



MILWAUKEE
JEWISH FEDERATION

2013-2014
Annual Report
to the Community

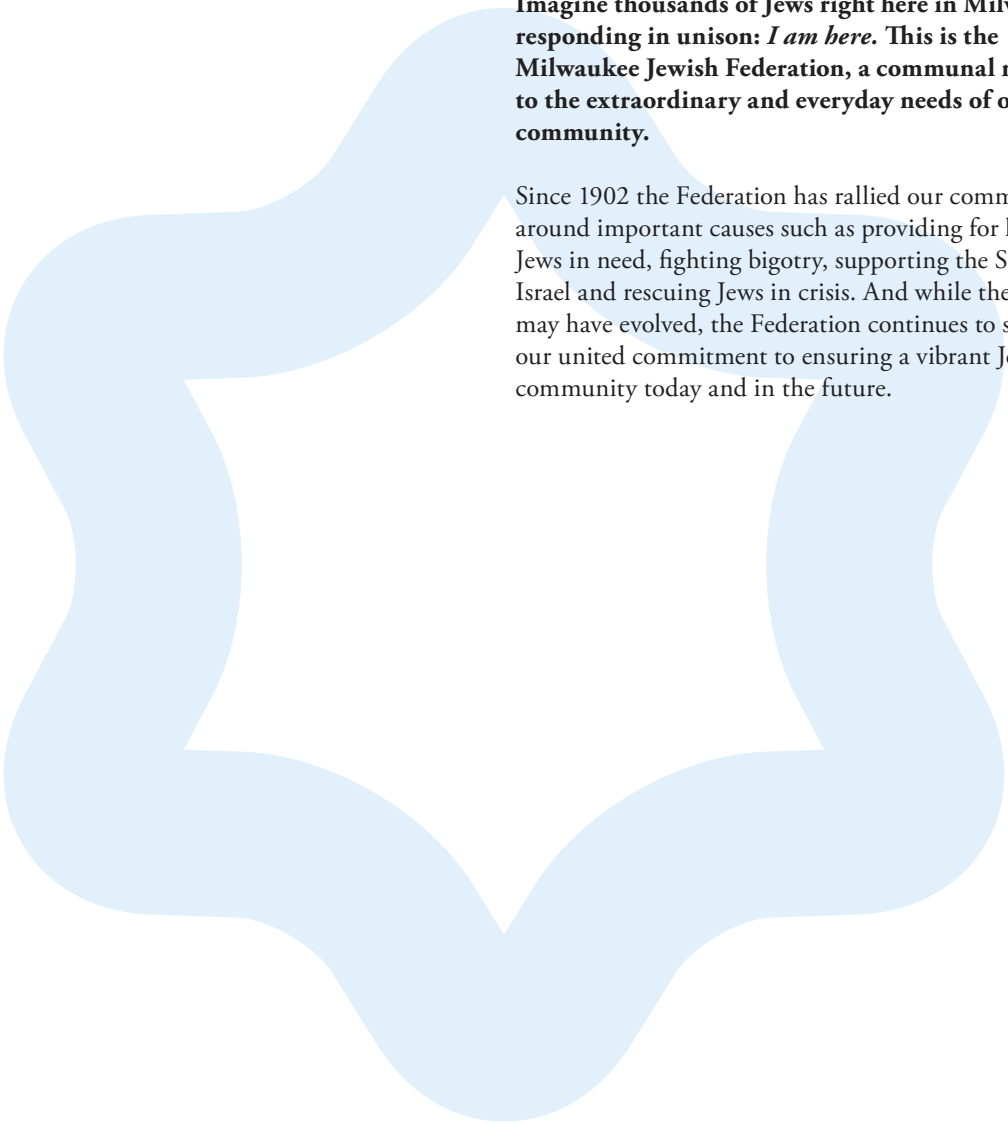
A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR AND PRESIDENT & CEO

The Hebrew word *Hineni*, which can be translated as *I am here*, appears many times in the Torah. Perhaps the most well-known appearance occurs in the story of the binding of Isaac when God calls upon Abraham to perform a holy task. And Abraham responds, *Hineni, I am here*.

This ancient word evokes images of all Jewry, standing shoulder to shoulder across continents and thousands of years, accepting the blessing and the responsibility of ensuring the future of our people.

Imagine thousands of Jews right here in Milwaukee responding in unison: *I am here*. This is the Milwaukee Jewish Federation, a communal response to the extraordinary and everyday needs of our community.

