS has navigated the pandemic with an abundance of caution, yet pandemic or not, JCOGS will not slow down! The spirit that makes JCOGS such a special community was on full display this year. Here are some examples of how our community made a difference:

We celebrated many life cycles in a hybrid fashion of both in-person and online, including welcoming ceremonies for new babies, Mitzvah celebrations (including Zoomitzvahs), multiple micro-weddings, and sadly, funerals.

Our chesed committee has been busy calling each of our members individually this year and offering support, particularly the most vulnerable and those in mourning. They also created a moving new brochure focused on grief that is coming out this summer.

We've also been quite busy online: kibbitz conversations to connect people, a virtual film festival, a series of interviews by teens of our elders called the Resilience Project, divinely inspired concerts, Maple meets Tahina cooking events that reached our Montreal members to let them know WE MISS YOU!, and many more.

We met religiously. A Freedom Singing Seder, Yizkor memorial services, special guests such as cantor, academic, and vocalist Galeet Dardashti showcasing Sephardi and Mizrahi music, a JCOGS-led Hanukkah party across Vermont and also for Shabbat Shuvah, and a Shake Your Tuchus Simchat Torah party. We also launched our first-ever JCOGS produced album Hashkiveinu on Shabbat Shirah, the Shabbat of Song with a national Kabbalat Shabbat service.

Of note, our weekly Friday night services have been attended consistently with numbers surpassing our usual in-person attendance. As of writing, we are set to relaunch in-person services. In addition, over the course of more than a year, we have also had a meditation group that meets regularly.

Our new ritual team was busy at work. They began by helping to create a High Holy Day experience under bizarre circumstances, including a drive-in shofar blowing and in-person Yizkor, a breathtaking Avinu Malkeinu video, as well as a full series of musical HHD services. They also organized Friday night month of Elul offerings, Hashkivenu prayer kavannot/intentions, a Purim megillah reading, and eight nights of Hanukkah videos. Contributions throughout have included personal prayers, new and old melodies, original poems, an original rap!, musical pieces, and increased learning and engagement for all.

As we all know, food is a cornerstone of building Jewish community. Entrusted by the board and working with our building committee, our kitchen team has been overhauling our kitchens to be more user-friendly for better meal experiences. We no longer have a kitchenette in our social hall. Instead, our commercial kitchen is divided into two separate kitchens: one to be used as a fully hechshered kosher-labels-needed kitchen that will accommodate both dairy and meat kosher meals. The second kitchen will be a pescetarian, vegetarian, and vegan potluck kitchen.

Our green team has been in full swing, from a Kiss the Ground movie and discussion, to planting a new Mitzvah garden. They have been working on achieving a Seal of Sustainability status for our congregation from Hazon.

On tikkun olam, JCOGS partnered with the Racial Equity Alliance of Lamoille, continues to offer support to the Lamoille Chamber of Commerce award winner for not-for-profit of the year: the Lamoille Community House, hosted multiple blood drives, and we launched the Warm Toes fund to help meet that most basic need for thousands.

Our children's education continues to see growth and depth in our five distinct programs: our youngest children and their parents meet for Kinderlach ("little children" in Yiddish) and Gesher ("bridge" in Hebrew) to sing and dance with me, and to enjoy stories with Beth and her puppet sidekicks, Tzipi the bird and Gamal the camel. On Wednesdays, our elementary-aged students explored the theme of mitzvot in our Olam Chesed program and learned Hebrew through movement interactive games. Operating entirely on a virtual platform didn't stop the staff from giving students experiences that engaged the senses, such as smelling Israeli spices and dancing Israeli style, or

exploring meaning-making subjects such as the Shoah. Our largest Mitzvah! cohort ever (14 students) worked together to learn prayers, study deeply, and delve into their Torah portions. Our Ateed (“future” in Hebrew) teens met around the firepit throughout the summer and then moved online for the winter months. Multiple collaborations are happening state-wide with our teens, including a virtual Seder, and a meeting with a child survivor. In addition, many young families that otherwise could not make it to Friday night services ended up attending weekly this year.

