

JEFFERSON

EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



CRISIS & INNOVATION

Dear Jefferson Friends,

I miss you all. After spending 12 years with you growing the Jefferson, I never thought I'd long so much for an evening of conversation and learning at the Jefferson. I long for the questions you raised and the honest critique you offered of our work; but most of all, I miss how much fun we had together. No matter the intensity of the topic, we embraced change together and came out of it as friends.

Before the Covid-19 pandemic, the Jefferson was on the verge of breaking through to new heights. We had started programming in four additional locations in Erie County (Corry, Edinboro, Fairview, and North East) and were looking to branch out beyond the immediate Erie area as the next phase of our growth. We kicked off a new Scholar-in-Residence program, which was meant to further assist Erie's renaissance. This was on top of the enriched Global Summit, 100-plus live programs at our HQ, the Civic Leadership Academy, Brock Institute, Raimy Fellowship program, Jefferson Dinners, Jefferson Essays, Reports, and Book Publications – all meant to contribute to driving Erie's smart growth.

March 2020, like with most of the world, was a dark month for the JES team. We were forced to halt everything we were doing without much certainty of when we could resume our traditional work. When would that be? What might the world look like then? And Erie? And what would the JES be like after just an abrupt but long pause in what we had been building up? After all, the JES exists to gather people – how could something like it survive when social distancing was mandated?

We started examining everything we do, working to find new ways of how we could continue to do those things, offering resources to the community. We found that one of our weaknesses was a lack of activity online. We found that the thirst for knowledge went beyond the walls of the Jefferson and people were eager to consume it at home. Our organization pivoted at once to meet those demands!

In the past year, during the worst pandemic in a century, the Jefferson has offered 119 programs online – with views averaging 658 per program. We also upped our publication division tenfold with 130-plus publications!

We found a different side of ourselves – a side we don't want to lose when we reopen our doors at 32nd and State streets. We will take our new selves and complement it with our old selves to create a transformational recovery for our organization, our community, and the world of adult integrative education.

We will do this because we have a team full of talent, an inspired board of directors, a most generous audience, and a community that needs us.

I have always been so grateful for your support but even more so during this time of uncertainty. While we are apart, I am reminded each day that we are in this together, and I am excited to continue growing the JES with you in new ways and am eagerly awaiting when I can see you in person again.

Yours in friendship,



Ferki Ferati, Ed.D.
President



Jefferson President Ferki Ferati

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JES partners with LECOM doctors in a Covid-19 screening panel.

information on the pandemic as it unfolded, the JES teamed up with LECOM Health, as well as the Erie County Health Department, to begin offering presentations about Covid-19. Additionally, other programs previously scheduled to be held in person migrated online, such as fellow JES Scholar-in-Residence **Dr. Baher Ghosheh's** "Afghanistan: When and How Will America's Longest War End?," as the JES team worked to continue to offer what had been planned while also addressing the crisis at hand.



Baher Ghosheh

At the same time as the initial programmatic pivot, JES Vice President **Ben Speggen** teamed up with renowned urban expert **Bruce Katz**, the Founding



Bruce Katz

Director of the Nowak Metro Finance Lab at Drexel University and a partner with Accelerator for America, to write "Why Erie's Downtown is a Proxy for the Nation: The Future of Main Street Businesses Amidst the Covid-19 Crisis." It was a critical, timely report the JES published in conjunction with the Nowak Lab and Accelerator for America, and the

Erie Reader. As communities nationwide grappled with next steps as the crisis unfolded and lawmakers worked to get what would become the CARES Act drafted and passed, the report focused on two local businesses. It examined the economic impact to their bottom lines and called on ways to begin helping Main Street businesses navigate a health crisis not seen in more than 100 years.

It became a widely shared resource, as what was being experienced in Erie echoed throughout the country. The report made its way to Capitol Hill, as lawmakers discussed the multifaceted CARES Act, and went global with outlets in Europe translating it into other languages.

Katz, no stranger to Erie, first presented to the region in 2014 at the Jefferson Global Summit on his critically acclaimed "Metropolitan Revolution: How Cities and Metros Are Fixing Our Broken Politics and Fragile Economy." Katz, whose connection to the Jefferson included brainstorming the launch of an innovation district to returning to present on his most recent work, "The New Localism: How Cities Can Thrive in the Age of Populism," joined Speggen for an early digital program to discuss their report and its potential impact as a public health crisis and national economic crisis.

In addition to "Why Erie's Downtown is a Proxy for the Nation: The Future of Main Street Businesses Amidst the Covid-19 Crisis," the JES publication division ramped up in other, creative ways, thanks to JES Scholars-in-Residence and other contributors. Even prior to the pandemic's outbreak, it had produced reports and essays examining the state

of recycling in Erie in the wake of changes at the municipal level, explored proposed changes to the Bayfront Parkway, and reflected on the impact and legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.

On March 19, **Dr. Andrew Roth**, JES Scholar-in-Residence, launched his **Book Notes** series. Begun as an examination of some of the source material for his "American Tapestry Project," "Book Notes" became a weekly series, ranging from looks at how writings influence unfolding discussions as well as reflections on thinkers critical to the continued exploration of the American narrative.



First Book Notes: Reading in the Time of Coronavirus

Too, "The American Tapestry Project" made its way to the airwaves. Launched as a new radio program on Erie's NPR member station, WQLN Public Media, episodes began airing monthly on Sunday afternoons and became available online at WQLN.org as well as the NPR One app.



Dr. Roth wasn't alone in his new publication ventures at the JES. **Rev. Charles Brock**, director and founder of the Brock Institute for Mega Issues Education at the JES and the Institute for the Study of the American Dream at Penn State Behrend, launched his "Mystics for Skeptics" series, diving into the spiritual



Joel Natalie with Judith Lynch

world of renowned thinkers of both the past and the present. Additionally, Brock weighed in on politics, examining 2020 presidential candidates and turning attention to foreign policy and its link to the American narrative.

In 2020, the centennial celebration of the passing of the 19th Amendment, **Dr. Lynch** launched an “**Elected Erie County Women**” series to recount history made locally throughout Erie, from municipal seats to state-level seats. Dr. Lynch reflected on these writings in weekly JES Digital Programming installments. She also spent time writing about the history of the **Erie economy and its manufacturing past**, as well as other issues.



Judith Lynch

Historian and prolific author **Dr. David Frew** also began writing Erie history pieces for the JES, launching his “**On the Waterfront**” series to examine the history and climate around Erie’s bayfront. In 2021, the JES team welcomed Dr. Frew aboard as one of its Scholars-in-Residence in recognition of his outstanding and prolific insights into Erie’s lower west side, waterfront, Presque Isle, Lake Erie, and Canada, as well as his new book with co-author Jerry Skrypzak on Presque Isle State Park: “**Accidental Paradise: 13,000-Year History of Presque Isle.**”

In addition to overseeing these productions, Publications Coordinator **Pat Cuneo** swapped his editor’s hat for a writer’s one, authoring “**1918 Flu Epidemic Struck Erie, Nation, World**” to see what

we might learn in our current crisis from the last pandemic. He also added to the economic crisis conversation, penning “**Erie Businesses and Covid-19**” and oversaw and contributed to the JES team effort: “**Erie & Crisis: Region Faces Unique Opportunity to Reimagine Itself.**”

This report, written by members of the Jefferson’s team, including Scholars-in-Residence Drs. Judith Lynch and Andrew Roth, looked at Covid-19 through the lens of past experiences and offered recommendations for the future. Beginning with an explanation of the Covid-19 at national, state, and local levels, it follows with an in-depth look at how America has dealt with pandemics of the past and explores how Erie confronted those crises.

Rather than retreat, holding out hope that the state and federal governments will come to save the region and any other metro area failing to take its destiny into its own hands, “Erie & Crisis,” serving as a tool to local leaders as they worked to address the crisis, concludes by making the case that “a crisis is a terrible thing to waste,” as Stanford University economist Paul Romer once suggested, **calling Erie’s leadership to unite in an entrepreneurial spirit.**

Like “Why Erie’s Downtown is a Proxy for the Nation: The Future of Main Street Businesses Amidst the Covid-19 Crisis,” this JES team effort received national and international attention, being translated abroad and re-published nationally by RealClear Politics.

But the publications lift wasn’t solely internal. In line with a focus on what can be learned from history as it relates to the Covid-19 pandemic, the JES turned to author, historian, and JES presenter **Larry Flatley.**



Larry Flatley

Flatley, whose research has focused on western Pennsylvania, examined how the “**Covid-19 Pandemic is a Teachable Moment on Native American History,**” which went on to become source material for a podcast examining similar issues.



Kristen Zeiber

Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative Project Manager **Kristen Zeiber**, whom the JES worked with on the prior **Bayfront Parkway study report**, wrote in response to PennDOT’s master plan for the parkway. Similar to the original report, Zeiber brought her expertise to better understanding the challenges and opportunities of rethinking the parkway. She also discussed the context of the parkway project in this age of the coronavirus, its special challenges, and the desire of bicyclists and pedestrians to better use bayfront amenities.

Former Global Summit presenter **Dr. Jackson Janes**, a senior fellow at the German Marshall Fund and president emeritus of the American Institute for



Jackson Janes

Contemporary German Studies at Johns Hopkins University in Washington, D.C., wrote “Report from Europe: Impact and Reactions to Covid-19” to help JES audiences learn about efforts abroad as the world went to work in addressing the pandemic.

But the public health and economic crises weren’t the only challenges the nation and region faced in 2020. In the wake of the murder of George Floyd, the nation’s attention focused on racism and racial tensions.



Benjamin Hett speaks on March 3

In his new Jefferson report, **"A Pain-filled, Polarized America: Reflections, Recommendations on Racism in U.S., Erie,"** sociology professor and author **Dr. Parris Baker** examined Amer-



Parris Baker

ica's history of grappling with racism in the context of Floyd's violent death while in police custody, the rise of global protests, and the ongoing pervasion of the coronavirus pandemic. While reviewing the country's history rooted in racism and the centuries-long impacts it has had, Dr. Baker highlights current initiatives, such as Campaign Zero, and outlines key recommendations to drive equitable progress through policy.