Since 1902 the Federation has rallied our community around important causes such as providing for local Jews in need, fighting bigotry, supporting the State of Israel and rescuing Jews in crisis. And while the causes may have evolved, the Federation continues to serve as our united commitment to ensuring a vibrant Jewish community today and in the future.



I AM HERE. I AM READY.

This Annual Report tells the story of a community that has responded to need with great generosity— a community that distributed \$20 million in support to nonprofits through the Milwaukee Jewish Federation and our Jewish Community Foundation. The story is presented not only through numbers and graphs but also through profiles of individuals who have been touched by the work of the Federation and our partner agencies. You may even recognize a story like your own.

With gratitude,

Marlene Lauwasser

*Marlene Lauwasser
Board Chair
Through August 2014*

Hannah Rosenthal

*Hannah Rosenthal
President & CEO*



הנני

I am a creative writer, a traveler, a freshman at the University of Pennsylvania and a recipient of a scholarship from the Jewish Community Foundation of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation. The Hecht Family Memorial Scholarship has allowed me to pursue my dream of studying at Penn. Even more, it has given me confidence and a firm connection to my Jewish community.

– Hope Merens

HINENI
I AM
HERE

I AM READY.



I am a gardener, a cat lover and President/CEO of Jewish Family Services. As our 150th anniversary approaches, we want to ensure that JFS will be serving the community for the next 150 years. Building our endowment through the Milwaukee Jewish Federation's Jewish Community Foundation secures the future for JFS and for the vulnerable individuals who depend on us.

– Sylvan Leabman

HINENI
I AM
HERE

I AM READY.





I am a gardener, a chef, an entrepreneur and a supporter of **Women's Philanthropy** of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation. I believe that women come from a place of the heart more than the mind, and it's important for us to be vocal about this in our charitable giving. Women's Philanthropy gives women an opportunity to speak from the heart and put our money where it matters most.

– Barbara Glazer

HINENI
I AM
HERE

I AM READY.



I am a Bishop in the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Milwaukee. The **Jewish Community Relations Council** of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation is a partner in our common commitment to pursuing social justice rooted in both the Hebrew and Christian scriptures. That shared commitment to justice is very important to me and important for the Milwaukee community.

– Bishop Steven Miller

HINENI
I AM
HERE

I AM READY.

I am a mother, a radiation oncologist and a participant in *Shalom Baby*, a program of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation. *Shalom Baby* reaches out to young families and introduces them to Milwaukee's Jewish resources. The program lends support during the busy years of raising young children. Through *Shalom Baby*, I established a meaningful connection with the Milwaukee Jewish community.

— Malika Siker, MD

HINENI
I AM
HERE

I AM READY.



I am a swimmer, a cat lover, a meteorologist and a participant in *Shalom Milwaukee*, a program of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation. *Shalom Milwaukee* is an invaluable asset to our community. When I moved to town, I was warmly welcomed through this powerful resource for anything and anyone Jewish. *Shalom Milwaukee* connects newcomers like me to all that the Milwaukee Jewish community has to offer.

— Michael Schlesinger

HINENI
I AM
HERE

I AM READY.





I am a cook, a religious school teacher and a participant in the Congregational School Initiative of the **Coalition for Jewish Learning**, a program of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation. I am committed to Jewish education, but like many religious school teachers, I'm not a professional educator. CJL gives me the classroom skills I need to share my knowledge of Judaism in a way that's meaningful to my students.

— Jill Weinshel

HINENI
I AM
HERE

I AM READY.



I am a reader of fiction, a student of history and a middle school teacher at U.S. Grant School in the City of Milwaukee. The **Nathan and Esther Pelz Holocaust Education Resource Center**, a program of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation, is an invaluable resource for me and my students. HERC enables my students to delve into the past while making meaningful connections to present day events.

— Carrie Felde

HINENI
I AM
HERE

I AM READY.

I am a sports fan, a cook, a hiker and a former Shaliach (Israeli cultural emissary). My wife, Michal, was the Israel Campus Fellow working at UW-Milwaukee and Marquette University. Our three-year term was sponsored by the Milwaukee Jewish Federation's **Israel Center**. We created hundreds of one-to-one connections between Milwaukeeans and Israel, strengthening Jewish identity, understanding and commitment.