There are many plans already in store for the coming year. What is a given is that we must embrace a new perspective on how we engage Jewishly after this year. We return to in-person programming, yet given the need expressed, we will do our best to continue to offer an online option for Shabbat services for those not local or not able to attend in-person. We are also launching a JCOGS cafe and a series of kibbitz conversations. May what began as a difficult year soon be but a memory and lesson of resilience in the face of adversity and why community matters so much.

Tihyu bri'im, stay safe, be well.

Rabbi David

2021 PRESIDENT ANNUAL REPORT

Dear JCOGS community,

What a unique and challenging year, but JCOGS has continued to thrive. Infinite gratitude to past president Emily Rosenbaum for guiding us through much of the past year. When we look back at this annual report in future years, we will remember it as the year COVID closed our doors.

Programming in all areas was almost entirely virtual through the year. At the writing of this letter, we are just now beginning to open our building and grounds with the hope of being close to normal by the end of the summer. Our building committee led by Susan Bayer-Fishman has maintained our beautiful building. We have a new tent and a restored kitchen that will enhance our programming and events.

Rabbi David and his family have made a long-term commitment to our community in agreeing to a five-year contract that allows for professional growth and development. His continued presence is an incredible asset to our community.

Beth Liberman, and the Olam Chesed teachers, continued to educate our youth through remote learning. The students and teachers look forward to a return to normalcy next year. The Education committee led by Lis Erickson brought to reality the merger with the religious school at Beth Jacob in Montpelier. This will expand the cohort of Jewish youth, improve efficiency, and create more opportunities for interactions with other Jewish youth.

Summer programming was all virtual and continued to be well attended. The usual summer fundraiser was done virtually with a comedy night and auction. Thanks to Debby Sherman, Sandy Manning, Ellen Gibs, and Debora Steinerman who made this “funny evening” so successful.

The High Holy Days looked very different this year, with almost all of our services virtual. An uptick in COVID cases caused us to change our in-person Tashlich and Shofar blowing to a drive-up Shofar service. We were grateful to Aron Temkin for his careful schematic that allowed us to have an in-person, distanced Yizkor service. Thank you to the entire High Holy Day committee: Aron Temkin, Willa Bruckner, Claudia Woodward, Susan Bauchner, and Rachel Funk.

Throughout the year, our chesed committee continued to care for our members, especially those in isolation. Cyndy Wyatt and the committee called, fed, and watched out for the JCOGS community as joy and sadness carried on throughout the year. The chesed committee has also developed a grieving book that will be distributed.

Programming through the year included all holidays, Yom Ha'shoah with the Vermont Holocaust Memorial, poetry, meditation, book club, Yiddish club, and a birthday concert to name a few.

The tikkun olam committee headed by Lynne Gedanken and Amy Wenger continued to lead direct service to our community. We as a community supported Capstone, Salvation Farms, Red Cross Blood Drive, and our new Warm Toes Fund to name a few.

The Stowe Jewish Film Festival was once again virtual this year. Edie Simon-Israel and Sara Tauben brought us three movies about modern-day Israel. We look forward to a return next year to continuing the Film Festival live.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank our board for all their work. The officers not mentioned above include Sarah Ibson - secretary and Candace Elmquist - treasurer and chair of the finance committee. Board member Hersh Schwartz is on the finance and building committee, Aron Temkin is on the ritual team, Debby Sherman heads the membership committee and Irwin Tauben chairs the Canadian Friends of JCOGS. Every member works tirelessly to maintain the mission of JCOGS - to create and sustain an environment that perpetuates and celebrates Jewish traditions, observances, and a sense of community.

Respectfully,

Steven Levine

2021 FINANCE ANNUAL REPORT

Dear JCOGS Community,

Another unique year is in the books! As my second year as chair of the finance committee comes to a close, I have not yet experienced a “normal” year of JCOGS’ finances.

