

JEFFERSON

EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Dear Jefferson Friends,

When I sat down to write my letter for the JES's 2021 annual report, four words just wouldn't leave my mind. *I miss you all.*

Over the years, I've enjoyed our time together, gathering at the JES to learn together, to debate together, to expand our views together. The COVID-19 pandemic helped me realize how much I wasn't aware that I had been taking that for granted.

So this year, I want to first celebrate that I was able to say night after night in early November: Welcome back! After nearly 18 months of not seeing each other face to face, it was so wonderful to greet you in-person at Global Summit XIII, where together we were able to safely gather amidst an ongoing pandemic to continue the conversations so vital to the nation, state, and our beloved Erie.

At the same time, at the JES, the conversations never stopped. I want to celebrate that, too.

In 2020, at a time when we were challenged in ways we'd never imagine, the JES found new and creative ways to remain engaged with our community. That included ramping up our publications division more than tenfold, thanks in large part to our weekly contributions by JES Scholars-in-Residence Drs. David Frew and Andrew Roth with their "On the Waterfront" and "Book Notes" series, respectively. We also pivoted our programming online, producing hundreds of free online events available both live and archived on our website for on-demand streaming.

Those new ventures grew throughout 2020 and continued into 2021. In addition to our stable of writers, such as Charles Brock, Judy Lynch, Baher Ghosheh, and Parris Baker, we added new contributors like sustainability expert Court Gould. It also led to the JES's first-ever digital Global Summit in May 2021 that garnered more than 40,000 viewers – and counting as the videos remain available to view for free on our website.

In 2022, we know that COVID-19 continues to challenge our community, our nation, and the world. To date, the global pandemic has claimed the lives of 5.7 million worldwide, nearly 900,000 in America, 41,000 in Pennsylvania, and nearly 700 in Erie County.

On top of dealing with a pandemic that has taken so many lives, our country continues to reckon with racial injustice, inequalities, worker shortages, economic inflation, environmental disasters – all the while the American Republic is under attack from both internal and external forces.

Today, we are living not just in an age of misinformation but also bearing witness to those bent on sowing discord through the spread of disinformation.

President Abraham Lincoln once wrote, "I am a firm believer in the people. If given the truth, they can be depended upon to meet any national crisis. The great point is to bring them the real facts." In this era of disinformation, the aim of the Jefferson remains to follow the truth wherever it leads. We

follow President Lincoln's vision to provide that truth so our nation and our community can face these mega issues together.

Now, institutions like the JES are fundamental in serving as platforms for information and drivers of constructive dialogue on a range of issues. I'm reminded of something I've said before: At the JES, we seek to shine a light, not draw heat.

That's why the JES remains committed to programming and publications that address a wide range of critical

issues head-on, calling upon leading minds nationally and locally. That's why the JES has joined with Erie Insurance and the Erie Community Foundation to support the Better Together Council's Erie Racial Justice Policy Initiative that's brought Brookings Institution Senior Fellow Camille Busette and local policy advocacy organizations together to explore ways to address systemic racism through public policy. That's why the JES partnered again with the Erie Community Foundation and Erie Insurance, as well as the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, to engage renowned urbanist Bruce Katz to develop an investment playbook designed for Erie to take advantage of the trillions of dollars of funding coming from the federal government. That's why no matter how dark the days may seem at times, the JES remains committed to shining a light on our community and beyond.

At the core of our mission has been to serve as a convener for the community – a place where ideas can be explored and where the truth is pursued. I am grateful that you, our Jefferson friends, have embraced gathering with us digitally and have been able to return to gathering with us face to face. We remain committed to our mission of being your think tank for community progress, and together, we will face the challenges present today and tomorrow and in the years to come.

Sincerely,



Ferki Ferati, Ed.D.
President



Jefferson President Ferki Ferati

The Jefferson's Impact

2 Global Summits, New Partnerships, Expanded Programming and Publications Highlight 2021 at the Jefferson

What do we do now? Where do we go from here?

Those were questions asked by many in early 2020 at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Two years later, those questions remain worthy of still being asked.

That is because the COVID-19 pandemic has irrevocably changed communities coast to coast. That change continues as countries worldwide continue to navigate the public health crisis. That crisis also revealed inequities and systems broken long before the first case of COVID-19 was documented.

Created to serve as a platform for informed dialogue and as an incubator of ideas, the Jefferson Educational Society was amongst the many organizations at the onset of the pandemic to not just ask, *What do we do now?*, but to also ask, *How do we find new ways to do the work we know is crucially important to the Erie regional community?*

Since it opened its doors in 2008, the JES has served as a gathering place, a Third Space, where the community could be convened to learn shoulder-to-shoulder. There, inside the JES headquarters at 32nd and State streets, those in the Erie community could gain access to the leading minds locally, nationally, and internationally. There, together, learners would explore new ideas, civilly debate differing viewpoints, and engage in the gathering of facts, leading to a better informed community.

Knowing the limitations of its physical reach, the JES expanded its think tank's footprint with the launch of satellite locations in 2018. The JES would no longer be a Main Street think tank just in the city of Erie but also in Corry, Edinboro, Fairview, and North East.

But how could a think tank promoting in-person adult lifelong learning continue to do that during a public health crisis combatted by communities socially distancing from each other?

The answer: Find new spaces.

In early March 2020, the JES piloted its first digital program. Livestreaming programming featuring the locally and nationally acclaimed presenters and thinkers the community has come to know and appreciate over more than a decade, the JES, like many organizations, turned to Zoom but also used the digital conferencing platform to broadcast live events onto the institution's Facebook page.

Not only were learners able to congregare in real time, interacting with each other and speakers in the comment sections, those interested in attending JES programming could do so on their own time. With the programming archived on the JES website, folks could stream lectures, discussions, interviews, debates, and more on-demand. No longer was the JES accessible by a five-minute or half-hour drive; it was available at the click of a mouse.