— Ro'ee Peled

HINENI
I AM
HERE

I AM READY.




I am a clarinetist, a voracious reader and the editor of **The Wisconsin Jewish Chronicle**, a publication of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation. It is my privilege and pleasure to learn and write about Jewish life in all its amazing diversity. I believe that through sharing information and ideas, The Chronicle contributes to the survival and strengthening of the community, locally and internationally.

— Leon Cohen

HINENI
I AM
HERE

I AM READY.




A portrait of Renice Konik, a woman with shoulder-length brown hair, smiling. She is wearing a black textured sweater over a dark top. In the background, a mannequin wearing a white dress with a black belt is visible.

I am a teacher, a gardener and a docent at **Jewish Museum Milwaukee**, a program of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation. The museum is a precious resource – a repository of our history and a tool for building bridges with the larger community. It's a place of learning for students and teachers, children and adults, and everyone who cares about the story of our people.

– Renice Konik

HINENI
I AM
HERE

I AM READY.

A portrait of David Cohn, a man with short dark hair, smiling. He is wearing a light blue button-down shirt and khaki pants. He is leaning against a wooden railing, and his reflection is visible in a mirror behind him.

I am a golfer, a BBYO advisor and a participant in the **Young Leadership Division** of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation. I benefited from the Federation's investment in our community when I was growing up. I want to ensure that the same opportunities are available for young adults living and working in our community. Being involved in YLD allows me to give back to the Milwaukee Jewish community that has given so much to me.

– David Cohn

HINENI
I AM
HERE

I AM READY.

I am a golfer, a baseball fan (Brewers and Cubs), and a City of Milwaukee police officer. The Milwaukee Jewish Federation has invested hundreds of thousands of dollars and many hours improving the security of our Jewish community. They have earned the respect of local and national law enforcement officers by working together to create a safer community for us all.

— Officer Mitch Ross

HINENI
I AM
HERE

I AM READY.



MILWAUKEE
JEWISH FEDERATION

WHO WE ARE

We are the collective strength of thousands of local Jews who, together, help ensure a vibrant Jewish community for today and tomorrow.

Together, we—

- Develop financial resources to meet today's needs (Annual Campaign) and to secure our financial future (Jewish Community Foundation)
- Stand up for the rights and security of our people (Jewish Community Relations Council)
- Teach the lessons of the Holocaust so the world will never forget (Nathan and Esther Pelz Holocaust Education Resource Center)
- Offer a forum for communication to foster community (The Wisconsin Jewish Chronicle)
- Train the teachers who pass along the torch of Jewish identity (Coalition for Jewish Learning)
- Tell the story of our people (Jewish Museum Milwaukee)
- Strengthen our connection with Israel (Israel Center)
- Engage women as philanthropic and volunteer leaders (Women's Philanthropy)
- Connect Milwaukeeans to the Jewish community (Shalom Milwaukee and Shalom Baby)
- Grow strong leaders who will guide us into the future (Weinstein Fellowship and Young Leadership Division)
- Provide scholarships so our children can attend Jewish camps and schools (Jewish Community Foundation)
- Finance and maintain seven community properties for the enjoyment of all
- Build financial stability to meet the future needs of our community (Jewish Community Foundation)

And these are just the programs and services of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation. Continue through these pages to see more of our impact and that of our partners at work locally, in Israel and around the world.

YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK

MJF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Coalition for Jewish Learning
Israel Center
Jewish Community Foundation
Jewish Community Relations Council
Jewish Museum Milwaukee
Nathan and Esther Pelz Holocaust Education Resource Center
The Wisconsin Jewish Chronicle

COMMUNITY PROPERTIES*

Evan and Marion Helfaer Community Service Building
Golda Meir Apartments
Habush House
Hillel Milwaukee Student Center / Joseph & Vera Zilber Building
Maurice S. Surlow Senior Residences
Max and Anita Karl Jewish Community Campus
Shlichut Residence

MJF PARTNER AGENCIES

Local

BBYO-Wisconsin Region
Harry & Rose Samson Family Jewish Community Center
Hillel Foundation-University of Wisconsin (Madison)
Hillel Milwaukee
Jewish Beginnings Lubavitch Preschool
Jewish Family Services
Jewish Home & Care Center
Milwaukee Jewish Day School
The Academy (Hillel)
Yeshiva Elementary School

...and around the world

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
Jewish Agency for Israel
Jewish Federations of North America

