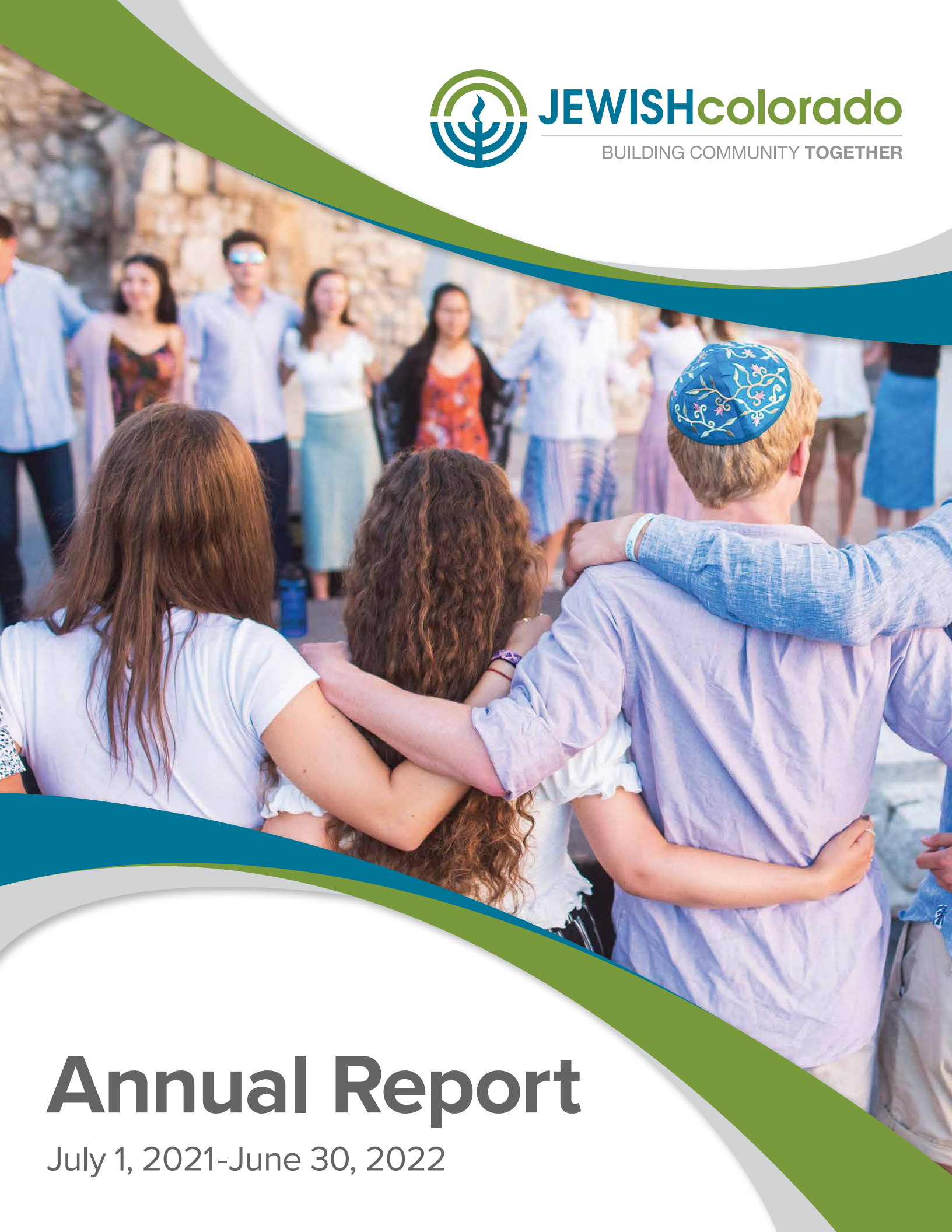




JEWISHcolorado

BUILDING COMMUNITY TOGETHER



Annual Report

July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022

JEWISHcolorado: Building community and creating connections among Jewish people in Colorado, Israel, and around the world.



JEWISHcolorado

BUILDING COMMUNITY TOGETHER

300 S. Dahlia Street
Denver, Colorado 80246

(303) 321-3399 | info@jewishcolorado.org

jewishcolorado.org

Dear JEWISHcolorado Community,

We are proud to bring you this impact report about the work of JEWISHcolorado. It was a thrill to “come together” in June with our community at our signature gala event with Noa Tishby and the Andy Statman Trio. Maybe you were there with us. We saw familiar faces that we had not seen in person since the start of the pandemic. We saw new faces of people who have moved to Colorado and found a new Jewish home. We welcome you!

Think of this publication as another chance to “come together” with us and to learn about the ways we have put your dollars to work during the past many months. You may be interested to find out more about some new initiatives that are underway. Read about our new Real Estate and Construction Network and the exciting opportunities to meet and network with others. Learn more about our Shabbat programs for young adults that are so well attended that you need to reserve your spot early.

We’re excited to highlight what we are doing for teens—from our mental health “first aid” program to our ever-popular Joyce Zeff Israel Study Tour. Our 2022 IST group had a remarkable five weeks in Israel, and let’s not forget how our 2020/2021 Colorado students were the first Jewish teens in the world to return to Israel since the start of the pandemic.

In this magazine, you can read about our Israeli emissaries—Shaliach and Shinshinim—and about programs that will connect you to Israel. You will hear people describe their lifelong connections to Judaism and learn more about how we are expanding our important work in the areas of community safety and security.

We hope you will put us on your calendar in 2022-2023. There is much work to do, and so much that we can accomplish together.

Sincerely,



Rabbi Jay Strear
President & CEO
JEWISHcolorado



Rob Kaufmann
Board Chair
JEWISHcolorado

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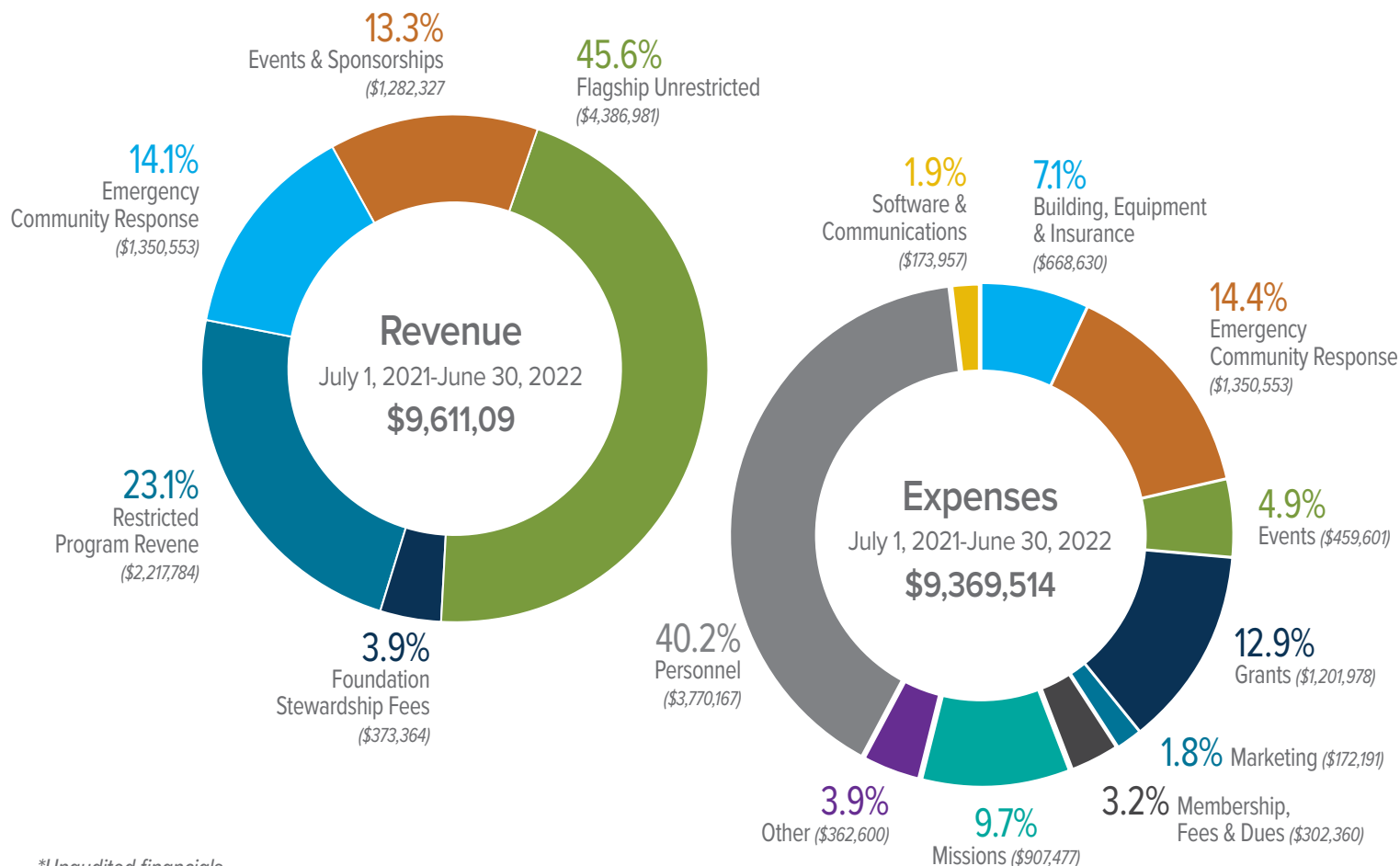
**Joining the Board of Directors in June 2022*
***Leaving the Board of Directors in June 2022*
****Leaving Chair position in June 2022*



Every effort has been made to ensure that the information included in this publication is accurate and complete. If you note any errors or omissions, please accept our apologies and notify JEWISHcolorado at philanthropy@JEWISHcolorado.org. To update your mailing address, contact us at philanthropy@JEWISHcolorado.org.

JEWISHcolorado Operating Budget

July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022*



*Unaudited financials

A Year of JEWISHcolorado Impact



July '21

For the fourth consecutive year, JEWISHcolorado awards \$50,000 in Staenberg "Anything Grants," to support programs ranging from Jewish teen programming to perennial gardens for seniors.



August '21

JEWISHcolorado and the community of Aspen host Amira Aharonovich, CEO and Director General of the Jewish Agency for Israel. Events in Aspen help fund local Jewish programs.

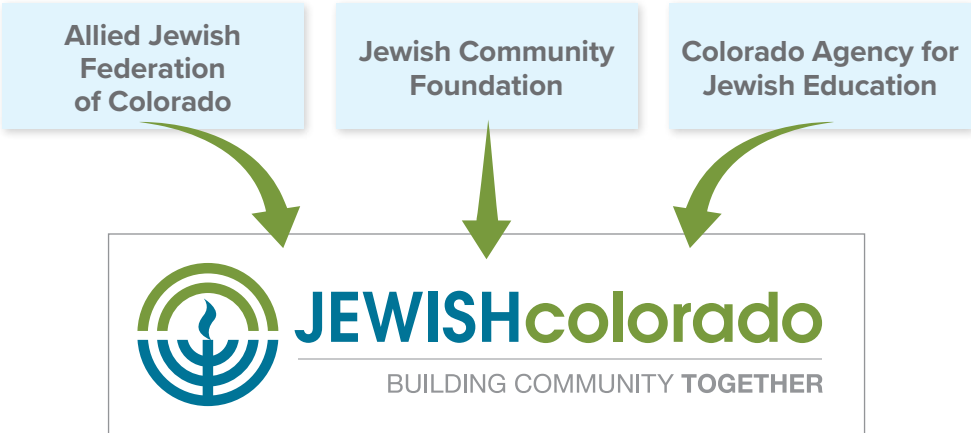
Frequently Asked Questions

In many nonprofit reports, financial information is normally found tucked into the back of a publication, but not this one. Your support for JEWISHcolorado and the ways we put your philanthropic dollars to work are first and foremost. You place your trust in this more than 75-year-old organization to work on your behalf, to strengthen and secure our statewide Jewish community, and to connect Jewish people at home and abroad, and we are here to deliver.

