

JEFFERSON

EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

In Memory of
Rev. Charles Brock
2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Thomas B. Hagen
Dignitas Award

Thank God for Jimmy Carter

Rev. Charles Brock, M.Litt. is director of the Brock Institute for Mega Issues Education at the Jefferson Educational Society. In his earlier years, Rev. Brock is an emeritus fellow, chaplain, and director of Historical Education at Mansfield College, Oxford, UK, where he taught for 35 years. In addition to being a founding member of the Jefferson and serving as Secretary of the Jefferson Board of Trustees, Rev. Brock is acting minister of The First Unitarian Universalist Church of Grand.

Rev. Charles Brock, M.Litt.

JEFFERSON EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

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Dear Jefferson Friends,



Jefferson President Dr. Ferki Ferati

I have been with your Jefferson Educational Society since before it was launched in 2008. More than a decade and a half! Holding multiple responsibilities along the way to being your president, I have grown beside you and Erie's nonpartisan think tank, and unequivocally believe that we have made a real difference in the fabric of this community we all love.

Over the years we've held more than 1,500 programs; published tens of thousands of pages; graduated some 220 aspiring leaders from our leadership academy; hosted some of the most influential leaders in the world at our Global Summit, including a former U.S. President; helped to launch the Erie County Community College; played a major role in Erie County's comprehensive plan, Destination Erie; served as the platform for the Erie Downtown Development Corporation to emerge; pushed forward Corry's strategic community plan; addressed systemic racism through policy work guided by Brookings Institution scholar Camille Busette; opened a connection for Erie to take full advantage of the Opportunity Zones, which brought tens of millions of dollars of investment from the outside to our community; played a leading role in the creation of Infinite Erie; and ran the most comprehensive bicentennial commemoration of the War of 1812 with the Perry 200 celebration.

This is a long way, with just a short series of examples, that I relay that I've been a part of many exciting projects and developments. So much so, I admit that sitting down to write this letter every year serves as a good reminder of what we have all achieved together. Truthfully, I sometimes do not take enough time to do that – but that is because we are often focused intently on the work in front of us and what lies ahead. I love history; but I am also a futurist.

There are, however, those years that are hard to forget, like 2008, when we first opened our doors, and Rupert Stadtmiller became the first person to purchase a ticket. Or 2014, as we concluded the two-year-long Perry 200. Or 2017, when I celebrated both receiving my doctorate and being named the second President of the Jefferson, but mourned the passing of my friend and mentor Dr. William P. Garvey. Or 2020, with everything that came with the Covid-19 pandemic, including the existential threat of being an organization in the business of bringing people together trying to operate during a time when that was forbidden. And now, 2023.

This year was, in many respects, our best year ever. Our programming reached all corners of the county through the increased expansion of our JES satellite locations, with many more accessing our events through online livestreaming, and television broadcasting – on airwaves locally thanks to Community Access Media (CAM) and statewide thanks to the Pennsylvania Cable Network (PCN). Our more than 200 publications are being read across the country; we held a 15th-year-anniversary celebration with keynote speaker David Brooks; and we had continued impact through our think tank activities, including efforts with Infinite Erie and new work to address the wicked issue of child care locally. We held, in my opinion, the best Global Summit to date, and we published a groundbreaking book by JES Scholar-in-Residence Dr. Baher Ghosheh that analyzes demographic trends of New Americans in Erie since 1960 and includes firsthand accounts of the stories of those residents. What's more, Dr. Ghosheh was unanimously voted by his fellow trustees to serve as the JES's next chair of the Board of Trustees, and we are excited for the next chapter of JES leadership.

Much of this success over the past years, of course, would not have been possible if not for the indefatigable Hon. Joyce Savocchio. The great news: Mayor Joyce, who's served over a decade as the JES's chair and to whom I am indebted for her sagacious counsel and warm friendship, isn't leaving. Without the duties of the chair to fulfill, she is embarking on a new mission with the JES – one that aims to help further sustain the organization for not just years but decades to come.

But amid those milestones and successes, we have also experienced profound loss in 2023 with the passing of one of the JES's founders, the Rev. J. Charles Brock. A dear friend and mentor to me, as well as many others, and the epitome of a passionate lifelong learner, his wisdom and guidance will be deeply missed, but the lessons he's taught and the legacy he leaves will continue to inspire us in our work.

As we look to the future, let us honor the legacies of those who have paved the way before us and recommit ourselves to the mission of the Jefferson Educational Society. Together, we will continue to make a difference in the lives of those we serve and the community we cherish.

With Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "F. Ferati".

Ferki Ferati, Ed.D.
President

The Jefferson's Impact

Providing a platform for civil civic dialogue, serving as a catalyst for informed progress

Since 2018, the Jefferson Educational Society has published an annual report to reflect on the think tank's impact not just over the past 12 months but since its launch in 2008. Throughout the pages that follow, you will find highlights and updates on the institution's divisions, financial statements that illustrate the growth and sustainability of the JES and our team's thanks to patrons and readers for engaging with our programming, publications, and public policy work. You will also read how our board encourages the Jefferson team to fulfill its mission, to members whose support empowers our mission, and to our generous donors, partners, and supporters whose contributions ensure that the vital work of the JES remains accessible to all.

Amid increasing politically polarizing times, the Jefferson Educational Society remains committed to operating as a nonpartisan institution. Days, weeks, months, and years are finite, but the work of the JES continues over time – in some cases improving upon decades-old initiatives, and in others beginning new ventures because the times demand them.

That mission and posture have solidified the Jefferson's place as a **platform for civil civic dialogue – a modern marketplace of ideas**, where both concurring and differing minds meet to learn, discuss, and sometimes agree and other times disagree – always without being disagreeable.

The JES continues to serve as a *catalyst* in the grand democratic experience the country's Founders produced – connecting familiar elements in new ways while also introducing novel elements in a tested-and-proven fashion: Listen to the community to hear their curiosities and concerns, find experts and scholars willing to share their knowledge, connect the two, and observe together what has been learned and remains yet to be discovered.

In that sense, the JES team heeds Thomas Jefferson's 1787 call to "Educate and inform the whole mass of the people. ... They are the only sure reliance for the preservation of our liberty."

In that spirit, the JES commits to continuing its **Community Conversations** lecture series. Launched in 2022, the series invites civic and community leaders and stakeholders to present about the work they and their respective organizations are doing to create meaningful dialogue with residents. The series has quickly become

a staple on calendars communitywide and is part of JES's year-round, term-based programming.

And while the JES's doors are open to all, we recognize that not all are able to access the programming at our headquarters at 3207 State St. in Erie. That was why, in 2019, our team launched the **JES Satellite Programming Initiative** to – as one of the JES's founders, the late Rev. Charles Brock would say – "take the programming to the people."



Nearly doubling the JES's total number of prior annual events, JES lectures, discussions, and seminars are being routinely hosted throughout Erie County in Corry (at the Corry Higher Education Council); Edinboro (on the campus of PennWest Edinboro); Fairview (at the Erie County Public Library's Lincoln Community Center); and in inner-city Erie (at the Erie Center for Arts & Technology [ECAT]). In 2023, the JES added a fifth location, introducing programming in Harborcreek at the Township Municipal Building. JES Satellite events are all free of charge, thanks to the sponsorship of Erie Insurance, and have helped bring the total number of events with free admission to over 75%. For events with an admission charge, the JES continues to make

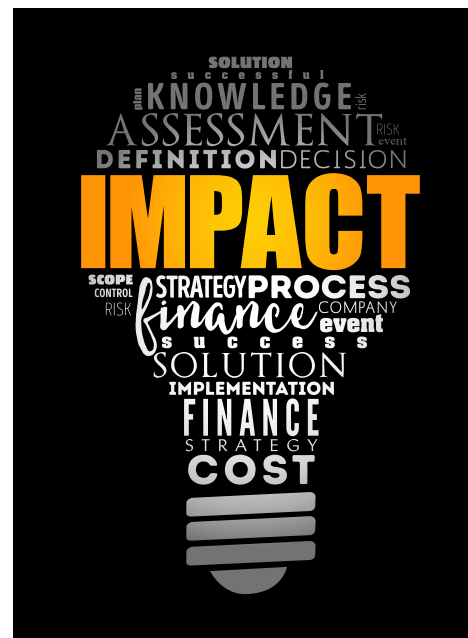


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scholarship funding available to those expressing a need, thanks to the generous support of JES members, partners, and sponsors.