**Owned and managed by the Milwaukee Jewish Federation.*

IMPACT ON OUR COMMUNITY

SUPPORTING THOSE IN NEED

- Distributed \$618,000 in scholarships for school and camp
- Delivered food and medicine to 28,000 children in Europe and the former Soviet Union
- Provided food for 27,300 visitors to the Jewish community pantry
- Aided 12,000 beneficiaries of economic development programs in Israel
- Assisted 1,420 older adults and disabled individuals with social services
- Provided counseling services to 980 individuals

STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY

- Taught the lessons of the Holocaust to 15,000 students and teachers
- Educated and entertained 10,000 visitors at our Jewish Museum Milwaukee
- Published and delivered The Wisconsin Jewish Chronicle to 8,000 households every month
- Provided 8,000 Shabbat dinners for college students

ENGAGING OUR CHILDREN

- Educated 850 students at Jewish day schools (PK-8)
- Trained and supported 75 congregational school teachers serving 720 students
- Engaged 490 students through Jewish youth groups
- Provided Jewish overnight camp experiences to 475 children

CONNECTING WITH ISRAEL

- Created Israel Center programs enjoyed by 3,400 participants
- Reached 400 children each week with our Shin Shin (young Israel emissary)
- Engaged 335 young people through Passport to Israel

JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



STEPHEN L. CHERNOF
BOARD CHAIR
JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Jewish Community Foundation, the Milwaukee Jewish Federation's program for developing planned gifts and endowments, partners with donors to match philanthropic opportunities with their charitable goals. The Foundation has worked with hundreds of families to establish endowment funds, donor advised funds, charitable trusts and gift annuities. We facilitated the distribution of \$16 million to worthwhile charities in 2013-2014 alone. With \$150 million in assets, the Foundation provides financial support to our community today and builds financial security for the future.



TOGETHER, WE WILL CREATE A BRIGHTER FUTURE

In 2013-2014, the Foundation launched Create a Jewish Legacy, a program that helps individuals and families create legacy gifts, providing a permanent source of support for the Jewish causes they care about. The program is founded on the principle that all of us, regardless of age, wealth or affiliation, can make an enduring financial impact. The Foundation is sponsoring Create a Jewish Legacy in partnership with area synagogues, agencies and day schools. At the end of this two-year program, we will be a giant step closer to a more endowed and fiscally stable Jewish community in the years to come.

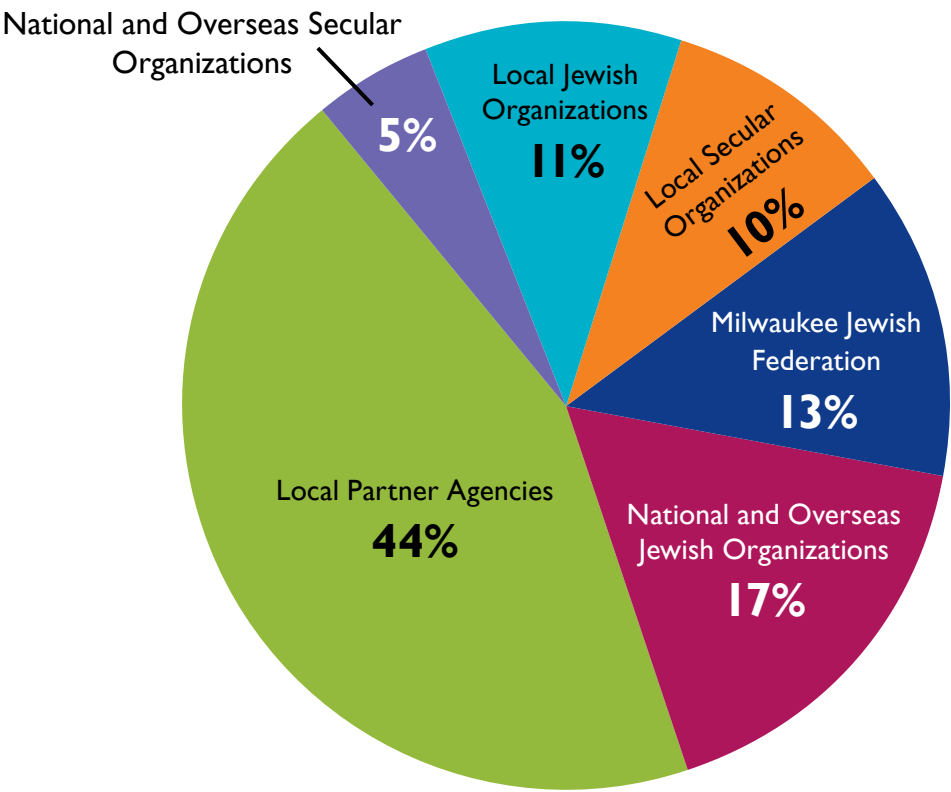
SUMMARY OF GRANTS AND DISTRIBUTIONS FROM THE JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION TOTALING \$16,059,910

