

JEFFERSON

EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Dear Jefferson Member,

It's hard to believe I'm entering my 17th year at the Jefferson Educational Society. The organization I joined in 2008 and the challenges our nation faced at that time are vastly different from what we encounter today. Yet, the Jefferson's founding mission — addressing the delay in ideas and innovations reaching Erie — remains as relevant as ever. Our commitment to examining the past, understanding the present, and envisioning the future has made the Jefferson an international model of what can be achieved in small towns.

These past months have been some of the most rewarding — and, I would argue, the best — in our organization's history. We published over 300 papers and reports, hosted in-person programming at five satellite locations and our headquarters, and welcomed our first visiting scholar, Dr. Robert Garland, who spent a week in Erie last summer. Our 2024 Global Summit drew over 10,000 attendees in person and 100,000 online, culminating in a record-setting crowd for a paid educational program featuring Liz Cheney and Joan Chittister.

Our think tank activities continue to thrive. Initiatives such as the **Early Childcare Investment Policy Initiative** are already being implemented locally, while our work with **Infinite Erie** and the **Transatlantic Heartlands Transformation Network** is gaining traction nationally and globally. Additionally, we've been invited by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to share insights on how small communities foster social capital — a recognition of Erie's growing impact.

This success drives us to aim higher for our community. At the same time, we must ensure the Jefferson's sustainability for future generations. I invite you to join our longtime Vice Chairman, Bruce Raimy, in his call to action: to help secure the future of Erie's own high-quality think tank. Together, we can continue building a legacy of innovative ideas and impactful initiatives.

Thank you for being part of this journey. With your support, the Jefferson will remain a vital force for Erie and beyond.

Sincerely,

Ferki Ferati, Ed.D.
President
Jefferson Educational Society



HELP ENSURE THE JEFFERSON'S *sustainability* FOR DECADES TO COME.

I feel fortunate to have been involved with the Jefferson Educational Society from the very beginning. Actually, it was just in the idea stages when a corps group of us developed what would become today's vibrant think tank and educational center for civic learning.

In those early days, we needed to assemble many of Erie's civic and business leaders, create an organization with a unique educational mission, find a home, and attract financial support to sustain it in the long run. We knew it needed to reflect the best of the Erie region and that we must bring innovative thinkers to Erie to share their research and solutions to many issues challenging us and regions across the country.

We knew, too, that to succeed, it needed to be open to everyone, nonpartisan, bold, and lead in the spirit of adopting "best practices." Audience support was never in question. Erie people, hundreds of whom are Jefferson members, supported the Jefferson from the beginning because their thirst for knowledge was as strong then as it is now.

Along the way, I was honored to sponsor the Raimy Fellowship leadership program for scholars emerging from the Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy, a great jewel of the organization. And, most recently, I was pleased to issue a matching challenge grant of up to \$250,000 so that the ideals of the Jefferson Educational Society can be assured for generations to come. I will match individual gifts up to \$25,000 for this special Jefferson Endowment Fund, administered by The Erie Community Foundation.

I urge you to accept that challenge, Jefferson supporters. I love the Jefferson, I know you do, too, and I hope you will join me in assuring its sustainability for decades to come.

Sincerely,

Bruce Raimy
Vice Chairman
Jefferson Board of Trustees



Impact of the JEF's Work

PROVIDING A GATHERING PLACE FOR CIVIL CIVIC DIALOGUE, SERVING AS A CATALYST FOR INFORMED PROGRESS

Each year, the Jefferson Educational Society publishes an annual report to reflect on the think tank's impact over the past 12 months as well as 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.

As we look back on the developments, demands, and challenges of the first quarter of the 21st century, it may lead to the observation of a world rattled by conflict and strife. The rise of international and domestic terrorism. Economic recessions and spikes in cost of domestic and foreign goods. The rise of authoritarianism and threats to democracy. Political divisiveness.

But the world has endured trials and tribulations before. Global-level events impact us at the local level, but it is often local-level solutions that help inform the present and shape the future.

Consider the words of Athenian statesman Pericles in his famous "Funeral Oration:"

"Our city, built on the pillars of justice and equality, stands eternal," Pericles told those gathered at the public funeral for soldiers who died in the first year of the Peloponnesian War. "In times of peril, we came together – not as individuals, but as a city united."

Pericles's speech earned recognition over the centuries because of its significant departure from standards and customs. Rather than just lament the dead, which the speech does, it celebrates Athens' achievements and is intended to stir the minds and hearts of a people in times of war, conflict, and division with hope of unity and justness.

In the face of today's challenges, the Jefferson Educational Society team and network of expert contributors continue to provide a gathering place for civil, civic dialogue throughout the Erie, Pennsylvania region –

and beyond – during times of opportunity and challenges. Serving as a catalyst for informed progress – the modern-day agora, today's marketplace for the generation of ideas and review of best practices to engage and enlighten people – the JES continues to heed Thomas Jefferson's call in 1787 to "educate and inform the whole mass of the people. ... They are the only sure reliance for the preservation of liberty."

When the Jefferson first opened its doors in 2008, it began with a lineup of some dozen events. Today, the JES hosts more than 150 events annually.

The JES continues to offer lectures and panel presentations from local, regional, national, and international experts on a wide range of issues, including its Community Conversation 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 programming.

In 2024, the JES continued its Great Conversation course, in which participants read a range of materials – from the classics to notable contemporary works – to dive deeply into the text through vibrant, engaging discussion, and introduced a new course: Great Decisions. In partnership with the Foreign Policy Association, the Great Decisions course examines critical, global issues with national- and local-level implications. Guided by JES

Scholars-in-Residence Diane Chido, a political science professor and national security expert, and former Foreign Service Officer Christine Riehl, participants drafted foreign policy recommendations sent to the U.S. State Department.

Further recognizing the growing appetite for sustained learning opportunities, the JES launched its first-ever, week-long "visiting scholar residency" in 2024, welcoming back distinguished historian and author Dr. Robert Garland, who presented during 2023's Global Summit to a standing-room-only audience. For a week in July 2024, Garland offered a series of lectures on ancient history and what it teaches us today.

Believing in the wisdom in the saying, "If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together," the JES continued its existing and advanced programmatic partnerships in 2024 – working with the Hagen History Center for

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Drew Whiting, Chief Executive Officer of Erie Downtown Development Corp., presents a progress report of EDDC during a Community Conversation.



JES Vice President Ben Spегgen and Dr. Robert Garland discuss ancient history during Garland's week-long residence at the JES.

quarterly lectures, hosting a series on mental health with LECOM Health to feature and highlight the work of locally based medical experts, and beginning programming with Erie's Black Wall Street.

By volume, the JES's biggest achievement in 2024 came during its annual Global Summit that spanned a range of topics from the future of democracy to the future of sports, from the current housing crisis to advancements in artificial intelligence, to the importance of leadership and much more.

The think tank united former U.S. Rep. Liz Cheney and renowned theologian and philosopher Sister Joan Chittister in conversation in front of an audience of more than 3,300 attendees at the Bayfront Convention Center for the largest ticketed education event in Erie's history.



Heather Cox Richardson and Tom Nichols greet the large crowd of over 1,300 attendees at the Bayfront Convention Center during Global Summit XVI.

