

# JEFFERSON EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

*Celebrating 15 Years  
of Impact in the Erie Community*  
2023 ANNUAL REPORT



# YEARS

Dear Friends,



*Jefferson President Dr. Ferki Ferati*

It is a privilege to be leading your Jefferson Educational Society into its quinquennial anniversary. An organization that remains a nonpartisan, community think-tank, the JES was created with a mission to examine the past, study the present, and explore the future to bring progress to our community – a mission we remain as committed today as we were in 2008.

This platform was founded in the great recession in 2008 by Dr. William Garvey (President and Board Secretary), Dr.

Judy Lynch (Chairwoman), Bruce Raimy (Vice Chairman), Charles Caryl (Treasurer), and 10 other Erie citizens who were concerned that Erie lagged other cities and towns when it came to civic education, and thus community development ideas were taking too long to emerge. In almost every statistical category including poverty, population growth, education, economic development, inclusivity, Erie had fallen behind its peers, the state, and the nation.

Yet, our founders believed that Erie had great bones – a resilient nonprofit sector; first-rate higher education institutions; three growing hospitals; many thriving businesses committed to its future; a committed community foundation; and more – all located in place along the beautiful shoreline of Lake Erie envied by all who visit it.

What was missing? One of the answers they came up with was a platform modeled after the Brookings Institution (for its research) and 92th Street Y (for its programmatic format).

Over the past 15 years, together with you, our members, our supporters, attendees of our programming, readers of our publications, we've had a phenomenal journey, having gone from an organization that first offered a modest number of lectures and publications at a single location to having become a community asset headquartered at the intersection of 32nd and State streets now with five satellite locations offering scores more lectures per year; a publication division producing nearly 200 products per year; a civic leadership academy; a world-class conference in the Global Summit speaker series; a nine-member scholar-in-residence program; and an audience measuring in the thousands.

In this report, you'll see the JES story and our impact in Erie and beyond. You'll read about the role the JES has played in helping ignite Erie's renaissance – unlike any seen in at least 100 years. You'll see that Erie's nonpartisan think tank is unique and has caught the attention of many across the country both for its role in community renewal and for providing the civic education desperately needed in a democracy.

Experts have spoken, and we have listened. The likes of Deborah and James Fallows, Judy Woodruff and Al Hunt, Ian Morris, Darrell West, Doris Kearns Goodwin, Camille Busette, President George W. Bush, and many others have said that a JES is needed in almost every small town in America. Thanks to the hard work of our team and the partnerships with the Our Towns Civic Foundation, the University of Redlands, and Esri, we introduced Global Summit programming outside of Erie for the first time, hosting four events in Redlands, California. Thanks to others, like Community Heart & Soul, members of which we featured in a panel discussion during a program in Erie, and Erie's Community Access Media, we streamed Global Summit programming happening in Erie and Redlands into households nationwide, creating simultaneous shoulder-to-shoulder and screen-to-screen learning experiences.

The size of a city or town is not a measure of its intellectual thirst and capacity. As we look at the years ahead, our goal is to continue providing Erie with the type of think-tank activity that would rival any major city. Erie will always be our home, and we believe we have created something special here. As we continue to do our work in Erie, together, we will make our corner of the world one of the most exciting and promising regions in the 21st century. We also know that our success should not be a secret we keep to ourselves. As the country continues to grapple with the many challenges we face today, we believe our work can serve as a model for a locally led, bottom-up approach not just to save democracy but to make it stronger so that it endures for decades to come. Our model – a platform for civil civic dialogue – has had, and continues to have, an impact in making our community a better place. It also has the potential to have similar impacts in other smaller cities and towns nationwide – an effort begun and carried out from Erie, Pennsylvania.

As the Jefferson embarks on its 15th year – a time that calls both for reflection on the past and exploration of the future in the present – I invite you to read on. In the pages ahead, you'll see what the JES has accomplished, is working on now, and will engage in the future. I also invite you to share with our team your fondest memories, your learning experiences, and what you hope to see moving forward. Lastly, I invite you to continue your support of your community asset. We are not able to do any of this important work without your support and your participation. The JES was founded 15 years ago to be the community's think tank for progress, and the mission lives on.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "F. Ferati". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Ferki Ferati, Ed.D.  
President



# The Jefferson's Impact

*A community gathering place. A platform for civil civic dialogue.  
An incubator for ideas. A catalyst for local progress.  
A place where the past is examined, the present is studied,  
and the future is explored.*

Those are a few of the words and phrases used to describe the Jefferson Educational Society over the years. **Monday, Sept. 29, 2023, will mark 15 years since the Jefferson first opened its doors** at 3207 State Street in Erie, Pennsylvania. Such milestones invite opportunities both to reflect and to look ahead.

When it first opened, the Jefferson founders began humbly but with ambitions for growth. In 2008, the JES held just a handful of events, averaging just a dozen attendees per event, and a publications division had not yet been created. Today, the nonpartisan think tank annually **hosts scores of programs** – spanning a diverse gamut of topics – and **produces scores of publications** – from quick, timely reads and essays to reports and books.

Its team also operates a **civic leadership academy**, now with nearly 200 graduates since 2015, and began offering participants a more advanced study of leadership coupled with individualized research projects with the **Raimy Fellowship**, program in 2018. The institution routinely features the work of regional scholars and also draws from its growing **Scholars-in-Residence** corps, which it also launched in 2018.

Part of the Jefferson mission is to start critical conversations that spur informed action through citizenship education. But what has that specifically looked like over the years?

## Consider the study of Erie's past.

As 2012 neared, many Erieities grew excited that the year would mark the passing of two centuries since Oliver Hazard Perry hoisted the Don't Give Up the Ship flag and won the Battle of Lake Erie. From

2012 to 2013, the Jefferson led the nation's most comprehensive bi-centennial celebration of the War of 1812 with the **Perry 200 Commemoration**. The two-year-long tribute featured 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.