Throughout this year of response and recovery, the finance committee has been flexible to the changing environment of the pandemic. We started the fiscal year with only a first quarter expense budget in order to estimate revenues based on actual dues and benefactor donations received. Based upon the tremendously generous community response to the benefactor appeal, in September we created a full-year budget without any forced programmatic cuts. In September we also welcomed a new finance committee member, Charles Goldstein. At the October and November board meetings, the board spent a significant amount of time learning about historical sources of JCOGS’ revenue and how that revenue distribution will change over the next ten years.

Throughout the fall and winter, the finance committee continued to monitor the budget to actuals and kept the board apprised of any anomalies. The FY2022 budget process started on February 2nd, with everyone who interacts with the budget receiving a spreadsheet containing prior year expenses, prior year budget, current year expenses to date, and current year budget. Virtual budget meetings were held the second week of March. The finance committee presented a FY2022 budget based on the FY2020 budget – the FY2021 budget represents an anomaly against all other JCOGS’ prior year budgets given that operating costs were budgeted lower, remote expenses were budgeted higher, and overall revenues from our major donor were budgeted lower – that was passed at the April board meeting.

Respectfully,

Candace Elmquist

Finance chair & treasurer

2022 BUDGET

INCOME	FY22	FY21	FY20
FFTF - Phase 2	163,000	63,000	163,000
Membership Dues	155,150	121,618	142,625
Benefactor Campaign	42,000	60,106	38,000
General Donations	17,000	15,343	18,000
Fundraising Events	12,000	11,415	12,000
Children's Education	78,980	71,901	79,344
Shabbat	3,760	0	9,220
Festivals & Holidays	9,850	4,750	14,180
Programming	15,360	9,250	20,450
All Other	2,750	11,730	5,330
TOTAL INCOME	499,850	369,113	502,149
EXPENSE			
Clergy	171,950	160,389	151,795
Accounting/Financial Management	14,595	23,650	19,040
Office Administration	89,945	82,593	77,709
Facility Operation & Maintenance	58,979	64,354	66,094
Children's Education	102,906	104,937	111,781
Shabbat	17,580	11,000	23,780
Campaign Expenses	0	7,000	0
Festivals & Holidays (<i>incl. ritual items</i>)	18,750	8,335	19,175
Programming - Other	16,350	11,175	22,175
Tikkun Olam	1,000	1,000	1,000
Fundraiser Expenses	0	0	0
All Other	2,833	1,200	1,410
TOTAL EXPENSE	494,888	475,633	493,959
NET INCOME	4,962	-106,520	8,190

2020-2021 DONOR LIST

The one who gives to those in need lends to G-d. Proverbs 19:17

Your charitable giving supports our operating budgets and those families who cannot afford membership nor tuition in our religious school. Thank you.