Dr. Baker explored these recommendations in a **JES Digital Program**, which became one of the most-watched programs with **more than 1,500 views**. He returned to JES Digital Programming to offer additional insight with **"From 1619 Virginia to 16503 Erie: A Constitutional Path to Black Lives Matter,"** a program initially held at Gannon University, where Dr. Baker teaches, to further explore these issues with our audience.

The Jefferson welcomed voices from outside of the region to weigh in as the nation continued to discuss racism. New to JES programming, **Dr. Andre Perry**, senior fellow at the Brookings Institution Metropolitan Policy Program, a scholar-in-residence at American University, and a columnist for the Hechinger Report, discussed his recently released, nationally acclaimed book, **"Know Your Price: Valuing Black Lives and Property in America's Black Cities."**



Preston Love, Jr.

Making a return appearance, **Preston Love, Jr.**, acclaimed author, professor, and long-term activist, discussed **"Clear Vision,"** the follow-up book to his groundbreaking **"Economic Cataracts: A Chronicle of Efforts to Remove the Obstacles of Urban Community Engagement and Economic, Inclu-**

sion," which he spoke about in a Jefferson lecture in 2017. He explored his unique approach to building Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; the nonprofit he founded, the Institute for Urban Development; and his other organization, Black Votes Matter. The manager for Jesse Jackson's 1984 presidential campaign, Love reflected on his recently published **"Jackson Papers,"** his children's book, **"Your Bridge to History,"** and his annual Black History Tour, which was held virtually in 2020 and which the JES served as a partnering organization.

Also returning to the Jefferson stage, but this time digitally, was **Dr. Camille Busette**, director of the Race, Prosperity, and Inclusion Initiative and senior fellow at Brookings, who first presented to Erie during 2019's Global Summit. Dr. Busette discussed the Federal Reserve's early response in the wake of the Covid-19 crisis and unprecedented step of establishing a Municipal Liquidity Facility (MLF), providing up to \$500 billion in lending to states, cities, and counties, but focused on how the MLF's proposed eligibility criteria, as she put it with Brookings colleague Aaron Klein in their report, **"Improving the Equity Impact of the Fed's Municipal Lending Facility,"** "unintentionally deepening what are becoming disturbing and obviously racial disparities of Covid-19."



Camille Busette

Later in 2020, the JES continued to engage Dr. Busette in new ways. **The Better Together Council**, formed by Erie Mayor Joe Schember to help develop solutions to address inequities and injustices in Erie, approached the JES to serve as the project facilitator and nonprofit fiduciary agent to launch a new strategy driven initiative titled **Erie's Racial Equity and Social Justice Initiative**.

This project is designed to explore policy reform and recommendations to build equity in the Erie region by addressing systemic issues and prescribing an action plan. As project facilitator, the JES

identified and recommended Dr. Busette to be contracted as a project consultant. This decision was made due to Dr. Busette being a nationally recognized specialist in this field with an established track record of addressing policy reform. In her capacity, Dr. Busette will work with Erie-based advocacy groups in a start-up incubator model to partake in the shaping of the recommendations and then the implementation plan to follow. This 12-month-long project is underway starting in 2021. Funders of this project include Erie Insurance and the Erie Community Foundation, and the JES pledged its services in-kind.

While unable to host in-person programming throughout the County, the JES kept working relationships with the partnerships made over the years. This included the cross-promotion of events with the **Corry Hi-Ed**, as well as the **Erie County Public Library**, as well as having a role on the steering committee of the **Corry Community Strategic Planning process**. That process, initiated Impact Corry and led by **Charles Buki and czb**, LLC planning firm, set out to address critical issues facing the Corry region, including broadband connectivity, investment in housing stock, the creation of a vibrant, attractive downtown center, an investment in parks and recreation, and the promotion of fiscally sustainable city government.

Buki's group, no strangers to Erie, produced the city of Erie's comprehensive plan, **"Erie Refocused: Comprehensive Plan and Community Decision-Making Guide"** in March 2016. Buki and his team presented at the JES during a Metro 100 event that same year, which also featured James Fallows, national correspondent for The Atlantic, to then address the implementation of key elements of **"Erie Refocused."**

James Fallows presented at the Global Summit in 2018 with his wife and fellow writer, **Deborah Fallows**, who first presented at the JES during the summer of 2016 on the role of modernizing libraries. At the Global Summit, the two discussed their national bestselling book,



Deborah and James Fallows

"Our Towns: A 100,000-Mile Journey into the Heart of America," which featured Erie as the final city the husband-wife duo visited and wrote about during their travels.

Along with Busette, the Fallows were among other past Global Summit presenters to join the digital conversations in 2020. **Dr. Avi Loeb**, the Harvard astronomer who presented at the 2019 Global Summit, presented on the role of **"Scientists Shining a Light in a Time of Crisis;"** **Caitlin Welsh**, director of the Global Food Security Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, who presented



Avi Loeb



Caitlin Welsh



Rev. Jeffrey Brown

presented at the 2017 Global Summit, presented on **"Food Security During the Covid-19 Pandemic: U.S. and Global Perspectives;"** **Rev. Jeffrey Brown**, who presented at 2016's Global Summit, revisited the topic he explored then – **The "Boston Miracle"** – in the context of **"Race in America and Today's Black Lives Matter Movement;"** and Erie native and chairman of the Global Summit **Steve Scully**, C-SPAN senior executive producer and political editor, joined JES VP Ben Speggen to discuss 2020 politics.

In total, the Jefferson produced **119 digital programs that averaged more than 650 views**, which didn't count the viewership the JES continued to have access to through the rebroadcasting of select events by the **Pennsylvania Cable Network**, a relationship the team has cultivated over the years. A clear benefit to digital programming was the ability to still work with and connect to local experts to keep the programming going, as well as the ability to more easily connect to those not in Erie, as the JES hosted programs with presenters in the Washington, D.C. area, as well as Florida and Nebraska, and in March 2021 will host its first program with a speaker on the European continent.

Coupling the 48 in-person events the JES held prior to the virus shuttering its physical doors with those 119 events, **in 2020 the JES held 167 programs – 32 more than it did in 2019.**

The Jefferson also continued to cultivate and form partnerships throughout the community, partnering with the **Hagen History Center** and the **Erie Civil War Roundtable** on Civil War-themed programming, as well as partnering with **Penn State Behrend** and **Gannon University** on 2020 Election coverage and analysis.

At the same time, the JES grew its publications tenfold, churning out **more than 130 publications over the course of 2020.**

The JES of today in 2021, no doubt, looks much different than had been and was being planned. While the think tank was unable to physically gather and convene the public due to Covid-19 restrictions, it pivoted to **gather the community in the digital arena.** A clear benefit to that began the accessible to JES programming

and publications, as not just those in Erie and within driving distance were able to access the work of the JES, but folks from throughout the country were able to watch or listen to live digital programs or stream them on-demand and download any one of the free publications archived on the JES website.

In addition to addressing Covid-19 through publications and programming, the JES was able to aim its **Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy** at the issue, as well. Rather than postponing the cohort until the program could be held in-person, the JES pivoted the Civic Leadership Academy's curriculum digitally to still meet with – now virtually – local municipal leaders as well as state representatives and leadership in each of the three branches of government. What's more, the cohort targeted its **research project to address the Covid-19** to provide video resources as well as a report aimed at helping local businesses and organizations work through the crisis.

Indeed, the JES of today does look different. While the team is looking forward to the day when it can resume the think tank's in-person activities when it is safe to do so, it acknowledges the opportunities recognized during the crises facing the region, the nation, and beyond. In ways like never before, the think tank is reaching audiences and connecting them to information and resources. **As 2021 continues onward, so will the digital programming and the publications, as the JES team continues to look for ways to serve the Erie community in the spirit of the think tank's mission to drive community progress no matter the obstacles that lie along the path forward.**



Downtown Erie



Be informed. Be heard. Be a member. That's our membership motto as well as a nice summation of our mission. Membership is the backbone of the Jefferson Educational Society.

From our modest beginning with only 91 members in 2008, the Jefferson now has 778 members, sponsors, and donors dedicated to education, information, and civic growth. While having to shutter our doors to in-person programming during the Covid-19 pandemic, the JES retained nearly 90 percent of its membership base. This has afforded the think tank the ability to continue its mission while introducing new initiatives, such as free digital programming, which remains available on our website for on-demand streaming.

Through memberships and donations, we are making a positive difference in the Erie region. Following is a breakdown of our member and donor numbers, a list of members, donors, and sponsors, and comments from several key supporters.

Don't let costs get in the way of learning. If you or someone you know needs tuition help, the JES provides scholarships up to 100 percent.

Jefferson Educational Society Memberships are Available in the Following Categories:

Lifetime Membership: \$10,000+

President's Circle: \$5,000+

Benefactor: \$2,500+

Associate: \$1,000+

Patron: \$500

Supporter: \$250

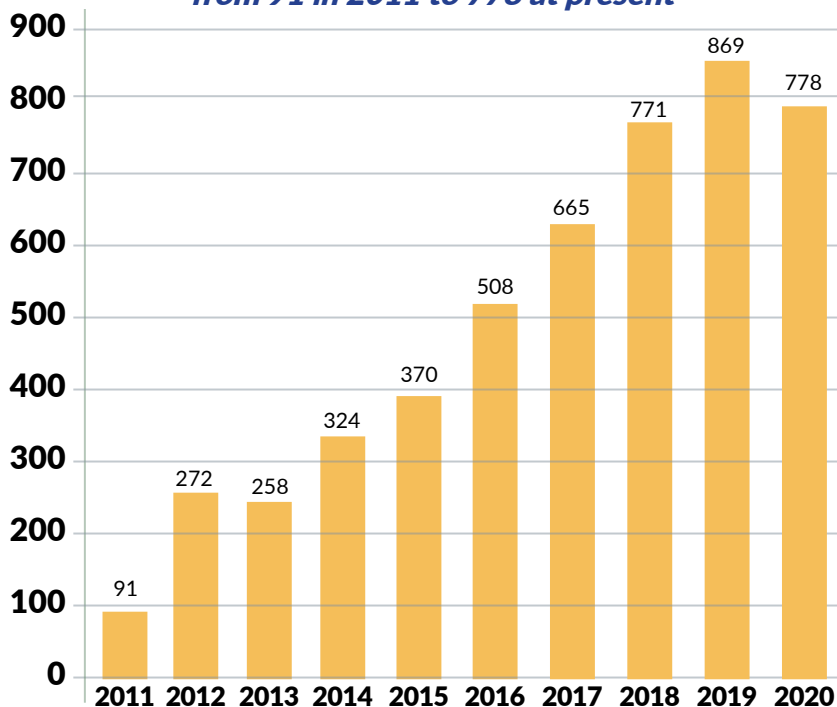
Contributor: \$100

Friend: \$50

Jeffersonian: \$25

For benefits and information regarding each membership level, please call the Jefferson at 814.459.8000.