*The Perry 200 Commemoration's Grand Patriotic Parade was held on May 25, 2013.*

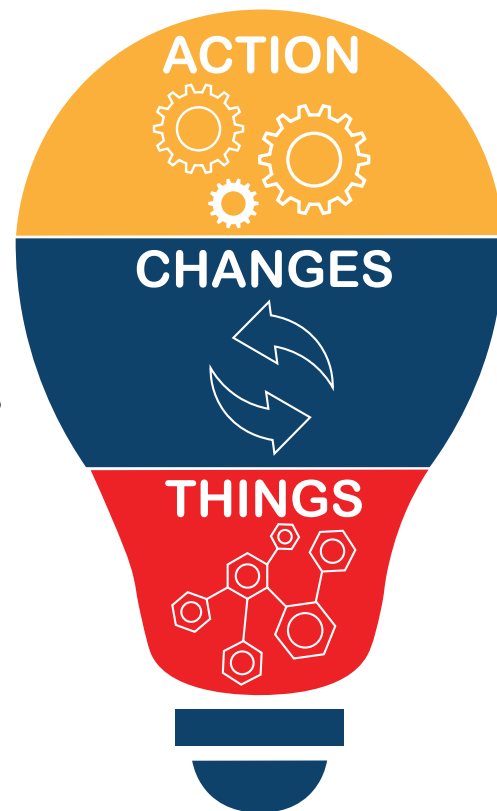
The Jefferson has also partnered with the Erie County Historical Society. Together, they have co-hosted events, and shared resources to revise the Journal of Erie Studies, a publication dedicated to preserving and unearthing Erie's history.

## Consider, also, the planning of Erie's future.

In 2010, at the second Global Summit speaker series, the JES hosted Dave Porter of the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce. Porter discussed "Regional Re-invention," and the **impact that smart planning**



*Dave Porter, Global Summit 2010 speaker and Economic Development expert*



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Erie community leaders (left) discuss the "Erie Inclusive Recovery Investment Playbook" as presented by Bruce Katz, top right, and Florian Schalliol in July 2022.

had in Austin. That event helped inspire new community plans, such as Emerge 2040 (2013), Erie County's regional plan; Erie Refocused (2016), the city's comprehensive plan; and #PositivelyCorry (2021), the city's 10-year strategic plan; and more.

A household name in Erie now, the JES first brought renowned planner **Bruce Katz** to Erie in 2014. Then, Katz presented on his book, "The Metropolitan Revolution: How Cities and Metros are Fixing Our Broken Politics and Fragile Economy," and returned less than a year later to participate in the think tank's inaugural Metro 100 symposium that gathered community leaders and stakeholders together to learn from Katz and other policy experts about how to build on Erie's momentum. Out of those conversations came an examination of Erie's **advanced industries** – the region boasts more per capita than the average area – and to explore the potential of **innovation districts** and locally deployed **high-speed internet**.

Katz returned to Erie yet again, both as a keynote speaker at the Jefferson's 10th Anniversary Gala, and at the 2017 Global Summit, when he discussed his latest book, "The New Localism: How Cities Can Thrive in the Age of Populism," which includes reporting on Erie. Former Pittsburgh **Mayor Tom Murphy** moderated the discussion, and Murphy's appearance at the Summit led to a

working relationship with the Urban Land Institute.

Katz continues to focus on Erie. At the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, he and JES Vice President Ben Spегgen co-authored a report detailing why and how Erie served as a proxy for the nation when it came to the future of Main Street businesses amid the crisis. Notably, it gained the attention of lawmakers on Capitol Hill. More recently, Katz, with his New Localism colleague Florian Schalliol, developed an investment playbook detailing some 35 projects totaling more than \$1.1 billion of potential investment in the wake of the trillions of dollars flowing from the federal government in response to the pandemic. A "living document," **Infinite Erie** is now executing the playbook, and the JES continues to deploy its think tank resources to the cause.



Charles Buki addresses Erie's comprehensive, multiyear development plan at the JES Metro event in 2016.

Another Metro 100 event featured czb, LLC's **Charles Buki** and **Peter Lombardi**, chief architects of the Erie Refocused plan. After the plan was released to the public, leaders in both the public and private sectors wanted to begin implementing it but also wanted to be informed in the process. The JES hosted the event, which also featured veteran journalist and Our Towns co-founder James Fallows, during which the idea to create a downtown-focused development corporation emerged.

Fallows was no stranger to Erie. He had visited the region earlier that year when his wife and fellow reporter, **Deborah Fallows**, presented at the Jefferson on the modernization of community libraries in the 21st century – a topic she had been covering for The Atlantic magazine. Intrigued by what they saw in Erie, the Fallowses returned to report on the region, which led Erie to become the final city featured in their 2018 New York Times bestselling book, "Our Towns: A 100,000-Mile Journey into the Heart of America," based on their travels and reporting.

The Fallowses returned to Erie to speak at the 2018 Global Summit and were named honorary Erie citizens by Mayor Joe Schember and received the Thomas B. Hagen Dignitas Award. Since then, the book was optioned by HBO, which produced a documentary based on it, and the Fallowses launched their Our





*James Fallows and Deborah Fallows, authors of "Our Towns" and Global Summit presenters.*

Towns Civic Foundation to continue their reporting. They partnered with the JES in 2022 as the Jefferson worked to **expand the Global Summit nationwide**.

The idea to expand the Summit grew out of the doctoral research done by JES President Dr. Ferki Ferati. He studied the history and impact, the successes and failures of the Chautauqua Movement, which, at its height, had some 500 chapters nationwide to bring citizenship education to areas most in need – places today referred to as **"civic deserts."**

The JES team has frequently heard from presenters at the Global Summit comments such as PBS Newshour's **Judy Woodruff** made in 2022 from the Highmark Events Center stage at Gannon University:

**"What the Jefferson Educational Society is doing is the kind of thing we wish there was in every city in America."**

In 2022, the JES turned a proof of idea – **hosting Global Summit programming outside of Erie** – into proof of concept, hosting 15 events in Erie, and four events in **Redlands, California**. The JES also, for the first time, live-streamed those in-person events so that audiences nationwide, wherever they may be, could tune in.

This, however, was not the first time the JES featured virtual programming. Just a month after closing its doors at the onset

of the pandemic, the JES team pivoted to virtual programs, and hosted more than 150 over a year and a half. The JES continues to offer virtual-only events, and in-person-only events, but now features learning opportunities shared both shoulder-to-shoulder and screen-to-screen simultaneously. The JES has since released the recordings of those events on its website with more to come in the future.

But before the expansion of the Summit, the Jefferson expanded its programming throughout Erie County with **Jefferson Satellite Programming**. After an internal study to measure the Jefferson's reach and impact, it became clear that the farther people lived in Erie County from the Jefferson, the less likely they were to engage with the think tank.

To ensure that geography and location would not be barriers of access to the educational fare it offers, the Jefferson team launched its Jefferson Satellite Programming in 2019 in **Corry at the Higher Education Council** and in **Fairview at the Lincoln Community Center**, a branch location of the Erie County Public Library. Since then, programming has been added in **Edinboro on the campus of PennWest Edinboro**, and in the eastside of the city of Erie at the **Erie Center for Arts and Technology** with additional sites to come.



*Since June 2022, JES has partnered with ECAT at its East Sixth Street site (the former Wayne School) on educational programming.*

Rather than acquire building and space, the JES has worked with partners in these locations to bring JES programming into these communities. The team worked with area residents to design and shape

curriculum to address their needs and interests.