In 2021, the success of the JES's more than 100 digital programs with audience engagement measured not in the hundreds but the thousands and not only in Erie but also in places nationwide and abroad. As noted later in this report, the JES hosted its first-ever international program, with the featured guest presenting from Germany.



*Bernd Tischler,
Mayor of Bottrop,
Germany*

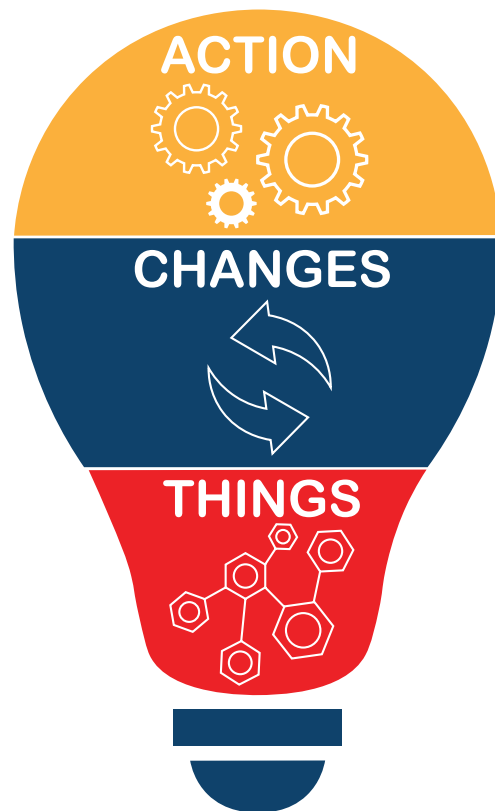


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The JES also continued to cultivate partnerships in the digital arena for several series of programs – teaming up with PennFuture for a series of programs on environmental issues, working with the Hagen History Center and the Erie Civil War Roundtable to host events on the Civil War, and collaborating with the Our Towns Civic Foundation to host a discussion moderated by “Our Towns” co-author James Fallows. Additionally, Penny Mechley-Porter continued her weekly “Mindfulness and Meditation” series, David Frew, co-author of “Accidental Paradise: A 13,000-Year History of Presque Isle” discussed key sections of the book in a multi-part series, and Andrew Roth, host of “The American Tapestry Project,” a podcast with episodes available at WQLN Public Media and on the NPR One app, covered the calendar from January to December with his “American Holidays” series.

Hundreds of digital programs with thousands of views led to the think tank’s first-ever digital Global Summit featured later in this report. For two weeks, the JES, as it had done since 2009, welcomed leading presenters to the stage – this time digitally – to explore a wide range of topics du jour.



Drs. Michael Saag and Leana Wen both brought their medical expertise to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic and paths forward. Looking at race in America, Brookings Institution Fellows Camille Busette and Rashawn Ray addressed

policy reform and racial inequities while the Rev. Jeffrey Brown spoke about today’s Black Lives Matter movement.

Turning to politics, Wall Street Journal editor Gerald Seib discussed the lead up to and impact of the Trump administration. Both Susan Page, of USA Today, and Karen Tumulty, of the Washington Post, discussed their recently published biographies of Nancy Pelosi and Nancy Reagan, respectively.

Looking at the story of American renewal, the JES welcomed back bestselling authors James and Deborah Fallows to discuss their book, *Our Towns*, and how it became a documentary with the filmmakers Steven Ascher and Jeanne Jordan. On U.S. foreign policy, viewers heard from Washington Post columnist David Ignatius about Russia and China and former U.S. Ambassador Christopher Hill on America’s 21st century diplomacy.



Deborah Fallows and Jim Fallows, above, and David Ignatius, below, played key roles in Global Summit XII in May 2021.

Looking truly out of this world, famed Harvard astronomer Avi Loeb explored his book *Extraterrestrial: First Signs of Life Beyond Earth*, while Deputy National Climate Adviser to the Biden Administration, and Erie native Ali Zaidi looked at one of the most pressing issues on the planet: climate change. And for a fun look at history and pop culture, Nile Gardiner, former aide to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, discussed portrayals of the Iron Lady in film and on TV.



Ali Zaidi, at left, and Nile Gardiner presented at Global Summit XII.

All of those programs were streamed free of charge and live to audiences tuning in – not just from Erie, but from places like Macon, Georgia; Staten Island, New York; Washington, D.C.; Sioux Falls, South Dakota; places along the West Coast; and more. And they remain available on the JES’s website for free on-demand streaming. To date, Global Summit XII programs have been viewed by more than 40,000 people – a historic milestone for the JES’s reach.

The JES continued producing live digital events throughout the year, hosting more videos on its website – welcoming both new and familiar faces to the screen. In fact, James Fallow, in a first program in partnership with the Our Town Civic Foundation, returned in September to moderate a discussion featuring Anne-Marie Slaughter, author of the book “Renewal,” and California’s Chief Service Officer Josh Fryday. Together they discussed the need for citizen action in times of crisis and bring it to a state level.

But not only did the JES continue its digital programming, it continued its digital publications, both expanding established series and welcoming in new contributors.

In 2020, the JES increased in publications output by more than tenfold. That production pace continued in 2021 thanks in large part by JES scholars-in-residence David Frew and Andrew Roth with their ongoing “On the Waterfront” and “Book Notes” series, respectively. JES reports featured a look at the role of faith communities in BIPOC communities in combating COVID-19, the historic role

of a local family in breaking racial barriers, the potential of universal childcare in Erie, the importance of diverse representation of teachers in education, and more.

With the introduction of COVID-19 vaccines, a path to resuming in-person engagements safely became possible. In 2020, like its programming, the JES pivoted its Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy for emerging leaders throughout the region to a digital-only model. In 2021, the JES resumed the in-person learning experience, welcoming in both a new JCLA cohort and a new group of Raimy Fellows.