Growth in Members and Donors from 91 in 2011 to 778 at present



Total JES Members and Donors: 778

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Camille Busette, a Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution, answers a question from moderator Nicci Page at Global Summit XI.

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“What cities set trends in thought and ideas? New York. London. San Francisco. Davos. Washington. Erie. Erie? Yes, Erie, Pennsylvania and why? Because of the Jefferson Educational Society. It is remarkable, incredible really, that in an area this small we are bringing discussion and vital ideas important not only to our locality, but to the Commonwealth, Nation, and the World. What makes this more incredible is that it isn't supported by a college or university, but by the farsighted, thoughtful, and engaged citizens of Erie. The Jefferson, supported by the people, helps to stimulate this thought and action and is part of the growing Renaissance of Erie. A Renaissance which has some of its roots dipped in the idea pool brought to us by the Jefferson. From the Classical world to the ideas and realities of tomorrow, the Jefferson is part of that discussion, development, and learning.”

Ed Tonkin, member since 2013

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“We need to keep learning, throughout our lives. JES helps us to do so. The speakers are great and the interaction between the speakers and the members of the audience is lively. JES is a valuable community asset.”



Norman H. Stark, member since 2013



"Learning is a lifetime experience. The Jefferson Society provides that opportunity and a forum for discussion and debate on the issues of the day."

Paul and Renee Gambill, members since 2008

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"After leaving Erie in the mid-1970s in my 20s, and returning a year ago, I was delighted to discover the Jefferson Society. This organization offers a wonderful opportunity for lifetime learning and exposure to new topics, ideas, and perspectives. I love the balance of programming that covers Erie's current issues and historical reviews; but also a wide spectrum of other offerings. I've learned so much about my hometown that I didn't know or care about in my uninformed youth. I attend as many of the programs as I can fit in. The Global Summit is awesome. I've lived in three major cities since leaving, and none of them had a similar program so available and accessible to the overall community. I look forward to future semesters."

Sylvia Jarema, member since 2017

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Lance & Bernadette Barclay
Mary Jane Blair
Jeffrey Bloodworth
John Bowers
Noel Burgoyne
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Amelia Carr
Christine Cavarretta
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Kathleen Chandler
Nancy Chiappazzi
Jon Chisholm
Barbara Conner
Mary Ellen Dahlkemper
Fran Davis
Tom & Ruth Dombrowski
Barbara Dougherty
Steve Drabant
Natalie Dwyer-Haller

Janice Etchison
Irene Fiala
David & Mary Ann Frew
Ken Gamble
Christine Gerlock
Patricia Grande
Barry & Janet Grossman
Richard Haire
John Harkins
Patty Herr
Daniel Hesch
Griffin Holland
Lynette Hughes
Thomas Kalkhof
Bruce Kibler
Judy Kissman
J. Patrick Kloecker
Annie Knepp
Leigh Kostis
Bobbie Kozlowski
Father Henry Kriegel
Deborah Kuhn
William Lacey
Colleen Lamary
Klea Latifi
Charla Leemhuis
Ed Lesser
F. Brady Louis
Helen Lucas
Katy Merriam
Clemence Mershon
Dorothy Molder
Joe Murphy
Tom New
Terry Nicotra
Nancy O'Neill
Karen Orloff
Wendy Ormond
Josie Osiecki
Laurie Parendes
Karen Phillips
Deborah Phillips
Janet Plavcan
Phyllis Pope
Sandra Reed
Audrey Reigel
Carol Restifo
Patty Riley
P. C. Hoop Roche
Frances Rosiak
Bonnie Ross
Carolyn Ruth
Dave Sawtelle
Carmelita Schaaf
Mary Pat Schlaudecker
Steve Sensor
Judy Shapiro
Kelsey Simonsen
Jerry & Alma Skrypzak
Ashley Solo
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Mark Steg

Anita Stiles
Lenora Stull
Patrick & Stacie Sullivan
Donald & Anne Swift
Tanya Teglo
Andy Tellers
Michael Tellers
Patricia Tellers
Thomas Todd
Mary Tredway
Pamela Tylwalk
Mary Grace Umpleby
Dave Ungerman
Bernard Urbaniak
Edwin Voll
Eugene Ware
Rebecca Wellejus
Erin Wincek
Diane Woodie
Marian Wygant
Paul Ziegler

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Harry Bierley
Will Bloomstine
Jack Bovee
Jay Breneman
Kim Brezinski
Elzora Brezinski
Janet Britt
Connie Burgert
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Jimmy Cuneo
Pat Davis
Michael Dougherty
Irma Dunston
Jim & Mary Ellia
Michelle Ellia
Janice Etchison
Barb Fiorenzo
Joe & Anna Gehringer
Mary Geib
Yvonne Gersims
Bonnie Ginader
Jack & Maxine Gold
Janet Griffin
Antoinette Griffith
Bob Griffith
Kenneth Grugel
David Gustafson
Pat Gustafson
Richard Hahn



"The Jefferson is a lifelong-learning experience for the past, present, and future. Learning is an important part of life as well as meeting people from all walks of life at the lectures. The Q&As are just as interesting and educational as the lectures."

Don Cornman, member since 2013

THE JEFFERSON RECOGNIZES OUR VERY GENEROUS DONORS:

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Joan Mason	Sarah Thompson
Lynette Matter	Larry Tyers
John McGinty	Richard Valahovic
James McKibben	Matthew Wachter
James Meko	Gwendolyn White
E J Metcalf	Kimberley Womack
Brenda Moore	Jessica Yochim
Douglas Murphy	James Young
Linda Offner	Sandra Zeaman
Monica O'Reilly	Margaret Zimmerly
Steve & Gudrun Ousley	Joan Zonno
Roberta Palmisano	

"Fifty years after leaving Erie, we 'retired' here permanently in June 2019. Having discovered the riches that the Jefferson Society offered during our many visits to the area, its presence became part of our decision to relocate here. The lectures and debates that we attended were simply astounding to us and we felt immediately drawn to join the JES. We especially liked the lectures by noted educational leaders from the Erie community dealing with historic events and environmental issues. Later we were able to attend the Global Summit in 2019 and found those lectures enlightening and entertaining at the same time. Combined with the friendly and welcoming nature of the JES staff, joining the JES was a great step for us to become a member of the Erie community."

Klaus and Elaine Retzlaff, members since 2018

Suzanne Richard	Timothy Spaeder
Christine Riehl	Dorothy Stoner
Denise Robison Mullen	Robert Tate
Joyce A. Savocchio	Margaret Taylor
Stanley Schuyler	Thomas Tupitza
Kevin Scully	David Unter
Linda Sensor	Maureen Webster
Tom Showler	Donna Wood

"Introducing our community to candid discussion and opposing viewpoints is vital to our region's future. I'm a member of the Jefferson Society because they have a strong track record of giving our region moments of pause as we hear from local, national, and international experts on topics of relevance to the future. This access ensures we don't become too comfortable but rather continuously listen to both history and current thought as a guide. They also act as community connectors, bringing people and discussion together across boundaries."

Erin Wincek, member since 2016 and JCLA 2015 alumnus



District Attorney Jack Daneri presents Unified Erie Presentation in partnership with Erie Torch Club.



PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH TO HEADLINE 2021 GLOBAL SUMMIT



GEORGE W. BUSH

From a humble start as a two-day conference in 2009, the Jefferson's annual Global Summit has become an annual staple on Erie's civic calendar. The Summit has become the largest and most esteemed speaker series in the region, featuring nearly 100 of the most respected scholars, writers, and leaders in the nation since its inception.

This year will be the best yet, as President George W. Bush (2001-2009) will headline the Summit. Please watch for an announcement about the 2021 schedule and ticket information.

Other esteemed speakers will be Doris Kearns Goodwin, Jeffrey Rosen, Andrew Card, Denis McDonough, Thomas "Mack" McLarty, Barbara Perry, Stacy Cordery, Anita McBride, Tom Ridge, Steve Scully, Clayola Brown, DeWitt Walton, Synthia Saint James, and Dignitas Award winner Robert Pape.

GLOBAL SUMMIT I (2009)

- E.J. Dionne, Kevin Fickenscher, M.D., George S. Howard, Stephen Porter, William A. Smith.

GLOBAL SUMMIT II (2010)

- Paul Kennedy, Elaine C. Kamarck, Harvey A. Bender, G. Terry Madonna, Dave Porter, Alan J. Russell.

GLOBAL SUMMIT III (2011)

- General Michael Hayden, Joel Barker, Freddie H. Fu, M.D., Francis Fukuyama, Alice M. Rivlin, Steve Scully, Michael J. Songer.

GLOBAL SUMMIT IV (2012)

- Karl Rove, David Brooks, Ira Byock, M.D., Barry Casselman, Tom Flynn, Robert Kirschner, Norman Ornstein.

GLOBAL SUMMIT V (2013)

- Harry Markopolos, Howard Dean, M.D., Crislyn D'Souza-Schorey, David Gergen, William Kristol, Brian Lamb, Thomas E. Mann, Ian Morris, Richard Norton Smith, Edith Widder.

GLOBAL SUMMIT VI (2014)

- Sister Joan Chittister, Donna Brazile, Stephen Burt, Laura Bush, Bruce Katz, Charles C. Mann, Michele Ridge, Gregory Skomal, Michael Steele.