By the Numbers: Three organizations & five business models

JEWISHcolorado is made up of three historical stand-alone organizations. From 2013-2016, JEWISHcolorado merged three organizations to one—melding the missions and work of the **Allied Jewish Federation of Colorado**, the **Jewish Community Foundation**, and the **Colorado Agency for Jewish Education**.

The Jewish Community Relations Council is also operated under the auspices of JEWISHcolorado, and the Regional Safety & Security Initiative, in partnership with national and local partners, also finds its home here. We are a complex, far-reaching organization whose mission is to build community and create connections among Jewish people in Colorado, Israel, and around the world.



September '21

The 50th anniversary celebration of JEWISHcolorado's Israel Study Tour continues with "decade picnics" all around Denver.



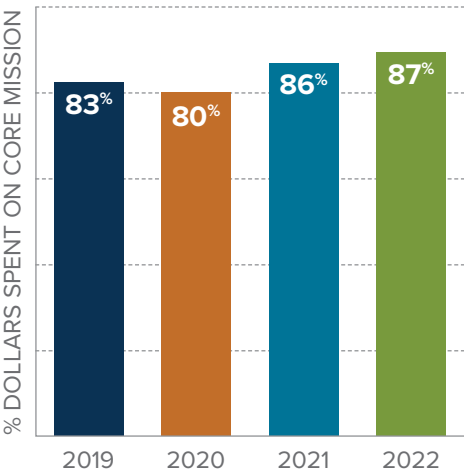
October '21

Eran Doron, the Mayor of the Ramat HaNegev Regional Council, visits Colorado for a series of events and meetings, including an Israeli wine tasting.

Expense Mission Ratio: Percent of dollars spent on core mission

Our core mission includes program delivery, grant making, and services that we provide to the community such as safety and security trainings. Activities that are not considered to be part of our core mission but are critical to our operation are activities such as fundraising and administrative costs.

Percent of Dollars Spent on
Core Mission (2019-2022)



How much is spent in operating and non-operating dollars?

- JEWISHcolorado has an approximate **\$9 million annual operating budget**
- The operating and non-operating assets under JEWISHcolorado management, which includes Donor Advised Funds and agency endowments, **equal nearly \$100 million**. This includes more than 150 Donor Advised Funds, 30 Agency Endowments, and restricted and unrestricted dollars raised by JEWISHcolorado.
- The organization processes nearly **\$1.5 million in pass-through charitable gifts** to other nonprofit organizations through the Total Choice Tzedakah program.

What are our revenue sources?

- Grants & philanthropic gifts from the community;
- Event ticket and sponsorship fees;
- Investment stewardship;
- Program delivery fees.

Where does the money that we raise go?

Dollars sent back into the community:

- Grants to support Jewish life in Colorado—Projects of Impact & Need (PIN), Community Support Partnership (CSP), allocations;
- Grants to support global JEWISH partners—Jewish Agency for Israel, Joint Distribution Committee, World ORT, and other organizations;
- Dollars to cover cost of the Regional Safety & Security Initiative statewide;
- Dollars for emergency funding such as COVID assistance, the Boulder Fire Relief Fund, and the Ukraine Emergency Fund.

A Year of JEWISHcolorado Impact (continued)



November '21

JEWISHcolorado awards grants to more than 30 Jewish nonprofits and schools as part of the organization's annual "Projects of Impact & Need" grants program. The \$450,000 in grants serves more than 40,000 people.



December '21

JEWISHcolorado creates an emergency fund for victims of the Marshall Fire in Boulder, ultimately resulting in \$1 million in donations from nearly 3,000 donors.

What programs are provided for the community by JEWISHcolorado:

- Shaliach and shinshinim adult and teen Israeli Emissaries Program;
- Israel and Overseas Programs;
- PJ Library & PJ Our Way;
- Early Childhood Education scholarships;
- One Happy Camper camp grants;
- Jewish Explorers for Jewish and interfaith families;
- Jewish Student Connection for high school students;
- Joyce Zeff Israel Study tour for high school juniors;
- Advocacy efforts through the Jewish Community Relations Council;
- Shalom Hartman Courageous Conversations Program;
- Safety & Security trainings, site assessments, microgrants, and Nonprofit Security Grant assistance.



January '22

Under the auspices of JEWISHcolorado's Israel & Overseas Center and in conjunction with the Jewish Agency for Israel, JEWISHcolorado launches YAD/Ramat HaNegev Exchange. This program connects young Jews from around the world to cultivate a network of emerging community leaders with a passion for solving problems and creating a shared Jewish future.



February '22

After Russia invades Ukraine, JEWISHcolorado and its Federation and global partners announce emergency funding efforts for the people of Ukraine.

How many grants does JEWISHcolorado provide each year to community organizations?

JEWISHcolorado made more than 70 grants in FY '22 through grantmaking programs including Projects of Impact & Need (PIN Grants), Staenberg Anything Grants, and Community Support Program (CSP Grants). Additionally, JEWISHcolorado allocates \$100K in grants to the Jewish day schools, provides grant dollars for specific programs run by Jewish Family Service, and has provided hundreds of thousands of dollars in emergency relief dollars for victims of the Marshall Fire near Boulder as well as for Ukrainian War refugees. (See p. 76 for grant listings.)

How are we reaching and connecting Jewish people in our community?

Number of interactions with individuals through programs and

events in FY'22: 38,796

Number of interactions with Jewish agencies and nonprofit organizations: more than 500

Why do people give to JEWISHcolorado?

When we asked, here is what they told us: "I think it's important to give to the organization because it's all about being part of the local community and also part of the global community."

"I support JEWISHcolorado so that newcomers like me and also people who have been in the community a long time have a community around them like I received when I came to Colorado."

"We help so many people in the community. We help so many organizations in the community. We do so much for Israel. We are not an isolated organization. We reach out to everyone. That's why I am more than happy to contribute to JEWISHcolorado."

Your Giving Sustains Our Community

A Donor Advised Fund (DAF) is a philanthropic vehicle that allows you to support virtually any IRS-qualified 501(c)(3) public charity.

Contributions to a JEWISHcolorado DAF are immediately tax-deductible, allowing you to maximize your tax benefits through gifts of appreciated stock or non-publicly traded assets. While you decide which charities to support, you can recommend how you would like your assets invested. And your DAF grows tax-free, making even more money available for charitable giving.

For information on DAFs, contact Jen Kraft, jkraft@jewishcolorado.org.

A Year of JEWISHcolorado Impact (continued)



March '22

JEWISHcolorado's Jewish Community Relations Council hosts "Date with the State" with Colorado legislators and author and podcaster Mark Oppenheimer.



April '22

By the end of the first quarter of 2022, JEWISHcolorado's Regional Security Advisor had trained nearly 1,500 people in Counter Active Threat Training (CATT). The demand for training increased dramatically after the Colleyville, Texas, synagogue hostage crisis.

FY = Fiscal Year

Donor-Advised Fund Giving



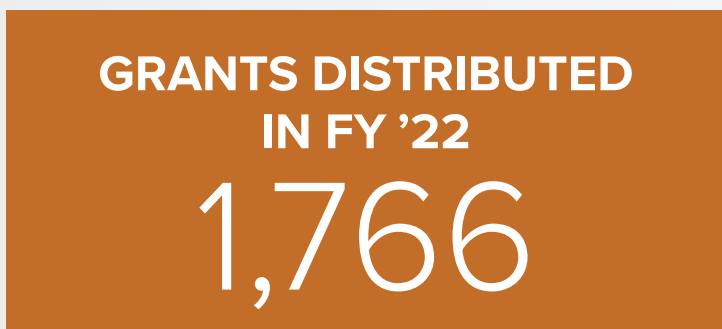
NUMBER OF
DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS

123



NUMBER OF ENDOWED
FUNDS

84



GRANTS DISTRIBUTED
IN FY '22

1,766



DONOR ADVISED FUND
GRANTMAKING

\$9.7M



May '22

After two years of pandemic-canceled events, JEWISHcolorado holds an in-person outdoor festival and walk to “Celebrate Israel” and a Public Officials Mission, escorting more than 40 community leaders to meet with business, community, and government officials in Israel.



June '22

Colorado Governor Jared Polis signs the local Nonprofit Security Grant program for Colorado, legislation that was spearheaded by JEWISHcolorado. Nearly 80 high school students depart for five weeks of their Israel Study tour, and JEWISHcolorado hosts Noa Tishby and the Andy Statman Trio for “Come Together,” concluding the organization’s successful FY '22 \$7 million annual campaign.

FY = Fiscal Year



Joyce Zeff Israel Study Tour—Now and Then

It's a trip of a lifetime, making memories that last forever



During the summer of 2022, 72 Colorado teens immersed themselves in the life, history, culture, and religious experiences of Israel for five weeks on the Joyce Zeff Israel Study Tour (IST), one of the last remaining community-based Israel trips in the country.

"It was an honor to be a part of this amazing group of teens and staff this summer," says Jillian

Feiger, Director of Jewish Student Connection and IST. "The other staffers and I witnessed the true power that the Israel Study Tour wields when it comes to enhancing young people's understanding of and connection to their own Jewish identity. I could not be more grateful to the JEWISHcolorado team for delivering the tools that have kept this annual adventure going strong. Cheers to 50 more years of IST!"





Fifty years!

Yes, IST celebrated 50 years on Sunday, May 1, 2022. Dozens of ISTers gathered at Infinity Park Event Center to reminisce, reconnect, and celebrate 50 years of this unique and beloved journey to their birthright country. Alumni

from the trip throughout the years recounted their memories in a video presentation, and we share some of their thoughts here. □

“From the very first trip, all of these kids from Denver, Colorado, came back and were completely changed and told their parents and their friends about this whole experience. I think everybody got on board because they saw the value of having this Israel trip and having these kids come back wanting to be a part of our communal Jewish world.”

*Debra Weinstein, 1971,
the first IST trip*

“I really felt so incredibly close to all the other kids on the trip. Going into the trip we were friendly, but by the time we left, it really felt like family. That same thing goes for the Israelis that we met. They were just strangers to me, and I don’t think that they will ever be just strangers again.”

Jake Hodas, 2021

“I went on IST in 1978 after my sophomore year. It brings home the history of our people and helped us understand the connection to the state of Israel and why that part of the world is so important to us through all these generations.”

Rob Kaufmann, 1978



“If we don’t have a community trip, there is no way for us to sort of regularly and habitually meet the rest of the people in the community. We have to try here, and we have to make an effort for our Jewish identity and for our love of Israel to be part of who we are and part of our everyday lives.”