**Along the way**, the Jefferson has hosted Health Summits for the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine, and Civics Days for Erie Insurance. Its team has served as project managers for projects like the Erie Racial Justice Policy Initiative, connecting local public policy advocacy groups to bleeding-edge researchers, like Brookings Institution's Senior Fellow Camille Busette. It has launched and advanced the work of the Brock Institute for Mega Issues Education and installed a public library room. It has worked with Erie's Public Schools on strategic planning and hosted state-level community discussions on critical topics. The team has networked with scholars and think tanks inside the Capital Beltway and across the Atlantic and has had its research cited by national and international scholars. It has formed partnerships with area anchors, like Celebrate Erie, the Corry Higher Education Council, the Erie Center for Arts and Technology, the Erie Community Foundation, the Erie County Community College, Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, Erie Insurance, LECOM, the Erie Philharmonic, the Erie Playhouse, Gannon University, the Lincoln Community Center, Penn State Behrend, PennWest Edinboro, United Way of Erie County, WQLN Public Media, and many others, like the 35 sponsors and partners of the 2022 Global Summit. It has also **grown a membership** that began in 2011 with nearly 100 members to one today steadily approaching a goal of a thousand or more.



*DOs Patrick Leary, Greg Coppola, James Lin, Joshua Tuck, present at Health Summit in 2017.*



*Judy Woodruff meets with Saegertown High School students at Global Summit 2022.*

Because of the community support, the price of admission to JES events remains the same today since Monday, Sept. 29, 2008. What has changed: More than 70 percent of the programming offered today is free of charge. One-hundred percent of programming is free to all Erie County students. And scholarship opportunities are available to those experiencing a need, because our team and Board of Trustees believe that financial circumstances should never be a barrier of access to citizenship education.

Thanks to the support of our members, our partners, our supporters, the JES has helped tell Erie's story locally and beyond, garnering attention in the likes of The Atlantic, The New York Times, Washington Post, and by Brookings, the Center for



*Global Summit speaker and foreign policy expert Fiona Hill signs books for JES patrons.*

Strategic and International Studies, the Heritage Foundation, and more.

We believe Erie's story – how the community has risen at times of opportunity, addressed challenges as they come – is important for both local residents and those living beyond the county the JES calls home. That is what drives our work, and our expansion, locally and nationally in the spirit of creating space where residents can gather to learn about the past and present of their democracy, and be a part of making informed decisions about its future.

Perhaps, then, it is more than coincidence that on the same day the JES was founded in 2008, the Dow Jones Industrial Average plunged 777 points. Just three weeks earlier, the federal government had taken control of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the largest mortgage financing companies in the U.S. In January 2008, concerns of a U.S. recession had sent stocks plummeting on Jan. 21. The subprime mortgage crisis of 2007 stretched on.

Yet, the JES's Founders were undeterred. Perhaps then, at a moment of national crisis, a local think tank – a community gathering place, a platform for civil civic dialogue, an incubator for ideas, a catalyst for local-level of progress – was needed more than ever.

The phrasing of states functioning as “laboratories of democracy” emerged in 1932, thanks to U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Louis Brandeis. In the case of *New State Ice Co. vs. Liebmann*, Brandeis asserted that states could experiment, attempt novel things. Ideas could be stress-tested. If ineffective, such experimenting wouldn't disrupt the federal system. But if validated and valuable, they could be fed up to the national level.

Like then, and like in 2008, the United States again faces enormous challenges. One needn't search further than cable news to learn the country is at a crossroads, democracy in peril.

Today, communities are those laboratories. Communities are the building blocks of democracy. If cracked, they reveal how fragile our democracy can be. But if fortified by informed and civil civic dialogue through ongoing citizenship education, a brighter future will yet be built.



*Global Summit signs greet downtown visitors in Perry Square.*

The JES team, Board of Trustees, volunteers, members, attendees, presenters, scholars, and experts know the power, role and potential of a community-based think tank.

**As a community gathering place.**

**A platform for civil civic dialogue.**

**An incubator for ideas.**

**A catalyst for local progress.**

**A place where the past is examined, the present is studied, and the future is explored.**

That's a story worth sharing, and one in need of being told far and wide.





## RECORD 19 EVENTS TAKE SUMMIT TO NEW HEIGHTS

Just as former President George W. Bush took the Jefferson Global Summit speaker series to a new level in 2021, the 2022 Summit lineup was the most ambitious in the Jefferson's history with a record number of 15 events in Erie and four others in Redlands, California.

The Summit has truly become an annual staple on Erie's civic calendar and the largest speaker series in the region, having featured more than 170 of the most respected scholars, writers, and leaders in the nation since its inception in 2008.

Esteemed speakers in 2022 drew a combined audience of thousands at programs at Gannon University, the Jefferson Educational Society, and in Redlands, California. Headliners included Al Hunt and Judy Woodruff, Fiona Hill, John Dickerson, John Calipari and Jon Wertheim, Rashawn Ray, Karl Rove, Anahita Panahi, José Muñoz, James Fallows, Charles Brock, John Austin, Tom Bodett, Jay Cost, Elizabeth Strickler, Allen Carroll, Avi Loeb, Dawn Wright, Baher Ghosheh, and Josh Fryday.

### GLOBAL SUMMIT I (2009)

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

### GLOBAL SUMMIT II (2010)

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

### GLOBAL SUMMIT III (2011)

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

### GLOBAL SUMMIT IV (2012)

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

### GLOBAL SUMMIT V (2013)

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

### GLOBAL SUMMIT VI (2014)

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

### GLOBAL SUMMIT VII (2015)

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

### 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.



E.J. DIONNE



PAUL KENNEDY



ALICE M. RIVLIN



KARL ROVE



HARRY MARKOPOLOS



SISTER JOAN CHITTISTER



CKOIE ROBERTS



DORIS KEARNS GOODWIN  
PHOTO BY ANNIE LEIBOVITZ

### 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 (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 EXPANDS WITH OUR TOWNS PARTNERSHIP

### Redlands, California serves as satellite site for JES speaker series

Acclaimed astronomer Avi Loeb opened the Redlands summit by discussing “Extraterrestrials: Are We Alone?” as the Jefferson expanded its Global Summit speaker series to Redlands, California through a new partnership with the Our Towns Civic Foundation, as well as local partners in Redlands: the University of Redlands and Esri.

Other featured speakers included oceanographer Dawn Wright, who presented her studies on the deepest point of Earth’s oceans in “Meeting the Challenges of the Challenger Deep.” Josh Fryday, Chief Service Officer for California, also spoke on “Uniting Americans Through Service: How California is Leading,” and JES Scholar-in-Residence Dr. Ghosheh concluded the summit with his presentation of “Women in Islam.”