Over \$5000

*Besser, Gretchen Rous & Albert

*Danziger z"l, Glenn

*Feinstein, Ron & Deborah

*Levine, Judith Wine & Steven

Mi Corazon Foundation, Frank Motter

*Sherman, Debra & Stephen

*Stern, Kimberly Yellin & Marc

\$2,500-4,999

*Allen, Judy

*Becker, Mitzi & Hillel

*Brown, Barbara Segal & Howard

Cummings, Steve & Susie

*Erickson, Elisabeth & Ryan

*Gedanken, Lynne

Goldsmith, Kim Kaufman & James

Goodman, Morris

*Herman, Harvey

*Israel, Edee Simon & Mark

*Lichtenstein, Carole & Steve

*Marin, Cyndy Wyatt & Ken

*Minkin, Priscilla & Andrew

Pressman, Deborah Levy & Michele

*Roskam, Marilyn & Skip

*Siegel, David & Barbara

*Slen, Jennifer & Joshua

*Solomon, Shelli & Alan

*Stewart, Karen & Paul

*Wolff, Judith & Norris

\$1,000-2,499

*Albert, Beverly

Angier, Linda Zamvil & John

Bacon, Jeri Wohlberg & Nat

*Bauchner, Susan

*Bauman, Barbara & Robert

Beal, Steve & Peggy Freedson

*Beinhaker, Anita & Ezra

Benson, Debra & Joel

Berson, Cynthia Allen & Steve

*Binder, Joan & Henry

*Blechman, Betsy & David

*Braff, Martha & Steven

Brown, Barbara & Mervin

*Bruckner, Willa & Jeff

Dananberg, Margie & Howie

Davis, Rona & Robert

Dorfman, Art & Jodi Silverman

*Dunn, Judith & Larry

*Elmquist, Candace

*Fainsilber, Alison Link & David

*Feinstein, Miriam Weinstein & Peter

Fishman, Susan Bayer & Steve

Freedman, Elyssa & Jonathan

*Furst, Michael

*Gibs, Ellen & Larry

*Glazier, James

Goldstein, Julia & Charles

*Hecht, Marion

*Heitner, Susan & Michael

Ibson, Sarah & Jonah

Jacobs, Barbara & Richard

*Kabay, Deborah Black & Mich

Kalichstein, Amanda & Avshalom

*Katz, Joan & Bob

*Laxer, Sara Lourie & Mark

*Levan, Dara & Jarrett

Levitt, Marion & Arthur

Levy, Helen & Andre

Manners, Barbara & Richard

*Manning, Sandra

*Merson, Caren & Howard

Miller, Hinda & Joel

*Pinsky, Rhoda & Joel

Rosenbaum, Emily & Jeffrey

Rosenberg, Kara & Eli

*Rosenbloom, Jean Remmer & Marvin

Rosenbloom, Miriam & Stephen

Rotblatt, Jennifer

*Rubin, Patti C.

Salzman, Nancy & Allan

*Schneeps, Rita & Stephen

Scudder, Marcie & Bill

Shapiro, Peggy & Gerald

Sherman, Monika & Todd

*Shoor, Tracy

Sigler, Kathy Myron & Jonathan

*Spector, Brian

Steinerman, Debora & Peter

*Stern, Barbara

Tauben, Sara & Irwin

Tauben, Steve & Estelle

*Temkin, Aron

*Tribush, Anne & Bruce

Voronoff, Renee Segal & Barry

Wallack, Linda Friedman & David

*Wolfgang, Katrine & David

*Yanow, Linda Hazen & Stephen

*Yoskowitz, Katie & Matt

*Zacharias, Marlene Maron & Michael

Zelman, Jackie & Richard

Ziegel, Ronna & Arnold

\$500-999

Baltuch, Charlene & Sig

Barr, Toni & Russell

Bassin, Holli & Ed

Beningson, Judy & David

Benoze, Nickie

Berlin, Alison & Steve

Blumsack, Gail

Braver, Susan

Calvo, Sarah

Diehl, Rebecca

Elefant, Caroline & Marcel

Ellner, Sarah & Israel

Epstein, Gail

Feder, Michael

Felgar, Yvonne & Arthur

Fox, Jennifer Daniels & Rick

Frank, Judy

Fried, Ann & Stephen

Friede, Jordan

Funk, Rachel

Gameroff, Brenda & David
*Gameroff, Simon
Gershman, Robin & Eric
Glanz, Kerry & Andrew
Glasser, Terri
Gleicher, Amy & Warren
Goodman, Sue Minter & David
Gordon, Ana Maria Salaya & Mark
Govoni, Leslie Black & Graham
Greenfogel, Jane & Steven
Gross, Saryl & Stephen
Grover, Richard
Heft, Carolyn
Hoskins, Amy Simms & Steve
Isaacson, Jonathan
Jacobson, Wendy & Gary
Kaplan, Lisa & Robert
Karosas, Alison & Al
Katz, Heather
Klebanoff, Melanie Adelson & Benjamin
Klein, Erica Stern & Ita
Klein, Rona
Kohl, Anastasia & Jimmy
Kromash, Thauna & Aaron
Lawee, Dahlia & Philip
Lazarus, Ellen
Levine, Howard
Levy, Linda & Robert
Litvack, Judy
Lonetto, Mila
Lupu, Sebastian
Lyman, Terri & Barry
Martin, Lauren Antler & Carl