That event has since gone on to be viewed more than 50,000 times on the JES's YouTube channel. Additionally, the Global Summit event that brought bestselling authors Heather Cox Richardson and Tom Nichols together in front of an audience of more than 1,300 at the Convention Center has gained more than 53,000 views on YouTube.

More than just programming, the Jefferson Educational Society continues to reach audiences not just from the stage but also from the page. Publishing several fresh pieces weekly with new insights – from examinations of foreign and domestic affairs to the power of poetry and lessons from local history, to race in America, and more, the JES's Publications Division produced some 180 quick, timely reads, essays, and reports in 2024.

The largest achievement came from the publication of JES Decadian Scholar Dr. Judy Lynch's "America's Early Frontier: Economic



Decadian Scholar and Board of Trustees member, Dr. Judy Lynch signs her latest book for JES guests.

History of Northwestern Pennsylvania (1753-2024)," a comprehensive yet accessible history recording and observing the economic impact of the region.

Dr. Lynch, along with other JES Scholars-in-Residence, continued to contribute to the think tank's work over the year, and the JES expanded that corps of fellows by adding Diane Chido (focusing on international affairs), Dr. Michael DeSanctis (concentrating on art and the history of sacred spaces), and Dr. Lena Surzhko-Harned (engaged on developments in the war in Ukraine).

More than programming and publications, the JES continued its work in policy and practice. What started with a 2020 report, "Why Erie's Downtown is a Proxy for the Nation: The Future of Main Street Businesses amidst the Covid-19 Crisis," produced in partnership with Drexel University's Nowak Metro Finance Lab, led to an action-oriented playbook charting a pathway forward for 'Erie's Inclusive Growth', which resulted in Infinite Erie coordinating development to deliver transformative change.

In 2024, Infinite Erie attracted new jobs through INTAG Aquaponics housed in Savocchio Opportunity Park, and secured \$11.75 million in Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program capital assistance to invest in playbook projects. It is projected that if fully implemented current projects Infinite Erie supports would generate \$500 million of economic impact; over 3,500 sustainable jobs; and \$21 million in contributions to state and local tax base.

In 2023, after joining the Heartlands Transformation Network, an international collaborative initiative of think tanks, universities, and other policy institutions to engage in transatlantic idea-sharing, the JES continued its partnership, convening public discussions and contributing to research and reporting.

Based on the JES's work on the international stage, JES President Dr. Ferki Ferati was invited to present on the role of social capital and transformation of place at a seminar hosted by the OECD (Organisation for Economic and Co-operation and Development) in Paris, where he shared the JES's story, impact, and mission. Vice President Ben Spегgen, who also attended the trip, was invited to write about observations and outcomes from the session for the OECD's Cogito Blog during a special seminar on social capital.

The JES has a history of lending its institutional resources to tackle wicked problems, like racial equity through the Erie Racial Justice Policy Initiative. In 2024, the JES dedicated six months of research and resources to addressing the child care crisis in Erie with the Early Childcare Investment Policy Initiative. That effort, funded by The Erie Community Foundation, assembled a team of policy experts that produced the "Positioning Erie to Prosper and Compete: Child Care School for Infants and Toddlers is Key to Future of Workforce and Economy" report. Following the report's findings, significant investments are being made from the county and others to conduct further study and implement recommendations from the report.



Members of the Erie Racial Justice Policy Initiative pose with Dr. Ken Louie, director of the Economic Research Institute of Erie, after presenting findings and recommendations for next steps to address racial equity in Erie.

The Early Childcare Investment Policy Initiative's work in 2024 was initially informed by the findings of the 2023 cohort of think tank's Civic Leadership Academy (JCLA). Begun in 2015 to prepare emerging professionals for meaningful, fulfilling, and impactful engagement in their community, the JCLA not only helps those enrolled gain a better understanding of local and state government; it challenges them to address a critical issue facing the region with national implication. In 2023, the cohort produced and presented on "Raising the Next Generation: Realities of the Child Care Landscape in Erie County."

At the heart of its mission, the Civic Leadership Academy helps people become more active, and informed, participants in their own democracy. That was the spirit emanating through the Agora in Athens some 2,000-plus years ago.

Both paying homage to the cradle of democracy and looking to ensure the modern marketplace of ideas lasts into the future, the JES announced its Agora Circle – a collaborative giving initiative to ensure the sustainability and expansion of the Jefferson Educational Society. Forty community members joined in 2024. As we face the threats and challenges present today, they help to power the convening, the research, and the idea-sharing that help us all see the future opportunities lying ahead.

Whether joining the Agora Circle, reading our publications, partaking in our events, or screening programs online, the Jefferson Educational Society remains a gathering place for civil, civic dialogue, powered by and for the people.



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A full house in the Monticello Room during Dr. Robert Garland's summer residency.

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Steve Scully and Gary Horton talk with Dr. Eddie Glaude Jr. at his book signing during Global Summit XVI.

Be informed. Be heard. Be a part of our Community. Become a member.

Members are the backbone of the JES. We began humbly in 2008 with 91 members which has grown to a community of over 1,000 members, partners, and donors who are committed to life-long learning through perspective-expanding, civil dialogue.

We value the support and belief in our mission that our members afford us to continue reaching the Erie Community and beyond. Through this generosity, we are making a positive difference in the Erie region. **The following is a list of members, donors, and sponsors along with comments from several key supporters.**

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"The Jefferson Educational Society provides a unique space for members of the Erie community and our partners and friends around the country and around the world to learn so much more than what is in the headlines or dubiously discussed on social media. I have gained so much new insight into many subjects I might never had considered without this public forum."

- Diane Chido, JES Member, Scholar In-Residence, Author, and Lecturer

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"We live in a time where many issues are discussed superficially, if at all. The Jefferson provides detailed presentations on a variety of topics and an environment where open discussions follow. Smart, level-headed civil discourse is the order of the day."

- Richard Arthur, JES Member, Lecturer and Volunteer



Klaus Retzlaff, Leigh Kostis, and Ed Whitbred welcome guests to the sold-out event "The Final Witness: A Kennedy Secret Service Agent Breaks His Silence After 60 Years", by Paul Landis.



“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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- Jeff Styborski
- Michael and Karen Sullivan
- Bonnie Tarcia
- Andy Tellers
- Christopher Thomas
- Suzanne Todd
- Mary Tredway
- Karen Tyler
- Dave Ungerman
- Richard and Diane Valahovic
- Raynee Wilkinson

- Linda Williams
- Marian Wygant
- Constance and Thomas Youngblood
- Edward Zajac
- Sandra Zeaman
- Susan Zoky

JEFFERSONIAN

- Elaine Addressi
- Bonnie and Clifford Ahola
- Charles Baird
- Joseph Baniszewski
- Gregory Blackman
- Jack and Deborah Bovee
- Maureen Bradley
- Janet Britt
- Nicholas Brown
- Yvonne Caputo
- Xin-zhu Chen
- Diane Chido
- Jim Cuneo
- Kevin and Mary Cuneo
- Pat and Robin Cuneo
- Darrell Cyphers
- Mark Dalglish
- Pat Davis
- Jack and Kim Dile
- Diane Dymski
- James and Mary Ellia
- Julie Faulkber Kean
- Vernon and Martha Gambill
- Kenneth Gamble
- Michael Ganske
- Joe and Anna Gehringer
- Helen and David Gesue
- Kenneth Grugel
- Cathleen Hedderick
- Daniel Hesch
- Michael Hill
- Kathleen Hubbard
- Gilbert Jacobs
- Allison Kaverman and David Palotas
- John Kitchen and William Grace
- Msgr. Henry Kriegel
- Agnes Kudlock
- Bob Lewis
- Patricia Loubeau
- Catlin Lowes
- Lawrence and Elizabeth Lund
- Lynette Matter
- Edwin McKean
- Berwyn Moore Brooker
- Brenda Moore
- Susan Murawski
- Diane and Matthew Murphy