A growing number of JES events – both on campus and at the satellite locations – happen **both in person and virtually**. The former continues the successes of shoulder-to-shoulder learning experiences built over the years. The latter advances new, screen-to-screen learning methods developed during the JES's extensive run of live-streamed programming during the Covid-19 pandemic, reaching local, regional, and national audiences. The digital programs are a credit to the JES's online platforms and to the partnerships and work with organizations, such as Erie's Community Access Media (CAM) and the Pennsylvania Cable Network (PCN), that have led to a cache of more than 200 programs available to stream on-demand on the JES's website.

But it is not just JES programming that people have ongoing access to. On the JES's website, more than 300 publications – from **quick, timely reads, to reports and white papers, to essays, and more** – are archived and available to download. More than just posting pieces, the JES distributes routine publications – such as JES Scholar-in-Residence Dr. Andrew Roth's "Book Notes," and "On the Waterfront," authored by JES Scholar-in-Residence Dr. David Frew, as well as a series on race in America written by JES Scholar-in-Residence Dr. Parris Baker, and series on foreign affairs and wellness by JES contributors Diane Chido and Debbie DeAngelo, respectively – to thousands directly via email.

In 2023, the JES continued its history of publishing books, adding JES Scholar-in-Residence and Chairman of the JES Board of Trustees Dr. Baher Ghosheh's **"New Americans: Demographic Trends and Immigration**



Patterns in Erie, Pennsylvania," to a canon that includes "Accidental Paradise: A 13,000-Year History of Presque Isle," "Erie, Pennsylvania Mayors: 150 Years of Political History," "Lou Tullio: A Real Erie Guy," "Victory: Erie, The War of 1812, and the Battle of Lake Erie," among others.

Some books stem from a need for updated data and research, as "New Americans" presents and analyzes demographic data of New Americans from 1960 to 2023. Others aid in celebrating historical milestones, like "Victory." Published during the **Perry 200 Commemoration**,

the nation's most comprehensive bicentennial celebration of the War of 1812 led by the JES, "Victory" was part of an output that included 23 lectures; 14 signature events, including the Grand Patriotic Parade, which drew 125,000 people; 16 concerts, performances, and supporting events; five tours; and three contests with a total record attendance of more than 500,000, over the course of two years from 2012 through 2013.

The JES also hosted a summer gala in 2023 to celebrate its 15th anniversary. Five years earlier, while celebrating its first



Guests enjoy the reception before the Gala event.



Global Summit Chairman Steve Scully and New York Times columnist and author David Brooks headline the Gala event.



Guests enjoy each other's company while waiting for speaker David Brooks.



Rev. Charles Brock
with wife Mary Lincoln

Rev. Charles Brock
gives the invocation

decade of achievements, the JES invited renowned urbanists and economists Bruce Katz (who was making a return trip following his 2014 Global Summit appearance) and Jeremy Nowak, authors of “The New Localism: How Cities can Thrive in the Age of Populism.” In their book, Katz and Nowak observed, **“We don’t need to travel farther than Erie, Pennsylvania to see that grand things are possible and that cities can leverage their distinctive advantages.”**

In June 2023, the JES invited bestselling author and **New York Times** columnist **David Brooks** back to Erie. Brooks, who’d presented in 2012 during the JES’s sixth Global Summit, had Erie on his mind in 2017, observing then that Erie might be among the most important places to be “right now.” Jumping ahead to 2023 and just before joining JES Global Summit Chairman Steve Scully on stage, Brooks showed he’d kept Erie on his mind, telling a local reporter: “We are so gloomy about America right now – I think there is reason for hope. There is a lot of investment in manufacturing now, there are a lot of places that have struggled that are coming back ... and our communities are rebuilding. **This place – Erie – is an example.**” Scully, senior vice president of communications at the Bipartisan Policy Center in Washington, D.C. and host of “The Briefing” on SiriusXM, went on to hold a thoughtful interview with Brooks to the delight of the 500 guests.

The 15th anniversary gala provided the Jefferson community an opportunity to practice what we preach – examine the past; study the present; explore the future – when it comes to the JES’s impact beyond its programming and publications.

Welcoming Brooks back reminded us of **the network the JES continues to build with experts and scholars at the national and international levels** and how the think tank maintains and fosters those connections while elevating Erie’s story to the national and international stages.



Dr. Camille Busette

Consider, for instance, Dr. Camille Busette, the interim vice president and director of Governance Studies at the Brookings Institution. Busette, who also directs the Washington, D.C.-based think tank’s Race, Prosperity, and Inclusion Initiative, first presented in Erie at the JES’s 11th Global Summit in 2019. She came highly recommended by then-Vice President of Brookings’ Governance Studies Dr. Darrell West, who’d presented here in 2015. Busette returned to the JES stage in May 2021 for the JES’s virtual Global Summit, and again in the fall in person. During that time, she worked with the JES and other community partners and advocacy organizations on the **Erie Racial Justice Policy Initiative** to address systemic racism and offer practical policy recommendations.

Looking further back, the JES’s second Global Summit featured Dave Porter, of the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce, who discussed “Regional Reinvention.” That conversation spurred **community planning efforts** – from Destination Erie/Emerge 2040, to Erie Refocused, to Corry’s 10-year strategic plan, and more. Deploying its think tank resources, the JES has helped advance those plans, and others, including working with local partners to



Former Mayor of
Pittsburgh Tom
Murphy

bring a panel of experts from the Urban Land Institute – including Tom Murphy, former mayor of Pittsburgh – to Erie to help advise progress being made through the Erie Downtown Development Corporation.

More recently, JES writers produced **“Why Erie’s Downtown is a Proxy for the Nation: The Future of Main Street Businesses amidst the Covid-19 Crisis”** at the onset of the pandemic, calling for unprecedented federal intervention to ensure that decades-long progress in places like Erie would not be undone overnight. Next, Bruce Katz, co-founder and inaugural director of the Nowak Metro Finance Lab at Drexel University and director of The New Localism Advisors, continued to keep Erie in his focus. Katz and colleagues – with local support from the JES and partners including Erie Insurance, the Erie Community Foundation, and the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA) – produced Erie’s Investment Playbook, now being implemented by Infinite Erie with support from those partners.



Bruce Katz, co-founder and inaugural director
of the Nowak Metro Finance Lab at
Drexel University and director of
The New Localism Advisors

In 2022, at the JES’s 14th Global Summit, a panel of international experts representing the U.K., Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, and the United States, presented **“Rejuvenating Industrial Heartlands: Key to Healing Polarized Politics and Strengthen Western Democracy.”** Those on stage were in Erie to participate in a multi-city international study tour through the Rust Belt and Midwest that led to various reports and articles that showcased progress made in Erie on the international stage.



Speaker John Austin, director of the Michigan Economic Center, and fellow with the Brookings Institution and W.E. Upjohn Institute, leads a panel of international experts during the program.

These are just a few examples of the connections the JES has helped to forge, as well as its role and impact when it comes to elevating Erie's story and driving community progress through the Global Summit. The summit, which has become a world-class speaker series, would not be accessible to so many if not for the support of civic-minded sponsors like the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM), Erie Insurance, the Thomas B. Hagen Dignitas Award, PNC Bank, Gannon University, the Brock Institute, the Erie Community Foundation, Erie News Now, Printing Concepts, Logistics Plus, ECGRA, and many others.

While the Global Summit has customarily featured international speakers and focused on international topics, the JES built upon those international relationships formed in 2022. At the invitation of the Foreign Federal Office of Germany, JES Vice President Ben Spегgen participated in a week-long international study tour on structural economic change. That led to the July 2023 report: **"Transatlantic Idea-Sharing Can Lead to Just Economic Future Exploring Germany's Approach to 'Structural Change' and How U.S. Stands to Learn, Teach."**



JES Vice President Ben Spегgen (seventh from right) poses with 13 representatives from Bulgaria, Brazil, Canada, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Ghana, India, Israel, Ivory Coast, Mexico, South Africa, Turkmenistan, the United Kingdom, and the United States along with representatives of Germany's Federal Foreign Office on the international study tour.