GLOBAL SUMMIT VII (2015)

- Cokie Roberts, Danielle Allen, Anthony Atala, M.D., Nile Gardiner, Norman Gevitz, Bas Lansdorp, Aaron David Miller, Eric Raimy, Darrell West, Gov. Tom Wolf.



E.J. DIONNE



PAUL KENNEDY



ALICE M. RIVLIN



KARL ROVE



HARRY MARKOPOLOS



SISTER JOAN CHITTISTER



COKIE ROBERTS

GLOBAL SUMMIT VIII (2016)

- Doris Kearns Goodwin, Antoine von Agtmael, Fred Barnes, Rev. Jeffrey Brown, Lesley Lee Francis, Robert Hass, Andres Lozano, M.D., M.R. O'Connor, David Orr, Gov. Tom Ridge, Donald Sheehy.



DORIS KEARNS GOODWIN

PHOTO BY ANNE LEBOVITZ

GLOBAL SUMMIT IX (2017)

- Andrew Card, Bruce Katz, Jay Cost, Steve Scully, Philip Rucker, Tara Palmeri, Byron York, Douglas Brinkley, Jackson Janes, Caitlin Welsh, Ellen Jorgensen, Lt. Gen. James Dubik, Ret.



ANDREW CARD

GLOBAL SUMMIT X (2018)

- David Ignatius, Ashley Swearingen, Ian Morris, Leonard Calabrese, D.O., Sebastian Gorka, Gen. Michael Hayden, Michael Eric Dyson, Doris Kearns Goodwin, Howard Dean, Elise Jordan, Bill Plante, Ann Compton, Steve Scully, James Fallows, Deborah Fallows, Chris Matthews.



MICHAEL ERIC DYSON

GLOBAL SUMMIT XI (2019)

- Camille Busette, Patricia Glibert, Nile Gardner, Avi Loeb, Chuck Hagel, Tom Ridge, Sean Spicer, George Will, Karen Tumulty, Alexi McCammond, Mary Katharine Ham, Steve Scully, Michael Smerconish, Edna Greene Medford, Susan Page, Eleanor Smeal



SUSAN PAGE

GLOBAL SUMMIT (2021)

- George W. Bush, Doris Kearns Goodwin, Jeffrey Rosen, Andrew Card, Denis McDonough, Thomas "Mack" McLarty, Barbara Perry, Stacy Cordery, Anita McBride, Steve Scully, Clayola Brown, DeWitt Walton, Synthia Saint James, Robert Pape.



STEVE SCULLY

GLOBAL SUMMIT SPEAKERS ENHANCE 2020 PROGRAMS

Encore performances were plentiful in 2020 when the Jefferson pivoted to a record number of events on our digital platforms. Speakers from the past four Global Summits presented programs in conversation with Jefferson Vice President Ben Speggen.

Among them were Harvard astronomy professor Avi Loeb, urban expert Bruce Katz, Brookings Institution's Camille Busette, director of the Global Food Security Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) Caitlin Welsh, the architect of the "Boston Miracle" Rev. Jeffrey Brown, C-SPAN's Steve Scully, and national best-selling authors James Fallows and Deborah Fallows.



Dr. Camille Busette

Dr. Deborah and James Fallows

Bruce Katz



Rev. Jeffrey Brown

Caitlin Welsh

Dr. Avi Loeb

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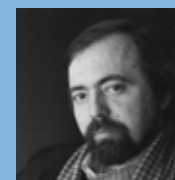
For benefits and information regarding each sponsorship level, please call the Jefferson at 814.459.8000.



THOMAS B. HAGEN DIGNITAS AWARD HONOREES



2011
Steve Scully



2012
Barry Casselman



2013
Harry Markopolos



2014
Sister Joan Chittister



2015
Drs. John and Silvia Ferretti



2016
Hon. Tom Ridge



2017
Lt. Gen. James Dubik, Ret.



2018

From left: Ferki Ferati, County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper, Mayor Joe Schember, Dignitas Award winners James Fallows and Deborah Fallows, along with Tom Hagen and Ben Speggen.



2019
Eleanor Smeal, leader of the feminist movement and Dignitas Award winner.

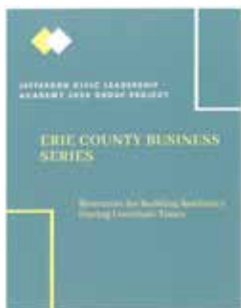


2021
Robert Pape

Dynamic. Interactive. Collaborative.

The Jefferson puts a premium on ensuring that those three words guide the experience of the Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy participants. Launched in 2015 as an annual endeavor, the Civic Leadership Academy prepares Erie professionals for meaningful engagement in their community through a transformative experience including: a retreat to Harrisburg to meet with top elected officials and expert policy advisers; countywide sessions to learn the form and function of local government; and the production of publishable research to address critical issues facing the region.

RESEARCH



Erie County Business Series: Resources for Building Resiliency During Uncertain Times

The 2020 Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy cohort was tasked with examining the topic of **“Leadership in a Time of Crisis: Proposing a Preparedness Model for Erie County.”** The cohort explored this topic during the Covid-19 global pandemic that began

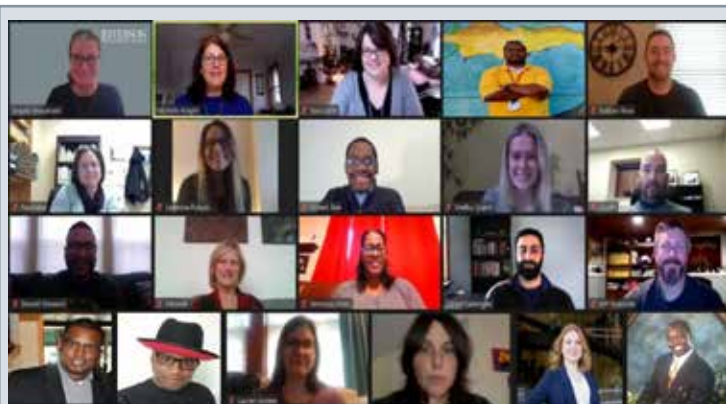
in December 2019. After researching the early effects of the pandemic, conferring with business assistance organizations, and interviewing local businesses and nonprofits, the cohort confirmed that the mandated shutdown severely impacted many businesses within Erie County. Even after businesses were permitted to reopen, limits on capacity and other health and safety requirements necessary to protect the public continued to have impacts on businesses. As a result of this research, the cohort decided the best way to address the topic of **“Leadership in the Time of Crisis”** was by sharing business resiliency tactics and information through a business speaker series.



Erie News Now anchor Lisa Adams and the 2019 JCLA cohort discuss the Academy and their work on the Blue Economy project.



Michelle Knight, the program coordinator for the Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy in 2019 and 2020, played a critical role in pivoting the JCLA curriculum to a digital learning space. The Jefferson is grateful for her excellent work.



Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy 2020 during a session on Zoom

LEADERSHIP ACADEMY 2020 CONVERTED TO VIRTUAL FORMAT

Out of precaution during the pandemic, the Civic Leadership Academy was converted to an entirely virtual format enabling the cohort to meet with state leaders in both the House and Senate, and Superior Court Judge Victor Stabile. Participants also met with elected officials and other community leaders throughout Erie County, the city of Erie, and many other local municipalities.

Each year, the JCLA visits numerous municipalities throughout Erie County to learn about the history, challenges, and future plans of those regions. Along the way, they've met with the Erie County Executive; the Chairman of County Council; the Mayors of Erie and Corry; the President of Erie City Council; Supervisors from Fairview, Harborcreek, Millcreek; leaders from Corry and Union City; the Borough Manager for Edinboro, a member of Washington Township Council member; and numerous policy experts and professionals in health, business, and finance.



“Thank you to everyone who made this opportunity possible. As somebody who moved to Erie not knowing anyone here, I'm so grateful to have met everyone and learn more about the local community. I leave this experience not only with greater knowledge of Erie, but with long-lasting friendships I know I can count on. Thank you to everyone in the cohort, and thank you to the Jefferson for this wonderful experience.”

Best,
Daniel L. Salamone
Assistant Director
Academic Community Engagement
Gannon University