- John Musatto
- Joe Owens
- Becky and Lee Pomeroy
- Brad Prince
- Rose Mary Renner
- Frank Reusche
- Doug and Sherry Rieder
- Charles and Susan Roehrl
- Charles Scalise
- Laura Semple
- Gena Shingle
- Jean Shirley
- Lesha Simmons
- Julie and Tim Skelly
- Thyme Smiley
- Stephen Smith
- Jane Springer
- Dorothy Stoner, O.S.B.
- Bill and Leslie Stouffer
- Leo Swantek
- Patricia and Michael Tellers
- Russ Thompson
- Nancy Weil
- William Welch
- Gwendolyn White
- Joshua Williams
- Ann Wisniweski
- Donna Wood
- Sandra Zeaman

THE JEFFERSON RECOGNIZES OUR VERY GENEROUS DONORS

- Mary Anne Albaugh
- Catherine Anderson
- Anonymous Donor
- William Arbuckle
- Bruce and Kathleen Arkwright
- Jeanne Baker
- Loretta Baran
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- Kathleen Bartko
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- Jeanne Bender
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- Randy and Karrie Biletnikoff
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- Jeffrey and Carol Blake
- Irene and Ken Brasington
- Constance Breretton
- Brith Sholom
- Sheila Brugger
- Anthony and JoAnn Campanella
- Dennis Carlson
- Amelia Carr
- Diane Chido
- Dario Cipriani



“Being a JES member truly ignites my passion for learning! The variety of topics available is not just extensive; it’s absolutely incredible.

One of the highlights for me is the opportunity to connect and network with amazing individuals, both within the community and beyond. It opens doors to interactions that I would otherwise miss out on, enriching my experience even more.”

– Damali Donovan, JES Member and Raimy Fellow



Volunteer and member Elaine Retzlaff shows attendees at the Harborcreek Township Municipal Building the negative effects of littering at Presque Isle State Park.



"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 and speaker

- Erie Chapter Barber Shop Harmony Society
- Erie Community Foundation (ECF)
- Erie County Community College
- Erie County Gaming & Revenue Authority (ECGRA)
- Erie Insurance
- Erie News Now (ENN)
- Erie Reader
- Erie Water Works
- Janine Fenell
- Ferki and Katya Ferati
- David and Mary Ann Frew
- Lorie Fritts
- Gannon University
- Joe and Anna Gehringer
- Jim and Sandy Globa
- Charles Gray
- Greater Erie Community Action Committee (GECAC)
- Bob and Toni Griffith
- Peter and Donna Grimaldi
- Pat Gustafson
- Shirlee Kirk Haden
- Thomas B. Hagen
- Richard and Debra Haire
- Priscilla Hamilton
- Walter Harf
- John Harkins
- Cynthia Heasley
- Scott Henry
- Nancy Herold
- Patrick Hilling
- Pamela Hime
- John Howell
- Humes Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram
- David and Jessica Hunter
- Richard Hymes
- Jewish Community Council of Erie (JCC)
- Dr. J.C.B. Kinch
- Larry Kisielewski
- William and Christine Koehle
- Leigh Kostis
- Knox Law
- Ashley Lawson
- Mary Lincoln
- Logistics Plus



Members and volunteers Marian Sama and Leigh Kostis welcome guests at Gannon University's Yehl Ballroom.

- Atty. & Mrs. Al Lubiejewski
- Rita T Lynch
- Judith Lynch
- Roger MacDonald
- Constance and Luther Manus
- Marquette Savings Bank
- Chris and Robert Marsh
- Ellen Mathewson
- Dale and Lynn McBrier
- McBrier Foundation
- Maureen McClure
- Pierre and Kathy McCormick
- Sarah and Bruce McWilliams
- MenajErie
- Clemence Mershon
- Karen Miller
- Wendy D. Miller
- Joel and Patricia Moorhead
- Steven Nachman
- Gary Nichols
- Philip Papotnik
- Delores Pasiecznik
- Perseus House Charter School
- Kris Petulla
- Matthew Platz
- Maureen Plunkett
- PNC Bank
- Keith Pomeroy
- Phyllis Pope
- Printing Concepts, Inc.
- RBC Wealth Associates
- Bruce Raimy
- Martha Reddinger
- Marilyn Redenius
- Sally Reed
- Richards & Associates
- Tom and Michele Ridge
- Chris Riehl
- Denise Robison Mullen
- Romolo Chocolates
- Andrew and Judy Roth
- Wanda and Anthony Salvia
- Marian Sama
- John Sanner
- Joyce Savocchio
- Susan Scheutte
- Stanley Schuyler
- Kevin Scully
- Tom and Jan Showler
- Howard Sipes
- Tim Spaeder
- Ben Spегgen and Michelle Ellia
- Mary Ellen Stickle
- Jeffrey Styborski
- TalkRadio.com
- Tom Tupitza
- Richard Vicary
- Richard E. Wagner
- Maureen Walls
- Edmund Waskiewicz
- Olivia Wickline
- Becky Widdecombe
- Wm. T. Spaeder
- WQLN
- J. Howard and Carol Wright
- Marian Wygant
- Jack Young

- Julie Cohen
- Jerry and Wendy Cole
- Community Access Media (CAM)
- Elana Como
- Gayle Contois
- Cumulus Media
- Pat and Robin Cuneo
- Rusty Cunningham
- MaryEllen Dahlkemper
- James and Kathleen Dammeyer
- Jenifer De Mers
- David Defazio

- Sarah M. DeWitt
- Diverse Erie
- Deborah Dockstader
- Colleen Dougherty
- Dr. Gertrude A. Barber Center, Inc.
- Richard and Janine Dreyfus, M.D.
- Gary and Cathy Dudenhoefer
- Bob Dwyer
- Eileen Engel
- Erie Book Group



JES members Connie and Luther Manus at Cathedral Prep Auditorium waiting for "Post Election Analysis: Washington Insiders Weigh in on 2024 Presidential Election" to begin during Global Summit XVI.

INTRODUCING THE AGORA CIRCLE

A collaborative giving initiative empowering the sustainable growth of the JES.

The Agora Circle derives its name from the ancient Greek community gathering place where people met in civil discourse to discuss the important matters of the day, exchange ideas across fields of expertise, and learn to better their lives and bring progress to their communities.



In 2024, we asked our members to increase their generosity beyond their annual membership and donations to become a Founding Member of the Agora Circle. As the JES grows, we want to improve the quality of our current programs while ensuring sustainability for the future.