JCLA Cohort in 2023

Since then, the JES has been invited to join the **Transforming Industrial Heartlands Initiative**, a transatlantic collaborative partnership dedicated to closing geographic economic divides and reconnecting residents of rural and former industrial heartland communities to economic opportunity. It also addresses the rise of polarizing, resentment-driven, isolationist, and ethno-nationalist political movements that threaten our democracies. In this initiative, the JES joins other partners including: the Brookings Institution; the Georgetown University BMW Center for German and European Studies; the Ruhrkonferenz of North-Rhine Westphalia; Policy Manchester at the University of Manchester, UK; the University Allianz Ruhr; the German Consulate General in Chicago; the University of Michigan; the European Commission Directorate of Regional and Urban Policy; and the Committee of the Regions of the European Union, among others.

The transatlantic study group is led by John Austin, director of Michigan Economic Center, a Brookings nonresident senior fellow and research fellow at the W.E. Upjohn Institute. While in Erie in November 2022, Austin met with rep-

resentatives of the Jefferson **Civic Leadership Academy**. Each annual leadership class explores over a seven-month period the form and function of municipal government, meets with state-level policy makers, and produces meaningful research and findings on a critical issue facing the region with national implication. The academy has now produced over 200 graduates, a number of whom participate in the **Rainy Fellowship Program**, the additional advanced tract that focuses more intently on leadership theory coupled with individualized research projects. It is capped off with a field trip to Washington, D.C. to meet with leaders of national think tanks and policy experts operating inside the Beltway.

When asked by international experts why they pursued a program of deeper civic and community engagement by the group of international experts, the JCLA members offered a variety of responses. One shared throughline: To become a more active and informed participant in their own democracy.

Through that initiative and many others, the JES encourages residents to become more informed and engaged. Through civic education, we strive to preserve our liberty and democracy and empower the people to be a part of that mission. The proverbial doors to our modern marketplace of ideas are open and the proverbial shelves are stocked, thanks to our team, our board, our contributors, our members and patrons, our donors, partners, and sponsors.

We invite everybody to be present in our ever-expanding arena.

15th ANNIVERSARY GALA AND GLOBAL SUMMIT

The Jefferson marked a significant milestone on Saturday, June 10, 2023, as we celebrated our 15th Anniversary Gala in grand style. This prestigious event brought together esteemed guests, community leaders, and supporters to commemorate the Jefferson's remarkable 15-year journey of making a positive impact in the Erie community.

The highlight of the evening was a captivating interview between David Brooks, one of America's foremost political analysts, and Steve Scully, Chairman of the Global Summit. Their insightful conversation delved into pressing issues facing the nation and the world, providing guests with a unique and thought-provoking experience.

Against the backdrop of this momentous occasion, guests were treated to a delightful evening filled with cocktails, a sumptuous dinner, and lively music that set the stage for an unforgettable celebration. The gala also featured a dancing, where attendees could revel in the joyous atmosphere and celebrate the Jefferson's achievements over the past 15 years.



Attendees listen as JES President Dr. Ferki Ferati welcomes them to the 15th Anniversary Celebration.



Global Summit Chairman Steve Scully and New York Times columnist and author David Brooks headline the Gala event.

As the night unfolded, it became clear that the Jefferson's impact extended far beyond its walls, touching the lives of many individuals in the Erie community. The gala served as a testament to the Jefferson's unwavering commitment to excellence and its dedication to serving as a beacon of education and progress for the years to come.

Global Summit XV Sponsors:

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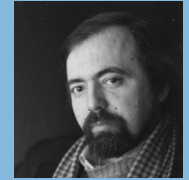


THOMAS B. HAGEN DIGNITAS AWARD HONOREES

Every year, the Jefferson presents the Thomas B. Hagen Dignitas Award at the Global Summit. Named for one of Erie's leading citizens, Thomas B. Hagen, the award honors Erie citizens who have made significant contributions to the vitality of American democracy. The Latin word "Dignitas" is known to mean "first among equals" and was reserved in Ancient Greece (and later in Rome) for citizens whose civic behavior exemplified the virtues of both dignity and loyalty, which were considered the highest ideals in Athens.



2011
Steve Scully



2012
Barry Casselman



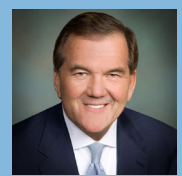
2013
Harry Markopolos



2014
Sister Joan Chittister



2015
Drs. John and Silvia Ferretti



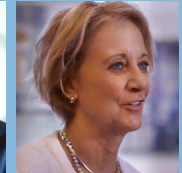
2016
Hon. Tom Ridge



2017
Lt. Gen. James Dubik, Ret.



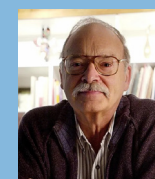
2018
James Fallows and Deborah Fallows



2019
Eleanor Smeal



2021
Robert Pape



2022
Rev. Charles Brock



2023
Maj. General Edward Bolton, Jr. (Ret.)



14 EVENTS TAKE SUMMIT TO NEW HEIGHTS

Every year the Global Summit brings internationally renowned speakers who share their expertise on a variety of timely subjects. In 2023, we welcomed 16 speakers, three moderators, and over 4,000 attendees for 14 events! For the first time, Gannon University's "Gannon READS" event was included in the Global Summit, and the JES strengthened partnerships with both the Erie Community Foundation and Infinite Erie for programming.

In 2023, the JES team brought the Summit speakers to the Erie community through additional appearances beyond their scheduled event. Della Clark, president of The Enterprise Center in Philadelphia, visited local classrooms to meet with students and toured Diverse Erie and the Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership in its newly renovated space on State Street. Former U.S. Congresswoman Val Demings met with sisters from the Delta Sigma Theta sorority during a reception and they presented her with an "Erie" plaque. Renowned urbanists Richard Florida

and Bruce Katz toured some of the Erie Downtown Development Corporations footprint and following the event they engaged in dialogue with civic and community stakeholders. But it was Maj. Gen. Ed Bolton who set the bar the highest – speaking to students at Erie High, Collegiate Academy, Bishop Brock's Eagles Nest Academy, Erie Insurance executives, and residents at the PA Soldiers and Sailors home.

The Summit speakers begin as professional acquaintances but quickly become allies of the JES in our mission to promote civil dialogue and discourse. An often-heard comment is, "There should be more places like the Jefferson!" We are honored by this compliment and will continue to bring valuable learning experiences to the Erie community. Planning for Global Summit 2024 is already underway. The JES team is building on relationships built during the 2023 Summit, as well as prior relationships to bring more world-class programming to Erie. 2024 promises to be another incredible year for Global Summit XVI!

GLOBAL SUMMIT I (2009)

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



E.J. DIONNE

GLOBAL SUMMIT II (2010)

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



PAUL KENNEDY

GLOBAL SUMMIT III (2011)

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



ALICE M. RIVLIN

GLOBAL SUMMIT IV (2012)

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



KARL ROVE

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.



HARRY MARKOPOLOS

GLOBAL SUMMIT VI (2014)

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



SISTER JOAN CHITTISTER

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.



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

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 XII (Digital 2021)

- Camille Busette, Rashawn Ray, Ali Zaidi, Avi Loeb, Jeffrey Brown, Nile Gardiner, Gerald Seib, Dr. Michael Saag, Steve Scully, Susan Page, Karen Tumulty, Dr. Leana Wen, David Ignatius, Christopher Hill, April Ryan, James Fallows, Deborah Fallows, Steven Ascher, Jeanne Jordan.



APRIL RYAN

GLOBAL SUMMIT XIII (2021)

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



GEORGE W. BUSH

GLOBAL SUMMIT XIV (2022)

- John Calipari, Jon Wertheim, Karl Rove, Elizabeth Strickler, Rashawn Ray, Anahita Panahi, José Muñoz, Reuben Jacobson, Fiona Hill, Jay Cost, John C. Austin, James Fallows, Rev. Charles Brock, Tom Bodett, John Dickerson, Allen Carroll, Al Hunt, Judy Woodruff, Avi Loeb, Dawn Wright, Josh Fryday, Baher Ghosheh.



JUDY WOODRUFF

GLOBAL SUMMIT XV (2023)

- Peter Baker, Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, Brian Freedman, Richard Florida, Bruce Katz, Matt Weidinger, David Urban, Rich Lesser, Richard Reeves, Della Clark, Tom Nichols, Robert Garland, Maj. General Edward Bolton, Jr. (Ret.), Laura Coates, Karen Tumulty, Val Demings, and Michael Steele.



VAL DEMINGS



New York Times columnist Peter Baker kicked off Global Summit XV to a sold-out crowd following his trip to Israel with President Biden.



Urbanists Richard Florida and Bruce Katz discuss growth opportunities for Erie, Pennsylvania.