JEFFERSON CIVIC LEADERSHIP ACADEMY GRADUATES

2020 GRADUATES

Lauren Azotea, ServErie/VISTA
James Omar Clea, Pitts Funeral Home and

Cremation Services

John Durlin, Erie County Department of Public Safety

Shelby Graml, Hagen History Center

Randalee Gross, Erie County Library, Edinboro

Michelle Hartmann, Penn State Behrend

Antonio Howard, Federal Public Defender's Office

Sara Little, Hagen History Center

LeeAnne Pukylo, Graduate Student,

Mercyhurst University

Deng Rag, Erie Housing Authority

Belinda Rogers, Erie Insurance

Nathan Ross, Northwest Bank

Daniel Salamone, Gannon University

Drevell Showers, WQLN

Antonio Stapp, Bianchi

Jeff Styborski, Erie Insurance

Robert Tate, ResCare

Kristen Weibel, Erie Arts and Culture

Breanna Adams, 2016

Matthew Allen, 2019

Kevin Arrington, 2015

Niken Astari, 2016

Julie Barry, 2018

Angela Beaumont, 2015

Jada Best, 2018

Nathan Bish, 2019

Jeffrey Bloodworth, 2019

Paige Bosnyak, 2017

Kristin Bowers, 2017

Carissa Brandt, 2018

Jay Breneman, 2016

Joelyn Bush, 2017

Michelle Butler, 2016

DaWayne Cleckley, 2015

Correy Connelly, 2018

Chanel Cook, 2015

Lisa Counasse, 2015

Meagan Cousins, 2017

Kurt Crays, 2018

Joe Cuneo, 2019

Chelsea Currett, 2018

Emily Dauber, 2017

Dusti Dennis, 2018

Brian Dorio, 2016

Patrick Duda, 2017

Joylene Ehrich, 2018

Emma Eisert-Wlodarczyk, 2019

Jennifer Farrar, 2015

Ferki Ferati, 2016

Veronica Fields, 2019

Lisa Fischer, 2019

J. Brian Foht, 2017

Kevin Forte, 2017

Bill Frackowiak, 2017

Kerry Franz, 2015

Natalia Garcia, 2017

Jamilia Gates, 2018

Tim Giblin, 2015

Varun Gupta, 2016

Riki Hay, 2017

Kati Hecker, 2017

Andrew Henderson, 2015

James Heubel, 2016

Kyle Hinsdale, 2015

Heather Hinz, 2018

Khadija Horton, 2016

Andrew Hromyak, 2015

Jessica Hunter, 2018

Amanda Iadeluca, 2016

Maggie Ignasiak, 2019

Patreece Johnson, 2018

Alison Kaminski, 2016

Andrew Kerr, 2017

Hannah Kirby, 2015

Ericka Knight, 2019

Andrew Kochirka, 2016

Andrea Konkol, 2019

Halle Kostansek, 2016

Steve Krivonak, 2015

Christopher LaFuria, 2015

Afrim Latifi, 2017

Ashley Lawson, 2016

Lydia Laythe, 2019

Christal Lepak, 2017

Anne Lewis, 2019

Mac Lewis, 2016

Sarah Loftus, 2019

Doug Magee, 2018

Tom Maggio, 2016

Justin Mason, 2019

Sherri Mason, 2019

Toni Mazanowski, 2019

Heather McBrier, 2017

Tiffany McCloud, 2016

Michael McCormick, 2015

Patrick Miller, 2019

Stephanie Montgomery, 2018

Tori Moore, 2018

April Morrison, 2015

Keith Moses, 2015

Martha Nwachukwu, 2019

Marwah Obaid, 2018

Michael Outlaw, 2018

Tiffany Page-Collazo, 2016

Ryan Palm, 2016

Emily Perrotta, 2019

Kevin Pollock, 2015

Shawnta Pulliam, 2015

Veronica Rexford, 2015

Lesley Ridge, 2015

Kevin Schaaf, 2017

Cole Schenley, 2019

William Scholz, 2015

Jay Shaffer, 2019

YahMoora Shakoora-Hooker, 2018

Patrick Simpson, 2015

Paul Smola, 2016

April Soriano, 2018

Darnell Stallworth, 2019

Honey Stempka, 2019

Juanita Maria Stokes, 2019s

Depend Tamba, 2017

Nick Taylor, 2018

Tiffany Thomas, 2016

Tyler Titus, 2017

Mary Tredway, 2017

Brad Triana, 2016

Seth Trott, 2018

Alvin Tucker, II, 2015

Laura Walchack, 2015

Maureen Walls, 2016

Matthew Washek, 2019

Shawn Waskiewicz, 2017

Jim Wertz, 2018

Ashley Westgate, 2019

Brad Wiertel, 2017

Matthew Wiertel, 2016

Erin Wincek, 2015

Nina Wolfarth, 2015

Perry Wood, 2016

Jessica Yochim, 2017

Andona Zacks-Jordan, 2019

Andrea Zdaniewski, 2017

Brian Zona, 2018

RAIMY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Responding to suggestions from alumni of the first several Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy (JCLA) cohorts, the Jefferson team created an advanced developmental experience in applied leadership theory. Under the supervision of Dr. Andrew Roth, the Raimy Fellows continue to move ahead despite the challenges of virtual learning during the pandemic. On October 15, 2020, Matthew Wiertel presented livestream on "Understanding the Urban Digital Divide".

In the pipeline are additional programs, examining compensation for frontline health care workers, rural Wi-Fi development to support K-12 education, and more.

Raimy Fellows study leadership and apply their knowledge to a practical policy problem in the local region and emerge prepared to assume an enhanced role in their organization and in the community.

RAIMY FELLOWS

Michael Outlaw

YahMoora Shakoora-Hooker

April Soriano

Seth Trott

Jim Wertz

Matthew Wiertel

THE JEFFERSON SCHOLARS-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM

The Jefferson launched a Scholars-in-Residence Program for one big reason – it's the next important step in our development as a think tank. Now that we have entered the next decade, we feel the Jefferson needs its own experts in residence. Why? Imagine the value of experts contributing to timely publications, lecturing routinely throughout the region, directing research, and serving as go-to sources for data and analysis. Though we do a great deal of that now with our excellent staff and stable of contributing professionals, having our own Jefferson scholars helps us reach the next level as the Erie region's think tank for community progress.



Dr. Judith Lynch, Decadian Scholar and Jefferson Scholar-in-Residence focuses on history and Erie's economy.



Dr. Andrew Roth, Jefferson Scholar-in-Residence and Raimy Fellowship Program Facilitator, has expertise in leadership, media, and social studies.

Corinne Egan, B.A. – Women's Studies

Dr. David Frew, Ph.D. – Education, History

Paul Gambill, M.A. – Program Development

Baher Ghosheh, Ph.D. – Immigration

Johnny Johnson, M.Ed. – Education

Tom Murphy, M.S. – Community Development

Christine Riehl, M.P.P. – Program Development



The Mission Expands



Here at the Brock Institute, we have never wavered from our original mission to persuade contemporary colleges and universities to revert to an older style of teaching – to offer a broad education to all students without sacrificing majors. That challenge remains clear. We need to help students to discuss the great issues of the day as well as prepare them for careers and civic duty.

But as Yale law professor Robert C. Post observes, America is experiencing an abrupt, disruptive change that has created a sharply growing divide in our politics, culture, and basic acceptance of fact. These developments are so dangerous to our democratic republic that we feel compelled to expand our mission.

Currently I am researching material for an article on the great ancient universities of the world and in their countries of origin as well as their teaching methods from their origin until now – Fez, Bologna, Paris, Oxford, Salamanca, and Harvard. I am also looking at one or two major figures who they have produced, and how they affect our lives today. But some other key items must be added, namely the new American notion of abandoning evidence, fact – truth – in favor of embracing “alternative facts,” which leads to national paranoia.

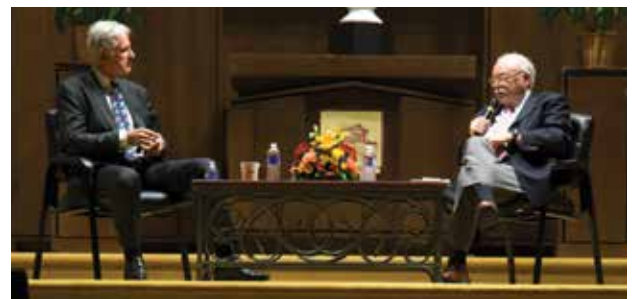
We are not the only country exhibiting these behaviors but make no mistake. Conspiracy theories and phony claims abound. For many, evidence does not count. Instead, rumor has it. Or Twitter. Or Facebook. Or off-the-wall cable news that is unchecked and unbounded regarding reason and facts, endlessly feeding cable network echo chambers composed of their paid staffs of “experts.” Misinformation, disinformation, and misunderstanding often result.

Underlying today’s anger and disconnection, we believe, was observed by American sociologist Daniel Bell. The modern right wing, he said, “feels dispossessed: America has been largely taken away from them and their kind, though they are determined to try to repossess it and to prevent the final destructive act of subversion.” We are seeing an insurgency today that wants to do this.

Here is another problem highlighted by New York Times columnist Thomas Edsall: “When the jobs went away, families fell apart. There was no narrative other than the classic American dream that everyone who works hard can get ahead, and the implicit correlation was that those who fall behind and are on welfare are losers, lazy, and often minorities.” This leads to despair. And the elites have a lot to answer for – how did we think that persuading people to work hard would be good for them when it wasn’t? Did we want to reap those benefits for ourselves? The American Dream needs to be questioned.

So, join us as we move beyond simple formula and lay the groundwork for facts and reason, as many have striven to do since the Enlightenment in Europe and America. Let the work begin.

Rev. Charles Brock, M.Litt.
Secretary of the Jefferson Board of Trustees
Director of the Brock Institute



Charles Brock and Ian Morris discuss the “good and bad” of warfare during Global Summit X event on Nov. 1, 2018.



2008

Charles Brock serves as a founding member of the Jefferson Educational Society



2010

Institute launches its first courses and lectures



2011

Rev. Brock presents on America’s “Holy Warrior Presidents”: Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, and the Roosevelts



2012

Institute addresses America’s history of warfare dating to its inception



2013

Brock Institute renovations unfold, including library



2014

Institute’s work dovetails with Rev. Brock’s teaching at Penn State Behrend



Erie Insurance Chairman Tom Hagen chats with his long-time friend Charles Brock.

What is Mega Issues Education?

The Brock Institute stands for integrative education, focusing on the great issues of the day – war, violence, American leaders, ideology, religions, inequality, poverty, gender, environment, science, and culture wars.

Issues are examined from many viewpoints in a scholarly manner, presenting explanations and fact-based arguments from historical, political and theological points of view. Having taught religion and political science at Oxford UK for 35 years and Penn State Behrend for 20 years, Charles Brock has always placed true student learning and critical thinking at the center. He finds that even though students may be tied up in their major they want to expand their knowledge. A well-rounded education needs to be made available to all students to give them what they want and need. Charles Brock continues to ask colleges to adapt to this educational need and to fight the deficit in knowledge regarding foreign relations, geography, and other national and global issues.

The Brock Library

The Brock Library has completed one of the largest private reference libraries in Erie with more than 800 titles concentrating on political science in the categories of American presidents and Congress, history, foreign policy, English history, philosophy, and humanities. It also houses the complete volumes of Library of America. All books were donated by supporters of the Jefferson Society. The elegant Brock Library with its large conference tables can be used as a comfortable room for dinner and lunch roundtable discussion, as a pre-event venue during the Global Summit, for board meetings, and staff celebrations. The reading room is open to the public.