Gil Selinger, 1998

“Now Israel is somewhere that I could call home someday if I wanted to. It’s somewhere that I have friends and memories, and I have a note in the wall. I feel like I’ve left a little piece of myself all over Israel. And before that it was just a place on the map.”

Lucy Adlen, 2021

Demand for Emergency Training Increases

“We’re going to be in a different environment as we open up,” the presenter said to the dozen people sitting in a synagogue sanctuary in Denver.

The occasion was a training for synagogue ushers and greeters in preparation for worshippers to return to in-person worship as the COVID-19 pandemic waned and morphed. The presenter was former FBI Special Agent Phil Niedringhaus, who, in a time of rising antisemitism and hate crimes, heads up JEWISHcolorado’s Regional Safety & Security Initiative.

Training the congregation’s volunteer safety team is what Niedringhaus calls the “centerpiece of emergency preparedness.” Since

the January 2022 hostage incident at a synagogue in Colleyville, Texas, there has been a dramatic increase in demand for trainings. In the first quarter of 2022 alone, more than 2,000 people statewide took part in a JEWISHcolorado’s preparedness training.

Further, in the wake of the Texas incident, the Jewish Federations of North America launched LiveSecure, a multi-million-dollar grant matching program that will match local dollars raised to launch new efforts or to expand existing security efforts. In Colorado, those matching dollars would be used to expand safety and security staffing to meet current demand for both training and emergency response, **up to \$250,000** per year for three years.

The training

Protocols for the Regional Safety & Security Initiative’s training sessions were developed by the Secure Community Network (SCN), and as Regional Security Advisor, Niedringhaus works to build a culture of empowerment, collaboration, and vigilance. To that end, he encourages greeters who work the outside of the building to make people feel comfortable. But he also trains them to look for unfamiliar faces, signs of a stranger casing a building, abandoned packages or backpacks, or people lingering for a prolonged period of time.

Inside the building, ushers provide the next layer of security,

working the foyer or lobby and monitoring the sanctuary. These volunteers, says Niedringhaus, “enhance a congregation’s ability to respond to and manage most incidents.” Niedringhaus teaches the volunteers how to access and activate emergency communications and procedures and how to support law enforcement during evolving incidents.

To date, JEWISHcolorado’s Regional Safety & Security Initiative has reached more than 110 Jewish organizations statewide, completed dozens of safety trainings, and provided nearly 450 assessments and consultations. Niedringhaus leverages his law enforcement experience to remain in constant contact with local, state, and federal law enforcement partners to enhance the safety of the Jewish community.

The need for the Initiative

The Initiative was created in the wake of the deadliest attack on the Jewish community in the United States—a mass shooting that took place on October 27, 2018, at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh. The gunman killed eleven people and wounded six. Along with JEWISHcolorado, the Rose Community Foundation is one of the key partners supporting the Initiative, in addition to the Anti-Defamation League Mountain States Region,

TIPS FOR SYNAGOGUES

- ✓ Know your guests
- ✓ Greet every person
- ✓ Observe, assess, and act
- ✓ Implement a layered approach to security
- ✓ Look at your facility from the outside in
- ✓ Be situationally aware

*Regional Security Advisor
Phil Niedringhaus speaks
in Aspen.*



“Our first priority
is to keep everyone in
our community safe.”

**Rabbi Jay Strear,
President & CEO, JEWISHcolorado**

the Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation, and individual donors.

“As an active funder in the Metro Denver/Boulder Jewish community, Rose Community Foundation had been approached by Jewish nonprofits, schools, and congregations about their security needs around assessments, trainings, coordination, and infrastructure,” says Lindy Eichenbaum Lent, president and CEO of Rose Community Foundation. “We chose to invest and partner in the Regional Security

and Safety Initiative as a means of supporting the security-related concerns of individual organizations and the safety of the local Jewish community as a whole.”

“Our first priority is to keep everyone in our community safe,” adds Rabbi Jay Strear, JEWISHcolorado’s President and CEO. “We will continue to ensure that we do everything possible to protect against all threats.”

For Niedringhaus, it all comes back to the volunteers, especially those who have completed the readiness

trainings. “You are the ones,” he tells them. “Nothing works well unless you have people willing to do the job that all of you are willing to do.” □

To schedule a training, site assessment, or walk through of your facility, please contact: Phil Niedringhaus at pniedringhaus@securecommunitynetwork.org. To find out more about supporting the LiveSecure matching grant program, contact Campaign Chair Ginna Rinkov at philanthropy@jewishcolorado.org or Renée Rockford at rockford@jewishcolorado.org.

Coloradans Will Stand Together to Protect All Peoples

JEWISHcolorado, its Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), and more than 100 coalition partners applaud the Colorado State Legislature for passing legislation creating the Colorado Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NPSG) in May 2022. With this act, Colorado becomes the latest state to create a nonprofit security grant program for qualified nonprofit organizations at high risk of a terrorist attack. Representatives Dafna Michaelson Jenet and Iman Jodeh, and Senators Kevin Priola and Chris Hansen sponsored the bill.

The program will operate within the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM) and will further enhance the physical security of Colorado's faith-based and charitable organizations.

JEWISHcolorado and the JCRC amassed a coalition of more than 100 organizations that backed the bill.

JCRC chair Matt Most thanked the sponsors and coalition members for coming together in a bi-partisan and broad community effort to gain passage of the legislation. "Threats towards nonprofit institutions have only increased during the COVID-19 pandemic, targeting all faiths," he said. "Unfortunately, we are living in a time of widespread threat to minorities, houses of worship, and nonprofits. We have seen time and again the loss of life from hateful, racist, white supremacist, and antisemitic acts. This effort sends a clear message that Coloradans will stand together to protect and raise up our statewide community and all peoples."

The impact of this legislation

The legislation allows nonprofit organizations to apply for funding to pay for security upgrades on their buildings, preparedness exercises, training, planning, and contracting with security personnel.

Demand for funding of these actions has skyrocketed after the Tree of Life Synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh (2018) and the Christchurch New Zealand Mosques shooting (2019). In 2020, the annual federal budget for the program was \$90 million. However, despite the increased threats from extremist activity, federal NPSG funding to Colorado declined significantly in recent years. Now the state has taken action to replace that funding.

Grant projects must be feasible and effective at reducing the risks for which the projects were designed and cannot be used for inherently religious activities. The initial budget for the Colorado NPSG is \$500,000, with a maximum award amount of \$50,000 per organization.

Eleven other states have created programs to supplement the federal program, augmenting the security of even more organizations in their states. "Programs like this are more important than ever to ensure that all Coloradans are safe while participating in community events or in their places of worship," says JEWISHcolorado President and CEO Rabbi Jay Strear.

DHSEM will closely track the federal program and will assess applications. Upon FEMA's award notifications, Colorado DHSEM will notify those organizations which did not receive federal funding but will be eligible receive state funding. □

For program and application details, please visit CO.EMGrants.com.



The Colorado State Nonprofit Security Grant Program was supported by the following coalition of organizations:

- ACE: Arts, Culture, and Education at the Boulder JCC
- African Leadership Group
- Agudath Israel of Colorado
- Anti-Defamation League Mountain States Region
- Armenian National Committee of America — Western Region
- Asian Chamber of Commerce of Colorado
- Asian Pacific Development Center
- Aspen Jewish Congregation
- Auraria Higher Education Center
- Aurora, Colorado Branch of the NAACP
- Bais Menachem and Chabad Lubavitch of Colorado
- Beth Jacob High School
- BMH-BJ Congregation
- B'nai B'rith Colorado
- B'nai Havurah
- B'nai Vail
- Boulder JCC
- Catholic Archdiocese of Denver
- The Center on Colfax
- Coloradans for the Common Good
- Colorado Catholic Conference
- Colorado Council of Churches
- Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition (CCDC)
- Colorado Islamic Center
- Colorado Muslim Society
- Colorado Nonprofit Association
- Colorado Resilience Collaborative
- Colorado Sikhs
- Congregation Bonai Shalom
- Congregation Har Hashem
- Congregation Rodef Shalom
- Congregation Zera Abraham
- Craig Hospital
- Denver Academy of Torah
- Denver Community Kollel
- Denver Jewish Day School (DJDS)
- The Denver Kehillah
- Downtown Denver Islamic Center
- East Denver Orthodox Synagogue (EDOS)
- The Efshar Project
- Einstein Academy
- The Golda Meir House Museum
- Greater Metro Denver Ministerial Alliance
- Hadassah Denver
- Hadassah LEA (Littleton-Englewood-Aurora)
- Hillel Academy of Denver
- Hillel of Colorado
- Hindu Temple and Culture Center of the Rockies
- Interfaith Alliance of Colorado
- Islamic Center of Fort Collins
- Islamic Society of Colorado Springs
- J Street Education Fund, Colorado Chapter
- The Jewish Experience
- Jewish Community Relations Council, a program of JEWISHcolorado
- Jewish Family Service of Colorado
- Jewish Life Center: Chabad Denver North
- JTown
- Judaism Your Way
- Kavod Senior Life
- Metropolitan Denver North Islamic Center
- Mikvah of East Denver (MOED)
- Mizel Arts and Culture Center
- Multicultural Mosaic Foundation
- Muslim Family Services of Colorado
- Na'aleh Denver
- National Council of Jewish Women - Colorado Section
- Northeast Denver Islamic Center (NDIC)
- One Colorado
- Out Boulder County
- Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains
- Ramah in the Rockies
- Rocky Mountain Rabbis & Cantors (RMRC)
- Rose Community Foundation
- South Denver Islamic Center
- Staenberg-Loup Jewish Community Center (JCC)
- Temple Beit Torah, Colorado Springs
- Temple Emanuel, Denver
- Temple Sinai, Denver
- The Tipi Raisers | Ti Ikciya Pa Slati Pi
- Together Colorado
- Village Exchange Center
- Western Center for Russian Jewry (WCRJ) Synagogue and Community Center
- Yeshiva Toras Chaim

Other JCRC Advocacy and Support Efforts:

- Holocaust Education Bill
- Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions
- Trauma-Informed Modernization of Eldercare for Holocaust Survivors
- Colorado Office of New Americans
- Colorado Refugee Services Program
- COVID Relief Legislation

New Center Strengthens Ties to Israel

JEWISHcolorado announces the launch of the new Israel & Overseas Center designed to build a stronger and more dynamic relationship among Colorado's Jewish community, Israel, and global Jewry. The new center will bring under one umbrella JEWISHcolorado's existing Israel programs and add future programs as they are launched.

New programs to bolster engagement

Under the auspices of the new Israel & Overseas Center, JEWISHcolorado launched G2, a yearlong intergenerational initiative for grandparents and their grandchildren designed to foster meaningful connections, strengthen family narratives, and explore legacies around Jewish experience.

Another new program, YAD/Ramat HaNegev Exchange, is a global community action network that engages young professionals in the diaspora and Israeli communities in the adoption and replication of innovative ideas and practices.

These programs, initially conducted in collaboration with The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), complement JEWISHcolorado's existing Israel programs, including a more than 20-year partnership with the Israeli communities of Ramat HaNegev, as well as programs that bring adult and teen emissaries from Israel to Colorado. JEWISHcolorado also operates the Joyce Zeff Israel

Study Tour, a more than 50-year-old program that takes high school students to Israel for several weeks each summer.

Additional programs

Another program under the auspices of the Israel & Overseas Center and in partnership with the Shalom Hartman Institute is "Courageous Leadership: Democracy, Pluralism and a Vibrant Jewish Community."