The Jefferson is working to further expand the Global Summit in 2023.



Astrophysicist  
Avi Loeb



Oceanographer  
Dawn Wright



California Cabinet  
Member  
Josh Fryday



Jefferson Scholar in  
Residence  
Baher Ghosheh

### Global Summit 2022 Sponsors:

#### Platinum

Thomas B. Hagen Dignitas Award  
Erie Insurance Group  
LECOM Health  
PNC Bank

#### Gold

Gannon University  
Brock Institute  
Erie Community Foundation  
Erie News Now

#### Silver

Printing Concepts, Inc.  
Logistics Plus  
Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority  
Anonymous  
VNET  
Cumulus Radio

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

#### Bronze

WQLN  
Marquette Savings Bank  
RBC Wealth Management  
YourErie.com/Jet24/Fox66

#### Copper

Curtze Food  
MacDonald Illig  
MenjaErie Studio  
Erie Reader  
Jewish Community Council of Erie  
Wm. T. Spaeder Company  
ValueMomentum  
CAM

#### Patron

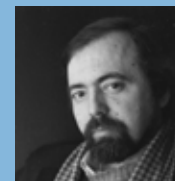
Brith Sholom Congregation  
Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority  
Knox Law  
Erie County Community College  
Humes Chrysler Dodge



## THOMAS B. HAGEN DIGNITAS AWARD HONOREES



2011  
Steve Scully



2012  
Barry Casselman



2013  
Harry Markopolos



2014  
Sister Joan Chittister



2015  
Drs. John and Silvia Ferretti



2016  
Hon. Tom Ridge



2017  
Lt. Gen. James Dubik, Ret.



2018  
James Fallows and  
Deborah Fallows



2019  
Eleanor Smeal



2021  
Robert Pape



2022  
Rev. Charles Brock





*John Dickerson, chief political analyst for CBS News and senior national correspondent, talks about the future of the American presidency with Global Summit Chairman Steve Scully. Dickerson also held a book signing after the event at Gannon University's Highmark Arena.*



*Dr. Fiona Hill fields questions from Jefferson Vice President Ben Speggen. Hill, a foreign policy expert and presidential adviser, discussed U.S.-Russian relations and her critically acclaimed book, "There is Nothing for You Here: Finding Opportunity in the 21st Century," which she signed copies of afterwards.*



*College Hall of Fame basketball coach John Calipari, at right, chats with Jon Wertheim, the editor of Sports Illustrated and a CBS "60 Minutes" correspondent. Wertheim and Calipari, the longtime coach at the University of Kentucky, were featured in the opening event of Global Summit 2022 at the Cathedral Prep auditorium.*



*Brookings Institution Senior Fellow Rashawn Ray talks with audience members after discussing the future of race in America. Dr. Ray pointed out that racial inequality can be confronted through activism and racially uplifting social policy.*



*Political expert Karl Rove discusses the future of the Republican Party as he engages with the crowd and moderator Steve Scully.*



*Anahita Panahi discusses her life experiences and advocacy as she addresses the future of immigration in America. Jefferson Vice President Ben Speggen serves as moderator.*



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

From our modest beginning with only 91 members in 2008, the Jefferson now has 811 members, sponsors, and donors dedicated to education, information, and civic growth. While having to shutter our doors to in-person programming during the Covid-19 pandemic, the JES retained nearly 90 percent of its membership base. This has afforded the think tank the ability to continue its mission while introducing new initiatives, such as free digital programming, which remains available on our website for on-demand streaming.

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

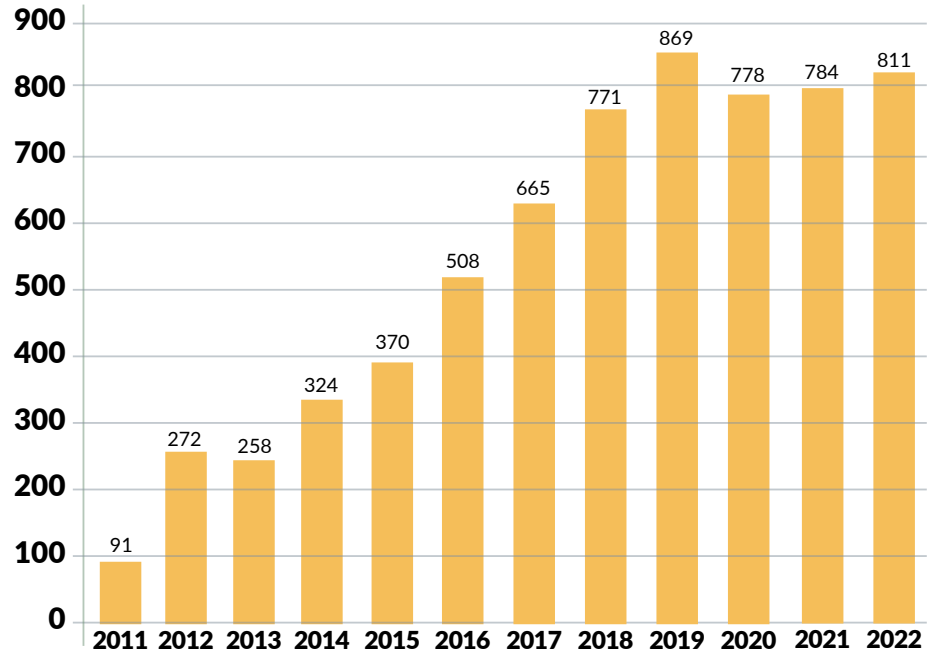
Don't let costs get in the way of learning. If you or someone you know needs tuition help, the JES provides scholarships up to 100 percent.

**Jefferson Educational Society Memberships are Available in the Following Categories:**

**Lifetime Membership: \$10,000+**  
**President's Circle: \$5,000+**  
**Benefactor: \$2,500+**  
**Associate: \$1,000+**  
**Patron: \$500**  
**Supporter: \$250**  
**Contributor: \$100**  
**Friend: \$50**  
**Jeffersonian: \$25**

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

**Growth in Members and Donors from 91 in 2011 to 811 at present**



**Total JES Members and Donors: 811**

**Members, Membership Levels, and Donors**

**FOUNDERS/LIFETIME MEMBERS**

- Charles Brock\*\*
- Sheila Brugger
- Charles and Renee Caryl\*\*
- Dave Chrzanowski\*\*
- Ferki and Katya Ferati
- David and Mary Ann Frew
- Paul and Renee Gambill
- William Garvey\* \*\*
- Baher Ghosheh and Heather Froman
- Thomas B. Hagen\*\*
- Johnny and Angela Johnson
- William and Christine Koehle
- Lynn Lagomarsino
- Rabbi Lifshen\* \*\*
- Mary Lincoln
- Judy Lynch\*\*
- John Malone\*\*
- Dale and Lynn McBrier
- Jeff and Doris Pinski
- Bruce Raimy\*\*
- Denise Robison Mullen
- Andrew and Judy Roth
- Joyce Savocchio\*\*
- William Sennett\* \*\*
- Cecily Sesler
- William Sesler\*
- Tom and Mary Kay Songer\*

\*Deceased  
 \*\* Founding Trustee recognition for the 15th Anniversary.