Likewise, in-person programming became a possibility again. After careful review and consideration, the JES implemented a COVID-19 policy to ensure that folks could again gather safely to learn together face to face. That began with a handful of programs in September and October, as well as starting to bring satellite locations back on board, first with a return of live programming in Corry in partnership with the Corry Higher-Educational Council. Amongst the first batch of face-to-face events in Corry was a look at the newly released 10-year community strategic plan “#Positively Corry,” of which the JES had representation on the steering committee. Charles Eurydice Gray, Impact Corry executive director, reviewed the planning progress and outlined next steps

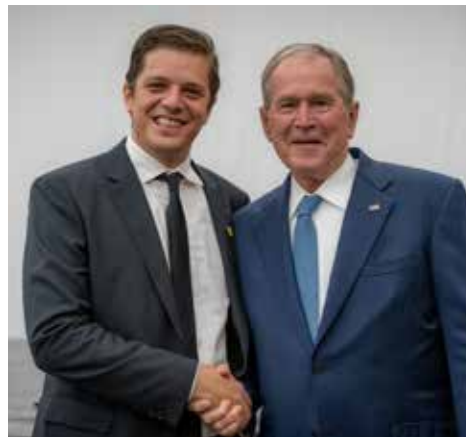
as guided by the report, which was prepared by czb, LLC, the same planning firm that prior produced “Erie Refocused” and “Embrace Millcreek.”



Resuming live, in-person programming safely and responsibly ultimately led to the second Global Summit in one year with November’s Global Summit XIII.

Never had the JES hosted two Summits before in a single year. And never had the think tank welcomed a former American President. 2021 proved to be a historic year on both accounts.

Headlining the November’s Summit, George W. Bush, the 43rd President of the United States, spoke with Summit Chairman Steve Scully before over 1,800 attendees – the largest crowd the JES has drawn to date. Also making history that night, former Governor of Pennsylvania and the inaugural director of the Department of Homeland Security Tom Ridge made his first public appearance since suffering a stroke to welcome his friend – and former boss – President Bush to his hometown. But before Gov. Ridge’s heartfelt introduction, the JES welcomed Pennsylvania Sen. Pat Toomey to the stage to kick off a night focused on U.S. politics past, present, and future.



Former President George W. Bush chats with moderator Steve Scully at top, and, above, Jefferson President Dr. Ferki Ferati greets President Bush at the Erie Bayfront Convention Center.

Global Summit XIII, which drew the highest average in-person attendance per event for any Summit, also examined a range of critical issues past and present. Anita McBride, Stacy Cordery, and Barbara Perry (who attended virtually) discussed the history and roles of First Ladies; both Andy Card and Mack McLarty reviewed their time as presidential chiefs of staff; and Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Doris Kearns Goodwin returned to Erie a third time to discuss Presidents Franklin Roosevelt and Lyndon Johnson and the New Deal and Great Society implications for today.



Historian Doris Kearns Goodwin, with Steve Scully, delights the crowd.

Political scientist Robert Pape, recipient of the 2021 Thomas B. Hagen Dignitas Award, reviewed his research involving the insurrection attempt of Jan. 6, 2021; head of the Constitution Center in Philadelphia Jeffrey Rosen discussed the Constitution and the tests it faces today. The JES again focused on race in America, turning to Clayola Brown, head of the A. Phillip Randolph Institute, and Pittsburgh labor leader DeWitt Walton to discuss the impact of systemic racism in communities of color, and welcomed back Camille Busette to explore the power of policy reform to address racial justice in Erie.



Security expert Dr. Robert Pape, third from left, accepts the Thomas B. Hagen Dignitas Award from Mr. Hagen at Global Summit XIII. From left are Gannon University Provost Walter Iwanenko, Jefferson President Ferki Ferati, Pape, Hagen, Mayor Joe Schember, and Jefferson Vice President Ben Spengen.

Joining Busette on stage were representatives from the Better Together Council's Erie Racial Justice Policy Initiative. A 12-month-long project begun in March 2021, the Better Together Council, a council of the Schember administration charged with working towards a more equitable and just Erie, recognized the need to address systemic racism through public policy. The Council approached the JES for its support in identifying a nationally renowned expert to lead the initiative, and the JES team pledged to donate its services to the initiative. Further, the Council invited public policy advocacy groups in Erie to collaboratively work on putting forward policy reform in the short-, mid-, and

long-term ranges for Erie. Busette and representatives for this consortium informed the community of their work to date and outcomes and objectives that lie ahead, while also seeking public input.

Another initiative the JES is currently involved in is the Erie Inclusive Recovery Investment Playbook. In a partnership sponsored by the Erie Community Foundation, the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, Erie Insurance, and the Jefferson Educational Society, the playbook initiative is being spearheaded by Bruce Katz, founder of New Localism Associates. The JES first brought Katz to Erie during the Global Summit in 2014 and has continued to cultivate a relationship with him ever since.



Civic leader Gary Horton, at left, poses with Camille Busette, and the two later joined panelists from the Better Together Council.



Urban expert Bruce Katz is playing a pivotal role once again for the Jefferson and Erie.

With an unprecedented amount of federal funding flowing into local communities through the American Rescue Plan Act and other federal actions, communities can exact transformational projects and changes. However, these funds will be dispersed through various programs – from community block grants to tax incentives – at the hands of various agencies.

Katz and his team have been working with the public and community leaders and stakeholders to strategize how best to leverage federal funding on its way to be used as local responses to both the hardships created and revealed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Yes, the questions remain present:

**What do we do now?
Where do we go from here?**

Answers to those questions are at the core of the JES's mission: Inform the community to drive community progress. Through learning and engaging with one another – sometimes shoulder-to-shoulder, sometimes screen-to-screen, together we will continue to seek information in pursuit of the truth wherever it may lead us so that we might envision a better, more just community for all.



PRESIDENT BUSH'S APPEARANCE TOOK SUMMIT TO NEW HEIGHTS



GEORGE W. BUSH

From a humble start as a two-day conference in 2009, the Jefferson's annual Global Summit rose to new heights in November 2021 as former President George W. Bush and a supporting cast that included former Gov. Tom Ridge and Sen. Pat Toomey drew a Jefferson-record crowd of 1,800 to Erie's Bayfront Convention Center.