We thank the **Founding Members** listed below:

- Anonymous Donor
- Jeanne Baker
- Pierre & Loretto Bellicini
- Carol & Jeffery Blake
- Sheila Brugger
- Charlie & Renee Caryl
- Diane Chido
- Ferki & Katya Ferati
- Dave & Jessica Hunter
- Leigh Kostis
- Mary Lincoln
- Judy Lynch
- Maureen McClure
- Pierre & Kathy McCormick
- Edwin McKean
- Keith & Linda McGarvey
- Denise & Butch Mullen
- Chuck & Janet Peters
- Elaine & Klaus Retzlaff
- Christine Riehl
- Andrew & Judy Roth
- Marian Sama
- Joyce Savacchio
- Tom & Janice Showler
- Tim Spaeder
- Ben Spегgen & Michelle Ellia
- Thomas Tupitza

For information on becoming an Agora Circle member, please contact Christine Gerlock, 814.459.8000 or gerlock@jeserie.org



BY THE NUMBERS

With a team of 10, we've delivered a diverse range of publications, programs, and online content. Committed to the JES mission, our high-quality work resonates with diverse audiences. These numbers highlight the impact of collaboration, innovation, and excellence.

1

PUBLISHED BOOK

13,234

TOTAL NUMBER OF ATTENDEES

143,531

YOUTUBE VIEWS OF RECORDED PROGRAMS

180

TOTAL PUBLICATIONS

28

MORE JCLA GRADUATES

3,749

FIRST-TIME JES EVENT ATTENDEES

40

FOUNDING AGORA CIRCLE MEMBERS

154

TOTAL NUMBER OF EVENTS

3

NEW RAIMY FELLOWS

CONTINUING TO BUILD UPON THE JES'S CORNERSTONE AND STRONG FOUNDATION

Providing a range of lectures, panel presentations, discussions, seminars, and courses has been instrumental in executing the Jefferson Educational Society's mission since it opened its doors in 2008. Over a decade and a half later, that programming is reaching more individuals than ever before with over 150 events in 2024 with more than 13,000 attendants.

Over 40 events took place "off-campus" thanks to the JES's partnership with area organizations and to the support of Erie Insurance to keep admission to "JES Satellite Events" free of charge. The JES reached an even wider audience through its hybrid and virtual events, taking its signature shoulder-to-shoulder learning experiences to a screen-to-screen digital educational arena thanks to a strong partnership and working relationship with CAM (Community Access Media). Videos of JES events have been streamed over 143,000 times - and counting.



Left, JES Vice President Ben Spегgen presents on Project 2025 at our Fairview Satellite location. Right, A look through the lens of CAM recording a program at the JES.

What follows is a snapshot of the 150-plus events in 2024 - all made possible by JES members; event attendees; local, regional, national, and international experts; the JES team members and volunteers; and strong partnerships in the community and beyond.

PROVIDING YEAR-ROUND PROGRAMS & EVENTS, THE JES:

JANUARY

Launched "Great Decisions," a new course in partnership with the Foreign Policy Association that dives into critical global issues with national- and local-level implications facilitated by JES Scholars-in-Residence Diane Chido and Chris Riehl.

FEBRUARY

Introduced the Early Childcare Investment Policy Initiative, a team of policy experts assembled to research and propose recommendations to address challenges around access to child care during the JES's Community Conversation Series.

Hosted "A Celestial Treat: A Total Solar Eclipse Coming to Erie!" with astronomy professor Dr. Darren Williams in advance of April 8's total solar eclipse, for which Erie was "in the path of totality."

MARCH

Continued Brock Institute for Mega Issues Education programming with "The Loss of Democracy Then and Now" series beginning with JES President Dr. Ferki Ferati's look at "The Fall of the Roman Republic."



APRIL

Kicked off the Spring Term with historian and Emeritus Director of the Hagen History Center George Deutsch's "America's Most Contentious Presidential Election: 1876."

MAY

Invited representatives from the Erie International Airport Authority to present, "What's Really Happening at the Erie International Airport?" as part of the JES's ongoing Community Conversation Series.

JUNE

Continued convening Great Conversations - the JES's longest running course in which participants read a range of materials from the classics to notable to contemporary works to dive deeply into the text through vibrant, engaging discussions.



JULY

Launched the first-of-its-kind week-in-residency featuring renowned historian and author Dr. Robert Garland. Garland, who made his JES stage debut during the 2023 Global Summit, presented five lectures on "The History of the Human Experience."



POWER IN PARTNERSHIPS

In 2024, the JES continued its partnership with the **Hagen History Center** to host their Doris Becker Lecture Series with four of the most popular events in 2024: Exploring the history of chocolate; a Secret Service Agent recounting his time serving the Kennedys; a look at Frank Lloyd Wright's famed Fallingwater; and the preservation and transformation of Erie's West Sixth Street.

New in 2024, the JES launched a series focused on mental health in partnership with **LECOM Health**. LECOM Health medical experts presented on a wide range of issues at the JES and satellite locations including: navigating the caregiving role; child refugee mental health; mental health in rural communities; self-harm and how and when to get help; and eating disorders.

Additional partnership events included: the hosting of PA Secretary of Policy and Planning with the **Erie County Community College**; PA Rep. Jim Struzzi and professional public library staff members with the **Erie County Public Library**; presidential history and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Doris Kearns Goodwin with the **Erie County Bar Association** for the Annual Law Day Celebration with the theme "Voices of Democracy;" and with **Erie's Black Wall Street** for two events to celebrate August's National Black Business month.

1. LECOM Health program in Corry with Dr. Brenton Song. 2. JES team members Christine (left) and Chelsea (right) with Paul Landis. 3. Left to right, Mabel Howard, Kyra Taylor, and Marva Morris present about Erie's Black Wall Street and their businesses. 4. A large crowd gathers for a tour of Millionaires' Row with Preservation Erie's Melinda Meyer and Erin Phillips, and another of the Erie Downtown Development Corporation with EDDC Chief Executive Officer Drew Whiting.

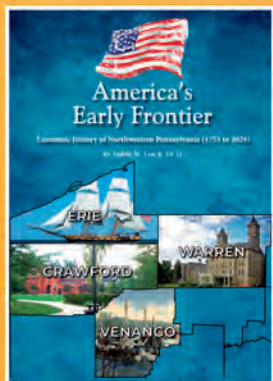
TAKING TO THE STREETS – AND BEACH!
JES RESUMES TOURS

JES Scholar-in-Residence Dr. Michael DeSanctis led a walking tour of the Episcopal Cathedral of St. Paul and St. Peter Roman Catholic Cathedral in the heart of downtown Erie and JES Scholar-in-Residence Dr. David Frew guided a bus tour of Presque Isle to explore the state park's history, geology, and nooks and crannies. During the Celebrate Erie festival, the JES hosted two walking tours – one of Millionaires' Row with Preservation Erie's Melinda Meyer and Erin Phillips, and another of the Erie Downtown Development Corporation with EDDC Chief Executive Officer Drew Whiting.



AUGUST

Gave the "First Look" at JES Decadian Scholar Dr. Judy Lynch's new book, "America's Early Frontier: Economic History of Northwestern Pennsylvania (1753-2024)," a book filled with the triumphs and trials of Erie, Crawford, Venango, and Warren counties.