Holy Warrior Presidents

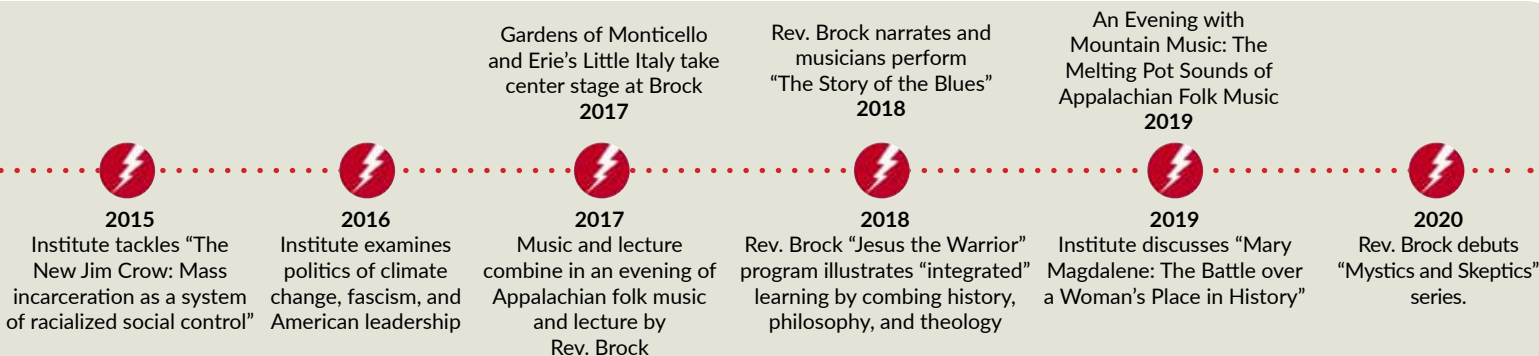
In 2019 Charles Brock achieved what many scholars strive for: he finished his book, *Holy Warrior Presidents: War, Religion, and the American Narrative*. Brock examines America through its wars and the religions of selected presidents, and how this reflects on the American narrative. In these comparative studies he tells us what transformational presidents said and did regarding belief and action in relation to war and the American mission. Brock examines the importance of religious belief and providential theology in their approaches to war justification. In the spirit of integrative education, he asks, "What is America for?" This question, of course, has a historic answer—from the founding of the country to George W. Bush's presidency, America has been a city on a hill, showing how a republic might work and, when it is able, defend others from oppression and tyranny as the Americans have been freed themselves.

In his research for a narrative that linked together sixteen presidents, Brock quotes John Adams' stirring words: "I always consider the settlement of America with reverence and wonder, as the opening of a grand scene and design in Providence for the illumination of the ignorant, and the emancipation of the slavish part of mankind all over the earth" (from: *A Dissertation on Canon and Feudal Law*). Adams meant this for America and for others and Brock concludes that all of the presidents in his study mainly agreed. He also urges that we need to find or renew an American narrative in these troubled times when the nation appears to be drifting and fractious.

Holy Warrior Presidents is the outstanding literary product of decades of dedication and hard work. The Jefferson is proud to have accompanied author Charles Brock through the crucial phase of editing and will continue to support him in his search for the best publisher.



Museum scene with Lincoln's bier and painting "Washington the Father - Lincoln the Savior." Photo courtesy of Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, Springfield, Ill.

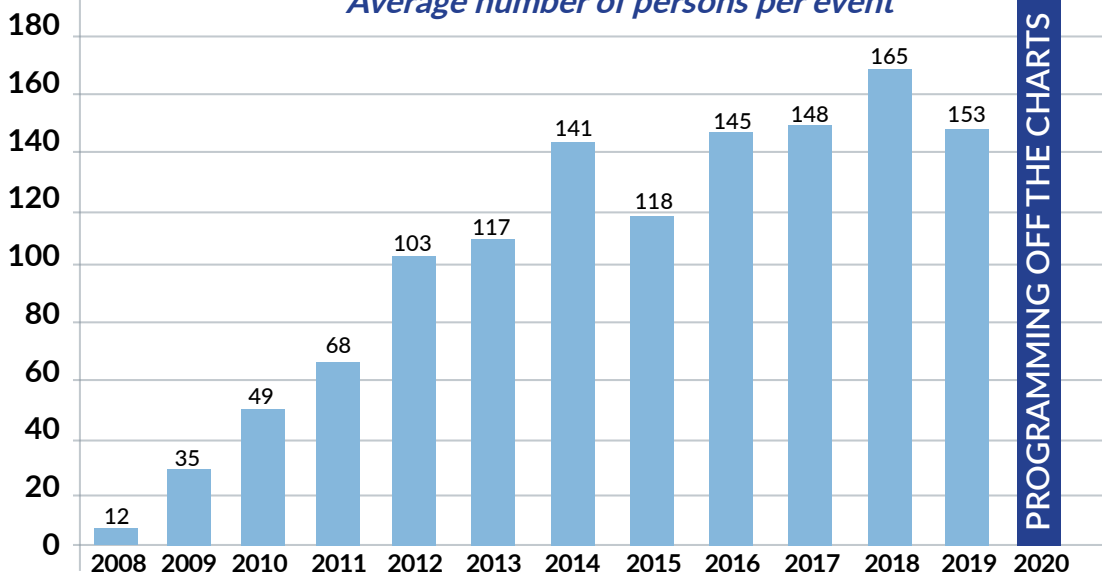


THE JEFFERSON STORY EVOLVES, GROWS

Programming has been a cornerstone of the Jefferson Educational Society since its beginning. Over the years, JES programming has grown and evolved, and the JES team has explored that evolution here with you in our annual reports. From the launch of the annual Global Summit, which itself grew from a two-and-half-day series to one spread over three weeks, to the increasing the total of annual events to nearly 100 at our 3207 State Street location, to the launch of the Satellite Programming initiative throughout Erie County that nearly doubled our output, JES programming continues to expand in an effort to make our events more accessible to the community in new ways.

The JES held 48 in-person events between January and early March at its headquarters and at the satellites in Corry, Edinboro, Fairview, and North East with many more events already scheduled and being planned. But never before has the organization evolved so quickly than it did just little over two months in 2020. As the pandemic took hold, the think tank team vowed to not abandon its program but pledged to find new ways to connect with the community.

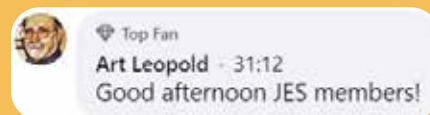
Growth in Event Attendance
Average number of persons per event



From March 12 to Dec. 22, the JES produced 119 digital programs, ranging from interviews to lectures, debates to panel discussions. Coupled with those 48 in-person events, the JES set a programming record, holding 167 events, the most its ever offered. Too, JES digital programming reaches a wider audience than ever before, as program views averaged more than 650 per event over 2020.

While the JES team looks forward to the day when it can safely resume in-person events, serving again as the gathering place for informed discussion in Erie, Pennsylvania, it also looks forward to continue to reach audiences in new, innovative ways. As 2021 continues, so will JES digital programming – today, tomorrow, and well into the future so that no matter where someone may be they may have the opportunity to connect to the world-class programming being produced in Erie, Pennsylvania.

While Jefferson programs reached a wider audience than ever before in 2020, no Jeffersonian took a more active role in digital programs than Art Leopold. He was a big part of why program views averaged more than 650 per event. For his faithful attendance is the clear reason he earned a "Top Fan" badge on Facebook. Congratulations, Art.

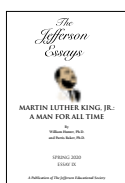


2020 IN REVIEW



JANUARY:

Distinguished Visiting Speaker and urban designer Kristen Zeiber presents findings of the 2019 Erie Charrette and how Erie could better connect its bayfront with neighborhoods.



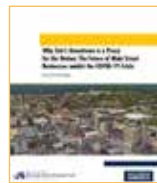
FEBRUARY:

Black History Month discussion features Jefferson essay "Martin Luther King Jr.: Examining King's Life, Legacy, & Impact" with authors Marcus Atkinson and Drs. Parris Baker, Bill Hunter, and Scott Michel.



MARCH:

Jefferson hosts its first digital lecture, "Erie County's Responsibility for the Poor" with Decadian Scholar and Scholar-in-Residence Dr. Judith Lynch.



APRIL:

Timely discussion of Jefferson report, "Why Erie's Downtown is a Proxy for the Nation: The Future of Main Street Businesses amidst the Covid-19 Crisis" with authors Bruce Katz and Ben Speggen.



MAY:

To inform the public about the platforms of Democratic candidates for State Senate District 49, André Horton and Julie Slomski, the Jefferson holds a pre-election digital debate.



JUNE:

Jefferson program discusses the report, "A Pain-filled, Polarized America: Reflections, Recommendations on Racism in U.S., Erie" with author Dr. Parris Baker.

MOST POPULAR PROGRAMS OF 2020

Covid-19 and Your Mental Health featuring Megan McCarty, D.O., Gianpiero Martone, D.O., and Prianka Sinha, D.O.

Debate with Democratic candidates for Pennsylvania Senate District 49 featuring André Horton and Julie Slomski



André Horton Julie Slomski

A Pain-filled, Polarized America: Reflections, Recommendations on Racism in U.S., Erie featuring Dr. Parris Baker

A Conversation with Steve Scully: A Look at 2020, from the Presidential Election to the Covid-19 Pandemic featuring Steve Scully



Steve Scully Ben Speggen

What History Stands to Teach Us featuring Jonathan Burdick

Introduction to Mindfulness featuring Penny Mecheley-Porter

Necessary Interruptions: Encounters in the Convergence of Ecological and Public Health featuring Dr. Aaron Kerr



Aaron Kerr

A Shared Heritage: People and Places of African American Heritage in Erie County featuring Johnny Johnson and Dr. Chris Magoc



Jefferson presents "Covid-19 and Your Mental Health" in partnership with LECOM.

A Conversation with Yvonne Caputo featuring her book "Flying with Dad"

PA School Funding: Barrier for Economic Growth / Community Revitalization in Erie County & Throughout Pennsylvania featuring Donna Cooper, Ira Goldstein, Jeffrey Beer, Brian Polito



Yvonne Caputo

Recruitment of Black Soldiers in U.S. Military in Northwest Pennsylvania During the Civil War featuring Brian Graff and George Deutsch

Judith Lynch: Erie County's Responsibility for the Poor featuring Dr. Judith Lynch



Map of A Shared Heritage's driving tour



Trumpeter Mary E. Bowden and composer Vivian Fung take part in a world premiere program in partnership with the Erie Philharmonic and League of Women Voters.