While President Bush's talk with Global Summit Chairman Steve Scully highlighted a year of record-breaking digital and in-person programming for the Jefferson, it also marked the first time the Jefferson hosted two summits – the digital Global Summit XII in May 2021 and the in-person Global Summit XIII in November.

The summit has truly become an annual staple on Erie's civic calendar and the largest and most esteemed speaker series in the region, having featured nearly 130 of the most respected scholars, writers, and leaders in the nation since its inception.

Global Summit XIII was the best yet as President Bush (2001-09) headlined and other heavy hitters drew thousands more to programs at the Jefferson and Gannon University. Other esteemed speakers included Doris Kearns Goodwin, Camille Busette, Jeffrey Rosen, Andrew Card, Thomas "Mack" McLarty, Barbara Perry, Stacy Cordery, Anita McBride, Steve Scully, Clayola Brown, DeWitt Walton, and Dignitas Award winner Robert Pape.

GLOBAL SUMMIT I (2009)

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

GLOBAL SUMMIT II (2010)

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

GLOBAL SUMMIT III (2011)

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

GLOBAL SUMMIT IV (2012)

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

GLOBAL SUMMIT V (2013)

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

GLOBAL SUMMIT VI (2014)

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

GLOBAL SUMMIT VII (2015)

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

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



COKIE ROBERTS



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



Former Governor and Cabinet Secretary Tom Ridge introduces his old friend and boss, former President George W. Bush, to a crowd of 1,800 at Erie's Bayfront Convention Center on Nov. 9, 2021. The two men received thunderous ovations from the adoring audience.



Tom and Michele Ridge flank President Bush before the program began. The Ridges and Bushes were close friends years before the Bush presidency.



Jefferson Vice President and moderator Ben Speggen poses a question to national security expert and professor Robert Pape, who earlier received the Thomas B. Hagen Dignitas Award.



Historian Stacy A. Cordery, at far right, discusses the history and role of First Ladies during the program that featured Steve Scully and Anita McBride, who served as Chief Staff to First Lady Laura Bush. Joining the program digitally was Professor Barbara Perry, director of Presidential Studies at the University of Virginia.



Former Chiefs of Staff Andrew Card (middle) and Thomas "Mack" McLarty (right) chat with Global Summit Chairman Steve Scully.



A large crowd cheers on Constitutional expert Jeffrey Rosen in a program at Gannon University's Yehl Room at the Waldron Campus Center.



Several hundred Gannon University students, like those focusing on the Jeffrey Rosen program here, were among the attendees at the eight Global Summit XIII events at three sites: Gannon, the Bayfront Convention Center, and the Jefferson Educational Society. Gannon hosted five events.

SUMMIT XII BRINGS GLOBAL IDEAS INTO ERIE HOMES

In May 2021, as the pandemic continued to stymie in-person programming, the Jefferson sponsored Global Summit XII in a fully remote format. A lineup of free programs were available to be streamed, and the events covered topics as diverse as social justice, politics, racism, and health.

Speakers included members of the Brookings Institution Camille Busette and Rashawn Ray; climate advisor Ali Zaidi; astrophysicist Avi Loeb; Wall Street Journal editor and novelist Gerald Seib; medical experts Michael Saag and Leana Wen; Washington Post columnist and novelist David Ignatius; and authors James and Deborah Fallows with filmmakers Steven Ascher and Jeanne Jordan.

Below are some of the experts who spoke at Global Summit XII.



Camille Busette



Dr. Michael Saag



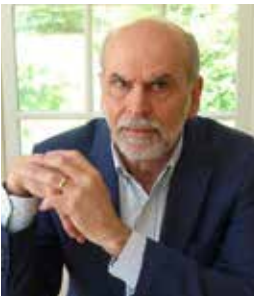
Dr. Leana Wen



Jeffrey Brown



Karen Tumulty



Gerald Seib

Global Summit XIII Sponsors:

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PNC Bank
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Brock Institute
Erie Community Foundation
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For benefits and information regarding each sponsorship level, please call the Jefferson at 814.459.8000.



THOMAS B. HAGEN DIGNITAS AWARD HONOREES



2011
Steve Scully



2012
Barry Casselman



2013
Harry Markopolos



2014
Sister Joan Chittister



2015
Drs. John and Silvia Ferretti



2016
Hon. Tom Ridge



2017
Lt. Gen. James Dubik, Ret.



2018

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



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



2021
Robert Pape



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 784 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.

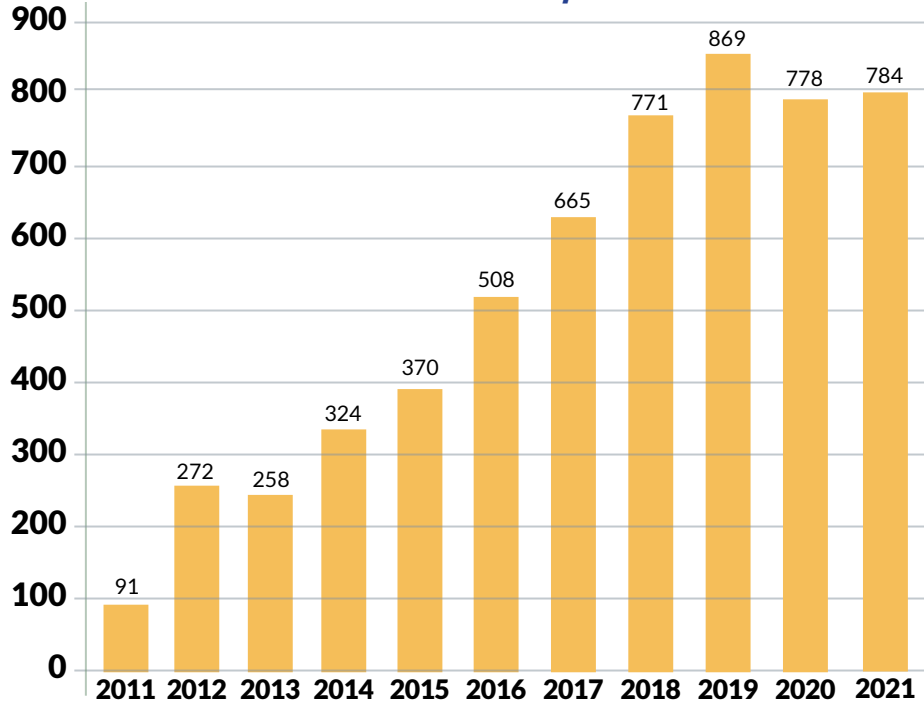
Don't let costs get in the way of learning. If you or someone you know needs tuition help, the JES provides scholarships up to 100 percent.