Rich Lesser receives a warm Erie welcome as he shares the future of AI with the audience.



Della Clark and JES Satellite Program Coordinator Raven Clark discuss how investment in minority entrepreneurs can encourage growth in the local economy.



JES Board of Trustees member Dr. Andrew Roth, JES Vice President Ben Speggen, Erie Mayor Joe Schember, Maj. Gen. Ed Bolton, Jr. (Ret.), Erie Insurance Chairman Thomas Hagen, Dr. Karen Bolton, JES President Dr. Ferki Ferati, and JES Board of Trustees member Paul Gambill.



A civic-minded young man asks a question to moderator Steve Scully and CNN host Laura Coates.



Michael Steele, Val Demings, and Steve Scully end the Global Summit with another sold-out crowd at the Cathedral Prep Auditorium.



Tom Nichols signs his book, "Our Own Worst Enemy," for audience members following his event.



Dr. Robert Garland takes the audience back in time as he talks about life in ancient Rome.



Dr. Richard Reeves shares the challenges faced by boys and men in the 21st century.



Brian Freedman signs his book, "Crushed: How a Changing Climate is Altering the Way We Drink."



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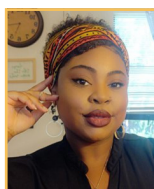
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"I've been really inspired by not just the programming facilitated through ECAT, but the turnout of community members, across a spectrum of lived experiences who show up. At every event I've attended, I've witnessed the blossoming of new relationships and rekindling of old ones through mutual exchange of communal learning, with a focus on humanizing the process. I look forward to watching ECAT continue evolving as an exemplary site of what fostering accessible spaces for learning and delivery of services and resources can do for community belonging and action."

- Autumn Parker - JES member, speaker, JCLA graduate

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"The 2023 Global Summit was my first experience volunteering at JES, and now I'm helping with the 2024 winter program. I totally enjoyed my time at JES. Everyone is very professional yet very friendly and welcoming. I think the staff, especially

Raven, truly appreciate the volunteers. I know I am made to feel like an integral part of JES through my volunteering. Being able to experience great programs while helping to facilitate great programs, makes my volunteering here very gratifying and something I'm looking forward to continue for a long time."

- Kelly Contois - JES member and volunteer



JES member and volunteer Roger MacDonald assists a patron at Gannon University for the Global Summit.



"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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JES members Susan Drabant and Niken Astari Carpenter.

"I am very thankful that I have been able to catch several Jefferson Society programs. I have found each of them to be very interesting and thoughtful. I have learned facts about subjects that stretch my imagination that I did not have interests in before. My world has become larger."
- Doris Gernovich - JES member, speaker, volunteer



Ec3pa's Board of Trustees' Chair Cheryl Rush Dix (L) attends Global Summit finale with a friend at Cathedral Prep's auditorium.



"Members of the Jefferson Educational Society join because they want to learn... Learn more about current events near and far, and about history, local and beyond. With such a willing audience, the idea that programs can be brought to them is an excellent one. As an attendee I am pleased to see that the topics for the satellite programs remain varied and the presenters remain interesting and knowledgeable. As a presenter I am privileged to be part of the plan that provides a place where my stories will have willing ears."

– Sabina Freeman – JES Member, speaker



Audience enjoys David Urban's lecture during Global Summit XV at Gannon University.

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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 and the Jefferson needed 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. Judy Lynch, Decadiene 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.

Parris Baker, Ph.D. – Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Michael DeSanctis, Ph.D. – Lecturer
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Paul Gambill, M.A. – Program Development
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Johnny Johnson, M.Ed. – Education
Tom Murphy, M.S. – Community Development
Christine Riehl, M.P.P. – Program Development



Dynamic. Interactive. Collaborative.

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

RESEARCH

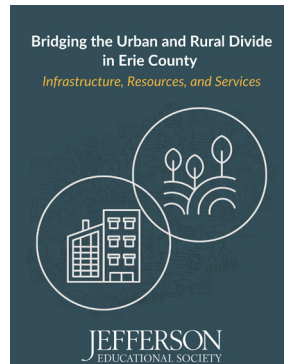
Project Addresses the Topic of Early Childhood Education and Development

The 2023 JCLA cohort was tasked with examining the important topic of **“Raising the Next Generation in Erie County,”** and in addition, producing something meaningful for local decision makers and leaders that highlights the vast challenges and opportunities that exist in the critical areas of early childhood education and development.



Project Addresses Rural and Urban Divide in Erie County

The 2022 JCLA Cohort was tasked with examining the topic of **“Bridging Erie County’s Urban and Rural Divide – Infrastructure, Resources, and Services.”** The group assess Erie County’s urban-rural divide in consideration of infrastructure, resources, and services. The cohort spent seven months visiting, learning about, and researching nine municipalities across Erie County in part to inform this project. Much of what the cohort experienced and what its research reflects indicates that urban-rural divides that exist, with the exception of public transportation, are likely linked more to class and status than to geography.



The JCLA program has been one of the greatest experiences of my life. From learning about our local government to networking with some amazing people, JCLA has shown me that civic engagement is what’s needed to bring change to our community. Being a part of the JCLA has also given me a broader perspective on how to approach & converse with people who may have different perspectives, beliefs, and experiences

than mine. I learned that the demand for leaders is to create more leaders, and this is what I look to achieve with everyone I encounter.
Tammie Lentz, Intake Caseworker/Housing, GECAC

LEADERSHIP ACADEMY 2023 VISITS HARRISBURG, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

As part of the Academy, participants develop their leadership skills through learning better the form and function of their local, regional, and state governments.



The 2023 JCLA cohort meets with State Representatives Pat Harkins, Ryan Bizzarro, and Robert Merski

During a two-day retreat to Harrisburg, participants of the Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy typically meet with the governor and lieutenant governor, Pennsylvania Superior Court judge, and leaders of both the House of Representatives and Senate as well as the Erie legislative delegation. The group also meets with policy experts specific to their research project to help them begin to find solutions to issues that affect Erie and Pennsylvania.

Each year the JCLA visits many municipalities, government and nonprofit leaders, policy makers, and regional developers throughout Erie County and beyond to learn about the history, challenges, and future of those regions. Along the way, they have 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 Millcreek, Fairview, and Harborcreek townships; leaders from Corry and Union City; and the borough managers for Edinboro and North East.



Adam Welsh, program coordinator for the Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy, played a critical role in enrolling participants and garnering the support of elected officials, experts, and business leaders to engage with the cohort during the sessions.

JEFFERSON CIVIC LEADERSHIP ACADEMY GRADUATES

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 Matt Flowers, 2021
 J. Brian Foht, 2017
 Kevin Forte, 2017
 Bill Frackowiak, 2017
 Kerry Franz, 2015
 Natalia Garcia, 2017
 Jamilia Gates, 2018
 Tim Giblin, 2015
 Thomas Glasoe, 2021
 Shelby Graml, 2020
 Randalee Gross, 2020
 Varun Gupta, 2016
 Melinda Hall, 2021
 Michelle Hartmann, 2020
 Donald Hatheway, 2023
 Riki Hay, 2017
 Kati Hecker, 2017
 Andrew Henderson, 2015
 Zachary Herron, 2023
 James Heubel, 2016
 Kyle Hinsdale, 2015
 Heather Hinz, 2018
 Paul Hirsch, 2021
 Khadija Horton, 2016
 Antonio Howard, 2020
 Brody Howard, 2021
 Andrew Hromyak, 2015
 Victor Hudson, 2021
 Jessica Hunter, 2018
 Maggie Ignasiak, 2019
 Michelle Jaggi, 2021
 Mandi Johnson, 2023

Patreece Johnson, 2018
 Alyssa Johnson, 2021
 Alison Kaminski, 2016
 Andrew Kerr, 2017
 Stephanie King, 2021
 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
 Tammie Lentz, 2021
 Christal Lepak, 2017
 Mac Lewis, 2016
 Annë Lewis, 2019
 Sara Little, 2020
 Sarah Loftus, 2019
 Doug Magee, 2018
 Tom Maggio, 2016
 Jake Marsh, 2021
 Douglas Massey, 2023
 Justin Mason, 2019
 Sherri Mason, 2019
 Toni Mazanowski, 2019
 Heather McBrier, 2017
 Tiffany McCloud, 2016
 Michael McCormick, 2015
 Samuel McGarvey, 2021
 Patrick Miller, 2019
 Brandon Montgomery, 2023
 Stephanie Montgomery, 2018
 Tori Moore, 2018
 April Morrison, 2015
 Keith Moses, 2015