SEPTEMBER

Featured four popular programs at the JES's Satellite Locations: "Examining the Electoral College" (at Harborcreek Township building with political scientist Dr. Robert Speel); "Michelangelo: Man, Myth, and Majesty" (at Lincoln Community Center in Fairview with JES Scholar-in-Residence Dr. Michael DeSanctis); "The State of Erie's Economy: A Look at Disparities, Trends, and Future Prospects" (Inner city Erie at Erie Center for Arts and Technology with Dr. Ken Louie, director of the Economic Research Institute of Erie); and, "Immigration: Global, National, and Local Trends" (at the Corry Higher Education Council with Dr. Baher Ghosheh, JES scholar-in-residence and chairman of the JES Board of Trustees).



OCTOBER

Hosted Two International Virtual Events:
1. "Goncharenko Centres Network: Bringing Education to the People of Ukraine in the Times of Peace & War"
2. "Building Community Infrastructure: The Foundation Stone of Economic Regeneration"

NOVEMBER

Featured Joseph Maloney, the founding partner of the Erie-based Maloney Reed Scarpitti and Company, LLP, which previously served as the accountant for the county, who presented, "Making Sense of Erie County Residents' Dollars and Cents" examining the details of the proposed budget for Erie County.

DECEMBER

Concluded the year with JES Scholar-in-Residence Dr. Andrew Roth, director of the Raimy Fellows program and interim director of the Brock Institute, who presented, "The American Way of Christmas" in both Erie and Corry.

A Historic Night

GLOBAL SUMMIT XVI

Our 16th Annual Global Summit started with, “A Conversation with Liz Cheney and Sr. Joan Chittister,” which now holds the record as the largest ticketed event in the history of the Bayfront Convention Center. Nearly 4,000 people joined us for this event!



Above: JES President Dr. Ferki Ferati thanks the audience and our sponsors at the start of the event. Below: Former US Rep. Liz Cheney addresses the crowd before sitting down for a conversation with Sr. Joan Chittister.





GLOBAL SUMMIT XVI RAISES THE BAR (AGAIN) IN QUALITY SPEAKER LINEUPS

Every year the Global Summit brings internationally renowned speakers who share their expertise on a variety of timely subjects. In 2024, we welcomed 23 speakers, three moderators, and over 8,397 attendees across 14 events. Our largest Global Summit so far!

Global Summit XVI kicked off with the single largest ticketed event in the history of the Bayfront Convention Center with a powerful conversation between Former U.S. Rep. (2017 – 2023) Liz Cheney and theologian and author Sister Joan Chittister. Legendary sportscaster Stephen A. Smith discussed much more than the “Future of Sports” with Jon Wertheim, while Historian Heather Cox Richardson, known for her “Letters from an American” newsletter, joined Tom Nichols, a staff writer at The Atlantic for a poignant conversation about the state of our democracy. The series featured a diverse lineup of distinguished speakers and concluded with a soberly optimistic look at America’s future with Dr. Eddie Glaude Jr.

Planning for Global Summit XVII is already well underway. Thanks to the experience of the Jefferson that speakers have, they become strong allies in helping secure future Global Summit speakers. The JES team is building on relationships built during Global Summit’s past to bring more world-class programming to Erie. 2025 promises to be another incredible year to think global, learn local!

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
PHOTO BY ANNIE 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 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

GLOBAL SUMMIT XVI (2024)

- Liz Cheney, Sr. Joan Chittister, Stephen A. Smith, Jon Wertheim, Charles Marohn, Tristan Hoag, Heather Cox Richardson, Tom Nichols, Lara Schwartz, Michael Strain, Joe Davis, Marian L. Tupy, Fred Biletnikoff, Maj. General Ed Bolton Jr., Angela G. Neal, Dr. Karen J. Bolton, Lia Van Liew, Harold Holzer, Chris Matthews, Tara Setmayer, David Urban, Steve Scully, Eddie Glaude, Jr.



LIZ CHENEY



HIGHLIGHTS OF GLOBAL SUMMIT XVI

1. Stephen A. Smith poses for a photo with a fan.
2. Joe Davis, author of "The Generous Leader: 7 Ways to Give of Yourself for Everyone's Gain."
3. Eddie Glaude, Jr., author of "We Are The Leaders We Have Been Looking For," with JES member Gary Horton.
4. Heather Cox Richardson signs "Democracy Awakening."
5. Principal director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at The Aerospace Corporation, Via Van Liew, joins a panel discussion, "Leading and Succeeding: Lessons to Lift up the Current and Next Generations."
6. JES VP Ben Speggen with Michael Strain, author of "The American Dream is Not Dead: But Populism Could Kill It" during a fireside chat.
7. Political commentator Tara Setmayer joins in our "Post Election Analysis: Washington Insiders Weigh in on 2024 Presidential Election" panel for a lively discussion.
8. Heather Cox Richardson and Tom Nichols discuss the state of our nation one week prior to the 2024 U.S. Presidential Election.
9. Tristan Hoag of Boston Consulting Group presents on the implications of Artificial Intelligence on businesses and to consumers.
10. Historian Harold Holzer smiles for a photo with a young scholar.

2024 SPONSORS

PLATINUM



GOLD



SILVER



BRONZE



COPPER



PATRON



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



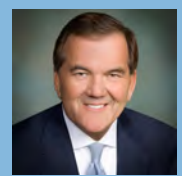
2014
Sister Joan Chittister



2015
Drs. John and Silvia Ferretti



2017
Lt. Gen. James Dubik, Ret.



2016
Hon. Tom Ridge



2017
Lt. Gen. James Dubik, Ret.



2018
James Fallows and Deborah Fallows



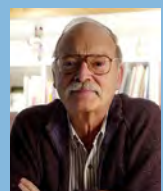
2018
James Fallows and Deborah Fallows



2019
Eleanor Smeal



2021
Robert Pape



2022
Rev. Charles Brock



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



2024
Fred Biletnikoff



Brock Institute’s Work Continues

After the death of the Rev. Charles Brock in November 2023, his work, legacy, and spirit continued under the leadership of Dr. Andrew Roth, interim director of the Brock Institute of Mega Issues Education.

Jefferson President Dr. Ferki Ferati noted that the Jefferson proudly addressed Charles’ concerns about the future of American democracy through a number of programs and lectures. “The Brock Institute played a key role in the Global Summit lecture by Heather Cox Richardson and Tom Nichols, which drew more than 1,200 people to the Bayfront Convention Center,” Dr. Ferati said. “Charles continues to inspire us in many ways.”

The Brock Institute also supported the popular Summit presentation by historian Harry Holzer and the weeklong series of programs by historian Robert Garland, who will return to the Jefferson in 2025. Similarly, the “Loss of Democracy, Then and Now” program series was a 2024 highlight.

The Jefferson also paid special tribute to Rev. Brock’s life and legacy in a special Jefferson Hall program in May 2024, featuring a presentation and memorial essay by Dr. Andrew Roth and music by Pat Cuneo, Jimmy Cuneo, Allan Slovenkay, and Margaret Andrago.



The Rev. Charles Brock



Dr. Andrew Roth

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.

A special committee from the Board of Trustees led by Dr. Roth determined not to alter Rev. Brock’s original work while it pursues a contract with Rowman & Littlefield, an American independent academic publishing house.

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, Rev. Brock always emphasized well-rounded education and critical thinking.



Erie Insurance Chairman Tom Hagen (left) chats with his long-time friend the Rev. Charles Brock.



A special tribute by the Jefferson team celebrating the life and legacy of the Rev. Charles Brock.