McMahon, Richard
Melmed, Caroline & Calvin
Montgomery, Sandra
Nash, Andrea & Mark
Needleman, Judith
Nunez, Wendy & Nick
Oshkello, Stacey London & Craig
Pall Spera
*Peister, Alan
Raim, Leslie Shedlin & David
Redlich, Carrie
Redlich, Evelyn
Rood, Bobbi
Rosenbaum, Susan & Robert
*Rosenberg, Anne & Bruce
*Rosenfeld, Abram
Rosenthal, Amy
Rueschemeyer, Simone
Schoepke, Phil
*Schwartz, Harold
Shems, Maxine Grad & Ronald
Siegel, Mel
Silver, Joanna
Singer, Marni & Roger
Slootsky, Jill & Alan
*Solomon, David
*Spiegel, Joan
Sternthal, Gloria & Barry
*Teplick, Carol
*Tischler, Judith & Arthur
Tunick, Becky & James
Wax, Ben
Waxman, Ron & Lynn

*Weichsel, Bernard

Wenger, Dana Begins & Amy

Winokur, JeanMarie & Theodore

Yanowitch, Gail

*Zfass, Edith

Zipkin, Joelle & Ronnie

\$250-499

Blood, Fern Ellen

Boucher & Pritchard

Citron, Rena & Michael

Coldwell Banker

Cushman Design

Fidel, Rachel Rosenblum & Jamey

Goldfield, Mike

Hirsch, James

Howell, Sandra

Krakower, Nancy & Reid

Limon, Peter

Moorhead, Ivy Zeller & Steve

Murphy, Amy Wolk & Patrick

Raddock, Liz & Daniel

Sherman, Cherri

Turner, Alexandra & Gideon

\$100-249

Adler, Anne & Richard

*Allen, Bev

Azano, Judyth Pendell & Warren

Diesenhause, Arlene

Donald P. Blake

Goins, Alice

Hendler, Mary Stiles & Jared
Hill, Amy Yavitz & Jeremy
Kandestin, Gerry
Kazakoff, Patricia
Klein, Doris & Sheldon
Nisenholtz, Sandy
Pepper, France
Reisman, Amalia
Ringskog, Tricia Pepper & Daniel
Rose-Thompson, Courtney
Ryan, Mimi Murtagh & Isabella
Schlosser, Sara & Bob
Sussman, Joel
Vermeulen, Shari & Riaan
Waxman, Ron

Up to \$99

Alter, Bianca & Howard
Arthur, Portia
Ashman, Denise
Begly, Allison Zucker & John
Beinhaker, Anita & Ezra
Cluba, Shekhinah & Elliot
Eisner, Jeanne & William
Ganapol, David
Gottlieb, Lori & Adam
Guerrera, Laura Kaskey & Stephen
Justine, Stephanie
Kahn, Leah Hodari & David
Kuhlman, Ali & Randall
Lechter, Bunny & Mortimer
Leikin, Marni
Letourneau, Mona

Levine, Sharon & Paul

Liberman, Beth

Mahan, Lois & George

Quintin, Greta

Racusin, Mary Niles & Jacob

Reiter, Shona

Rogers, Susan

Schaffer, Shelly & Brian

Steinhart, Jaime & Daniel

Yoskowitz, Ellen

(*includes Benefactor Appeal contributions)

2020-2021 BENEFACTOR APPEAL

Ambassador (\$5000 – up)

Glenn Danziger z”l

Deborah & Ron Feinstein

Kimberly Yellin & Marc Stern

Benefactor (\$2500 - \$5000)