Justin Norris, 2021
 Martha Nwachukwu, 2019
 Marwah Obaid, 2018
 Chelsea Oliver, 2021
 Michael Outlaw, 2018
 Tiffanie Page-Collazo, 2016
 Ryan Palm, 2016
 Autumn Parker, 2023
 Katie Patterson, 2023
 Emily Perrotta, 2019
 Kevin Pollock, 2015
 Keith Jones Pomeroy, 2023
 Sara Provencio, 2021
 LeeAnne Pukylo, 2020
 Shawnta Pulliam, 2015
 Deng Rag, 2020
 Veronica Rexford, 2015
 Lesley Ridge, 2015
 Kyle Rodney, 2023
 Belinda Rogers, 2020
 Nathan Ross, 2020
 Colin Russ, 2023
 Ashley Russell, 2021
 Daniel Salamone, 2020
 Susmita Sarki, 2023
 Kevin Schaaf, 2017
 Cole Schenley, 2019
 William Scholz, 201
 Erin Sekerak, 2023
 Jay Shaffer, 2019
 YahMoorah Shakoor-Hooker, 2018
 Drevell Showers, 2020
 Patrick Simpson, 2015
 Paul Smola, 2016
 Jennifer Snopko, 2021
 April Soriano, 2018
 Darnell Stallworth, 2019
 Antonio Stapp, 2020
 Honey Stempka, 2019

Megan Stevenson, 2021
 Juanita Maria Stokes, 2019
 Jeff Styborski, 2020
 Depend Tamba, 2017
 Scott Tarasovitch II, 2023
 Robert Tate, 2020
 Nick Taylor, 2018
 Tywonn Taylor, 2023
 Tiffany Thomas, 2016
 Corinne Thomas, 2021
 Clark Tieman, 2023
 Tyler Titus, 2017
 Jenny Tompkins, 2023
 Hilda Torres, 2023
 Brad Triana, 2016
 Seth Trott, 2018
 Alvin Tucker, II, 2015
 Laura Walchack, 2015
 Maureen Walls, 2016
 Matthew Washek, 2019
 Shawn Waskiewicz, 2017
 Kristen Weibel, 2020
 Adam Welsh, 2021
 Jim Wertz, 2018
 Ashley Westgate, 2019
 Larry Wheaton, 2021
 Olivia Wickline, 2023
 Karin Wickwire, 2021
 Matthew Wiertel, 2016
 Brad Wiertel, 2017
 Brian Wilking, 2021
 Ben Wilson, 2021
 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 JCLA cohorts, the Jefferson team created an advanced developmental experience in applied leadership theory. The Raimy Fellows Program continues to provide both a mini-graduate seminar in leadership theory and an individual research opportunity. Under the supervision of Dr. Andrew Roth, the Raimy Fellows used a virtual learning model adopted during the pandemic.

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



The Raimy Fellows on Capitol Hill during a visit to Washington, D.C. in May 2022

RAIMY FELLOWS AND RAIMY IDEAS:

- “Coworking in Erie: A Case Study of the Economic Impact of Radius CoWork and the Future of Work in Erie County, Pennsylvania” by **Jessica Taylor**
- “Working with Generation Z in Projects and Organizations” by **Jake Marsh**
- “Poverty is a Policy Choice: A Framework for a Guaranteed Income Pilot in Erie County, Pennsylvania” by **Susannah Faulkner**
- “Legally Me: Navigating Paper Barriers to Employment for the Transgender Applicant” by **Sara Provencio**
- “Connecting Erie – An Overview of High-Speed Passenger Rail Planning for Erie County, Pennsylvania” by **Corinne Thomas**
- “The Urban Digital Divide Defined” by **Matt Wiertel**
- “Overcoming the Rural Digital Divide” by **Jeff Styborski**
- “Caring for Those Who Care for Us - Impact of Our Pandemic Year on Essential Workers” by **Joe Cuneo** and **Brian Zona**
- “Barriers to Entry Faced by Minority-owned Businesses” by **Seth Trott** and **Michael Outlaw**
- “Erie Urban Garden Network to Fight Food Insecurity” by **YahMoorah Shakoor-Hooker**
- “Sharing Skills Can Make a Difference” by **April Soriano**
- “Voting and Registration Differences in Erie, Pennsylvania” by **Jim Wertz**

Brock Institute's Work Continues

The Rev. Charles Brock left the Jefferson, its supporters, and the Erie regional community with an inspirational thought when he died in November 2023: Work passionately for justice, education, and democracy.

Rev. Brock carried these themes through his decades of work as a teacher, minister, lecturer, leader, and friend. Now the mission passes to his friend and colleague, Dr. Andrew Roth, who will lead the Brock Institute in the spirit of Rev. Brock's work and integrity.

Dr. Roth, a former college president, a Jefferson scholar-in-residence, and director of the Jefferson's Raimy Fellows program, is in many ways a great successor to Rev. Brock. He is a prolific writer and lecturer at the Jefferson as well as at Chautauqua Institution and in the Cleveland area, where he served as president of Notre Dame College for more than a decade. Dr. Roth also served as interim president of St. Bonaventure University and for years as a top administrator and professor at Mercyhurst College.



Rev. Charles Brock



Dr. Andrew Roth



Rev. Charles Brock and renowned historian Ian Morris discuss the 'good and bad' of warfare during a Global Summit event in 2018.

Like Rev. Brock, Dr. Roth also is an experienced leader who pulls no punches when it comes to helping people see the value of a multifaceted and civic education. His celebrated "American Tapestry" lecture series and writings perfectly complement Rev. Brock's work to show how misinformation, disinformation, and misunderstanding must be exposed in the spirit of democracy and the rich tapestry of American life.

Dr. Roth will also take part in the 2024 Jefferson/Brock Institute lecture series on democracy – and the perils of losing democracy – a program that Rev. Brock proposed and developed in 2023.

– Dr. Ferki Ferati

"Beyond his professional brilliance, Charlie's down-to-earth nature endeared him to everyone he encountered. His approachability and mischievous sense of humor made even the most complex discussions light-hearted. He had the rare gift of balancing gravitas with a genuine, human touch."

– Dr. Ferki Ferati

"Charles is the epitome of a lifelong learner. Full of life. Living so fully. At it until the end, Charles was still pushing – he had to push. Now, We have to push onward – for Charles. He lives on in all of us. We are the keepers and carriers of his light, and it is our privilege, our duty, to share it out into the world, sharing the stories, the work, the words, the mission of a man who, indeed, had much to say."

– Ben Speggen

"Charles always had his eye on the future. Looking to that future, I, and the Jefferson Educational Society, pledge that we will carry Charles' work into the future, for there is no more important thing we can do to honor the work and the life of our good friend than to see, in the spirit of not only Krishna, but in the spirit of Jefferson and Milton, that his work fares forward."

– Dr. Andrew Roth



2008

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



2010-2012

Institute launches courses and lectures discussing America's "Holy Warrior Presidents" and America's history of warfare dating to its founding



2013

Brock Institute renovations unfold, including library



2014

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



2015-2016

Institute examines politics of climate change, fascism, and mass incarceration



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 significant 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.

Last May in Oxford, Rev. Charles Brock, Bancroft Fellow and former Mansfield College Chaplain, held the 2022 Milton Lecture “Milton and Jefferson on Education, Tyranny and Superstition”.

American Visions in Religion, Democracy, Mission

“God, Guns, and Guts have made this country” according to Western legend often found in bars and on pickup truck bumpers. But the truer version is that “Religion, Democracy, and Mission” made us valuable to the world. Taking a historical view of American ethnic foundational groups, the religious and mission views of eight important American presidents, the mission in 23 looked at our ancient universities as they provide answers to the questions of where we came from, where we are now, and even where we might be heading. There is an overall view of religion, democracy, and mission that is fairly consistent and can be summed up by President John Adams: “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 the Diary of John Adams, February 1765*”). This view is consistent in our major presidents, and one way to understand them and the times is to look at their inaugural addresses. It also can be found in the immigrants from the 17th century onwards as well as in the mission of our older universities, and the purposes of our consequential founding cities. This was the focus of the publication series at the Brock Institute in 2023.