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 AND TOOLKIT:

The 2024 JCLA cohort was tasked with addressing mental health in Erie County. Through its journey to Harrisburg and throughout the county together, it focused on impacting the next generation.

Teenagers in Erie County, Pennsylvania, face mental health concerns at a rate above the commonwealth average. This cohort sought to determine what barriers local mental health care professionals perceive as most restricting to teens' access to evidence-based care and what actions can be taken to improve that access to care.

Through a mixed methods approach, the cohort's report, **"It's Broken, So Let's Fix It: Access and Barriers to Youth Mental Health Services in Erie County, Pennsylvania,"** revealed five core themes: the barriers to access, the need for coordination of services, the role of schools in accessing mental health services, reducing mental health stigma, and improvement to the youth mental health care system.

Improvements to the mental health care system will need to be addressed at the federal, state, and local levels. The cohort's chief recommendation is an improved system of communication and coordination between local stakeholders. Effective collaboration will make or break the implementation of better mental health care in Erie County.

In addition to its full report, the 2024 cohort created a toolkit for community members to utilize for mental health support and resources. Explore its toolkit at eriyouthmatter.com



LEADERSHIP ACADEMY 2024 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 2024 JCLA cohort joins state Rep. Ryan Bizarro at his Harrisburg office during its retreat. Reps. Pat Harkins and Robert Merski also met with the cohort in Harrisburg in June 2024.

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.

JEFFERSON CIVIC LEADERSHIP ACADEMY GRADUATES

2024 GRADUATES

Angela Amatangelo, Family Services of NW PA
 Anna Chemsak, Safe Harbor Behavioral Health of UPMC Hamot
 Kathryn DiVittorio, Corry Higher Education Council
 Carolyn Dunn, Erie County Community College
 Alyson Eagle, Gannon University
 Shateria Franklin, United Way of Erie County
 Gabrielle Genua, Safe Harbor Behavioral Health of UPMC Hamot
 Alivia Haibach, Multi-Cultural Health Evaluation Delivery System
 Pat Harkins, EMTA
 Anna Hartvigson, kate & co.
 Mabel Howard, Bethany Outreach Center
 Lori Krause, United Way of Erie County
 Adam Macrino, Hagen History Center
 Carly Manino, National Fuel
 Sarah McCall, Erie County Public Library
 Kristin McQueeney, Multi-Cultural Health Evaluation Delivery System
 Marva Morris, Zenedge Energy Drinks
 Nancy Morris, Erie Insurance
 Hanna Oleski, City of Erie
 Erika Rey Castro, International Rescue Committee
 Joshua Romesburg, Erie Insurance
 Rachael Sebesta, National Fuel
 Lonnie Sherrod, Give A Crepe
 Jill Simmons, YMCA of Greater Erie
 Dominick Sisinni, National Fuel
 Kenna Stevens, WQLN PBS NPR
 Kyra Taylor, Erie's Black Wall Street
 Bradley Thompson, WQLN PBS NPR

2015-2023 GRADUATES

Breanna Adams, 2016
 Jennifer Allen, 2023
 Matthew Allen, 2019
 Lynn Armel, 2022
 Kevin Arrington, 2015
 Niken Astari, 2016
 Lauren Azotea, 2020
 Julie Barry, 2018
 Jacob Bartko, 2021
 Angela Beaumont, 2015
 Jada Best, 2018
 Nathan Bish, 2019
 Jeff Bloodworth, 2019
 Mapu Boayue, 2022
 Paige Bosnyak, 2017
 Kristin Bowers, 2017
 Carissa Brandt, 2018
 Jay Breneman, 2016
 Joelyn Bush, 2017
 Michelle Butler, 2016
 Gabrielle Catrabone, 2022
 Raven Clark, 2022
 James Omar Clea, 2020
 Dawayne Cleckley, 2015
 Correy Connelly, 2018
 Chanel Cook, 2015
 Aaron Coseo, 2022
 Lisa Counasse, 2015
 Meagan Cousins, 2017
 Kurt Crays, 2018
 Joseph Cuneo, 2019
 Chelsea Curlett, 2018
 Amanda Cypher (Iadeluca), 2016
 Emily Dauber, 2017
 Dusti Dennis, 2018
 Jamie Dolmovich, 2022
 Damali Donovan, 2023
 Brian Dorio, 2016
 Patrick Duda, 2017
 John Durlin, 2020
 Joylene Ehrich, 2018
 Emma Eisert-Wlodarczyk, 2019
 Tamer Fahmy, 2023
 Jennifer Farrar, 2015
 Susannah Faulkner, 2021
 Ferki Ferati, 2016
 Veronica Fields, 2020
 Lisa Fischer, 2019
 Matt Flowers, 2021
 J. Brian Foht, 2017
 Kevin Forte, 2017
 Bill Frackowiak, 2017
 Kerry Franz, 2015
 Natalia Garcia, 2017
 Jamilia Gates, 2018
 Christine Gerlock, 2023
 Tim Giblin, 2015
 Thomas Glasoe, 2021
 Carla Gore, 2023
 Shelby Graml, 2020
 Randalee Gross, 2020
 Varun Gupta, 2016
 Dharma Gurung, 2023
 Melinda Hall, 2021
 Michelle Hartmann, 2020
 Donald Hatheway, 2022
 Riki Hay, 2017
 Kati Hecker, 2017
 Andrew Henderson, 2015
 Zachary Herron, 2022
 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
 Cassandra Jones, 2023
 Jacob Jones, 2023
 Latice Jones, 2023
 Mandi Johnson, 2022

Patreece Johnson, 2018
 Alyssa Johnson, 2021
 Alison Kaminski, 2016
 Andrew Kerr, 2017
 Stephanie King, 2021
 Hannah Kirby, 2015
 Ericka Knight, 2019
 Andrew Kochirka, 2016
 Bill 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, 2020
 Douglas Massey, 2022
 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, 2022
 Stephanie Montgomery, 2018
 Tori Moore, 2018
 April Morrison, 2015
 Sarah Morrison, 2023
 Keith Moses, 2015
 Justin Norris, 2021
 Martha Nwachukwu, 2019
 Marwah Obaid, 2018

Chelsea Oliver, 2021
 Zara Ostrander, 2023
 Michael Outlaw, 2018
 Tiffanie Page-Collazo, 2016
 Ryan Palm, 2016
 Autumn Parker, 2022
 Katie Patterson, 2022
 Katherine Peppers, 2023
 Emily Perrotta, 2019
 Samuel Peterson, 2023
 Katie Phillips, 2023
 Matt Platz, 2023
 Kevin Pollock, 2015
 Keith Jones Pomeroy, 2022
 Kevin Pratt, 2023
 Zaida Pring, 2023
 Sara Provencio, 2021
 LeeAnne Pukylo, 2020
 Shawnta Pulliam, 2015
 Deng Rag, 2020
 Veronica Rexford, 2015
 Lesley Ridge, 2015
 Kyle Rodney, 2022
 Belinda Rogers, 2020
 Nathan Ross, 2020
 Colin Russ, 2022
 Ashley Russell, 2021
 Daniel Salamone, 2020
 Susmita Sarki, 2022
 Kevin Schaaf, 2017
 Cole Schenley, 2019
 William Scholz, 201
 Erin Sekerak, 2022
 Arvin Sharifbaev, 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, 2022
 Robert Tate, 2020
 Nick Taylor, 2018
 Tywonn Taylor, 2022
 Tiffany Thomas, 2016
 Corinne Thomas, 2021
 Clark Tieman, 2022
 Anna Tischenko, 2023
 Tyler Titus, 2017
 Jenny Tompkins, 2022
 Hilda Torres, 2022
 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, 2022
 Karin Wickwire, 2021
 Michael Wiertel, 2016
 Brad Wiertel, 2017
 Brian Wilking, 2021
 Ben Wilson, 2021
 Erin Wincek, 2015
 Nina Wolfarth, 2015
 Perry Wood, 2016
 Terrell Woodard, 2023
 Jessica Yochim, 2017
 Andona Zacks-Jordan, 2019
 Andrea Zdaniewski, 2017
 Brian Zona, 2018
 * deceased

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.