This series of intensive learning experiences, led by renowned educators from the Institute, brings together community leaders to discuss how to build stronger bridges between people and organizations, understand and accommodate different perspectives within and between organizations, and work toward a shared goal of ensuring Jewish continuity and making the community a magnet for Jewish life.

Also operating under the Israel & Overseas Center are Public Officials Mission trips which give Colorado public officials the opportunity to meet high level Israeli leaders and explore innovative Israeli research and technology in fields pertinent to Colorado. Another program included in the Center is iRep which works to increase diversity and encourage respect for a diverse and pluralistic Jewish community in Israel and North America.

Jewish educator to head new Center

The new Center is directed by Edina Segal, who comes to

JEWISHcolorado with more than 20 years of experience in Jewish education, including her most recent post as Director of Jewish Education and Family Engagement at the Jewish Center of the Hamptons. Segal spent a year living on a kibbutz and many living in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. In the mid-1980s, she was a founding member of *Eretz* magazine, which she refers to as "Israel's National Geographic."

From passion to purpose

The new Israel & Overseas Center is being funded with the single largest annual gift in JEWISHcolorado's 75-year history: \$1.5 million from Diana Zeff Anderson and the Zeff Keshet Foundation. The mission of the Keshet Foundation is to build connections (in Hebrew, *keshet*) between Colorado and Israel.

Zeff Anderson is herself an alumna of the Shalom Hartman Institute for community leaders, and this major philanthropic gift reflects how her passion has become her purpose.

She grew up in Denver, earned a BA in economics from Claremont McKenna College and studied at Boston University in Israel while she pursued her Master's Degree in business. She lived, worked, and raised four children in Israel for 24 years, from 1981-2005, and she speaks fluent Hebrew.

At JEWISHcolorado, Zeff

Anderson served as the first Chair of the organization's Israel Engagement Committee. She has chaired the organization's Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) and its Board of Directors and has been a member of the Planning and Grant Committee. Currently, she is Chair of the Planned Giving & Endowment Committee. The Zeff Keshet Foundation is the lead funder of JEWISHcolorado's adult and teen Israeli emissary programs, known by their Hebrew names, *shaliach* and *shinshinim*. She is passionate about fostering people-to-people connections among Jews around the world.

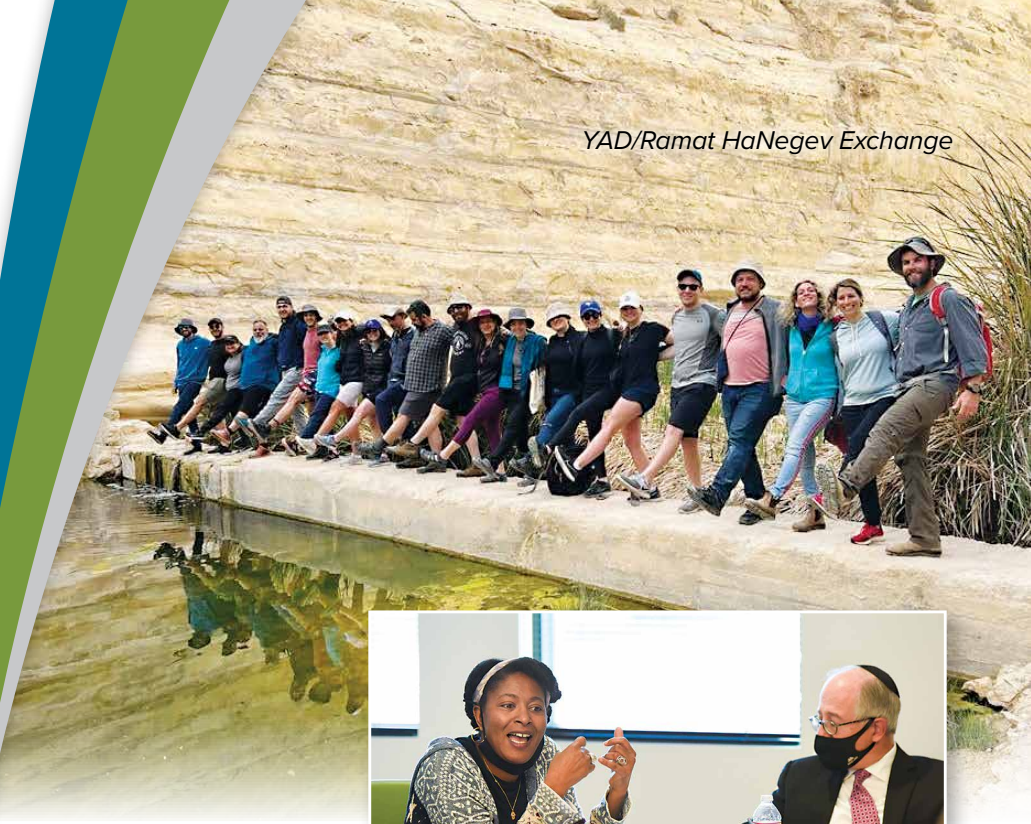
"We must all act together, building bridges back to each other," she says. "We must strengthen the ties that bind us in our Colorado Jewish community and reinforce our bonds with the people in Israel."

Today, Zeff Anderson travels back and forth to Israel and continues to build bridges through partnerships and relationships that engage the people of both countries.

"Our niche at JEWISHcolorado is connection," Zeff Anderson says. "I would hope that with this new Center, we are able to integrate all that we are doing, so that the worldwide Jewish web is more stable and more tightly woven. At the end of the day, we become a stronger people when we understand one another better." □

For more information, contact Edina Segal, esegal@jewishcolorado.org.

YAD/Ramat HaNegev Exchange



Shalom Hartman Institute



2021-2022 Shinshinim



Ramat HaNegev

Public Officials Mission Trip



Make Connections with the Real Estate and Construction Network

When Eduardo Sigal, Founder and CEO of Signet Investments, moved from Los Angeles

to Denver, he was delighted at the Rocky Mountain welcome he received.

“I’ve never before had such nice people extend themselves to make me feel comfortable,” he says. But he missed the real estate network he had been part of through the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles.

“If you were in real estate in L.A., that’s where you met the *machers*, and you got to be around wisdom and success,” Sigal says. “Through that network, I met brokers bringing deals, I bought properties, I found people to hire, and I gave and received advice. I made such great connections that I felt that to miss an event would be detrimental to my career.”

With that experience, Sigal jumped at the opportunity to join the council creating JEWISHcolorado’s Real Estate and Construction Network (REACN), bringing to Colorado a concept that is flourishing in places like L.A. and Miami.

“I feel honored to be part of this because I believe so strongly in the concept,” Sigal says. “You will meet like-minded people and share in the values and power of the network and the Jewish community—relationships you cannot build anywhere else.”

The Network in action

JEWISHcolorado’s Real Estate

and Construction Network will leverage business networking to increase industry philanthropy. Anyone involved in the landscape

and opportunities to connect and socialize with the brightest minds in our business,” says REACN Chair Mark Sidell.

“ You will meet like-minded people and share in the values and power of the network and the Jewish community—relationships you cannot build anywhere else. ”

Eduardo Sigal, Founder and CEO, Signet Investments

of real estate—including attorneys, investors, and property managers—can come together for networking, education, and exchange of ideas about industry practices at the same time they have a positive impact on their community.

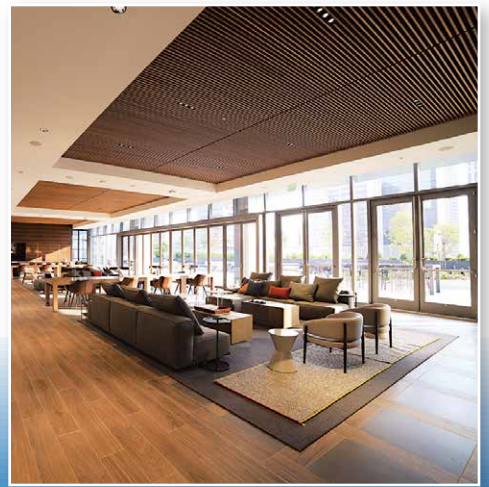
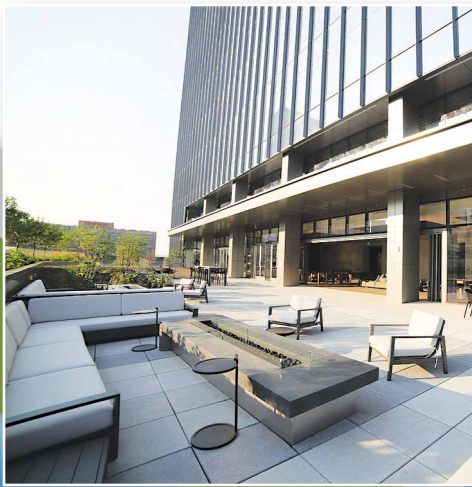
Proceeds from participation in the Network will support JEWISHcolorado, which acts on issues of concern to the local community, stewards communal resources, and mobilizes resources to ensure Jewish culture remains vibrant, secure, and accessible for all Jews in Colorado and abroad.

“Participation in the Real Estate and Construction Network provides members access to top industry and community leaders through relevant programming

Participants in the Network will be able to build and expand professional relationships through unique social gatherings and professional programs. They also can take trips to cities outside Colorado.

“Real estate doesn’t see state lines,” says Sheila Abrahamsson, who is the JEWISHcolorado staff member leading the development of the Network. “We plan to travel to see interesting things that are happening in development and technology elsewhere which will allow our members to expand their network outside the state. □”

For more information, visit jewishcolorado.org/real-estate-construction-network/ or contact Sheila Abrahamsson at sabrahamsson@jewishcolorado.org.



Jackie Sprinces Wong to be Honored at International Lion of Judah Conference

“This is my bling.” Jackie Sprinces Wong is referring to all of the nametags and trip credentials she’s saved from 13 Federation missions to Israel, numerous trips to Jewish communities around the world, and 19 of the past 20 annual Jewish Federation of North America (JFNA) Lion of Judah conferences.

“It’s meant so much to me,” says Sprinces Wong, whose involvement in JEWISHcolorado dates to the early 1990s—and she has meant so much to JEWISHcolorado. After serving the Denver-Boulder Jewish community for the last quarter century, she has been honored with the JFNA 2022 Kipnis-Wilson/Friedland Award for her exceptional philanthropy.

The Kipnis-Wilson/Friedland Award was created as a tribute to Norma Kipnis-Wilson and Toby Friedland, of blessed memory, who co-founded Federation’s Lion of Judah program in 1972. Today, more than 18,000 Lions of Judah around the world contribute \$5,000 or more annually in their own names to a Jewish Federation Annual Campaign.

To celebrate 50 years of extraordinary impact, the International Lion of Judah Conference, which will be held in Phoenix, Ariz., in December,

will recognize extraordinary women from various federations throughout North America for their high standard of philanthropy and volunteerism and lifetime of commitment to the Jewish world.

Standing among these singular women will be Sprinces Wong, all thanks to anonymous donors who gave her a scholarship for what she calls “three glorious weeks” at a summer camp when she was 11 years old.