Milwaukee Jewish Federation	\$4,421,352
National and Overseas Jewish Organizations	1,558,236
Local Beneficiary Agencies	4,704,715
National and Overseas Secular Organizations	1,019,070
Local Jewish Organizations	2,262,812
Local Secular Organizations	2,093,725
<hr/>	
	\$16,059,910

2013-2014 SUMMARY OF SUPPORT FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Through our Annual Campaign and our Jewish Community Foundation, the Milwaukee Jewish Federation develops and distributes financial resources to support our community locally, in Israel and around the world.

**SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT
TOTALING \$20,269,937**



	Total	Annual Campaign Allocation	Jewish Community Foundation Grants ^(a)	Other Resources ^(b)
BBYO – Wisconsin Region	\$229,238	\$60,832	\$112,940	\$55,466
Harry & Rose Samson Family Jewish Community Center	3,004,387	876,960	901,595	1,225,833
Hillel Foundation - University of Wisconsin (Madison)	563,818	50,400	504,086	9,332
Hillel Milwaukee	272,251	105,446	68,350	98,455
Jewish Beginnings Lubavitch Preschool	158,435	82,599	1,280	74,556
Jewish Family Services	1,690,034	441,285	1,220,681	28,068
Jewish Home & Care Center	180,266	18,104	161,863	299
Milwaukee Jewish Day School	2,033,953	442,921	1,310,949	280,084
The Academy (Hillel)	582,026	193,216	250,348	138,462
Yeshiva Elementary School	271,147	93,493	172,624	5,030
Subtotal - Local Partners	\$8,985,555	\$2,365,256	\$4,704,715	\$1,915,584
Local Jewish (Non-Partner)	2,262,131	-	2,262,131	-
Local Secular	2,102,495	9,000	2,093,095	400
Subtotal - Other Local	\$4,364,626	\$9,000	\$4,355,226	\$400
Jewish Federations of North America	1,838,065	1,816,877	21,188	-
Other National Jewish	1,536,579	-	1,536,579	-
National Secular	1,018,763	-	1,018,763	-
Subtotal - National & Overseas	\$4,393,408	\$1,816,877	\$2,576,531	-
Coalition for Jewish Learning	171,592	123,094	-	48,498
Israel Center	291,665	175,137	-	116,528
Jewish Museum Milwaukee	423,154	74,916	-	348,238
Nathan and Esther Pelz Holocaust Education Resource Center	63,885	17,906	-	45,979
Operations	1,489,641	1,489,641	-	-
Jewish Community Foundation	-	-	-	-
Jewish Community Relations Council	-	-	-	-
The Wisconsin Jewish Chronicle	86,411	-	-	86,411
Subtotal - Milwaukee Jewish Federation	\$2,526,348	\$1,880,694	-	\$645,654
GRAND TOTAL	\$20,269,937	\$6,071,827	\$11,636,472	\$2,561,639

- a. In addition to external grants, generous donors in the Jewish Community Foundation distributed nearly \$4.0M to the Annual Campaign and over \$450K to assist with operating costs and direct services (CJL, Jewish Museum Milwaukee, Israel Center, JCRC, HERC, and Wisconsin Jewish Chronicle). In total, over \$16.0M of charitable distributions were made from JCF funds during 2013-14.
- b. Includes the costs of managing community properties such as debt service, maintenance, IT consulting, bill payment, marketing services and similar services.