- Tim Spaeder
- Jeffrey Szumigale\*\*
- Thomas Tupitza

**BENEFACTOR**

- Matt and Karen Clark
- Debbie and Tom Milinovich
- Dennis and Tara Prischak

**ASSOCIATE**

- Pierre and Loretto Bellicini
- Jerry and Wendy Cole
- Larry and Teresa Flatley
- Christine H. McClure and Perrin Baker
- Keith and Linda McGarvey
- Chris Miller
- Thomas and Nancy Songer
- J. Howard and Carol Wright
- Jack and Jean Young

**PATRON**

- Bruce and Kathleen Arkwright
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- Randy and Karrie Biletznikoff
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- Lauren Azotea
- Mark and Bonnie Baker
- Angela Beaumont and Bruce Kibler
- Jake and MacKenzie Bartko
- Mapu Boayue
- James Bolla
- Charles and Renee Caryl
- Gabrielle Catrabone
- Raine Clark



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Karen Willey  
Mary Anne Zeitler

#### CONTRIBUTOR

Kathleen Alessi  
Cherie Andersen  
Carl and Valerie Anderson



Edward and Deborah Tonkin, members since 2013

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

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Deac Manross

*“Although I am totally immersed in history, I find many of the most rewarding Jefferson presentations concern topics about which I am not well informed. To hear completely new information, sometimes surprising, from informed speakers is like a window that offers a new view and fresh air.”*

*Richard Arthur, member since 2014*





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

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*"The Jefferson means so much to me because of the interesting topics presented and the different perspectives provided. JES programs are multigenerational, as I bring my daughter to some of the lectures. I truly believe in life-long learning, and the Jefferson makes that learning possible. The Global Summit speakers, obtained with the help of Steve Scully, are remarkable and fascinating. A well-deserved 'Thank You' to the Jefferson."*

**Karen Miller, member since 2015**





*"Lifelong learning is essential to understanding our history, current events, and future needs to make our society better. The Jefferson Educational Society has made lifelong learning accessible to Erie citizens with a variety of speakers from our community to national leaders."*

*Pierre Bellicini, member since 2018*



*Brookings Institution Senior Fellow Camille Busette returns to the Global Summit stage in 2021 to discuss racial justice and equity at the community level.*

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Sr. Rita Lynch  
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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.*

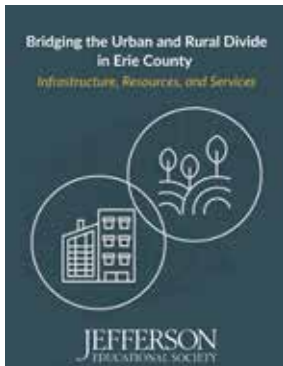
**Parris Baker, Ph.D. – Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**  
**Corrine Egan, B.A. – Women's Studies**  
**Paul Gambill, M.A. – Program Development**  
**David Frew, Ph.D. – Writer, author, lecturer**  
**Baher Ghosheh, Ph.D. – Immigration**  
**Johnny Johnson, M.Ed. – Education**  
**Tom Murphy, M.S. – 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 Civic Leadership Academy 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 Rural and Urban Divide 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.



JCLA participants discuss the 2022 research and program on The Joel Natalie Show. From left to right: Joel Natalie, Raven Clark, Donnie Hatheway, Adam Welsh, and Clark Tieman.



*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 2022 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 2022 JCLA cohort meets with State Senator Dan Laughlin

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. To help inform their research and enrich their experience they often meet with national leaders, such as urban expert and author Bruce Katz, former White House chiefs of staff Andrew Card and Mack McLarty, and John Austin of the Michigan Economic Center, the Brookings Institution, and the Chicago Council of Global Affairs and a European study group that came to Erie for field research during Global Summit 2022.



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

### 2022 GRADUATES

Lynn Armel, former Erie County sustainability coordinator  
Mapu Boayue, UECD/Quality of Life Learning Center  
Gabrielle Catrabone, Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership  
Raven Clark, Jefferson Educational Society  
Aaron Coseo, WQLN NPR/PBS  
Jamie Dolmovich, GECAC  
Donald Hatheway, United Way of Erie County  
Zachary Herron, Printing Concepts  
Mandi Johnson, Corry Area School District  
Keith Jones Pomeroy, Gannon University  
Douglas Massey, Erie County Community College  
Branden Montgomery, Community Access Media  
Autumn Parker, Allegheny College  
Katie Patterson, Penn State Behrend  
Kyle Rodney, Erie Insurance  
Colin Russ, Pricewaterhouse Coopers  
Susmita Sarki, Quality of Life Learning Center  
Erin Sekerak, Junior Achievement of Western Pennsylvania  
Scott Tarasovitch II, Erie Insurance  
Tywonn Taylor, Career & Dreams/Booker T. Washington Center  
Clark Tieman, Penn State Behrend  
Jenny Tompkins, PennFuture  
Hilda Torres, GECAC  
Olivia Wickline, expERIEnce Children's Museum

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Kristin Bowers, 2017  
Carissa Brandt, 2018  
Jay Breneman, 2016  
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Correy Connelly, 2018  
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Lisa Fischer, 2019  
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Corinne Thomas, 2021  
Tyler Titus, 2017  
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  
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

Founded in 2018 and supported by Bruce Raimy, the Raimy Fellowship Program is open to participants from JCLA alumni and the current cohort. Under the supervision of Dr. Andrew Roth, Raimy Fellows candidates study leadership theory and apply their knowledge to a practical policy problem in the Erie region. They emerge prepared to assume an enhanced role in their organizations and in the community. Upon graduation, Raimy Fellows travel to Washington D.C. for meetings in Congress and Senate, national think tank organizations, and media.