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 784 at present



Total JES Members and Donors: 784

Members, Membership Levels, and Donors

FOUNDERS/LIFETIME MEMBERS

- Charles Brock
- Sheila Brugger
- Ferki & Katya Ferati
- David Frew
- Paul & Renee Gambill
- Baher Ghosheh
- Johnny Johnson
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- Lynn Lagomarsio
- Mary Lincoln
- Judy Lynch
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Deng Rag
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Elaine & Klaus Retzlaff
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Edward and Deborah Tonkin

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

Ed Tonkin, member since 2013

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

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

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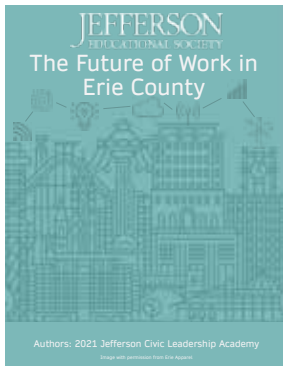


The audience listens intently to a program by Clayola Brown and DeWitt Walton at Global Summit XIII in November 2021.

Dynamic. Interactive. Collaborative.

The Jefferson puts a premium on ensuring that those three words guide the experience of the Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy participants. Launched in 2015 as an annual endeavor, the Civic Leadership Academy prepares Erie professionals for meaningful engagement in their community through 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 Future of Work in Erie County

The 2021 Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy Cohort was tasked with examining the topic of “**The Future of Work in Erie County.**” The group assessed that Erie County is at a crossroads, one that can lead to prosperity or economic success if the right paths are chosen. Their work aims to help guide decision-making

and present new initiatives to ensure that Erie County transforms into a haven for future businesses, entrepreneurs, and remote workers. The goal of this project is to envision how Erie County, an older industrial county with a declining manufacturing sector and population, can become a leader in the future of work, and what it would take to resolve critical issues in education, infrastructure, quality of life, industry, and placemaking.



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



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 2021 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 2021 JCLA cohort meets with Gov. Tom Wolf in Harrisburg

During a two-day retreat to Harrisburg, participants of the Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy typically meet with Governor Tom Wolf and Lt. Governor John Fetterman, Pennsylvania Superior Court Judge Victor P. Stabile, and leaders of both the House of Representatives and state Senate as well as the Erie delegation. The group also meets with policy experts specific to the research projects to help them begin to find solutions to issues that affect Erie and Pennsylvania.

Each year the JCLA visits numerous municipalities, leaders, policy makers, and regional developers throughout Erie County and beyond to learn about the history, challenges, and future plans of those regions. Along the way, they've met with the Erie County Executive; the Chairman of County Council; the Mayors of the city 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've met with policy experts and national leaders such as urban expert and author Bruce Katz and two former White House Chiefs of Staff, Andrew Card and Mack McLarty.



Adam Welsh, the program coordinator for the Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy in 2021, 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

2021 GRADUATES

Jacob Bartko, Community Access Media
 Susannah Faulkner, SSJ Neighborhood Network
 Matt Flowers, Ethos Copywriting
 Thomas Glasoe, Food for Tots, L.L.C. and St. John's Lutheran Church
 Melinda Hall, Dean of St. Paul Cathedral
 Paul Hirsch, Cleveland State University
 Brody Howard, Corry Higher Education Council
 Victor Hudson, Edinboro University
 Michelle Jaggi, Erie County Government
 Alyssa Johnson, Erie County Public Library
 Stephanie King, United Way of Erie County
 Tammie Lentz, GECAC
 Jake Marsh, Penn State Behrend
 Samuel McGarvey, Northwest Bank Union City
 Justin Norris, Wabtec
 Chelsea Oliver, Pace Success Coaching
 Sara Provencio, Corry Redevelopment Authority
 Ashley Russell, Penn State Behrend
 Jennifer Snopko, Erie Insurance
 Megan Stevenson, Preferred Systems, Inc.
 Corinne Thomas, Erie County Department of Human Services
 Adam Welsh, Erie Reader/Jefferson Educational Society
 Larry Wheaton, WQLN
 Karin Wickwire, UPMC
 Brian Wilking, Erie Insurance
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 Perry Wood, 2016
 Jessica Yochim, 2017
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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 continue to move ahead using a virtual learning model adopted during the pandemic. On April 13, 2021, Joe Cuneo and Brian Zona presented their research on fair Pennsylvania compensation for frontline health care workers as a livestream in "Caring for Those Who Care for Us." On May 4, 2021, Jeff Styborski presented a concept for rural Wi-Fi development to support K-12 education in a "Overcoming the Rural Digital Divide."

In the pipeline are additional programs, examining high-speed rail in Erie County, navigating the legal waters for those transitioning their gender, leadership challenges in small communities, economic impact of co-working spaces, institutional collaboration in the sciences in Greater Erie, and Universal Basic Income for Erie County.