Gretchen Rous Besser & Albert G. Besser

Harvey Herman

Edee Simon-Israel & Mark Israel

Judith Wine & Steven Levine

Marilyn & Skip Rosskam

Debra & Stephen Sherman

Shelli & Alan Solomon

Patron (\$1000 - \$2499)

Judy Allen

Joan & Henry Binder

Candace Elmquist

Elisabeth & Ryan Erickson

Alison Link & Rabbi David Fainsilber

Lynne Gedanken

Marion Hecht

Deborah Black & Michel Kabay

Cyndy Wyatt & Ken Marin

Caren & Howard Merson

Priscilla & Andrew Minkin

Barbara & David Siegel

Jennifer & Joshua Slen

Brian Spector

Karen & Paul Stewart

Judith & Norris Wolff

Sustainer (\$500 - \$999)

Barbara & Robert Bauman

Mitzi & Hillel Becker

Anita & Ezra Beinhaker

Michael Furst

Joan & Bob Katz

Dara & Jarrett Levan

Carole & Stephen Lichtenstein

Rhoda & Joel Pinsky

Anne & Bruce Rosenberg

Miriam & Stephen Rosenbloom

Patti C. Rubin

Rita & Stephen Schneps

Tracy Shoor

Supporter (up to \$499)

Beverly Albert

Beverly Allen

Susan & Robert Bauchner

Betsy & David Blechman

Martha & Steven Braff

Barbara Segal & Howard Brown

Willa & Jeff Bruckner

Judith & Larry Dunn

Miriam Weinstein and Peter Feinstein

Simon Gameraff

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Sandra Manning

Alan Peister

Lisa Bernat & Abram Rosenfeld

Harold Schwartz

David Solomon

Joan Spiegel

Barbara Stern

Aron Temkin

Carole Teplick

Judith & Arthur Tischler

Anne & Bruce Tribush

Bernard Weichsel

Katine & David Wolfgang

Katie & Matt Yoskowitz

Marlene Maron & Michael Zacharias

Edith Black Zfass

TZEDAKAH REPORT 2020-2021

Tzedakah Committee

“Tzedakah and acts of kindness are the equivalent of all Mitzvot of the Torah.”

Jerusalem Talmud

It is with gratitude and respect that your Tzedakah Committee share with you our 2020 distribution allocations. It is only through your generous donations that we were able to fund the following [US](#) and [Canadian](#) non-profit organizations.

[United Way of Lamoille County](#)

[Vermont Food Bank](#)

[Lamoille Community Food Share](#)

[Food Share Thanksgiving Basket Appeal](#)

[Lamoille Community House](#)

[Capstone Community Action: Home Heating Program](#)

[Clarina Howard Nichols](#)

[North Central Vermont Recovery Center](#)

[Copley Hospital Foundation](#)

[Stowe Weekend of Hope: In Memory of Jane Lande](#)

Children's Literacy Foundation

Hillel-UVM

Stowe Community Church Fund

Mazon Canada

MADA Community Center

Agence Ometz

Auberge Shalom

Camp B'nai Brith

Jewish People School Fund

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Rabbi David Fainsilber*	Ex Officio
Ron Feinstein	Emeritus
Lynne Gedanken*	Vice President
Sarah Ibson*	Secretary
Nancy Krakower	Emeritus
Steven Levine*	President
Beth Liberman	Ex Officio
Steve Lichtenstein	Emeritus
Harold Schwartz	Trustee
Debby Sherman	Trustee
Irwin Tauben	Ex Officio (President, Canadian Friends of JCOGS)
Aron Temkin	Trustee
Amy Wenger	Trustee
Cyndy Wyatt*	Vice President
Sadie Ellner	Youth Board Member
Erica Laxer	Youth Intern
*Executive Committee Member	

2020-2021 COMMITTEES AND CHAIRS

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BUILDING

Susan Bayer-Fishman

CEMETERY

Steve Berson

CHESED

Cynthia Wyatt

CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

Lis Erickson

DEVELOPMENT

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FINANCE

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STOWE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

Edee Simon-Israel

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