The County's Responsibility for the Poor

1706 to Present

- From
- Outdoor Relief,
- to Shame,
- to Almshouses,
- to separate Institutional Care for children and the insane
- to Community Based Programs



Judith Lynch presents the Jefferson's first program under Covid-19 restrictions.

JULY:

History teacher and writer Jonathan Burdick presents our shared collective history and how it affects individuals. He was the founder of Rust & Dirt.

AUGUST:

Audrey Henson, founder and chief executive of the Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit College to Congress, discusses the voting habits and impact of Generation Z in the 2020 elections.

SEPTEMBER:

Community history experts Johnny Johnson and Dr. Chris Magoc explore a "Shared African American Heritage of People and Places in Erie County."

OCTOBER:

In a co-hosted event with the Hagen History Center and Erie Civil War Roundtable, Brian Graff and George Deutsch speak on "Recruitment of Black Soldiers in U.S. Military in Northwestern Pennsylvania During the Civil War."

NOVEMBER:

Drs. Jeffrey Bloodworth and Stephen Tootle, along with students, deliver a post-election analysis in an event co-hosted by Gannon University and moderated by JES Vice President Ben Speggen.

DECEMBER:

Jefferson features an expert panel discussion on Pennsylvania School Funding, barriers for economic growth, and opportunities for community revitalization in Erie County and Pennsylvania, in partnership with ReadyNation.

RESEARCHERS, WRITERS ROAR

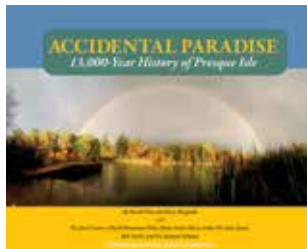
What do scholars, researchers, and writers do in the face of crisis? At the Jefferson in crisis-filled 2020, they responded like never before. They researched and wrote, then wrote, then wrote some more. They collaborated. They informed. They tried to bring historical context – and delightful memories – to an audience facing the uncertainty that only multiple crises can summon.

And the audiences grew and grew as the production multiplied. By the end of 2020, Jefferson thinkers and writers produced 130-plus publications on issues as diverse as health, the economy, racial discrimination, politics, growing up on the waterfront, local history, innovative thinking, beauty, poetry, and mysticism. It amounted to 10-times the output of any year since the JES founding.

This pivot was led by Jefferson scholars Rev. Charles Brock, Dr. Judith Lynch, Dr. Andrew Roth and Dr. David Frew, along with Ben Speggen, Pat Cuneo and acclaimed guest essayists that include Dr. Parris Baker, Larry Flatley, Kristen Zeiber, Bruce Katz, Dr. Jackson Janes, and many others.

The types of publications also changed during this pivot to digital publications, mostly featuring shorter reads and wider subject material. A full listing and accessibility can be found on the Jefferson website, www.JESerie.org.

But traditional Jefferson publications were not ignored, led by the release of the book, *“Accidental Paradise: 13,000-Year History of Presque Isle.”* Coauthored by Dr. David Frew and Jerry Skrypzak, “Accidental Paradise” was edited and published by the Jefferson in partnership with the Tom Ridge Environmental Center Foundation. Just released in December, it has been enthusiastically greeted by readers and is headed for a second printing as Presque Isle celebrates its 100th anniversary as a state park in 2021.



MOST POPULAR PUBLICATIONS OF 2020

Book Notes, *The White Album* by Dr. Andrew Roth, JES Scholar-in-Residence

Book Notes, *Stony the Road* by Dr. Andrew Roth, JES Scholar-in-Residence

Why Erie's Downtown is a Proxy for the Nation: The Future of Main Street Businesses amidst the Covid-19 Crisis by Bruce Katz and Ben Speggen

1918 Flu Epidemic Struck Erie, Nation, World by Pat Cuneo

Book Notes, *This America: The Case for the Nation* by Dr. Andrew Roth, JES Scholar-in-Residence

Down in the Dumps: An Inclusive Look at Glass Recycling in Erie County by Seth Trott

Report from Europe: Impact and Reactions to Covid-19 by Dr. Jackson James

Ship-Spotting 101: Things to do in Erie or Elsewhere by Dr. David Frew, JES Scholar-in-Residence

On the Waterfront: How Does the Osprey Know? Earth Connections by Dr. David Frew, JES Scholar-in-Residence

Book Notes, *New and Selected Poems and Collected Poems* by Dr. Andrew Roth, JES Scholar-in-Residence

Book Notes, *Catcher in the Rye* by Dr. Andrew Roth, JES Scholar-in-Residence

On the Waterfront: Searching for Loons, One of Lake Erie's Most Beautiful Birds by Dr. David Frew, JES Scholar-in-Residence



Following is a “by the numbers” look at Jefferson publications:

130+

More than 130 publications in 2020 alone includes Dr. Roth's “Book Notes” series, Dr. Frew's “On the Waterfront” series, Rev. Brock's “Mystics & Skeptics” series, and Dr. Lynch's series on women in public leadership roles and the Erie region's economic history. Other highlights include an essay on Martin Luther King, Jr., major projects by Parris Baker, a collaboration by Ben Speggen and Bruce Katz asking “Why Erie's Downtown is a Proxy for the Nation: The Future of Main Street Businesses Amidst the Covid-19 Crisis,” and a staff essay on Erie, crisis, and opportunity led by Drs. Roth and Lynch. A major report on glass recycling by Seth Trott also was produced in 2020.

10

“Accidental Paradise” is the Jefferson's 10th published book, following in a series that includes Dr. William P. Garvey's “Erie, Pennsylvania Mayors” (2017), Dr. David Frew's and Jerry Skrypzak's “Rise and Fall of the Erie Extension Canal” (2016), and Cory Vaillancourt's “Lou Tullio: A Real Erie Guy” (2015).

7

“A Pain-filled, Polarized America: Reflections, Recommendations on Racism in U.S., Erie,” by sociology professor and author Dr. Parris Baker and a comprehensive look at glass recycling by Seth Trott, both in 2020, raised the number of Jefferson reports to seven since the reports debuted in late 2019.

11

Essays on Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Jefferson staff's project on “Crisis and Opportunity” raise the total to 11.

8

The latest volume of the *Journal of Erie Studies* – a joint venture of the Jefferson and Hagen History Center – was published in early 2020, featuring the 100th anniversary of the Woman's Club of Erie (authors Melinda Meyer and Dr. David Frew).

CHAIRWOMAN JOYCE SAVOCCHIO:

Join Us in the Work Ahead



I am filled with both gratitude and determination as we head into 2021, wiser and humbled from facing the challenges and isolation brought on by a pandemic.

All of us at the Jefferson are grateful for our members' unwavering support, the guidance of a talented Board of Trustees, and the hard work of our Jefferson team and volunteers who kept us relevant and thriving in such difficult circumstances. We witnessed how our President Dr. Ferki Ferati and his team rose to the occasion, pivoting

our programming and publications to attract even larger audiences and helping people cope while continuing to pursue their passion for learning.

As we look forward, so many challenges still lie ahead. But whenever there is challenge, there is opportunity. As I see it, the Jefferson has an even more important role ahead in its service to our community. Please join us as that important journey takes the next step.

Joyce Savocchio
Chairwoman

BOARD OFFICERS:



Vice Chairman Bruce Raimy



Treasurer Charles Caryl



Secretary Charles Brock

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Charles Brock – Director, Institute on the American Dream, Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, Director of The Brock Institute for Mega Issues Education

Charles M. Caryl – Treasurer - First Vice President, RBC Wealth Management

Paul Gambill – Trustee – Retired Juvenile Counselor, Erie County Edmund Thomas Adolescent Center

Baher Ghosheh – Trustee - Professor of Middle Eastern Studies at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

Johnny Johnson – Trustee – Retired, Erie School District teacher, coach

Judith M. Lynch – Trustee - Jefferson Scholar-in-Residence, former Erie County Executive (1982-2002)

Dale McBrier – Trustee – Co-Owner, Lyndal Enterprises

Maureen McClure – Trustee – Director, Institute for International Studies in Education, University of Pittsburgh

William Koehle – Trustee – Blue and Gold Officer, United States Naval Academy

Ashley Lawson – Trustee – Blue Zones Project Corry, Chairwoman of the JCLA Alumni Network

Christopher Miller – Trustee – Executive Director, Robert S. and Janet L. Miller Family Foundation

Doris Stawniak Pinski – Trustee - President, Brith Sholom Congregation

Bruce Raimy – Vice-Chairman - Chairman, Raimy Corporation

Christine Riehl – Trustee – JES Adult Learner Representative

Denise Robison Mullen – Trustee - Retired, Deputy Secretary, PA Department of Aging

Hon. Joyce A. Savocchio – Chairwoman - Retired, City of Erie Mayor (1990-2002)

Michael Songer – Trustee – Trial lawyer, partner, Crowell & Moring LLP, Washington D.C.

Jeff Szumigale – Trustee - Senior Vice President, PNC Bank

TRUSTEE EMERITAS

Thomas B. Hagen – Trustee Emeritas – Chairman, Custom Engineering Co.; Chairman, Erie Insurance Group

William C. Sennett – Trustee Emeritas – Retired Attorney, Knox McLaughlin Gornall & Sennett, P.C.

FERKI FERATI, ED.D.
President


Dr. Ferki Ferati is in his fifth year as President of the Jefferson Educational Society, where he leads the Erie region's think tank and its divisions of Community programming and Global Summit speaker series, Offsite programming, Civic Leadership Academy and Rainy Fellows, Scholar-in-Residence, Publications, and Journal of Erie Studies. Dr. Ferati joined the Jefferson at its inception in 2008, and was promoted to Executive Director in 2009, Vice President in 2013, and President in 2017. He earned his doctoral degree from the University of Pittsburgh's School of Education in 2017, his Master's degree in Public Administration from Gannon University in 2012, and his Bachelor's degree from Mercyhurst University in 2007. Dr. Ferati is also a graduate of Leadership Erie (2010 and 2011) and the Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy (2016).