Holy Warrior Presidents

Work continues toward publishing Rev. Charles Brock’s book manuscript, *Holy Warrior Presidents: War, Religion, and the American Narrative*, which he updated in 2023. Brock examines America through its wars and the religious beliefs 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 religious belief in relation to war justification and the overall American mission. In the spirit of integrative education, he asks, “What is America?” 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, serving as an example to the world of how a republic might work and defend both itself and others from oppression and tyranny. Brock concludes that all presidents in his study mainly agreed with John Adams. He also urges that we need to renew an American narrative in these turbulent times when the nation is increasingly fractious.

Holy Warrior Presidents is the outstanding literary product of decades of dedication and hard work. The Jefferson is proud to have accompanied Rev. Brock through the crucial phase of editing and is dedicated to publishing the book.

Visions in Education

In 2023, Rev. Brock wrote and coordinated a more than 20-part publication series on education, featuring ancient universities from across the world – that thrive today – as well as some of their most famous alumni. The series, which was met by critical acclaim, also led to an examination of some American universities and their famous scholars. Installments of the series, which ran for more than six months, can be found on the Jefferson website, jeserie.org.

The Benediction Booklet

In 2021, the Rev. Charles Brock, wrote a booklet that he considers to be one of his most consequential works in theology, *The Benediction Booklet*. This booklet examines the severely fractured state of the world and explores the potential for religion to heal the political, social, and personal divides that plague society. Rev. Brock reflects on the past for solutions to these problems and emphasizes the existing schism between Western religion’s commitment to freedom at the expense of tolerance and Eastern religion’s commitment to unity despite its lack of advocacy for the freeing of oppressed peoples. Rev. Brock proposes the use of a benediction to heal these divides while reflecting on the most admirable aspects of each religious tradition.



2017

Music and lecture combines in an evening of narrated Appalachian folk music and its origins



2018-2019

Narrated music and lecture series continues with “The Story of the Blues.” Integrated learning takes center stage of the Institute’s research by combining history, philosophy, and theology in “Jesus the Warrior” and “Maria Magdalene.”



2020-2021

Rev. Brock debuts “Mystics and Skeptics” and successfully pivots holding lectures virtually. He holds the first Jefferson in-person program of 2021, the “Brock Institute Blues Music Night.”



2022

Rev. Brock continues his lectures on presidents with an analysis of Andrew Jackson, Abraham Lincoln, and John F. Kennedy.

EXPANDING OUR HORIZONS

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. In 2023, the JES celebrated 15 years of impact in the Erie community by expanding our horizons further than ever before with more programs, more lecture topics, and more locations. 2023 saw over 100 in-person JES programs at six different locations throughout Erie County with nearly 3,800 attendees. We continued hosting online programs, in-person program recordings, and hybrid in-person/live-streamed programs to expand our program video digital collection to over 300.

In 2023, the JES held in-person events at the Jefferson headquarters at 3207 State Street, and at our five satellite programming locations in Erie, Corry, Fairview, Edinboro, and our newest location in Harborcreek. We held regular programming at each satellite location that focused on individual communities and the interests and concerns of those living nearby.



JES volunteer Marian Sama (foreground) and JES intern Mikayla Habursky (background) check in program attendees at the JES on State Street.



Harborcreek Township Supervisors Dean Pepicello (left) and Stephen Oler (right) gave the inaugural lecture at our newest satellite location in the Harborcreek Township municipal building.

The JES continues to host an array of programs at our home location and satellite locations, including our popular Community Conversations with Erie stakeholders and elected officials. Several visiting speakers presented on timely and pressing issues at all of our locations in 2023, bringing out curious and engaged audiences.

JES programming continues to expand to make our events more accessible to the community in new ways. As 2024 continues, the JES will broadcast digital and live programming – today, tomorrow, and well into the future so that no matter where people live, they may have the opportunity to connect to the world-class programming being produced in Erie, Pennsylvania.

“The Jefferson Educational Society is an indispensable resource for international, national, regional, and local insights from real-time experts and newsmakers that invigorate and inform knowledge and help shape opinion, conversation, and actions. Daily doses of JES publications and presentations, both in-person and virtually, enrich minds and are necessary to enhance an educated viewpoint.”

– Art Leopold, JES member



2023 IN REVIEW



JANUARY:

Great Conversations Book Club

The Great Conversations Book Club, led by Christine Riehl, MPP, meets once a week throughout the year.



FEBRUARY:

History and Healing: Spotlight on African American Heroes

A Shared Heritage gave a presentation for Black History Month in Fairview about local African American heroes.



MARCH:

The NWPA Innovation Beehive Network: Helping Entrepreneurs, Boosting Business

The directors of the Northwest PA Innovation Beehive gave a community conversation about their progress.



APRIL:

General Marquis de Lafayette, Part II: French Revolution and Return to America

JES Scholar-in-Residence Dr. Judy Lynch and Fort LeBoeuf Historical Society's Richard Arthur teamed up to give a lecture series about General Marquis de Lafayette.



MAY:

You are More than a 'Break in Case of Emergency': Knowing the Value of Your Voice When Making Change

Distinguished Visiting Speaker Precious McKesson, who is currently the Executive Director of the Nebraska Democratic Party and National President of Neighborhoods, USA, gave a presentation at ECAT.



JUNE:

Corry RAILS: History to Present-Day

Tom VanTassel and Carl Wassink of Corry RAILS gave a community conversation in Corry.

MOST POPULAR PROGRAMS OF 2023

JES 15th Anniversary Gala with Keynote Speaker David Brooks



The Disappearance of the Marquette and Bessemer No. 2 Vessels

Featuring visiting speaker Carrie Sowden, M.A.



Frank Lloyd Wright's San Francisco Office and the Story of its Remarkable Travels

Featuring visiting speaker Paul V. Turner, Ph.D.



American Presidents and the Constitution

Featuring visiting speaker Ken Gormley, J.D.



Music of the American Revolution

Featuring visiting speakers David (Ph.D.) & Ginger (M.M.) Hildebrand



Erie Troops at Gettysburg: 160 Years Later

Featuring George Deutsch, B.A.



Democratizing and Diversifying Philanthropy Through the Power of Collective Giving

Featuring visiting speaker Sara Lomelin, B.A.



2023 MOST POPULAR JEFFERSON SATELLITE PROGRAMS:

(Fairview) Information, Disinformation, and How to Tell the Truth from Fiction

Featuring former newspaper editors Pat Cuneo and Kevin Cuneo

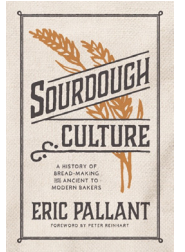


(East Erie) "Lake Erie, Our Kin" – Conserving our Greatest Asset

Featuring filmmakers John Lyons and Melissa Troutman, environmental activist Russ Taylor, and PennFuture's Jenny Tompkins, this event was an environmental documentary screening and discussion.

(Edinboro) The CompleAT History of Bread

Featuring Allegheny College environmental science & sustainability professor and author Eric Pallant, Ph.D.



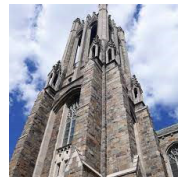
(East County/Harborcreek) Nimitz, Halsey & Spruance – "The Admirals who won the Pacific War"

Featuring Mark Squeglia, B.A.



(Corry) Guide to Local Archaeology

Featuring local amateur archaeologist John Sites



JULY:

A Tribute to Erie Civic Leader: William 'Bill' Sennett
JES Scholar-in-Residence Dr. David Frew gave a tribute presentation about Erie civic leader William "Bill" Sennett.

AUGUST:

JES @ Celebrate Erie
For Celebrate Erie 2023, we hosted a program about the ExPERIENCE Children's Museum and a documentary screening about Erie's Bicentennial Tower.

SEPTEMBER:

Women in Politics: Moving Toward an Equitable Future
Distinguished Visiting Speaker Dr. Dana Brown of the PA Center for Women in Politics interviewed local Mayors Jaime Kinder and Mary Jo Campbell about the future of women in politics.

OCTOBER:

Places of Worship Speak to Us (And How We Speak Back)
Our newest Scholar-in-Residence, Dr. Michael DeSanctis, gave a lecture in his series of Erie's sacred spaces.

NOVEMBER:

Making Sense of Erie County Residents Dollars and Cents
We hosted a special presentation about the Erie County budget.

DECEMBER:

New Americans – Demographic Trends and Immigration Patterns in Erie, Pennsylvania (1960-2023)
JES Scholar-in-Residence Dr. Baher Ghosheh is on tour for his new book New Americans.