## 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**

## The Mission Expands



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

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

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

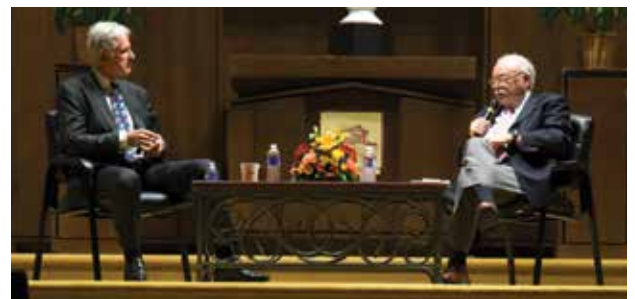
We are not the only country exhibiting these behaviors but make no mistake. Conspiracy theories and phony claims abound. For many, evidence does not count. Instead, rumor has it. Or Twitter. Or Facebook. Or off-the-wall cable news that is unchecked and unbounded regarding reason and facts, endlessly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

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

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

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

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



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

**BROCK**  
INSTITUTE  
FOR MEGA ISSUES EDUCATION



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 pick-up truck bumpers. But the truer version is “Religion, Democracy, and Mission” that 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 is to look at eight historic American crucial cities or 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 is the focus of a new lecture series and a publication at the Brock Institute.

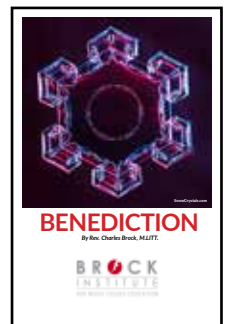
## Holy Warrior Presidents

In 2019, Charles Brock completed his book, *Holy Warrior Presidents: War, Religion, and the American Narrative*. 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 for?” This question, of course, has a historic answer—from the founding of the country to George W. Bush’s presidency, America has been a city on a hill, 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 author Charles Brock through the crucial phase of editing and will publish the book in 2023.

## 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.

## THE JEFFERSON STORY EVOLVES, GROWS

Programming has been a cornerstone of the Jefferson Educational Society since its beginning. Over the years, JES programming has grown and evolved, and the JES team has explored that evolution here with you in our annual reports. From the launch of the annual Global Summit, which itself grew from a two-and-a-half day series to one spread over six weeks, to the total of annual events to more than 100, to the launch of the Satellite Programming initiative throughout Erie County, to the more than 200 digital programs live streamed and broadcast to the public during the pandemic and ongoing, JES programming continues to expand to make our events more accessible to the community in new ways.

In 2022, the JES held in-person events at Gannon University, Cathedral Prep, the Jefferson headquarters at 3207 State Street, and at our satellite programming locations in Erie, Corry, Fairview, and Edinboro. The new JES Community Conversations with Erie stakeholders and elected officials on Fridays at lunchtime were enjoyed by patrons for their fresh and conversational format. Several visiting speakers presented on timely and pressing issues, such as the war in Ukraine, advanced medical planning, Covid-19 and our immune system, and Erie’s inclusive growth framework, as well as “closer to home” topics, such as the work of Barber National Institute founder Gertrude A. Barber and the hydrographic surveying of Lake Erie.

At our newest satellite location at the Erie Center for Arts and Technology, we welcomed the mayors of Aliquippa and Meadville for a conversation about their experience as the first Black mayors of their cities. For our Satellite Programming we partnered with other organizations focused on education, such as the Corry Higher Education Council, the Lincoln Community Center Library in Fairview, Penn West Edinboro, and ECAT on East Sixth Street. We held regular programming at each satellite location that focused on individual communities and the interests and concerns of those living nearby.



The Erie community comes together for a Global Summit presentation at Gannon University.

We held hybrid online and in-person programs at the Jefferson and other sites, such as ECAT, to make our programming more accessible. Fortunately, the interest in the in-person program experience has grown to approximating pre-pandemic audiences. The JES team looks forward to continuing in-person programs at the Jefferson and satellites, and also looks forward to reaching audiences in new, innovative ways. As 2023 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.



Top Fan  
Art Leopold · 31:12  
Good afternoon JES members!

*The Jefferson Education Society is an indispensable resource for international, national, regional, and local insights from real-time experts and newsmakers that invigorates and informs knowledge and helps shape opinion, conversation, and actions. Daily doses of JES publications and presentations, both in-person and virtually, enrich a keen mind and are necessary to enhance an educated viewpoint.*

## 2022 IN REVIEW



### JANUARY:

An Update on the EDDC’s \$100 Million Revitalization of Downtown Erie

Jefferson patrons joined a Friday Community Conversation with EDDC Chief Executive Officer John Persinger for an update on downtown’s progress.

### FEBRUARY:

Erie Women’s Political Strength: Growth and Influence by Three Major Movements

Decadian Scholar Dr. Judy Lynch explored the three major waves that pushed the women’s movement forward and had great implications for Erie County’s elected women.

### MARCH:

Tackling a Tough Topic: Advanced Medical Planning

Dan Morhaim, emergency medicine physician and former Maryland state legislator, provides practical guidance to this challenging and universal topic.

### APRIL:

Erie Earth Day 2022: Invest in Our Lake

Jenny Tompkins of PennFuture provides a brief history of Earth Day, details several of the current direct and indirect threats to water quality, and offers recommendations for everyone.

### MAY:

Take Me Out to the Ball Game’s ‘Feminist’ Origins

JES Scholar Dr. Andrew Roth explores the origins of “Take Me Out to the Ball Game,” its popular culture history, and the light it sheds on women and immigrants in American history.

### JUNE:

Footsteps of Our Fathers: A Discussion on Fatherhood

Featuring Parris Baker, Ph.D., and JES Scholar-in-Residence. This was the first program at the Jefferson’s new satellite location at the Erie Center for Arts and Technology (ECAT).

Photo by Glodi Miessi



# MOST POPULAR PROGRAMS OF 2022

## Gertrude A. Barber: Exploring Her Life and the Journey to Sainthood

Featuring Dr. Maureen Barber-Carey, executive vice president of the Barber National Institute and Monsignor Thomas McSweeney