RAIMY FELLOWS AND RAIMY IDEAS:

- “Country Music, Culture Wars, and Politics: Exploring Intersectionality at the Ballot Box” by **Chelsea Oliver**
- “Homelessness: A National Issue with Local Impact,” by **Damali Donovan**
- “Empowering Erie: Building Bridges for Childcare Solutions” by **Tamer Fahmy**
- “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**

LYNCH'S HISTORY BOOK LEADS BANNER YEAR FOR PUBLICATIONS

The release of Dr. Judy Lynch's history book, "America's Early Frontier: Economic History of Northwestern Pennsylvania (1753-2024)," was the crown jewel of another highly productive year for Jefferson writers and researchers.

Lynch's book, published in late fall, culminated the decade-long work by Lynch and several researchers to produce a unique publication – the first-ever regional history (Erie, Crawford, Venango, Warren counties); the first-ever compilation of important local and regional historians; the first-ever regional economics history; and explaining the natural history that formed the foundation for economic development in the region. It also includes a highly readable digest of leading industries and companies, past and present.

In short, Lynch's book – narrative, sourcing, illustrations, analysis – gives detailed context to how northwestern Pennsylvania developed historically and economically. It is on sale at the Jefferson Educational Society, online at JESerie.org, at Werner Books, and other outlets.



Dr. Judy Lynch at her program and book release in August 2024 poses for a picture with eager event attendees, Thao Kim Tran and Marissa Hoffacker.

OTHER WRITING STANDOUTS

Many writers contributed to an outstanding year of Jefferson Publications that numbers 180 total. Leading the list were 164 "Quick, Timely Reads" articles by David Frew (48), Andy Roth (42), Debbie DeAngelo (25), Parris Baker (23), and Diane Chido (22). Other writers were Court Gould, Ben Spегgen, Lena Surzhko-Harned, Phil English, and Jack Veiga.



Lena Surzhko-Harned

The Jefferson also produced 14 reports, including 12 on the Early Childhood Investment Policy Initiative led by Court Gould, who also wrote the ECIPI Final Report. Jefferson Vice President Ben Spегgen's report work centered on the Heartlands Transformation Network.

Dr. Andy Roth wrote the lone full essay, "Charles Brock: An Appreciation," in May 2024, bringing the total number of essays to 19.

The JES had 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.

TOP 10 PUBLICATIONS IN 2024

REPORT - 'Blue Wall Politics': Inside the Key Heartland Battlegrounds Deciding the US Election, by Meriem Hamiou

REPORT - Positioning Erie to Prosper and Compete: Child Care School for Infants and Toddlers is Key to Future of Workforce and Economy, by Court Gould

On the Waterfront: From Erie's Downtown YMCA to Port Dover, by David Frew

Truth in Love: What Happened to Responsible Republicans? by Parris Baker

Book Notes #189: Happy Halloween, by Andrew Roth

Book Notes #190: Glaude's Book Is About Far More Than Leadership, by Andrew Roth

Truth in Love: Protector or Pimp, by Parris Baker

On the Waterfront: Ice Fishing and Bay Rat Adventures, by David Frew

Be Well: Random Acts of Kindness, by Debbie DeAngelo

Wider World: Lessons from Colombia's 50-Year Civil War, by Diane Chido

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, 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.

Parris Baker, Ph.D. – Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Diane Chido, M.S., M.A. – Writer and lecturer

Michael DeSanctis, Ph.D. – Lecturer

Paul Gambill, M.A. – Program Development

David Frew, Ph.D. – Writer, author, lecturer

Baher Ghosheh, Ph.D. – Immigration

Johnny Johnson, M.Ed. – Education

Judy Lynch, Ph.D. – Decadian Scholar, writer, author, lecturer

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

Andrew Roth, Ph.D. – Writer, author, lecturer

Lena Surzhko-Harned, Ph.D. – Writer and lecturer

You Are Helping Us Fulfill Our Mission



Baher Ghosheh, Ph.D.

The Jefferson Educational Society reached many milestones in 2024. The JES served our community in so many different ways. The main campus on State Street and our satellite locations – on the east side at (ECAT), Harborcreek, Corry, Fairview, and Edinboro – provided varied programming that focused on issues important to our community on an almost daily basis.

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. Of note, our Decadian scholar Dr. Judy Lynch finished her vital research on the economic history of Erie. After two decades of work, Judy's book, "America's Early Frontier: Economic History of Northwestern Pennsylvania (1753-2024)," was published in fall and is a must read for enthusiasts of history, economics, and the Erie region.

The JES Scholars-in-Residence published articles on a near-daily basis that cover issues of history, health, politics, and northwestern Pennsylvania. The JES in the past year also added Diane Chido, Michael DeSanctis, and Lena Surzhko-Harned to the JES distinguished scholar-in residence program that includes Judy Lynch, Andy Roth, David Frew, Parris Baker, Paul Gambill, Christine Riehl, and Johnny Johnson.

Once again, the Global Summit, our 16th, brought vital information and research from across the country to share with our audiences. The JES set a record for the largest paid educational event in Erie history as Liz Cheney and Sr. Joan Chittister attracted 3,300 attendees. We had to move several events to larger venues to meet the growing community demand as record crowds showed up for most events, including a record turnout from students. Our partnership with Gannon University continues to flourish and has proven to be a mutually beneficial and vital relationship.

The Brock Institute continues the mission that the Rev. Charles Brock started as Dr. Andrew Roth stepped up and assumed interim directorship of the program. Andy has been most generous with his time and talents as he also directs the Raimy Fellowship Program. He is a prolific writer and a gifted and very popular presenter at the JES. We are fortunate and grateful for all his valuable contributions.

The JES leadership, staff, and volunteers 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, Vice President Ben Speggen, and the entire JES team for a job well done, again.

The Jefferson Educational Society 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, community leaders 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 Christine Riehl

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

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

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

Tamer Fahmy – Trustee – System Engineer at Erie Insurance Group, and Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy Alumni Board Chair

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

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

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

Dale McBrier – Trustee – Co-Owner, Lyndal Enterprises

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

Doris Stawniak Pinski – Trustee – President, Brith Sholom Congregation

Bruce Raimy – Vice-Chairman – Chairman, Raimy Corporation

Christine Riehl – Secretary – JES Adult Learner Representative

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.