‘I went from being a recipient to being a donor’

Sprinces Wong describes her experience at Golden Slipper Camp in Pennsylvania’s Pocono Mountains as a “gift that keeps on giving.” Both her parents worked long hours, and without a scholarship, she could not dream of attending the camp. She believes this one-time experience was made possible by donors to the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, through Golden Slipper Club and Charities.

“I didn’t know the donors, and they didn’t know me,” she says. “They gave for the pleasure of tzedakah, and those generous dollars helped my family.”

Sprinces Wong has spoken publicly about how going to a Jewish camp reinvigorated her love for Judaism

and her Jewish identity. She went with her friends to Hebrew school classes, became a young leader in the Jewish community, and earned a BA and MA in religious studies.

“It changed my life, and I’m so grateful.”

Jackie Sprinces Wong

She started a lifetime commitment to Jewish philanthropy. And it all started with a summer camp.

“I went from being a recipient to being a donor,” she says. “It changed my life, and I’m so grateful.”

‘So many hopes and dreams’

In 1994, Sprinces Wong took her first trip to Israel with the Federation. “That was my first real experience working with the Federation,” she recalls.

She hasn’t stopped since.

Sprinces Wong recently completed simultaneous terms on the JFNA Board of Trustees and on JEWISHcolorado’s Board of Directors as Chair of the Planned Giving and Endowment Committee. She also served as the JEWISHcolorado Annual Campaign chair from 2015-2018. In 2010, Sprinces Wong

was the recipient of the annual Golda Meir award, and she is a member of JEWISHcolorado's Prime Minister Council, a giving society for the organization's leading donors. For a dozen years, she served as principal of Teen Hebrew High in Boulder, a program of the Central Agency for Jewish Education (CAJE), now a part of JEWISHcolorado.

Sprinces Wong emphasizes the importance of not just giving once or twice but of giving regularly and taking the long view. "That way you can see change occur," she says. "If you want to build or sustain a program, you can't simply give for one or two years. What happens the third year, or the year after that?"

She has taken her own advice to heart, choosing Lion of Judah Endowment to ensure her gift will support, sustain, and build Jewish life in perpetuity.

A strong supporter of JEWISHcolorado's Women's Philanthropy program, Sprinces Wong says she is looking forward to the annual Lion conference where she will be honored alongside fellow Kipnis recipients from across the Federation system. "I was hooked from my first Lion conference," she says. "The speakers and the camaraderie of women excited me. It's been an important choice to remain a Lion donor. I know from personal experience that those dollars support so many important programs—and so many hopes and dreams." □

To learn more about Women's Philanthropy, contact Roberta Witkow at rwitkow@jewishcolorado.org.



New Faces at YAD Shabbat

When the first in-person JEWISHcolorado YAD Shabbat took place in August 2021 after a long period of pandemic-related remote events, the atmosphere was alive with excitement and delight. Friends who had not seen each other in person for months greeted each other with joy.

“I know I was excited to be there!” exclaims Adam Laarsen, a member of the YAD (Young Adult Division) volunteer committee that works with JEWISHcolorado’s professional staff and other lay leaders to create opportunities for gathering and building community among Jewish community members between the ages of 21 and 45.

In addition to the familiar faces, the excitement of the evening was enhanced by an infusion of fresh faces.

“A lot of new people moved to Colorado during the pandemic because they had the opportunity to work remotely,” Laarsen says. “To have them join us for this event made it even more exciting because we realized our community had grown!”

The success of that event led to a series of YAD Shabbat events throughout the year. Laarsen describes the YAD committee as an “idea factory” and JEWISHcolorado staff as the “boots on the ground.” Together, they planned an event in December at the Denver Botanic Gardens which included a walk through the dazzling Blossoms of Light.

“But now there’s a new reason to go—you can meet someone you don’t know. And these new people are excited to part of the Denver Jewish community.”

Adam Laarsen
YAD Volunteer Committee

In spring, YAD Shabbat moved to the Denver Museum of Nature and Science for another very popular event where attendees could visit exhibits and some even participated in an impromptu guitar jam session in a music room.

All of these experiences affirm for Laarsen that his commitment to planning these events serves his community.

“I didn’t grow up super connected to the Jewish community,” he says. “But as I have gotten older, I realized how important being Jewish is to me personally.”

Remote during the pandemic

YAD had an in-person Shabbat event set for a just days after the mid-March 2020 COVID lockdown and the statewide stay-at-home order issued by Governor Jared Polis. It would have seemed doomed, but never underestimate the determination of planners like Laarsen. They pushed the event back to April and created their first-

ever virtual YAD Shabbat which attracted dozens of people.

“One of the things I love about the Jewish community is that we didn’t skip a beat,” says Laarsen. “We made adjustments, there was no complaining, and the most important thing is that people turned out.”

The early enthusiasm for virtual events paved the way for more themed events, holiday celebrations, including Chanukah and Purim events, as well as pod celebrations for Sukkot.

The impressive rates of participation reflected the hard work of YAD Director Jenna Raimist and YAD leaders like Laarsen.

A renewed appreciation for in-person experiences

Laarsen, an extroverted service industry veteran-turned-CPA, says he loves to interact with people. Born in New Mexico, he had lived in Chile and New Jersey before the family settled in

Denver. He became a Bar Mitzvah at Temple Sinai in Denver, got his first pet goldfish at a Purim Carnival, reconnected to the Jewish community after college when he was introduced to YAD, and eventually became a YAD Ambassador. From there, he joined the YAD Executive Committee and became Chair of the YAD Board, and he now sits on JEWISHcolorado's Board of Directors.

"I was taught that charity is a good thing—whether you give money or time," he says. "I decided to give my time. It energizes me and gives me joy."

As pandemic restrictions were lifted, people attending YAD Shabbat demonstrated a renewed appreciation for the ability to gather in person—especially when there is a chance you will meet



a transplant from elsewhere in the country. "I think people look forward to these events because they see people they haven't connected with in a while," Laarsen says. "But now there's a new reason to go—you can meet someone you don't know. And these new people are excited to part of the Denver Jewish community." □



Ninth Cohort of Student Israeli Emissaries Arrives in Denver

JEWISHcolorado is set to welcome four young Israelis—recent high school graduates who have an opportunity to delay mandatory service in the Israel Defense Forces and serve diaspora communities around the world. They are called Shinshinim, a Hebrew acronym for Shnat Sherut or “year of service.”

Shinshinim spend a year immersed in the local Jewish community, teaching and educating the youth of the community about Israeli culture and society, the Hebrew language, current affairs, and Jewish tradition. “These students are often called ‘the living bridge’ between our community and those in Israel,” says Rabbi Jay Strear, President and CEO of JEWISHcolorado. “The Shinshinim serve as Israeli emissaries or cultural ambassadors who ultimately strengthen our Jewish community and family ties.”

Shinshinim are chosen from more than a thousand candidates after a lengthy and thorough selection process. This is the ninth cohort of students to be hosted in Colorado and includes Adaya Koren from Hadera, May Sabri of Ramat HaNegev, Omer Dian from Kibbutz Tlalim in Ramat HaNegev, and Ram Shraiber from Moshav Timmorim.

The emissary program attracts participants from all sectors of Israeli society and all backgrounds. The program has operated for more than 20 years and sends some 200 Israeli

“These students are often called ‘the living bridge’ between our community and those in Israel.”

Rabbi Jay Strear, President and CEO, JEWISHcolorado

teens to Jewish communities in North America, South Africa, and Europe. It is also part of a larger yearly Jewish Agency delegation of 2,000 emissaries of different ages and backgrounds who work around the world at summer camps, university campuses, youth movements, synagogues, JCCs, and Federations.

The mission of Shinshinim

The Shinshinim interact with thousands of Coloradans throughout their year abroad, including working in Colorado schools and Jewish summer camps, taking part in Jewish Student Connection meetings with area high schoolers at 11 public high schools, meeting with Hillel students, teaching in Religious School and Preschool classrooms, spending time at Denver Jewish Day School, and traveling to communities from Boulder to Colorado Springs and from Denver to Aspen. In addition, they have the opportunity to live with three different host families during their year.

The Shinshinim Program is a partnership between JEWISHcolorado and the Jewish

Agency for Israel (JAFI), and at the national level is also supported, in part, by the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) and Keren Hayesod - United Israel Appeal.

Locally, the program is run as part of JEWISHcolorado’s Israel & Overseas Center, an initiative to bring more comprehensive and coordinated support to our work connecting people in Colorado to the global Jewish world.

Former chair of the Jewish Agency and now President of Israel Isaac Herzog summed up the positive impact of the Shinshinim program. “The thousands of Jewish Agency Shlichim serving in communities around the world create a living bridge between global Jewry and Israel. They bring Israel directly into the homes and hearts of hundreds of thousands of people—children teens, families. And when they return to Israel, they continue to build this two-way bridge, bringing the voice of world Jewry to Israeli society.” □

For questions or more information on our Shinshinim Program, please contact Michelle Schwartz at mschwartz@jewishcolorado.org or (303) 951-0270.



Omer Dian (far right) with his brothers



Adaya Koren



May Sabri



Ram Shraiber (middle)

Helping Teens Help Each Other

Diana Kloek has been an honors student all her life, but high school has brought a new wave of pressure—encouragement to join lots of clubs, do extra academic work, and get good grades—all designed to build a good college application. Layer on top of that her desire to engage in an active social life, and days can become, as Kloek puts it, “overwhelming.”

“In high school, it can be difficult to keep up with life,” Kloek says. “I understand what it means to feel anxious, and I have seen my friends have mental health struggles.”

Kloek is speaking from the heart, but she has identified a national youth mental health crisis and the subject of a 40-page Advisory released by the U.S. Surgeon General in December 2021.

“Even before the pandemic, an alarming number of young people struggled with feelings of helplessness, depression, and thoughts of suicide—and rates have increased over the past decade,” says Surgeon General Vivek Murthy. “The COVID-19 pandemic further altered their experiences at home, school, and in the community, and the effect on their mental health has been devastating. The future wellbeing of our country depends on how we support and invest in the next generation.”

A 16-year-old junior at Eaglecrest High School in Aurora, Kloek represents that next generation. She views high school as a time of many

choices and opportunities, all of which are influenced by ubiquitous social media.

“On social media, people post the most perfect version of themselves,” she says. “They have perfect grades and a perfect social life, they belong to so many clubs, and they still have time to volunteer. Comparing yourself to those perfect people is not healthy or realistic.”

She speaks with insight and clarity about these issues in large part due to her newly-earned teen Mental Health First Aid Certification. She earned this credential—and the confidence that comes with it—after a three-session course with certified trainers, sponsored by JEWISHcolorado and the Jewish Teen Education and Engagement Funder Collaborative powered by JFNA.

Jillian Feiger, Director of Jewish Student Connection and the Joyce Zeff Israel Study Tour (IST), spearheaded this pilot program.

“I’m proud of JEWISHcolorado for doing this,” says Feiger. “It is a fundamental part of being Jewish that we help others in the community. The teens are our future, and if we can help them, they can help us.”

Creating the program

The Mental Health First Aid Certification was developed by the National Council for Behavioral Health (which is now known as the National Council for Mental Wellbeing). Feiger participated in the training to certify professionals

who work with youth in mental health first aid, ensuring they can better recognize and respond to any person who is developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis.

After she was certified, Feiger had a thought. “Is this something that our teenagers need?” she asked herself. “Should we train teens in how to help their friends?”