STAFF*

**as of June 2014*

Hannah Rosenthal, *President & CEO*
Cynthia Jansen, *Executive Assistant*

BUSINESS SERVICES

Tom Lindow, *CFO / COO*

John Bennett, *IT Manager*
Michelle Brookshire, *Staff Accountant*
Pat Cornett, *Accounting Director*
Becky Kunkler, *Accountant/Human Resources Manager*
Cheryl Vaughn-Modjeska*, *Accounting Assistant*
Marcy Schneider, *Receptionist*
Jessica Wittig*, *Accounting Assistant*

Properties

Ari Friedman, *Director of Community Properties*
Joel Easterling, *Maintenance*
Ray Klumb, *Maintenance*
Jeff Moga, *Maintenance*
Tommy Rice, *Maintenance*
Bob Spangenberg, *Maintenance Manager*
Ken Spellman, *Maintenance*

COMMUNICATIONS & STRATEGY

Stephanie Wagner, *VP Communications & Strategy*

Planning and Allocations

Noach Jubelirer, *Director of Community Planning*

Marketing

Barbara Budish, *Senior Graphic Designer*
Jeff Jones, *Marketing & Communications Manager*
Melissa Taylor, *Digital Media Specialist*

The Wisconsin Jewish Chronicle

Leon Cohen, *Editor*
Jane Dillon, *Sales Representative*
Jennifer Rueth*, *Graphic Designer*
Tela Bissett, *Executive Assistant/Subscription Coordinator*

FINANCIAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Amy Kahn, *VP Development*
Lauren Berger, *Development Associate*
Amy Blumenthal*, *Director of Women's Philanthropy*
John Grochowski, *Development Data Administrator*
Bridget Hirthe, *Development Assistant*
Denise Ron, *Development Associate*
Shelly M. Sampon, *Campaign Manager*

Jewish Community Foundation

Caren Goldberg, *Executive Director*
Jane Chernof, *Create a Jewish Legacy Coordinator*
Amy Sugent, *Executive Assistant*
Jen Vettrus, *Development Associate*

OUTREACH

Rabbi Hannah Greenstein, *VP Outreach & Leadership*

Israel Center

Elsie Crawford*, *P2G Coordinator*
Michal Makov-Peled*, *Shlichah/Israel Campus Fellow*
Ro'ee Peled*, *Shaliach*
Zabrina Tamarkin*, *Administrative Assistant*

Jewish Community Relations Council

Elana Kahn-Oren, *Director*
Shawn Matson*, *Administrative Assistant*

Coalition for Jewish Learning

Steve Baruch*, *Director*
Brittany Hager*, *Administrative Assistant*
Amanda Stein*, *Day School Grants Coordinator*
Karen Torem*, *Professional Development Coordinator*

Jewish Museum Milwaukee

Kathie Bernstein, *Executive Director*
Jane Avner*, *Historical Researcher*
Molly Dubin, *Curator*
Ellie Gettinger, *Education Director*
Jay Hyland, *Archives Director*
Hannah Lartz*, *Administrative Assistant*

Nathan and Esther Pelz Holocaust Education Resource Center

Dr. Shay Pilnik, *Executive Director*
Joan Champion*, *Coordinator*
Mary Murphy*, *Educator*

**Part time*

LEADERSHIP

Board Chair – Marlene Lauwasser

Treasurer & Chair-elect – Daniel Bader

Secretary – Dr. Sharyl Paley

President & CEO – Hannah Rosenthal

Vice Chairs

- Nancy K. Barnett - *Israel & Overseas*
- Mark Goldstein - *Governance & Nominating*
- Stephen L. Chernof - *Jewish Community Foundation*
- Joan Lubar - *Women's Philanthropy*
- Andrea Schneider - *Annual Campaign*
- Susan Lubar Solvang - *Community Planning & Allocations*

2013-2014 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Danny Arnstein	Linda Marcus
Stan Azimov	Rachael Marks
Daniel Bader♦	Susan Angel Miller♦
Nancy K. Barnett♦	Felicia Miller
Adam Bazelon	Mitch Moser♦
Jerry Benjamin♦♦	Dr. Sharyl Paley♦
Joseph M. Bernstein♦	Jill Plavnick
Alan Borsuk♦	Fran Richman
Mark E. Brickman♦♦	Josh Richman
Ellis Bromberg♦	Stephen E. Richman♦
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Betty Chrustowski♦	Allen L. Samson♦
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Stephanie Dykeman	Rabbi Yosef Schlusell
Suzy Ettinger	Andrea Schneider♦
Miriam Fleming	Brian Schupper
Andrea Florsheim	Susan Lubar Solvang♦
Jane Gellman♦	Gerald Stein♦
Rosalie S. Gellman	Louise Stein
Josh Gimbel	Sue Strait
Mark Goldstein♦	Marci Taxman♦
Idy Goodman♦	Peter Weil