## What lies Beneath Lake Erie? - Hydrographic Surveying with the NOAA vessel Thomas Jefferson



Featuring Thomas Loeper, Great Lakes Navigation Manager at NOAA

## NATO, Germany, Ukraine: Crucial Next Steps

Featuring Dr. Jackson Janes, President Emeritus AICGS, Johns Hopkins University



## Erie Inclusive Growth: A Framework for Action

Featuring Dr. Bruce Katz and Florian Schalliol of New Localism Associates



## The Ukraine Crisis in Context

Featuring Lt. Gen. James M. Dubik, U.S. Army Retired



## The Role of the Human Immune System during Covid-19

Featuring Dr. Leonard Calabrese, Cleveland Clinic

## Immigration: History, Challenges, and Opportunity in America, Pennsylvania, and Erie

Featuring Dr. Bahar Ghosheh, JES Scholar-in-Residence



## History of Presque Isle: Creating a State Park

Featuring Dr. David Frew, JES Scholar-in-Residence



## MOST POPULAR JEFFERSON SATELLITE PROGRAMS:



## When a Child is Worth More than the Worst Mistake He Ever Made

Featuring Antonio Howard

## The Slap Heard 'Round the World: Why Toxic Masculinity Just Will Not Die

Featuring Dr. Rhonda Matthews



## History of the Corry Area School District

Featuring a panel from the Corry Area School District



## Pennsylvania's Role in D-Day

Featuring Richard Arthur, M.A. Courtesy of The National World War II Museum



## Is High Speed Rail a Pipe Dream in the U.S.?

Featuring Michael Fuhrman, M.A. Courtesy of California High-Speed Rail Authority

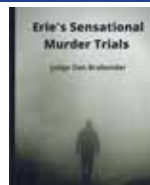
## "Fixing where We Rest Our Heads": A Candid Conversation with Two African American Mayors on the Personal and Political

Featuring Mayor Jaime Kinder of Meadville and Mayor Dwan B. Walker of Aliquippa



## The School-to-Prison Pipeline and Zero-Tolerance Policies

Featuring Dr. Parris Baker, JES Scholar-in-Residence



### JULY:

#### Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts

In a three-day lecture series, constitutional law expert Deborah Gross addresses the independence of Pennsylvania courts threatened, amendments to the Constitution, and alternative ways to pick judges.

### AUGUST:

#### JES @ Celebrate Erie

The Jefferson resumes pre-pandemic programs in City Hall during Celebrate Erie with an array of history, community, and environment topics.

### SEPTEMBER:

#### Erie's Sensational Murder Trials

Judge and author Dan Brabender presents his book, "Erie's Sensational Murder Trials," a collection of accounts of nine distinctive homicides that shocked the city with their gruesome violence and spell-binding trials.

### OCTOBER:

#### Drugs in Society: A Brief History of Drug Use and Abuse in America

This program featured behavioral pharmacologist and Allegheny College Professor Rodney Clark, Ph.D.

### NOVEMBER:

#### Global Summit 2022

Featuring Al Hunt, Judy Woodruff, Fiona Hill, John Dickerson, James Fallows, Rev. Charles Brock, John Calipari, Jon Wertheim, Karl Rove, Avi Loeb and many others for the first summit in two locations: Erie and Redlands, California.

### DECEMBER:

#### Connected: A Different Perspective on Erie's "Brain Drain" Panel Discussion

Panelists Claye Green, Autumn Parker, Charles Rush, and Selena King give their perspectives on the issue of educated and highly trained individuals leaving the community, called "brain drain."

## WRITERS PRODUCE RECORD YEAR

Jefferson researchers and writers produced a record of more than 140 essays, reports, and “Quick, Timely Reads” in 2022.

Leading the writing charge were Jefferson Scholars-in-Residence Drs. Andrew Roth, David Frew, Parris Baker, and newcomer Debbie DeAngelo. Roth and Frew, who were honored for their prolific contributions, wrote nearly every week while surpassing 100-article milestones midway through 2022.



Debbie DeAngelo David Frew

The Rev. Charles Brock, Judy Lynch, Baher Ghosheh, and Court Gould also contributed articles, with Gould, Ghosheh, and Parris Baker also producing major essays. In addition, the Jefferson introduced an African American history series by “A Shared Heritage” writers Chris Magoc, Johnny Johnson, and Melinda Meyer, and published major articles on refugees in Erie produced by guest writer Laura Reeck, an Allegheny College professor.

The most in-depth project was accomplished by urban sustainability expert Court Gould, whose comprehensive essay shined a spotlight on housing issues in Erie.

The work of writing, editing, and publishing continues in 2023 as the Jefferson embraces new projects, including publishing books by Baher Ghosheh, Judy Lynch, and Charles Brock.

### MOST POPULAR PUBLICATIONS OF 2022

**Erie’s Make or Break – Quality, Affordable Housing** by Court Gould, MPA

**Report: The Future of Work in Erie County** by JCLA 2021 cohort

**On the Waterfront: The Big Chill** by Dr. David Frew, JES Scholar-in-Residence

**Can New Americans Reverse Erie’s Population Decline?** by Dr. Baher Ghosheh, JES Scholar-in-Residence

**Religion and Politics (essay series)** by Rev. Charles Brock, M.Litt.

**Wakin’ Us Up (Black History articles)** by Tanya Teglo, writer

**Book Notes #110: 1968/2022: The Seeds of Our Discontents** by Dr. Andrew Roth, JES Scholar-in-Residence

**Mystics and Skeptics (essay series)** by Rev. Charles Brock, M.Litt.

**Be Well (articles on health, fitness, and medicine)** by Debbie DeAngelo, ENC, BSN

**Truth in Love: Whiteness Must be at Center of Discussions on CRT** by Parris Baker, Ph.D., JES Scholar-in-Residence

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

# 140+

The Jefferson published more than 140 essays, reports, book notes, and “Quick, Timely Reads” alone in 2022, 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

Four new essays were published by the Jefferson in 2022, including urban expert Court Gould’s major work on housing in Erie (affordable housing, community infrastructure, New Americans, Erie Icons).

# 22

The Jefferson published eight reports in 2022, raising the total to 22: *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.

# 10

The Jefferson’s 10th published book, “Accidental Paradise: 13,000-Year History of Presque Isle” by Dr. David Frew and Jerry Skrypzak remains on sale exclusively through the Tom Ridge Environmental Center Gift Shop and the website [www.AccidentalParadise.com](http://www.AccidentalParadise.com). The book is a joint project of the Jefferson and TREC Foundation. New books scheduled for publication in 2023 include works by Dr. Baher Ghosheh, 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

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.



CHAIRWOMAN JOYCE SAVOCCHIO:

## Join Us in Celebration and Resolve



*You don't often hear me talk about a Roman god, but here goes. Janus, for whom the month of January was named, just might have influenced a founder or two here at the Jefferson Educational Society.*

*In Roman mythology, Janus was depicted with two faces, one looking forward and one looking backward. As a god of motion, he causes actions to start and presides over beginnings. And since movement and change are interconnected, he has that double nature reflected in the two-headed image.*

*Sound familiar? As the Jefferson Educational celebrates its 15th anniversary milestone we can look back on enormous, sometimes*

*unexpected successes as we strove to serve as the regional community's safe, nonpartisan meeting place to discuss important community issues and to hear from experts around the nation and world. We have tried to make a difference – through programs and publications, through conferences drawing together stakeholders in our civic future, through a leadership academy designed to prepare young leaders for important roles in public and private business, by sponsoring an annual Global Summit speaker series featuring top researchers, writers, and scholars from around the nation and world.*

*The "through" line, really, is us. We are a community of people who want to learn, who want to understand, who want to embrace good ideas and best practices.*

*Thank you, supporters of the Jefferson Educational Society. Thanks for bringing us to this point in our journey and please join us for the many challenges and joys that lie ahead.*

Joyce Savocchio  
Chairwoman

### BOARD OFFICERS:



Vice Chairman Bruce Raimy



Treasurer Charles Caryl



Secretary Charles Brock

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

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**FERKI FERATI, ED.D.**  
President



Dr. Ferki Ferati is in his fifth 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.