REVEREND CHARLES BROCK, M.LITT.
Director of Brock Institute for Mega Issues Education


Reverend Charles Brock, an Erie native, is an Emeritus Fellow, Chaplain, and Director of Ministerial Education at Mansfield College, Oxford, UK, where he taught for 35 years. He serves as the Director of the Institute on the American Dream at Penn State Behrend. Rev. Brock is acting minister of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Girard, Pa., and he is a Founding Member of the Jefferson Educational Society. Rev. Brock serves as the Director of the Brock Institute for Mega Issues Education at the Jefferson.

BEN SPEGGEN, M.A.
Vice President


Ben Speggen joined the Jefferson Educational Society in February 2015 as its Program Developer, became the Director of Operations in 2017, and moved to Vice President in 2019. He oversees the think tank's events, such as local and distinguished visiting scholars lecturers, Global Summit speaker series, Jefferson Dinner series, and the Metro 100 conferences. Since 2016, he has also directed the Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy. Ben earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in English, along with minors in history and journalism, at Gannon University. He currently serves on the boards for L'Arche Erie, the Erie County Poet Laureate Initiative, and represents the Jefferson on the Emerge 2040 Steering Committee.

ANGELA BEAUMONT, M.A.
Director of Operations


Angela Beaumont is Director of Operations at the Jefferson, where she also coordinates programming, the Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy, the Jefferson Dinner Series, and continues to work with Rev. Charles Brock and the Brock Institute. Angela holds a degree in American Studies and Business from the University of Kassel in Germany. Her prior experience includes working for a think tank in Washington, D.C. and for DHL in Bonn, Germany, where she held various positions in international marketing and business development. In 2009, she moved with her family to the United States, where she worked in Special Education, German language teaching, and import logistics. Angela is a graduate of the inaugural class of the Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy.

PAT CUNEO, B.A.
Publications Coordinator


Pat Cuneo serves as the Coordinator of Publications at the Jefferson. He is a former reporter, editor, and columnist for the Erie Times-News. An Erie native, he is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and studied journalism at Poynter Institute and the American Press Institute. Pat is the Editor of the Journal of Erie Studies and taught journalism at Edinboro University, Gannon University, and the former Alliance College. He is a board member of the Boys and Girls Club of Erie and a member of the Planning Board of the Town of Mina, N.Y.

DEA WOODWARD, M.B.A.
Bookkeeper


Dea Woodward joined the Jefferson Educational Society in March 2019 as the part-time Bookkeeper. An Erie native, she graduated from East High School in 1989 in the top ten of her class. She went on to graduate from Pennsylvania State University with a Bachelor's of Science degree in General Business in 1993. In April 2013, she obtained her Master's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix online while working fulltime. Dea has more than 20 years of experience in Finance and Human Resources in both profit and nonprofit organizations. She is an active member of the Victory Christian Center of Erie, Inc. where she is a member of the Bishop's Council team. She is also the Director of Finance for the Eagle's Nest Leadership Academy School of Finance. Dea lives in Erie with her two children, Antwonette and William. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling, cooking, and singing.

OLIVIA WICKLINE, B.A.
Administrative Assistant


Olivia Wickline joined the Jefferson Educational Society in December 2020 as the Administrative Assistant. She earned a Bachelor's degree from Penn State Behrend in Communications as well as a double minor in Politics & Government and Civic & Community Engagement in May 2020. She also holds a certificate in Public Relations. Olivia has previously worked as Marketing Assistant for the expERIENCE Children's Museum, where her duties included fundraising campaigns and designing social media content. She is also a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success.

BRAD TRIANA, M.F.A.
Buildings Manager


Brad Triana is a jack of all trades at the Jefferson Society, where he combines his technical skills and diverse education to keep the Jefferson in top shape. Brad earned degrees in teaching and woodworking at Edinboro University, studied photography while living in Prague, Czech Republic, and completed his Masters of Fine Arts degree at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Brad is also a musician and has taught woodworking and design courses at Edinboro University.

ADAM WELSH, B.S.
Civic Leadership Academy Program Coordinator


Adam Welsh is the new program coordinator of the Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy. He is the chief executive of Flagship Multimedia, Inc., one of the managing partners of Great Lakes Online Media, and one of the founders and editors in chief of the Erie Reader. He formed FMI with long-time friend Brian Graham in 2010, and the following year they launched their signature publication. Adam, an Erie native and alumnus of Mercyhurst Prep and Penn State University, spent several years in San Diego, California before starting a family and returning to Erie. He currently serves on the boards of the Mercyhurst Institute of Arts and Culture and the Film Society of Northwest Pennsylvania. He is on sabbatical from the Jefferson Board of Trustees.

SUPPORT STAFF
Lauren Rinderle
Zehra Ferati
David Hull

With more than 76 percent of our expenses dedicated to program services, the Jefferson team remains confident our priorities are in the right order. Because of the Covid-19 impact, the Jefferson brought in significantly fewer dollars through programming, but increased its output significantly. We also remain committed to offering affordable or free programs to our members and the public about important community issues and initiatives. Even as we grow, we continue to allocate funds to our core missions at the Jefferson: the annual Global Summit; four seasons of programming each year; the Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy; and research and multimedia projects.

Jefferson Educational Society of Erie, Inc.

Statement of Financial Position at August 31, 2020 and 2019

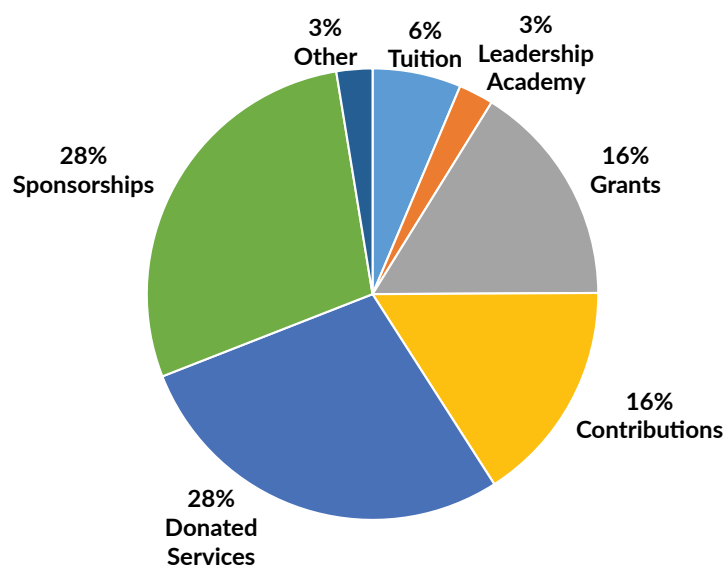
ASSETS

	2020	2019
Current Assets		
Cash	415,742	226,053
Pledges receivable - current	243,300	510,400
Accounts receivable	3,475	3,775
Inventory	22,679	22,689
Prepaid expenses	127,373	6,432
Total current assets	812,569	769,349
Property and equipment	1,680,019	1,680,019
Less: accumulated depreciation	446,436	387,322
Total property and equipment	1,233,583	1,292,697
Other assets		
Pledges receivable - long term	1,371,799	1,486,267
Endowment	502,202	467,838
Total other assets	1,874,001	1,954,105
Total Assets	3,920,153	4,016,151

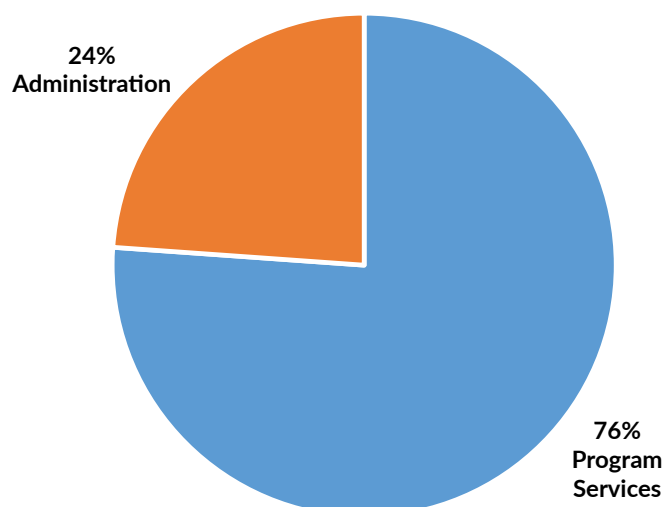
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

	2020	2019
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	17,062	27,614
Lines of credit	331,382	382,614
Accrued expenses	3,126	1,254
Current portion of long term debt	27,492	25,000
Total current liabilities	619,062	436,482
Long-term obligation, less current position	634,695	485,003
Net assets		
Without donor restrictions	772,997	1,022,465
with donor restrictions	1,893,399	2,072,201
Total net assets	2,666,396	3,094,666
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	3,920,153	4,016,151

SUPPORT AND REVENUE



FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES



JEFFERSON EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

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Examine **THE PAST.**
Study **THE PRESENT.**
Explore **THE FUTURE.**

The Jefferson Educational Society of Erie believes in offering courses, seminars, and lectures that explain the ideas that formed the past, assist in exploring the present, and offer guidance in creating the future of the Erie region.

JES MISSION

The Jefferson Educational Society was created as a Pennsylvania nonprofit organization on Sept. 29, 2008 and on that same date received tax-exempt status by the Federal department of the Treasury under Employment Identification Number 26-3460486. The Jefferson operates under a 501 (c) (3) educational nonprofit charter, though it does not offer degrees or programs for formal academic credit. The Jefferson was founded to stimulate community progress through education and research activities. Its mission also includes a commitment to operate in a non-partisan, non-denominational manner without a political or philosophical bias. As such, the Jefferson intends to follow the examined truth wherever it leads and is neither liberal nor conservative, Democratic nor Republican in philosophy or in action.

OUR BUILDING PARTNERSHIP

The Jefferson Educational Society of Erie and the Brith Sholom Congregation of 3207 State Street, entered into a shared-use building agreement in October 2008. Under the terms of this arrangement, the Jefferson utilizes facilities in the Southern Wing, which houses an adult education facility in order to offer lectures, courses, seminars, and sponsored research. The Brith Sholom Congregation continues to use the building's Northern Wing for religious and congregational purposes. The Jefferson Educational Society purchased the building in August 2013 and has invested in its renovation.