WRITERS PRODUCE RECORD YEAR

Jefferson researchers and writers produced a record of more than 180 essays, reports, “Quick, Timely Reads,” and a book in 2023.

Leading the writing charge were Jefferson Scholars-in-Residence Drs. Andrew Roth (book notes), David Frew (On the Waterfront), Parris Baker (Truth in Love), Debbie DeAngelo (Health and fitness), and newcomer Diane Chido (foreign policy). Roth and Frew, who were honored in 2022

for their prolific contributions, wrote nearly every week, and Chido consistently offered insights on many of the world’s most volatile conflict areas. Additionally, former U.S. Rep. Phil English has agreed to join the Jefferson’s writing corps in 2024.

Judy Lynch, Baher Ghosheh, Court Gould, and the late Charles Brock also contributed articles, with Dr. Ghosheh releasing his celebrated book on immigration in September 2023. In addition, the Jefferson continued its African American history series “A Shared Heritage” with writers Chris Magoc, Johnny Johnson, and Melinda Meyer. Among the year’s publication highlights was a six-month series of articles (20 in all) by Rev. Brock highlighting ancient universities that thrive today and some of their famous alumni.

The work of writing, editing, and publishing continues in 2024 as the Jefferson embraces new projects, including publishing Judy Lynch’s long-awaited economic history of northwestern Pennsylvania. Work also continues toward publishing Charles Brock’s book on the religion and foreign policies of nearly three dozen U.S. presidents, a project that he updated in mid-2023.



Diane Chido



Parris Baker

TOP 10 PUBLICATIONS IN 2023

The Wider World – Sub-Saharan Africa: Defining the Sahel and its Importance by Diane Chido, M.S., M.A.

Book Notes #14: On Leadership (Part 1) by Andrew Roth, Ph.D.

Book Notes #148: ‘Americans & Their Games’ (Part III-B) by Andrew Roth, Ph.D.

On The Waterfront - A Modern ‘A.I.’ Essay by David Frew, Ph.D.

Truth In Love - Facing Our Fears by Parris Baker, Ph.D.

Book Notes #163: Global Summit Week Three: Daily Life in the Ancient World by Andrew Roth, Ph.D.

Jefferson Report: Transatlantic Idea-Sharing by Ben Speggen, M.A.

Be Well - Cottage Cheese: The Comeback Kid by Debbie DeAngelo, RNC, BSN

On The Waterfront – Building a Shipwreck Exhibit by David Frew, Ph.D.

Brock Institute – Probing Education: St. John’s College and Ahmet Ertegun by Rev. Charles Brock, M.Litt

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



323 Total (181 in 2023)

The Jefferson published more than 180 essays, reports, book notes, and “Quick, Timely Reads” alone in 2023, in addition to developing articles and biographies for the Global Summit speaker series and several other staff projects. In addition to the work of Dr. David Frew (43 “On the Waterfront” articles) and Dr. Andrew Roth (42 “Book Notes” articles), the Jefferson introduced Debbie DeAngelo with 15 essays on health, fitness, and medicine. Key contributions also came from writer Court Gould on think-tank issues and from JES Scholars-in Residence Dr. Parris Baker (10 parts of Truth in Love series) and Dr. Baher Ghosheh. Articles were also written by the Rev. Charles Brock (9) and Dr. Judy Lynch.

18 Total

The JES has published 18 essays since launching the JES Essays series in 2015. Longer than quick, timely reads and reports, but shorter than books, the Essays are peer-reviewed and offer scholarly insight in a variety of topics.

42 Total (20 in 2023)

The Jefferson published 20 reports in 2023, raising the total to 42: In the Wake of Buffalo – America’s Future: It’s in Our Hands (Parris Baker), three essays on African American history in the Erie region by the “A Shared Heritage” group (Chris Magoc, Johnny Johnson, Melinda Meyer), and four on African American culture and music (Tanya Teglo), as well as the work by Laura Reeck.

11 Total (1 in 2023)

The Jefferson’s 11th published book, *New Americans Demographic Trends and Immigration Patterns in Erie, Pennsylvania (1960-2023)* by Dr. Baher Ghosheh. New books scheduled for publication in 2024 include works by Dr. Judy Lynch, and the Rev. Charles Brock. “Accidental Paradise” (2020; second edition 2021) follows a book series that includes Dr. William P. Garvey’s “Erie, Pennsylvania Mayors” (2017), David Frew and Jerry Skrypzak’s “Erie Extension Canal” (2016), and Cory Vaillancourt’s “Lou Tullio: A Real Erie Guy” (2015).

8 Total

Since its revival by the Jefferson and Hagen History Center, the *Journal of Erie Studies* has produced eight editions and is currently planning its ninth.

Reflecting on a Year of Growth and Accomplishments



Baher Ghosheh, Ph.D.

The year 2023 marked some important milestones for the Jefferson Educational Society. As we celebrated the 15th anniversary of the Jefferson's founding, we witnessed new heights as an organization. In addition to the main campus on State Street, our satellite locations served our community on the east side (ECAT), at Harborcreek, Corry, Fairview, and Edinboro.

Once again, the Global Summit offered something for everyone with distinguished speakers on varied topics representing a wide spectrum of perspectives. Record crowds showed up for several events, including a record number of young people. Our partnership with Gannon University flourished and has proven to be a mutually beneficial and vital relationship.

Our publications set new records with articles, books, and studies that rival those of major think tanks in cities that dwarf Erie in size and resources. The JES leadership team can take pride in all they have accomplished with limited staff and funds. Kudos to our president Dr. Ferki Ferati, Global Summit Chairman Steve Scully, and the entire JES team for a job well done.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the tragic loss of one of our founding fathers and a pillar of the Jefferson and the Erie community, the Rev. Charles Brock. He was an inspiration to us all and helped mentor the current JES leadership and board of trustees. We will honor his memory by continuing the great work he undertook at the Brock Institute.

The Jefferson would have never achieved all this success without the generous support of our community. Thank you for all you do to help us serve our community as we work to fulfill our mission of providing a forum for scholars, the community, and members to discuss, learn, and collaborate for the common good.

Dr. Baher Ghosheh
Board Chairman

BOARD OFFICERS:



Vice Chairman Bruce Raimy



Treasurer Charles Caryl



Secretary Rev. Charles Brock
Until November 2023

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Dr. Baher Ghosheh – Chair – Retired – Professor of Middle Eastern Studies at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

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

Dale McBrier – Trustee – Co-Owner, Lyndal Enterprises

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Dr. Andrew Roth – Trustee – Jefferson Scholar-in-Residence and Raimy Fellowship Director

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

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

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

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FERKI FERATI, ED.D.
President



Dr. Ferki Ferati is in his eighth year as President of the Jefferson Educational Society, an organization where he served numerous leadership roles since its inception in 2008. He is also active civically in the Erie region, serving or leading numerous community initiatives for the betterment of Erie. Dr. Ferati is the Erie County representative on the America250PA, a national effort to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. He is also on the Scientific Board of Harvard University's Galileo Project. Dr. Ferati earned his doctoral

degree from University of Pittsburgh, MA from Gannon University, and a BA from Mercyhurst University.

BEN SPEGGEN, M.A.
Vice President



Ben Speggen joined the JES team in February 2015, serving in several roles before being promoted to vice president in 2019. He works across the JES's divisions with his colleagues to help to grow the institution's think-tank activities and expand the organization's reach and impact. He contributes to a variety of publications, and prior hosted a community affairs radio program and taught literature and writing at the college level. The son of coal miner and a healthcare assistant, he is first-generation college

graduate, who studied literature, history, and journalism at Gannon University, where he also earned his master's degree.

DR. ANDREW ROTH, PH.D.
Raimy Fellows Program, Interim Director of the Brock Institute



Dr. Andrew Roth directs the Raimy Fellows Program, contributes to the JES's programming and publications division as a scholar-in-residence, and currently serves as the interim director of the Brock Institute for Mega Issues Education. Prior, he had a decades-long career in academia, where he served as the interim president of St. Bonaventure University (2016-2017) and president of Notre Dame College (from 2003 until his retirement in 2014). Prior, he spent nearly 30 years at Mercyhurst University, where he was a tenured

faculty member; a coach; and a senior administrator. He holds degrees from John Carroll University, Case Western Reserve University, Gannon University, and the State University of New York at Buffalo, and was appointed to the JES's Board of Trustees in 2023.