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♦Past President

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Lorraine Hoffmann
Sarah Kriger Hwang♦
Rabbi Wes Kalmar
Moshe Katz
Judi Ketten
Lori Kimmel
Michael Lappin
Betty Lieberman
Marlene Lauwasser♦
Keith Lindenbaum♦
Jody Kaufman
Loewenstein♦

2013-2014 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

Generous donors to our Annual Campaign provide essential funds to our partner agencies and to the programs and services of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation, supporting the vital needs of our Jewish community. In 2013-2014, \$6,071,827 in campaign funds were distributed, making a difference locally, in Israel and around the world. The success of our Annual Campaign depends on the hard work and commitment of our Campaign Chairs, hundreds of Campaign volunteers and thousands of generous donors.



ANDREA SCHNEIDER
ANNUAL CAMPAIGN CHAIR



DR. SHARYL PALEY
WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN CHAIR

2013-2014 COMMITTEES

COALITION FOR JEWISH LEARNING – SUSIE ROSENGARTEN

Coordinates community-wide educational initiatives

- **Day of Discovery** - Susan Gray
- **Day School Grant Allocation** - Penny Wynn
- **Educator Recognition** - Sherry Blumberg
- **J-WISE** - Pam Roza & Brent Arnold

COMMUNITY PLANNING & ALLOCATIONS – SUSAN LUBAR SOLVANG

Monitors partner agencies, recommends Annual Campaign allocations

- **Agency Review Council**
- Barbara Glazer & Sara Hermanoff

FINANCE COMMITTEE – DANIEL BADER

Manages investments & provides financial oversight

- **Audit** – Andy Komisar
- **Investments** – Laurance Newman
- **Fiscal Stewardship** – David Werner
- **Properties** – Fred Croen

ISRAEL & OVERSEAS – NANCY K. BARNETT

Oversees Israel Engagement and Israel & Overseas allocations

- **Kesselman Scholarship** – Michal Rosenthal
- **Partnership2Gether** – Pnina Goldfarb
- **Shlichut** – Eileen Graves
- **Yom HaAtzmaut** – Stefanie Sager & Diana Azimov
- **Yom HaZikaron** – Monica Arnstein & Amy Bazelon

JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION – STEPHEN L. CHERNOF

Advises & oversees Foundation's policies, fund development, investments & distributions

- **Create a Jewish Legacy** - Jody Kaufman Loewenstein
- **Endowment** - Stephen L. Chernof
- **Scholarships** - Allan J. Carneol

JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL – ELLIS BROMBERG

Represents the Jewish community in public affairs

- **Anti-Semitism/Constitutional Law** - Ann Jacobs
- **Interfaith Relations** - Michael Pollack
- **Israel Advocacy & Education** - Jane Avner
- **Social Justice/Domestic Policy** - Laura Emir

JEWISH MUSEUM MILWAUKEE – PENNY DESHUR

Preserves & presents Jewish history & culture

- **Acquisitions & Collections** – Margie Margolies
- **Education** – Renice Konik
- **Exhibits** – Deborah Wilk
- **Spirit of Community** – Beverly Greenberg

NATHAN AND ESTHER PELZ HOLOCAUST EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER – BETTY CHRUSTOWSKI

Teaching the lessons of the Holocaust

Kristallnacht -

- Nancy K. Barnett
- Betty Chrustowski
- Beverly Greenberg
- Jodi Habush Sinykin

Pinat Hatikvah -

- Don Layden & Bruce Peckerman

Programs - Becky Komisar

Yom HaShoah - Leo Kleiner & Sara Minash

WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY – JOAN LUBAR

Educates and engages women in the Federation

Dr. Sharyl Paley - *Women's Campaign Chair*

Executive Committee

- Idy Goodman
- Eileen Graves
- Lindy Liberman
- Rachael Marks
- Susan Angel Miller
- Cheryl Moser
- Lauri Roth
- Andrea Schneider
- Melinda Swartz
- Marci Taxman

I am a high school junior, a midfielder in soccer, a photographer and a member of **BBYO-Wisconsin Region**, which is supported by the Milwaukee Jewish Federation. As president of my BBYO chapter, I have developed strong leadership skills that will stay with me for life. I also feel more connected to Judaism through BBYO. Being Jewish is more than saying prayers; it's who I am.