The teen training had been done in other communities, but Feiger started it in the Denver area, working with another certified trainer, Beth Lipschutz, MSW, the Youth Mental Health First Aid Project Coordinator for the Jewish Teen Education and Engagement Funder Collaborative. They were joined by a third certified trainer, Carly Coons, LSW.

Feiger promoted the inaugural program through IST, Jewish Student Connection, and synagogue confirmation classes. She enrolled a group of 11 teens from high schools around the Denver metro area. All were either sophomores or juniors and were required to attend three sessions over a period of four weeks.

Training the teens

In the first session, the students focused on the ways social media influences mental health. While they acknowledged social media is an integral part of their lives with positive aspects, they also readily recognized that with the positive comes a negative side.

“They understand how important social media is in making important



connections,” Feiger says. “From the outside it might look like they love social media, but it was fascinating to hear to what degree they know it affects their mental health in a negative way.”

“On social media, people seem to have it all,” adds Kloek. “But you have to focus on your own accomplishments. We can’t all be perfect.”

In the second session, the trainers took up the subject of suicide by looking at case studies. They discussed how to identify people who might have suicidal thoughts or actions.

“There was a very high level of engagement on this topic,” Feiger says. “The students had great insight and a lot of questions about how they can help.”

“The main takeaway for me was to not shy away from the topic,” says Kloek. “Bringing up the thought of suicide will not put it into someone’s head, and there are ways to talk about suicide that will help people.”

At the third session, students

divided into small groups and practiced using skills they had learned by discussing real life scenarios. They reviewed the five steps at the core of their training: look for warning signs; listen up when someone confides in you; ask how they are doing; help them connect to an adult if you think it’s serious; and assure them your friendship is important.

By talking through these strategies in small groups, Kloek says, students formed close bonds with each other.

Looking to the future

Diana Kloek will tell you matter-of-factly that one out of every four teens experiences mental health difficulties before they turn eighteen. To Feiger, Kloek’s willingness to openly discuss mental health confirms the success of the training she has undergone and the certification she has earned.

“If mental health becomes less of a stigma and more of an accepted social concept, and if teens can help

their friends, our society will become a better place,” Feiger says.

“We tell students they are not therapists or social workers, but we give them the tools to help someone find the people and places where they can have safe conversations.”

Feiger plans to offer the training again and looks ahead to a time when she can bring the first cohort together with the second to discuss how they have used their skills on a daily basis.

Armed with her training, certification, and a list of contacts for people who need help, Kloek says she feels more equipped to support herself and others. Learning mental health first aid has changed her—and for the better.

“I have become a more observant person who would notice the warning signs of mental illness,” she says. “And I am more passionate about letting people in crisis know they are not alone.” □

What Your Support Means to Ramat HaNegev

Itai Divinsky and his family moved to Denver in 2019 so he could serve the Jewish



community as Shaliach (Senior Emissary) from Israel. The family came from the region of Ramat HaNegev, in the Negev desert, Colorado's partnership region in Israel. As he prepares to begin his final year of service, Divinsky talked about the ways this partnership has changed lives in Israel and in Colorado.

What was it about Ramat HaNegev that captivated you?

Geographically, the region of Ramat HaNegev is the largest local authority in Israel. I loved it from the first moment I saw it. When you arrive, there is one area where you look out the windows, and you feel you are at home. To this day, that is one of my favorite views in Israel.

You are one of the founders of Sheizaf, a new community in the Ramat HaNegev region, where religious and secular Israelis live together. What drew you to this experience?

It was clear to my wife and to me from day one that we wanted to live in the Negev, not in the city. We

were living in Beersheba when I got a call about Sheizaf, a community which unites all Jewish Israelis—a place where your neighbors would also be your best friends. That is the central part of our life, so we moved there.

In 2016, you served on a young leadership delegation that came to learn more about Jewish life in Colorado. Fast forward to 2019, and you leave your home with your wife and three daughters under the age of five and move to Colorado to become the Shaliach at JEWISHcolorado. It seems like a giant leap!

I know—and our three young daughters did not speak English! But we have always asked, “What is our personal mission and what is the mission of our generation?” We believed that coming to Denver was the next step because we could support the connection of Israel and the Jewish community around the world.

In your role at JEWISHcolorado, you have worked with Rabbi Strear to identify the needs in Ramat HaNegev and make sure that Colorado philanthropy is put to the best use there. How have Coloradans made an impact in this part of Israel?

We have a wonderful relationship

with the former mayor and the current mayor in the region, so we know how to best support the community. The biggest capital project that Colorado has built there was a new high school. Before it existed, the closest high school was more than 60 minutes away, a long bus ride. The distance was a barrier to education for many. We believe the Negev is the future of Israel, the next frontier. This new high school is one major factor that will enable this region to grow in population.

Colorado philanthropy has also supported a therapy center for families with children who have special needs. How has that made a difference?

There was not enough room to fit all the kids in the schedule at this therapy center so the need was great. The nearest place for therapy is Beersheba which is 45 minutes away. With support from Colorado donors, they have added more space. Just as important, JEWISHcolorado has supported everyday operating needs of the center. Personally, I know the impact. I have friends whose children go there every week. Now, they don't have to take a day off from work to get help.

What are some of the other ways the support of JEWISHcolorado donors is being felt in the area?

JEWISHcolorado has provided

seed money, especially for women entrepreneurs, to help create business opportunities for them until they can stand on their own feet. Also, funds have been directed to support the development of Bedouin tourism opportunities and education for the young people in the Bedouin community. The village of Nitzana has received substantial funding from JEWISHcolorado for the variety of educational opportunities that are offered there for different groups of students.

How do you view this philanthropic partnership?

For some people who give, it's important to see a result that is bricks and mortar. But many of the philanthropic dollars go to building living bridges. By that, I mean we are building relationships between Jews in Colorado and Jews in Ramat HaNegev.

It's easy to see a building under construction. How do you know relationships are being built?

When Colorado students visit Ramat HaNegev—whether through a school trip or on IST—they return home feeling like they have family in Israel. And when Israeli students join the American students on IST, their lives are changed forever because from now on they will always care about American Jews.

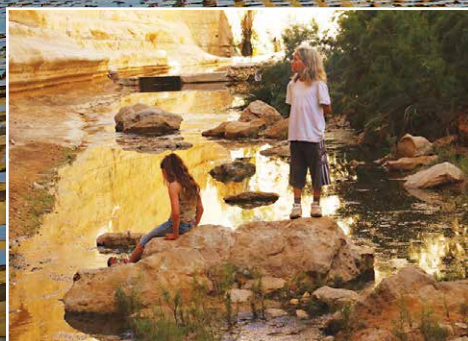
The Chair of the JEWISHcolorado Board, Rob Kaufmann, visited Ramat HaNegev with his daughter on a family trip. When it came time for her bat mitzvah, she asked for no gifts. Instead, she wanted people to donate tablets with a special software to the children with special needs at the therapy center.

To me, that is inspiring—to know

that a teen sees this community, which is thousands of miles away from her home, as a place that she wants to support in such a meaningful way.

Perhaps, you and your family are also examples of the bridge between Colorado and Ramat HaNegev?

Yes, I came for a week-long leadership mission, and then I decided it was important enough to bring my family across the ocean to live here. My son was born in Colorado. I feel now that Colorado and the Jewish community in America are my community. Jews have grown apart because of the diaspora, but they still remain one Jewish people, and JEWISHcolorado supports bridges around the globe. □



Women Help Women Through New Volunteer Opportunity

In 2020, the JEWISHcolorado Women's Philanthropy Committee began seeking a volunteer opportunity that would give participants a chance for personal involvement and also generate real impact in the community.

With Dignity Grows™, the Committee found both—and even more.

Dignity Grows™ was started in 2019 by the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford in Hartford, Conn., and it is now a national 501(c)(3) chaired by its founder, Jessica Zachs.

The program mobilizes volunteers to organize and assemble totes filled with a month's supply of soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrush and toothpaste, and menstrual products to distribute through local community partners.

Lisa Mintz, the former Chair of Women's Philanthropy and the current JEWISHcolorado Campaign Chair, launched Dignity Grows™, making JEWISHcolorado one of 48 chapters and five affiliates nationally.

"Not being able to afford menstrual products has an enormous negative impact on women's lives," Mintz says. "By providing these products we are helping women attend school, go to work, and take part in the life of community."

As a member of the Women's Philanthropy Committee, Cindy Altberger jumped at the chance to chair Dignity Grows™ because it offered a lay leadership position

“By providing these products we are helping women attend school, go to work, and take part in the life of community.”

Lisa Mintz

JEWISHcolorado Campaign Chair

where she could meet friends, effect change, help people, and set an example for her children.

"This is women helping women with a problem that has been exacerbated in recent years by the pandemic and now inflation," Altberger says. "Some women are being forced to make a choice between buying food and menstrual products, and to me that is a decision that no one should ever have to face."

'The need is great'

During the past year, JEWISHcolorado has delivered 900 Dignity Grows™ totes to Jewish Family Service (JFS), worth \$9,000 in materials plus 500 volunteer hours. "Every quarter we delivered 200 totes assembled with love," says Jill Katchen, Director of Donor Engagement at JEWISHcolorado. "According to JFS, the totes are gone in three to five days. The need is great."

Volunteers pack the totes at "packing parties," usually with 15-20

men, women, and children helping. The packing parties are informative, fun, and social, and they provide volunteers of all ages with the opportunity to do a meaningful activity together.

"We remind the volunteers to think about what these items represent as they fill the totes," Altberger says. "It's more than just shampoo or sanitary pads—it gives hope and support to recipients."

Altberger also points out that the totes go to any woman in need, thereby "helping each and every woman regardless of race or religion."

In the next year, JEWISHcolorado would like to expand Dignity Grows™. "We hope people will consider hosting their own private packing parties at their homes, for a school, synagogue, or youth group mitzvah project or a B'nai Mitzvah Project," Katchen says. "The possibilities are endless as long as we can continue to raise the funds we need to assemble the totes."

'Every donation is huge'

Dignity Grows™ is supported entirely by individual donations, family and corporate sponsorships, grants, and volunteer leadership. With a gift as little as \$10, donors can provide one tote filled with supplies.

"Every donation is huge for us," says Katchen. "You can see where your gift is going, and you know it makes a difference."

Giving support to Dignity Grows™ has turned out to be a gift to Cindy Altberger.

"It gives me such a sense of purpose and satisfaction," she says. "I'm proud to raise the money to support women in need, it makes me appreciate what I have, and it sets a good example for my children, showing them we should take care of each other." □

For more information, to schedule a packing party, join the committee, submit an organization as a potential distribution partner, or discuss being a sponsor, contact Jill Katchen at jkatchen@JEWISHcolorado.org.

To donate, visit the [JEWISHcolorado](https://www.jewishcolorado.org) website and choose "Women's Philanthropy Dignity Grows™" for your designation.



Sharing ‘My Story, My Legacy’

One brought Shabbos candlesticks, another a family photo. One held up a keepsake Thanksgiving platter, and still another showed her great-grandmother’s antique clock that was carried across the Atlantic in the early 1900s.

Though not quite talismans that embodied magical powers, each carefully selected item shared at this gathering carried Jewish memories and meaning for the participants. It was a JEWISHcolorado event designed to help create Jewish philanthropic legacies. Community members were asked to share an object that represented the values

and experiences that shaped them Jewishly.