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



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

**BEN SPEGGEN, M.A.**  
Vice President



Ben Speggen joined the JES team in February 2015. Prior to his current role, chiefly focused on the growth and development of the think tank's hallmark Global Summit speaker series, he led the group's introduction of digital programming; guided its satellite programming initiative; directed its year-round programming and its Civic Leadership Academy; and put his writing and editing skills to work on a wide range of publications; and more. Born in Morgantown, West Virginia, Ben grew up in the southwestern corner of Pennsylvania in Carmichaels and went on to study literature, history, and journalism at Gannon University, where he also earned his master's degree.

**JACOB BARTKO**  
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.

**ANGELA BEAUMONT, M.A.**  
Director of Programming



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

**PAT CUNEO, B.A.**  
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.**  
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 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.

**RAVEN CLARK, B.A.**  
Satellite Program Coordinator



Raven Clark, a graduate of Villa Maria Academy and Allegheny College, is the Administrative Assistant at the Jefferson with multiple responsibilities. A graduate of Allegheny's Law & Policy program, she earned a degree in political science in 2019. Raven has a background in research and writing in the social sciences and is a lifelong artist (violin) and patron of the arts. She is interested in the intersections of business, politics, public policy, ethics, sustainability, economics, agriculture, art, and culture within the fashion industry.

**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.

**BRAD TRIANA, M.F.A.**  
Buildings Manager



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

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



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

**SUPPORT STAFF**  
Holden Sczerba, Justin Lopez-Beltrams, Olivia Wickline  
Zehra Ferati, David Hull, Colin Heeneman, Laura Taylor,  
and Francis Jageacks



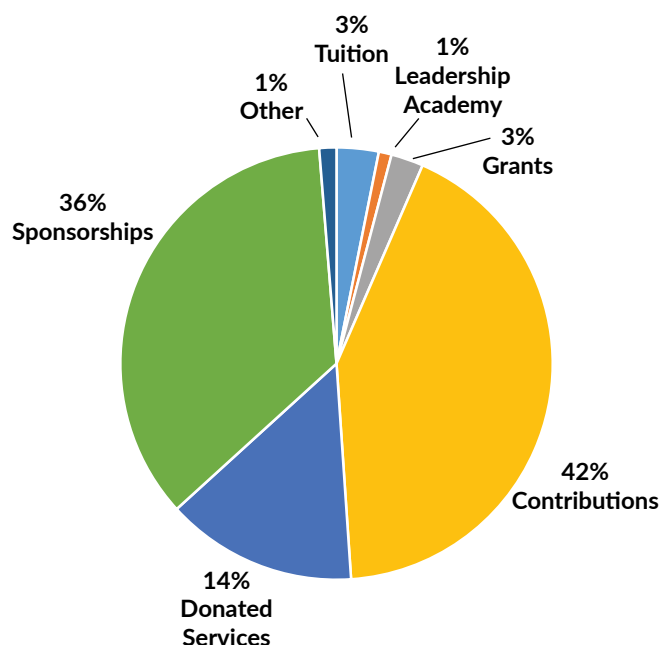
With more than 82 percent of our expenses dedicated to program services, the JES team remains confident our priorities are in the right order. Because of the continued impact of COVID-19, the JES brought in significantly fewer dollars through programming, but increased its output significantly. We also remain committed to offering affordable or free programs to our members and the public about important community issues and initiatives. Even as we grow, we continue to allocate funds to our core missions at the JES: the annual Global Summit; four seasons of programming each year; the Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy; and research and multimedia projects.

**Jefferson Educational Society of Erie, Inc.**  
**Statement of Financial Position at August 31, 2022 and 2021**

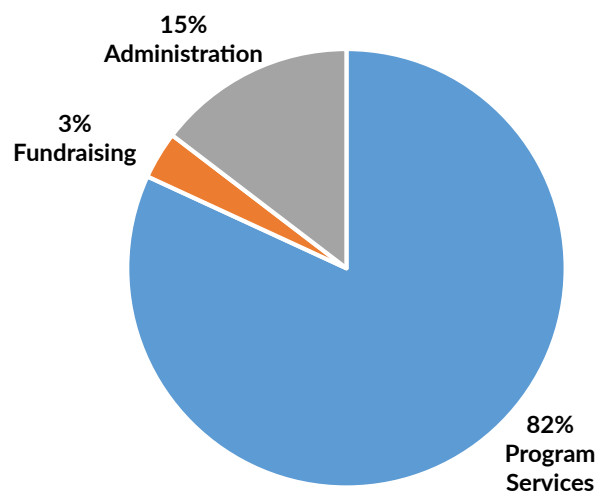
ASSETS	2022	2021
Current Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 142,745	\$ 503,692
Pledges receivable	416,692	288,500
Accounts receivable	25,520	2,300
Inventory	20,944	21,492
Prepaid expenses	10,637	144,334
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>616,538</b>	960,318
Property and equipment	1,680,019	1,680,019
Less: accumulated depreciation	562,383	504,945
	<b>1,117,636</b>	1,175,074
Long-term pledges receivable, net of discount of \$342,206 and \$149,811 at August 31, 2022 and 2021, respectively	1,327,913	1,244,188
Endowment	496,159	584,081
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 3,558,246</b>	\$ 3,963,661

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	2022	2021
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 78,967	\$ 27,185
Lines of credit	329,319	334,962
Deferred revenue	100,000	240,000
Accrued expenses	13,215	7,216
Current portion of long-term obligations	41,649	27,492
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>563,150</b>	636,855
Long-term obligations, less current portion	455,721	594,747
Net Assets:		
Without donor restrictions	484,009	924,395
With donor restrictions	2,055,366	1,807,664
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>2,539,375</b>	2,732,059
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 3,558,246</b>	\$ 3,963,661

**SUPPORT AND REVENUE**



**FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES**



# JEFFERSON EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

3207 STATE STREET  
ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA 16508-2821

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
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ERIE, PA  
PERMIT NO. 255

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.