CHRISTINE GERLOCK, B.A.
Administrative Coordinator



Before arriving at the JES, Christine worked in the nonprofit sector for several years in Erie and Juneau, Alaska. At the office she manages a variety of tasks, believes in the power of a well-written thank-you note, and values intangible traits in the workplace. She is a graduate of Edinboro University with a double major in Women's Studies and Anthropology. After graduating, Christine served in AmeriCorps as a VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) and as a VISTA Leader. Volunteering with the Red Cross took her to New

Orleans and St. Croix to provide disaster relief after massive hurricanes impacted those communities. Her leisure activities include striving for social justice and equity, participating in a Beastie Boys book group, and telling her beloved Bichon, Nu, that he is a good boy.

CHELSEA OLIVER, M.A.
Development Associate



After earning a dual bachelor's degree from Seton Hill University and master's degree from Point Park University, Chelsea made the move to Corry and only planned to stay in this new town she never heard of for six months. Instead over the past decade, she has immersed herself in multiple aspects throughout Erie County, and fallen in love with the area, its potential for growth, and its people. Since calling Corry home in 2014, Chelsea has

helped fellow small businesses and nonprofits tell their stories and grow through marketing consulting, social media management, and web design. She has served her community as an original steering committee member for the Corry Community Strategic Plan, former Chairwoman for Impact Corry, board member of the Corry Area Arts Council and Northwest PA Trail Association and was a former Corry City Councilwoman. Currently, Chelsea serves on the Board of Directors for the Corry Higher Education Council and the Crime Victims Center. She is the 2019 recipient of Corry's Volunteer of the Year Award, a 2021 JCLA graduate, and was a member of the Erie Reader's 2022 class of 40 Under 40. When she's not working or volunteering in her community, you'll find her on the local trails, at a brewery, or curled up with a book, most likely, someone's memoir.

JACOB BARTKO, A.S.B.
Vice President of Operations



Jacob is a lifelong Erie County resident, having grown up in East Springfield. He currently lives in Millcreek with his wife MacKenzie and son Lee. He began the first 12 years of his career at Community Access Media or CAM (formerly CAT-TV). Beginning as an intern in 2010, he worked his way through the organization as a production assistant, then administrative coordinator, and finally served as the executive director from April 2014 through

March 2022. He joined the Jefferson team in March 2022 as the Vice President of Operations, managing the day-to-day operations of the JES. He is a 2021 Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy graduate, a 2022 Erie Ambassador, and currently serves on several boards and committees, including Junior Achievement of NWPA, the Association of Fundraising Professionals NWPA, Meals on Wheels of Erie, and the Young Erie Philanthropists.

PAT CUNEO, B.A.
Director of Publications



Pat Cuneo serves as the Director 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.

RAVEN CLARK, B.A.
Satellite Program Coordinator



Raven Clark, an Erie native, is a 2014 graduate of Villa Maria Academy. She studied political science and music performance (violin) at Allegheny College, earning a Bachelor of Arts in 2019. Raven currently works as a program and marketing coordinator at JES, focusing on the organization's five satellite locations and a new youth civic education and leadership program. She is also a current graduate student at Syracuse University's Newhouse School of Public Communications and intends to earn her Master

of Science in Communications in June of 2024. Her hobbies include all things artistic and creative, and her professional interests include marketing, journalism, advertising, and public relations. Raven is an Erieite for life and plans to continue to build a life in Erie with her fiancée, Shannon.

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



Adam Welsh is the 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.

DEA WOODWARD, M.B.A.
Bookkeeper



Jefferson Bookkeeper Dea Woodward also serves as the Controller and Human Resources Manager at Printing Concepts, Inc. with more than 20 years of experience in both Finance and Human Resources for profit and nonprofit organizations. An Erie native, she graduated from East High School in 1989 in the top ten of her class and went on to graduate from Pennsylvania State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in General Business in 1993.

She earned a Master's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix online in 2013 while working fulltime. Dea is an active member of the Victory Christian Center Cathedral of Erie, Inc., where she is a member of the Bishop's Council team. She is also the Director of the School of Finance for the Eagle's Nest Leadership Academy. She lives in Erie with her two children, Antwonette and William, and her granddaughter, Amarra. Dea enjoys traveling, cooking, and singing.

SUPPORT STAFF

Olivia Wickline, Zehra Ferati, Mila Wells, Nicolas Bell, Carson Rounds, Aidai Tynbek Kyzy, Mikayla Habursky, Abigail Hancox, Leann Viera

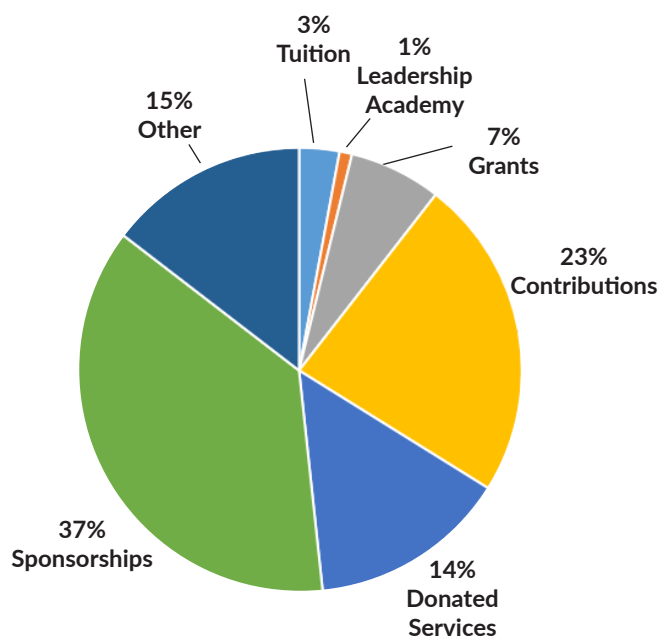
With more than 82% of our expenses dedicated to program services, the JES team remains confident our priorities are in the right order. Because of the continued impact of Covid-19, the JES brought in fewer dollars through programming, but increased its output significantly. We remain committed to offering 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 JES: the annual Global Summit; year-round programming at six locations; the Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy; publications and books, and community research projects.

Jefferson Educational Society of Erie, Inc.

Statement of Financial Position at August 31, 2023 and 2022 and images updated below.

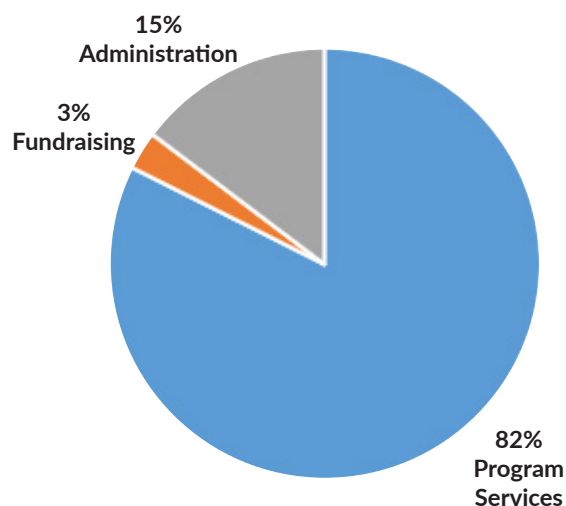
ASSETS	2023	2022
Current Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 224,826	\$ 142,745
Pledges receivable	719,692	416,692
Accounts receivable	500	25,520
Inventory	20,481	20,944
Prepaid expenses	30,992	10,637
Total current assets	996,491	616,538
Property and equipment	1,725,879	1,680,019
Less: accumulated depreciation	617,769	562,383
	1,108,110	1,117,636
Long-term pledges receivable, net of discount of \$212,525 and \$342,206 at August 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively	1,097,475	1,327,913
Endowment	518,858	496,159
Total Assets	\$ 3,720,934	\$ 3,558,246

SUPPORT AND REVENUE



LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	2023	2022
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 36,318	\$ 78,967
Lines of credit	423,290	329,319
Deferred revenue	215,000	100,000
Accrued expenses	13,200	13,215
Current portion of long-term obligations	44,180	41,649
Total current liabilities	731,988	563,150
Long-term obligations, less current portion	411,107	455,721
Net Assets:		
Without donor restrictions	457,184	484,009
With donor restrictions	2,120,655	2,055,366
Total net assets	2,577,839	2,539,375
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 3,720,934	\$ 3,558,246

FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES



JEFFERSON EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

3207 STATE STREET
ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA 16508-2821

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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 follows 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.