Tim Spaeder – Trustee – Retired, Partner at William T. Spaeder

Jeff Szumigale – Trustee – Senior Vice President, PNC Bank

Tom Tupitza, Esq. – Trustee – President, Knox Law Firm

TRUSTEE EMERITAS

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

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 the 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 a coal miner and a

healthcare assistant, he is a 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.

Executive Administrative Coordinator



Three years ago, Christine began her professional journey at the JES. Her administrative responsibilities have grown to include relationship building with JES Members and volunteers while working to ensure the sustainability of the JES with the Agora Circle. One of the best parts of her job is working daily with an amazing team who support each other professionally and personally. As an Edinboro University graduate with a double major in Women's Studies and

Anthropology, she served in AmeriCorps as a VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) and as a VISTA Leader. In 2024 she participated in the Lake Erie Lit Fest as the Vendor Coordinator and recently joined the board of the Erie Blues & Jazz Fest. Beyond her professional work, Christine is passionate about advocating for her mom, defending social justice and equity, refining her cursive, and reminding her beloved Bichon, Nu, that he is a good boy.

CHELSEA OLIVER, M.A.

Director of Marketing and Community Development



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, she fully immersed herself in multiple ways throughout Erie County, and fell in love with the area, its potential for growth, and its people. Chelsea called Corry home for

ten years, serving on various boards and Corry City Council. As of 2024, Chelsea is now a proud resident of downtown Erie and serves on the Board of Directors for Erie's Black Wall Street and the Crime Victims Center. She is a 2021 JCLA graduate, 2024 Raimy Fellow, 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 and served as the executive director from April 2014 through March 2022. He joined the Jefferson team in 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, member of the Erie Reader's 2020 class of 40 Under 40 and volunteers with several local organizations, currently serving as the Vice Chair for Meals on Wheels of Erie, Treasurer for Community Access Media (CAM), Grants Committee Chair for the Emerging Erie Fund, and Selection Committee Member for the New Blossoms New Life Foundation.

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.

DEA WOODWARD, M.B.A.

Finance Coordinator



Jefferson Finance Coordinator, 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 in 2013 while working full-time. Dea is a dedicated member of the Victory Christian Center Cathedral of Erie, Inc., where she serves on the Bishop's Council team, choir and kitchen committee. 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, son-in-law Pastor Marcus Yuille and her beautiful granddaughters, Amarra and Azariah. Dea enjoys traveling, cooking, singing and spending time with her grandchildren.

THYME SMILEY, B.A.

Administrative Assistant



A Pittsburgh expat, Thyme moved to Erie to attend PennWest Edinboro University. They received their bachelor's degree in fine arts in 2023. After graduating, they worked as a Law Enforcement Response Specialist at IP Services. Having recently joined the JES team, if you haven't seen them at one of our JES events, you more than likely heard them over the phone.

CHLOE FORBES, B.A.

Copy Editor



An Erie County native, Chloe is a local journalist who has worked for over 14 publications. She currently writes for the Erie Reader, and she is a writer, copy editor, and page designer at The Meadville Tribune. She graduated from Gannon University in 2021, where she was editor-in-chief of The Gannon Knight. She then became a reporter for The Corry Journal before moving up to the position of editor. Her passion for print often intersects with the educational

sector as she believes quality education is the keystone of a thriving community. If not in the newsroom, Chloe enjoys yoga, knitting, playing drums, reading, or being rink-side at Erie Otters games.

SUPPORT STAFF

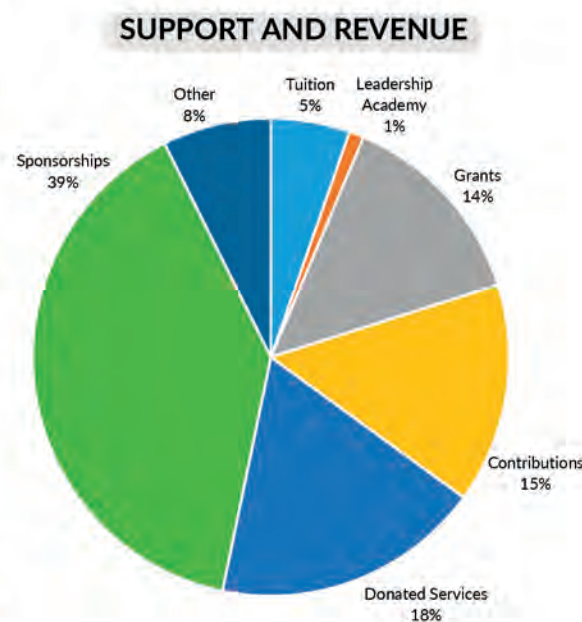
Olivia Wickline, Leanne Viera, Matthew Harvey, Bailey Kroell, Jonas Bruno, Mikayla Habursky, Yanis Sidmohand, Dey'ana Freeman

With more than 84% of our expenses dedicated to program services, the JES team remains confident our priorities are in the right order. 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 the JES home office and five satellite locations; the Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy; publications and books, and community research projects.

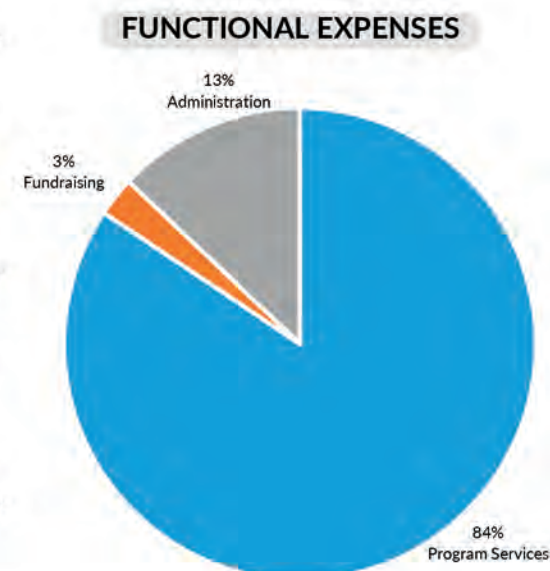
JEFFERSON EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY OF ERIE, INC.

Statement of Financial Position at August 31, 2024 and 2023 and images updated below.

	August 31	
	2024	2023
ASSETS		
Current Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 348,897	\$ 224,826
Pledges receivable	435,000	719,692
Other receivable	22,349	-
Accounts receivable	31,295	500
Inventory	59,361	20,481
Prepaid expenses	59,108	30,992
Total current assets	956,010	996,491
Property and equipment	1,735,023	1,725,879
Less: accumulated depreciation	674,013	617,769
	1,061,010	1,108,110
Long-term pledges receivable, net of discount of \$129,757 and \$212,525 at August 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively	920,243	1,097,475
Endowment	588,799	518,858
Total Assets	\$ 3,526,062	\$ 3,720,934



	August 31	
	2024	2023
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 68,464	\$ 36,318
Lines of credit	262,171	423,290
Deferred revenue	150,000	215,000
Accrued expenses	20,933	13,200
Current portion of long-term obligations	42,394	44,180
Total current liabilities	543,962	731,988
Long-term obligations, less current portion	372,893	411,107
Net Assets:		
Without donor restrictions	804,105	457,184
With donor restrictions	1,805,102	2,120,655
Total net assets	2,609,207	2,577,839
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 3,526,062	\$ 3,720,934



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 nonpartisan, nondenominational 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.