Raimy Fellows 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

Susannah Faulkner, Matthew Flowers, Jake Marsh, Sara Provencio, Ashley Russell, Jessica Taylor, Corinne Thomas

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 needs its own experts in residence. Why? Imagine the value of experts contributing to timely publications, lecturing routinely throughout the region, directing research, and serving as go-to sources for data and analysis. Though we do a great deal of that now with our excellent staff and stable of contributing professionals, having our own Jefferson scholars helps us reach the next level as the Erie region's think tank for community progress.



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



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

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



The Mission Expands



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

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

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

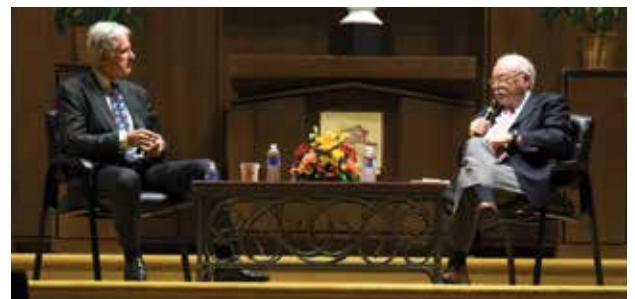
We are not the only country exhibiting these behaviors but make no mistake. Conspiracy theories and phony claims abound. For many, evidence does not count. Instead, rumor has it. Or Twitter. Or Facebook. Or off-the-wall cable news that is unchecked and unbounded regarding reason and facts, endlessly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

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

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

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

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



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



2008

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



2010-2012

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 great issues of the day – war, violence, American leaders, ideology, religions, inequality, poverty, gender, environment, science, and culture wars.

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

The Benediction Booklet

In 2021, the Rev. Charles Brock, director and founder of the Brock Institute for Mega Issues Education at the Jefferson Educational Society, and the Institute for the Study of the American Dream at Penn State Behrend, 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. While a benediction is a short invocation for divine help, blessing, and guidance, usually at the end of worship service, Rev. Brock emphasizes that this practice is a "liturgical act viewing chief symbols of eight world faiths" and can be used on its own and without service. Rev. Brock's benediction proposal establishes understanding and tolerance amongst different religions, with the specific goal to bring together the ideals of freedom and forgiveness from the West's "exodus tradition" with the oneness and compassion of the East's traditions, thereby creating an environment where religious communities can learn from one another and grow together.

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.

In his research for a narrative that linked 16 presidents, Brock quotes John Adams' stirring words: "I always consider the settlement of America with reverence and wonder, as the opening of a grand scene and design in Providence for the illumination of the ignorant, and the emancipation of the slavish part of mankind all over the earth" (from: A Dissertation on Canon and Feudal Law). Brock concludes that all presidents in his study mainly agreed with 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 continue to support him in his search for the best publisher.



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

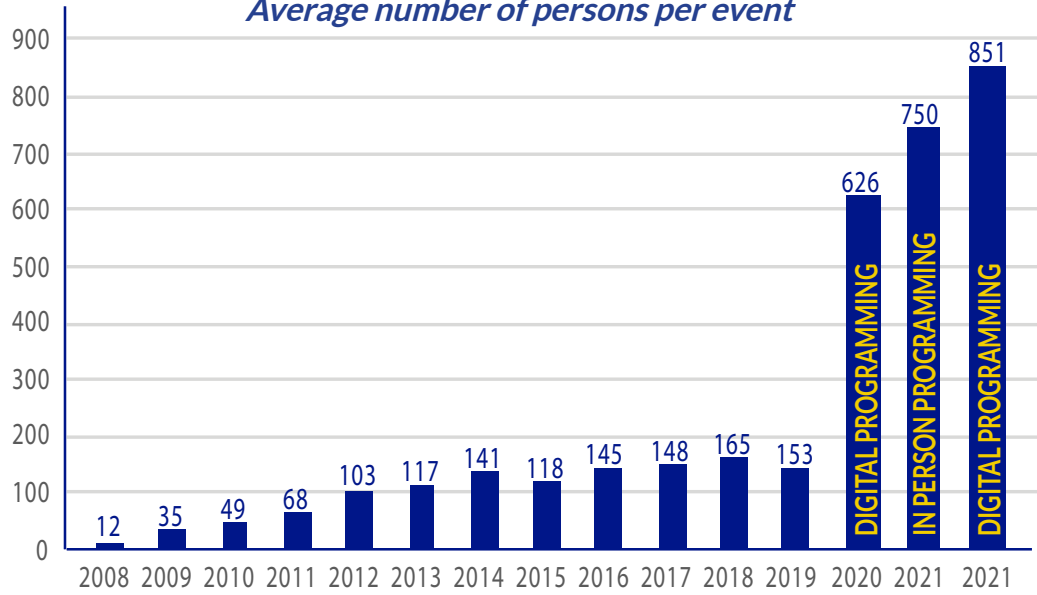
Rev. Brock debuts "Mystics and Skeptics" and successfully pivots holding lectures virtually. He holds the first Jefferson in-person program of 2021, the "Brock Institute Blues Music Night."

THE JEFFERSON STORY EVOLVES, GROWS

Programming has been a cornerstone of the Jefferson Educational Society since its beginning. Over the years, JES programming has grown and evolved, and the JES team has explored that evolution here with you in our annual reports. From the launch of the annual Global Summit, which itself grew from a two-and-half-day series to one spread over three weeks, to the increasing the total of annual events to nearly 100 at our 3207 State Street location, to the launch of the Satellite Programming initiative throughout Erie County that nearly doubled our output, to the more than 200 digital programs livestreamed and broadcasted to the public during the pandemic, JES programming continues to expand in an effort to make our events more accessible to the community in new ways.

In 2021, the JES produced 86 digital programs, including the Global Summit XII speaker series that featured 14 digital programs and 18 speakers, ranging from interviews to lectures, debates to panel discussions. The reach of the digital summit alone totaled 44,000 with average views of 1,200. Thanks to a COVID-19 policy implemented for in-person events, attendees could again gather safely to learn together face to face. The JES held 12 in-person events

Growth in Event Attendance
Average number of persons per event



between September and December at Gannon University, the Bayfront Convention Center, the Jefferson headquarters on State Street and at the satellite in Corry. The overall average attendance number rose to 750 for the third and fourth quarter of 2021. While the number of in-person events and attendance does not compare to previous years they can certainly be attributed to welcoming back in person-programming and the excellent speaker lineup of the Global Summit in November. But it also shows that the interest for in-person programming has sustained, and that the organization’s ingenuity, perseverance, and commitment was recognized and appreciated by the audience.