— Sydney Stelzer

HINENI
I AM
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I AM READY.



I am a dog lover, a techie and a parent at **Jewish Beginnings**, which is supported by the Milwaukee Jewish Federation. Jewish Beginnings is a home away from home with an incredibly nurturing atmosphere and a warm, dedicated staff. It's difficult to leave your children each day and head to work. Knowing they're in such a loving, learning environment makes us so much more comfortable.

— Scott Steele

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I am a swimmer, an artist, a baker and a camper at the **Steve & Shari Sadek Family Camp Interlaken JCC**, which is supported by the Milwaukee Jewish Federation. Going to camp made me feel more independent. It also made me feel Jewish in different ways than in my classroom or with my family. Camp helps make being Jewish just part of being me. I can't wait to go back!

— Talia Bernstein

**HINENI
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I am a soccer player, an aviation geek and a student at **Hillel Academy**, which is supported by the Milwaukee Jewish Federation. Hillel has changed my life. I am surrounded by good people who can teach me science and math but also have the answers to my questions about being Jewish. Now I can inspire more people to become closer to Judaism.

— Arie Guerrero Mandelblum

**HINENI
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I am a craftsman in woodwork, a techie and a Judaic Studies teacher at **Yeshiva Elementary School**, which is supported by the Milwaukee Jewish Federation. YES helps children grow into adults who contribute to the Jewish community and to society as a whole. I was a student at YES, and now as a teacher I have the opportunity to continue the tradition of excellence in Torah education.

— Rabbi Hersh Hiller



**HINENI
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I am an employee at Solly's Grille, a basketball player and a member of the Sandy Naimon Breakfast Club, a program of **Jewish Family Services**, which is supported by the Milwaukee Jewish Federation. The SNBC works together to plant seeds and maintain the JFS gardens. By donating our extra produce to people who can't afford it, JFS allows me to help others in our community.

— Andres Junker



**HINENI
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I am a teacher, a JCC Maccabi Games volleyball coach and a member of the [Harry & Rose Samson Family Jewish Community Center](#), which is supported by the Milwaukee Jewish Federation. The Games enabled me to experience a sense of community with thousands of Jews from around the world, and it embodies the JCC's commitment to providing both profound and everyday opportunities to be a part of something bigger than myself.

— Dann Jacobson

HINENI
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I am a Jewish student at Marquette University, a human rights blogger, an advocate for Israel and a fan of [Hillel Milwaukee](#), a partner agency of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation. As a young Jewish adult at a Jesuit university, Hillel, with the backing of the Milwaukee Jewish community, helps amplify my voice on campus. I know that wherever I go, my community is here for me.

— Michaela Bear

HINENI
I AM
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I AM READY.

I am a dancer, water-skier, snowboarder and a graduate of the [Milwaukee Jewish Day School](#), which is supported by the Milwaukee Jewish Federation. My teachers at MJDS definitely prepared me well for my classes at Homestead High School. They also taught me that I am a part of a bigger community. I am inspired to do things for others because I know I can make a difference.

– *Chandler Strauss*

HINENI
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I AM READY.




I am a special needs support person, a graduate student and a fan of [Hillel Foundation at UW – Madison](#), which is supported by the Milwaukee Jewish Federation. When I went to college, I wasn't sure what Judaism meant to me. Experiencing my religion with other students helped make Judaism become an important part of who I am. Hillel helped me discover myself as a person and as a Jewish adult.

– *Alanna Koritzinsky*

HINENI
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I am a survivor, a volunteer and a participant in the **Lakeside Senior Enrichment Program**, which is funded by the Milwaukee Jewish Federation. Many seniors sit at home looking out the window. Here they can eat a hot meal and socialize with other people. It gives them a reason to get out of bed and get dressed. It's my home away from home.

– Tauba Bitterman

HINENI
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MILWAUKEE
JEWISH FEDERATION



MISSION

Through the development of community-wide financial support, planning and allocations, the mission of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation is to ensure the continuity of the Jewish people, to enhance the quality of Jewish life, and to build a strong and unified Jewish community in Milwaukee, in Israel and around the world.

In fulfilling its mission, the Federation is committed to the principles of *Klal Yisrael* (the collective unity of the Jewish people), *Tzedakah* (the obligation to care for one another) and *Tikkun Olam* (improving the world in which we live).



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