The gathering used the “My Story, My Legacy” guided legacy journal, produced by the Rose Community Foundation. The document provides prompts for guided conversations to bring words to the legacy individuals hope to leave for the future.

The legacy items and their stories

Retired CPA Alan Brandt brought the decorative top that was on his bar mitzvah cake 64 years ago. “I am going to give it to my grandson in two years to use at his bar mitzvah,” he said. “It is a small but tangible way to pass on a legacy.”

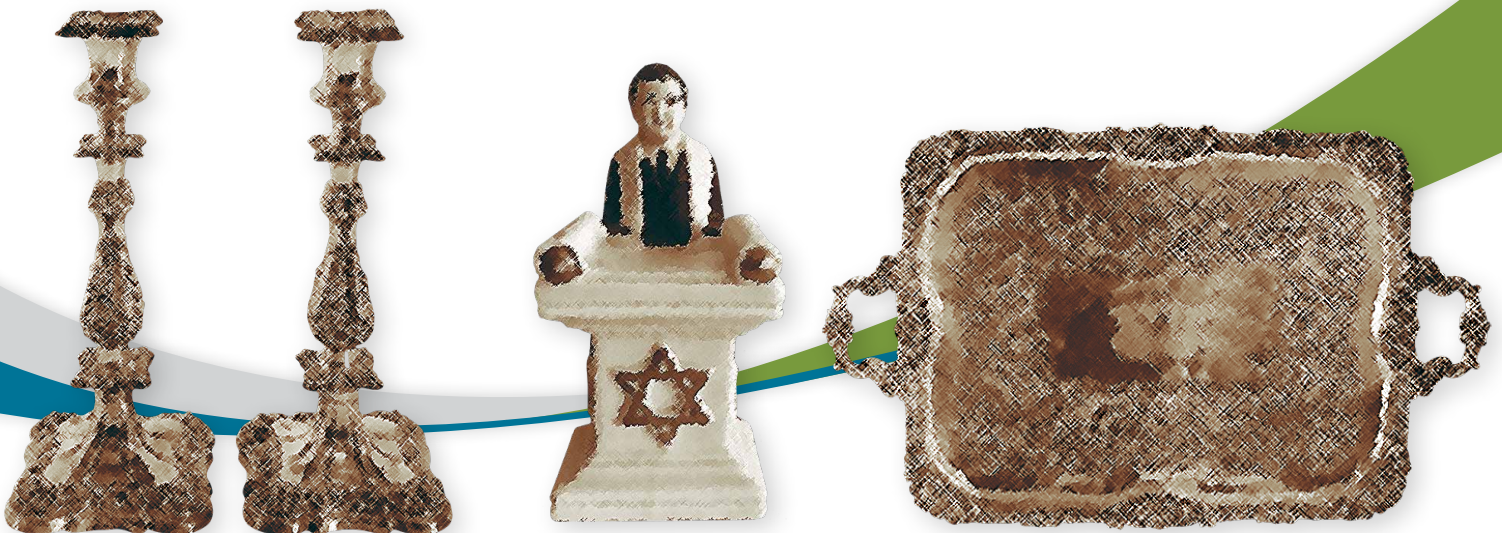
He also held up a ceramic figurine of a professor that he called “The Rabbi.”

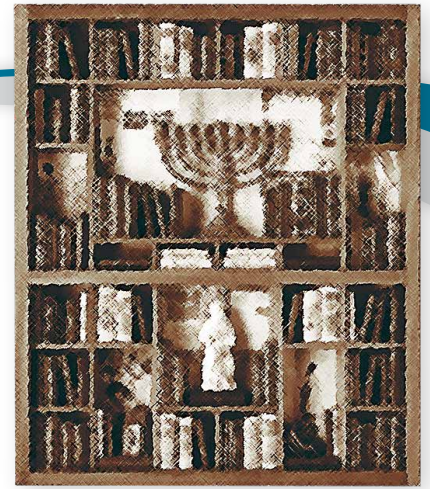
“It demonstrates to me the importance of education and the ability to study and to share Judaism with future generations,” Brandt said. “I have been involved in the Jewish community for 45 of the past 47 years that I have lived

here. It is important to me. What I want to demonstrate to my children and grandchildren is my work on behalf of the Jewish community.”

Denver attorney Ruth Malman grew up in a home where her family lit candles every Shabbos. “My job was to polish the silver candlesticks,” she recalled. “When I light these candles in my home, I think of my mother and father, my grandparents, and all the people around the table growing up. Jewish people really do have a mission to bring good into the world, and I think the only way to do that is to be connected. I hope that I have instilled that in my two children and brought others along in their journey, too.”

Investment and foundation manager Cintra Pollack displayed an item her great-grandmother brought with her when she immigrated from Vienna, Austria, in the early 1900s. “I have this antique clock from her,” Pollack said. “This is what she thought was important to bring with her.” The clock is a





reminder of the appointed time of the Sabbath and how it reinforces the bonds of community among all Jews. Pollack said it was her maternal grandfather who taught her that building community is everyone's responsibility: "His home of Oklahoma City would not have been as strong of a community if he had not been in it."

Diana Zeff Anderson shared a photo of her family. "The value that is most important to me is a connected Jewish world and the continuity of that connection," said Zeff Anderson. "I chose my family; they are my inspiration." Half of her family has grown up in Israel, and the other half in America. "It is clear to me that their lives are very different from one another," she added. "These two worlds need to come together." Zeff Anderson said one of the reasons she is involved in legacy giving is that she wants to actively effect change for future generations.

Jackie Sprinces Wong stood against the backdrop of her

“ Jewish people really do have a mission to bring good into the world, and I think the only way to do that is to be connected. ”

**Ruth Malman
Denver Attorney**

extensive at-home Jewish library. "I believe Jewish education is what keeps the legacy alive," Sprinces Wong said. She did not grow up with Yiddishkeit. "I had to find it on my own," she said. "I had to read everything that I possibly could. I have a huge library, and that is what I am showing you. I believe Jewish education is what keeps our legacy alive."

Dottie Resnick held up a Thanksgiving platter, a keepsake that belonged to her great-aunt that was passed to Dottie from her father, who passed away days before Thanksgiving. "It gives me some comfort and reminds me of family and community," she

said. "While we did not grow up with wealth, we always included strangers at our tables."

Don Silversmith talked about a photo that he had of his great-grandparents who came to Colorado in the 1870s and started a Jewish community here. His grandfather, Joseph Silversmith, was confirmed at Temple Emanuel in 1907. "The legacy of 150 years is important for me to continue," he said. □

If you would like to host a legacy conversation at your home with friends or family, please contact Jen Kraft, Senior Director of Design Philanthropy at jkraft@jewishcolorado.org.

‘Come Together’

When JEWISHcolorado invited people to “Come Together” on June 15, 2022, to celebrate their connections to each other and to Israel, the community did just that—they came together and enjoyed every minute.

A sold-out crowd of 450 gathered in the iconic Lanny & Sharon Martin Building at the Denver Art Museum. The view was impressive, but as people arrived, their focus was on each other as

they greeted old friends, relived memories, and shared laughter.

The program included a video review of the impact JEWISHcolorado and community donors have had in the past year. But the highlight of the evening was a conversation between JEWISHcolorado President & CEO Rabbi Jay Strear and Israeli actress, writer, producer, and activist Noa Tishby, author of *Israel: A Simple Guide to the Most Misunderstood Country on Earth*. Tishby encouraged

attendees to willingly engage in conversations about the State of Israel—even if those talks sometimes proved challenging.

As the energizing music of the Andy Statman Trio, led by klezmer clarinetist Andy Statman, filled the room, no one was in a hurry to leave. Everyone had truly come together and, after the socially distanced days of the pandemic, there was clearly new appreciation for the joy of seeing old friends and making new ones in person. □



COME TOGETHER

RIGHT NOW. COMMUNITY.



Staenberg Art Gives a ‘Sense of Pride’

When JEWISHcolorado staff and board members returned to the office after nearly a year of shuttered doors during the pandemic, they came back to much more than the place they had left.

The newly renovated Joyce Zeff building had been decorated with dozens of works of art, gifts from philanthropist and businessman Michael H. Staenberg. “When you walk into a building, art makes you feel good,” says Staenberg. “There is no second chance to make a first impression.”

“Thanks to Michael’s gift, everyone—our staff and visitors—experience a sense of delight when they step into our building,” says JEWISHcolorado President & CEO Rabbi Jay Strear. “Michael loves to share his love of art, and we have benefited greatly from his generosity and support.”

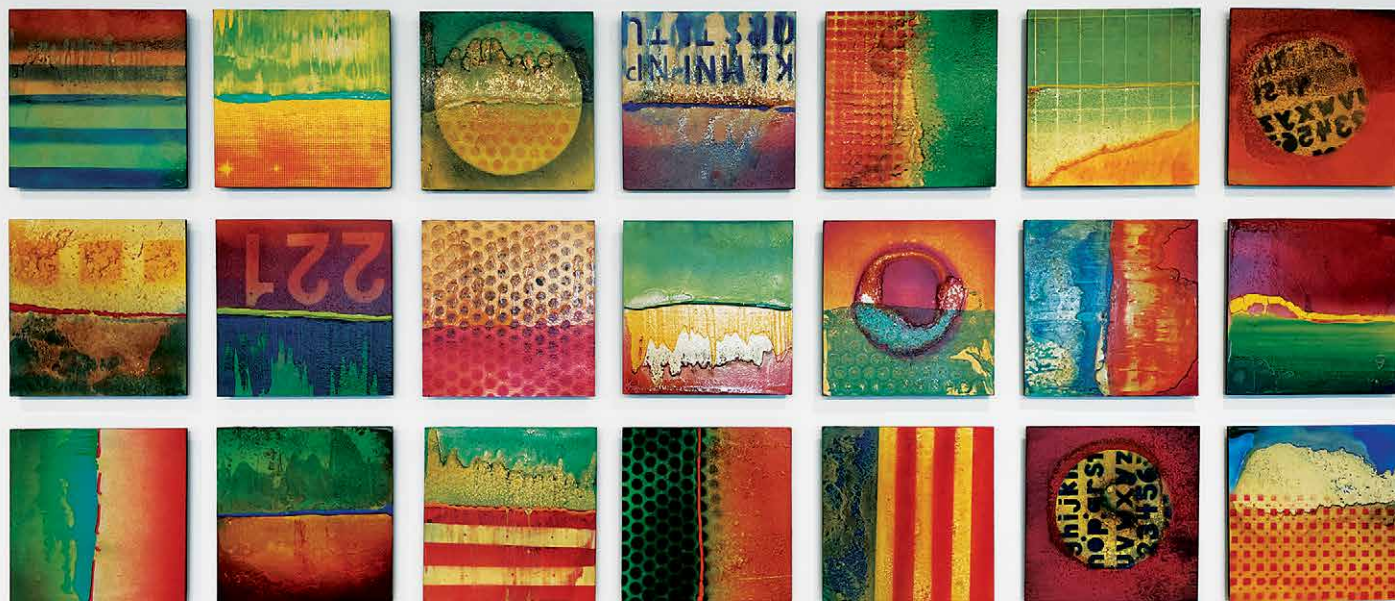
Staenberg is also an art collector and says he has gifted more than \$10 million in art to different nonprofit organizations over the last ten years. He is involved in every single selection of art for all of his projects, whether it is monumental sculptures at his developments or involvement at JCCs, Jewish Federations, Holocaust museums, camps, schools, or residences.