While the JES team looks forward to continuing in-person programs at the Jefferson and satellites, it also looks forward to reaching audiences in new, innovative ways. As 2022 continues, so will broadcasting of digital and live programming – today, tomorrow, and well into the future so that no matter where someone may be, they may have the opportunity to connect to the world-class programming being produced in Erie, Pennsylvania.

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.



2021 IN REVIEW



JANUARY:

When the British Attacked Washington: The Crisis of 1814

Dr. Alan Taylor, who holds the Thomas Jefferson Chair in American History at the University of Virginia, discusses the British attack on the U.S. Capitol, White House, and other targets in 1814.

FEBRUARY:

Environmental Justice

Black History Month discussion with Sarah Bennett, Gary Horton, and Allison Acevedo on the issue of environmental justice at the local and statewide level.

MARCH:

InnovationCity: Lessons from Bottrop, Germany

JES hosts its first international program with Bottrop, Germany Mayor Bernd Tischler, for a discussion about InnovationCities and their potential impacts on urban development and technological innovation.

APRIL:

National Infrastructure Bank

With infrastructure taking center stage in the national conversation, the JES hosts a panel of experts to discuss the Biden administration’s plans and potential policies for the future.

MAY:

Digital Global Summit XII

JES hosts its first-ever digital Global Summit with 14 events over three weeks. These events are completely free of charge for the community.

JUNE:

The War on Drugs

Dan Morhaim, M.D., brings a unique perspective on the topic of drug wars and the policy failures that have proven ineffective in fighting them.

MOST POPULAR PROGRAMS OF 2021

Accidental Paradise Series: The Eriez Indians -- Who Were They? Where Did They Come From? How Did They Disappear? featuring *Dr. David Frew*



The Life and Legacy of Pat Liebel (above) featuring former County Executive *Judy Lynch*, former Mayor *Joyce Savocchio*, *Sheila Coon*, *Pat Cuneo*, *Ed McKean*, and *Ben Spегgen* discussing *Patricia Liebel*, the late government and education leader

National Infrastructure Bank featuring Macroeconomist *Alphecca Muttardy*, (former) Assemblyman *Felix Ortiz*, Representative *Eddie Day Pashinski*, and *Stanley R. Forczek*

Lake Erie Water Levels: An Existential Threat to Presque Isle featuring *Dr. David Frew*

On Deck: Exploring 'Erie Baseball & Softball 360 ... Volume One' featuring *Alan Swigonski* and *Pat Cuneo*



Lower Parade Street: Erie's "Ellis Island" featuring *Ed Whitbred*

Raid, Murder, and Retribution: The Destruction of the Weldon Railroad, December 1864 featuring *George Deutsch*

Lincoln and Davis: Triumphs and Tragedies featuring *Rick Tome*



Dr. Michael L. Coulter



Dr. Caleb Verbois

The Future of the G.O.P.: Where will the Republican Party Go from Here at the National, State, and Local Levels? featuring *Dr. Michael L. Coulter* and *Dr. Caleb Verbois*

American Holidays: From Candlemas and Punxsutawney Phil to Presidents Day and Valentine's Day featuring *Dr. Andrew Roth*

QAnon: An Ideology Weaponized Through Ancient Words and Digital Platforms featuring *Dr. Colleen Kelley*



Dr. Colleen Kelly

Raimy Idea: Caring for Those Who Care for Us featuring *Joe Cuneo* and *Brian Zona*

Business Speaker Series featuring the 2020 *JCLA Cohort*



Brock Institute Blues Music Night featuring *Rev. Charles Brock*, *Jim Cuneo*, and *Pat Cuneo*



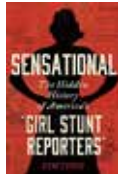
JULY:

Afghanistan's Future on the Line
As the U.S. announces the withdrawal of its last troops from Afghanistan – ending America's longest war – Dr. Baher Ghosheh answers crucial questions associated with its future.



AUGUST:

From Hunger Strikes to 'Lying Flat': Three Decades of Studying Power and Resistance in China
With protests and ethnic oppression in China, Dr. Sharon Wesoky talks about Chinese state-society relations and citizen resistance.



SEPTEMBER:

Sensational: The Hidden History of America's 'Girl Stunt Reporters'
Award-winning author Kim Todd shares the stories of journalistic mavericks detailed in her recent book and discusses the relevance of their work to today's media landscape.
JES resumes in-person programming with author Yvonne Caputo and a discussion of her book 'Flying with Dad.'



OCTOBER:

From Planning to Action: A Review of Impact Corry's Strategic Plan and a Look at the Steps Ahead - Satellite Program at Corry Higher Education Council
With a focus on progress across Erie County, Impact Corry's Chuck Gray discusses the organization's strategic plan for the future of the city and the region.



NOVEMBER:

Global Summit XIII
JES welcomes President George W. Bush, Governor Tom Ridge, Senator Pat Toomey, former Chiefs of Staff Andrew Card and Mack McLarty, and others for the first in-person Global Summit since 2019.



DECEMBER:

American Holidays Series: Ho, Ho, Ho. It's Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, and Auld Lang Syne
Just in time for the holidays, Jefferson Scholar-in-Residence Andrew Roth's American Holidays Series explores the origins of how Americans celebrate Christmas.

RESEARCHERS, WRITERS ROAR

Building on its changing emphasis to shorter articles in 2020, the Jefferson produced nearly 120 articles, reports, and essays in 2021 while also writing biographies and reports for a record two summits in the same year – the digital Global Summit XII in May and the in-person Global Summit XIII in November featuring former President George W. Bush.