The artists

Among the artists whose works now hang in the JEWISHcolorado building are:

- Jeff Bretschneider, a New York contemporary artist, whose work has been shown at the New York Museum of Modern Art (MoMA);
- Tucson-based Steven Derks, a multimedia artist, whose creations have been displayed in the Oval Office of the White House;

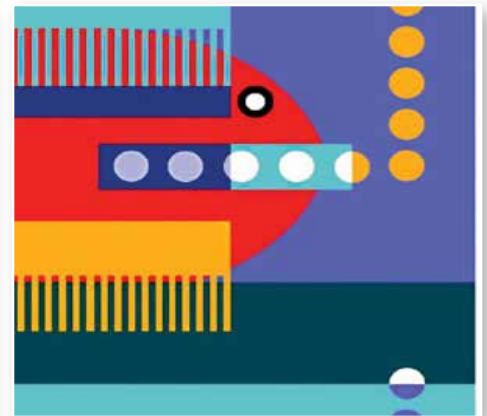
- Terry Dushan, a photographer who is inspired by watercolor and oil paintings;
- Yitzchok Mouly, a conceptual artist who explores the intersection of spirituality with the material world in works showcasing a unique palette of colors and ideas;
- Thomas Roth, who was trained in minimalist art and design at Beckmans College of Art and Design in Stockholm, Sweden;
- Amy Sheppard Morose, who is known for her bright, bold abstract works;
- Nicholas Vicknair, an abstract painter based in Central Oregon, who incorporates his scenic roots into his work using shapes and color.





For staff at JEWISHcolorado, returning to a refurbished building after a long COVID-related hiatus was a pleasant surprise—and the quality of the artwork only enhances the experience.

“The building is a beautiful, welcoming place to work and receive visitors,” says Director of Women’s Philanthropy Roberta Witkow. “The art gives the spaces personality. It doesn’t feel like we are working in a museum because the artwork feels like it belongs here. I feel proud to walk into this building every day, and the art reinforces that sense of pride.” □



Dottie Resnick: Why I Give to JEWISHcolorado

I began my Jewish education in the late 1980s, and after learning about and living a Jewish life for several years, I became a Jew by Choice in the early 1990s. When I made the commitment to convert, it was with an encompassing love, warmth, and responsibility to the Jewish people. One concept resonated with me: “If Jews don’t support Jews, who will?”

When I was growing up, my family did not have a lot of money, but my parents and grandparents taught me to give as you are able in order to make a difference for causes in which you believe. If you could not offer financial support, then help by volunteering. I worked as a critical care nurse for more than 30 years, and many times I was volunteering full-time as well. I have found gratification in contributing my time and, as I have accrued the financial ability, I have been pleased to make philanthropic donations as well. I feel it is the right thing to do.

I have been involved with many Jewish organizations. At JEWISHcolorado, I have served in various capacities, as a donor, solicitor, and volunteer. Currently, I am again serving on the Women’s Philanthropy Committee. I have been a member and chair of that committee in the past, and I also have been a member of Allocations (Planning & Grant Making), Planned Giving and Endowment Committees, and I co-chaired CHOICES.

I give to JEWISHcolorado

because I don’t know all the Jewish organizations locally or world-wide. Many are in need of financial assistance, and I believe JEWISHcolorado and Jewish Federations of North America have the expertise to know where the needs are and where the funds can best be used locally, nationally, and internationally. When I served on the Allocations Committee, we would visit organizations that were under consideration for grants. We would get to know about them, and I remember being surprised because I would never have known about the good work these organizations were doing, had I had not been involved with this process.

I don’t give because any one individual asks but because, from experience, I know the money I am giving is being used for the overall welfare of Jews everywhere. I trust that JEWISHcolorado will ensure that the organizations under their umbrella will be sustained.

Giving energizes and enriches me. The concept of tzedakah is more than giving money—it is showing compassion, empathy, fairness, and justice, all vital aspects of Judaism.

In 2004, I endowed my Lion gift, so even when I am gone, I will continue to make an impact. I am pleased that JEWISHcolorado will get my contribution in perpetuity to help future generations. I want to see the long Jewish history of religion, culture, and identity continue l’dor v’dor. □



“ One concept resonated
with me: If Jews don’t
support Jews, who will? ”



The Impact of ESG Investing

JEWISHcolorado offers a Jewish philanthropic home. Now, donors can use a new offering—investments that are evaluated for Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) factors. Akasha Absher, President and Head of Impact Investing at Syntinsic Investment Counsel, answered our questions about how Syntinsic has helped JEWISHcolorado move forward on its impact investing journey—making better decisions for a better world.

What is ESG investing?

Environmental, Social, and Governance investments mean evaluating material **ESG** factors in the investment analysis to assess the risks and opportunities of the investment.

Can you give an example of ESG?

Let's take the soft drink industry, as an example. All the companies are rated against each other by ESG data providers such as MSCI, Sustainalytics, Bloomberg, etc. These companies have created a rating system to measure the investment through the lens of ESG factors.

A soft drink company would be rated for specific **Environmental** factors that are material to that industry. Some of the material environmental factors are the carbon footprint of the company, the company's water stress, and what kind of packaging materials are used and how much waste the packaging creates.

The company would also be evaluated for material **Social** factors

with an eye on health and safety and product safety and quality. Are people who manufacture the product in safe working conditions? Is it safe for consumers to use the product? Are consumers buying a quality product?

Finally, a company would be rated for its **Governance**. Does the company have an independent board of outside directors who are not affiliated with the company and are not related by birth to one another? Is the board and leadership of the company diverse? Are people paid appropriate salaries, and is the company's accounting solid?

Are all companies evaluated on the same ESG factors?

No, all companies are not evaluated on the same ESG factors. Each industry is evaluated on the ESG factors that are material to that industry. The Environmental and Social factors I outlined in the example of a soft drink are specific to a soft drink company. Industry to industry, the Environmental and Social factors vary. Governance factors are applicable to all industries.

What does this mean for the investor?

People can now invest in companies with an eye toward potentially mitigating environmental, social, and governance risks. They can see ratings for companies that range from AAA to CCC and make their investment decisions accordingly.

By some estimates, financial investments informed by Environmental, Social, and Governance data have grown

to more than one-third of capital invested globally every year. Why are ESG investments increasing?

There are three reasons. First, **ESG can potentially help mitigate some of the risk inherent in investing.** From the perspective of environmental factors, if you believe we are transitioning to a low carbon economy, then you have a way to evaluate the carbon risk in your portfolio. In addition, there is the potential to reduce reputational risk in the portfolio from environmental issues, human rights controversies, governance issues, etc. This is important because if a company has extreme human rights or labor issues—severe controversies—your investment can be hurt.

The second reason for growth in ESG is that over the last 10 years, **many investors—though not all—who have been integrating ESG have seen increased returns.** When you reduce risk, you can increase the likelihood of improved performance.

Finally, ESG is growing because the investor has an **opportunity for values alignment.** Holding companies accountable to customers, stakeholders, and the environment is meaningful to many people. Investing in a way that reflects your values won't necessarily solve all problems, but it is a first step along the way.

The Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) has recently raised the issue of ESG ratings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). JFNA believes that ESG ratings



are “frequently swayed by anti-Israel advice or biased processes, threatening to damage Israel economically.” JFNA is asking the SEC to consider this factor when preparing a new regulatory rule for ESG-focused strategies.

The issue in any rating is that there is the potential for subjective bias. That is true in traditional investing just as it is when integrating ESG. ESG ratings are not held to uniform standards. There really is no consistent way to assess geopolitical risk. So yes,

ESG—like traditional investing—is not perfect. Yes, ESG can and, in some cases, has demonstrated bias, including bias toward Israel. One ESG ratings firm, Sustainalytics, is working on addressing anti-Israel bias in its Human Rights Radar, one analytic tool within their broader ESG framework.

That is one reason why Syntronic relies on many analytic tools and perspectives when conducting due diligence on ESG as well as traditional investments. Despite the potential for bias, ESG compels investors to consider critical factors that also have the promise of mitigating the risk of investment and making it more transparent and potentially more impactful.

Donors to JEWISHcolorado who have donor advised funds can now use ESG factors in their investments. Why would they want to do so?

A donor might want to use ESG factors to mitigate risk within their portfolio. Or perhaps they want to invest with a values alignment lens and feel that companies with better Environmental, Social, or Governance scores than their peers better reflect the donor's personal values. Either way, these motivations could then benefit stakeholders—employees, customers, and communities. ESG investing won't solve all the problems, but it is taking the step of looking at other aspects of a company beyond the bottom line. □

If you are interested in learning more about ESG investing at JEWISHcolorado, please contact Jen Kraft at jkraft@jewishcolorado.org.

Jewish Life and Engagement 2022

BY THE NUMBERS



◀ PJ Library

Shipped **4,556** books each month

and hosted **114** PJ events

Jewish Explorers ▶



1,918 engagements with **315** community members in **61** programs



◀ One Happy Camper

148 applicants recieved grants to attend **18** different camps

Jewish Student Connection ▶



5,550 engagements with more than **600** teens at **10** high schools

12,562

interactions
with participants
in collaboration

with **16** partner organizations including
Hillels, religious schools, day schools,
youth groups, preschools, and camps

Shinshinim ▷



◁ Joyce Zeff Israel Study Tour

72 teens traveled
to Israel in 2022

1,202 total program
participants attended

YAD ▷
30 events



◁ Shaliach

More than **2,800** engagements
in

50 programs connected
to Israel collaborating with **26** Colorado
organizations



Save the Date!

Celebrate Israel Walk and Festival

*Honoring Israel's 75th Year
of Independence*

May 7, 2023

JEWISHcolorado Staff

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Itai Divinsky

Jillian Feiger

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Zach McAnally

Krista Nieves

John Stilwell

Alex Utecht

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Aaron Claflin

Stephanie Geller

Phil Niedringhaus

Sarah Springer

Hannah Young

**deceased*



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Ibex Investors

Aspen Insurance Agency

Feiner Family

Schad Agency

Save the Date 2022-2023



JEWISHcolorado

BUILDING COMMUNITY TOGETHER

“Cultivating Hope” with JFNA Board Chair Julie Platt

Monday, October 24, 2022

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Young Adult Divison’s “Elevate”

Saturday, November 19, 2022

7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Colorado Gives Day

Tuesday, December 6, 2022

Christmas Mitzvah Project

Monday, December 19 through

Sunday, December 25, 2022

Signature Fundraiser

February 9, 2023

Jewish Community Relations

Council Luncheon

March 2023

Expedition: South America

Discover Uruguay and Argentina’s

Captivating Jewish Worlds

March 13-20, 2023

Yom HaZikaron

Monday, April 24, 2023

Celebrate Israel

Sunday, May 7, 2023

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Major Donor Mission to Israel & the UAE

October 19-29, 2023





JEWISHcolorado

BUILDING COMMUNITY TOGETHER

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Bob Weinberg is a photographer in the Denver area whose work has documented Colorado history and Colorado Jewish history. Many of his photos are being archived and preserved by the Rocky Mountain Jewish Historical Society. This photo dates to an early 1990s Jewish Federation fundraising event. You can view Bob's full galleries at weinbergphotographics.com.