Leading the writing charge were Jefferson Scholars-in-Residence Drs. Andrew Roth and David Frew with their popular weekly series on “Book notes” and “On the Waterfront.” They wrote nearly every week and generated popular followings as indicated in the “Most Popular Publications” list on this page. Traditional contributors Rev. Charles Brock, Judy Lynch, Baher Ghosheh, Parris Baker, Ben Speggen, and Pat Cuneo also made their presence felt.

Yet it was a new writer who made a significant impact in the last year, urban sustainability expert Court Gould, as he tackled difficult and sometimes controversial local and regional issues. Those topics included diversity among teachers, childcare as an economic issue, and the most popular publication of the year: “How to Put Equitable Development to Work for Erie, Pennsylvania?” Tackling these issues is of great importance to a regional think tank that strives to champion best practices and introduce ideas that have proved successful in other regions.

The work of writing, editing, and publishing continues in 2022 as the Jefferson embraces new projects and a new edition of the *Journal of Erie Studies*.

MOST POPULAR PUBLICATIONS OF 2021

Book Notes: Should Auld Acquaintance Be Forgot, And Auld Lang Syne by Dr. Andrew Roth, JES Scholar-in-Residence

How to Put Equitable Development to Work for Erie, Pennsylvania by Court Gould

On the Waterfront: Welding: Neighborhood Alchemy, Bayfront Development, and Soccer by Dr. David Frew, JES Scholar-in-Residence

Book Notes: Comically A-Caroling We Will Go! by Dr. Andrew Roth, JES Scholar-in-Residence

On the Waterfront: Cascade Park Club by Dr. David Frew, JES Scholar-in-Residence

On the Waterfront: Ollie and Thelma Brown by Dr. David Frew, JES Scholar-in-Residence

On the Waterfront: Tarzan Swings by Dr. David Frew, JES Scholar-in-Residence

Book Notes: A-Caroling We Will Go! (Part Two) by Dr. Andrew Roth, JES Scholar-in-Residence

On the Waterfront: Waldameer School Picnics by Dr. David Frew, JES Scholar-in-Residence

On the Waterfront: Horse Heroes by Dr. David Frew, JES Scholar-in-Residence

Book Notes: A-Caroling We Will Go! by Dr. Andrew Roth, JES Scholar-in-Residence

On the Waterfront: Two Kinds of Hotels by Dr. David Frew, JES Scholar-in-Residence

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

109

The Jefferson published more than 109 essays, reports, book notes, and “**Quick, Timely Reads**” alone in 2021, in addition to developing articles and biographies for two Global Summit speaker series and several other staff projects. In addition to the prolific work of Dr. David Frew (48 “**On the Waterfront**” articles) and Dr. Andrew Roth (46 “**Book notes**” articles), the Jefferson introduced writer Court Gould on think-tank issues and received key contributions from Dr. Parris Baker and Dr. Baher Ghosheh. Regular contributions also came from the Rev. Charles Brock and Dr. Judith Lynch.

14

The Jefferson published three more major essays in 2021, raising the total to 11: **Covid-19 vaccinations in the African American community** (Parris Baker, Pat Cuneo, Charles Mock, Ben Speggen); **a high school and community college dual degree program** (Dr. Maureen McClure and Dr. Harold Aughton); and **the civic impact of the Leroy and Beatrice Smith family in Edinboro, Pennsylvania** (Ruth Cogan and Melinda Meyer).

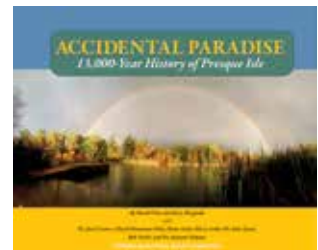
12

Five new reports, including four by urban expert Court Gould were published in 2021 (teacher diversity in the Erie School District, childcare, community benefit agreements, equitable development in region). **The Erie County Covid Report** was also produced by Jefferson Scholar-in-Residence Judith Lynch, Ph.D., and Perry Wood, Ed.D., Executive Director of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, and 10 committee members on the county panel.

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 Center Gift Shop and the website www.AccidentalParadise.com. The book is a joint project of the Jefferson and TREC Foundation. “**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 for 2022.

CHAIRWOMAN JOYCE SAVOCCHIO:

Join Us in the Work Ahead



The great success of the Global Summit XIII speaker series in November 2021 – hosting a former President of the United States – has led the Jefferson into a new era, an era that will allow its mission, purpose, and vision to reach communities across our nation.

I wish to thank the Jefferson community and the entire regional community for its support during 2021. This year has been both challenging and rewarding and we are so pleased that you were a part of it. I also wish to thank President Ferki Ferati and his team for

its professionalism and doing such an outstanding job during the uncertainty of a second year of a pandemic.

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

Joyce Savocchio
Chairwoman

BOARD OFFICERS:



Vice Chairman Bruce Raimy



Treasurer Charles Caryl



Secretary Charles Brock

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jeff Szumigale – Trustee - Senior Vice President, PNC Bank

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

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

Dr. Ferki Ferati is in his fifth year as President of the Jefferson Educational Society, 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.

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

Angela Beaumont is Director of Operations at the Jefferson, where she also coordinates programming, the Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy, the Jefferson Dinner Series, and continues to work with Rev. Charles Brock and the Brock Institute. Angela holds a degree in American Studies and Business from the University of Kassel in Germany. Her prior experience includes working for a think tank in Washington, D.C. and for DHL in Bonn, Germany, where she held various positions in international marketing and business

development. In 2009, she moved with her family to the United States, where she worked in Special Education, German language teaching, and import logistics. Angela is a graduate of the inaugural class of the Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy.

PAT CUNEO, B.A.**Publications Coordinator**

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

DEA WOODWARD, M.B.A.**Bookkeeper**

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

RAVEN CLARK, B.A.**Administrative Assistant**

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.

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

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

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

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

SUPPORT STAFF

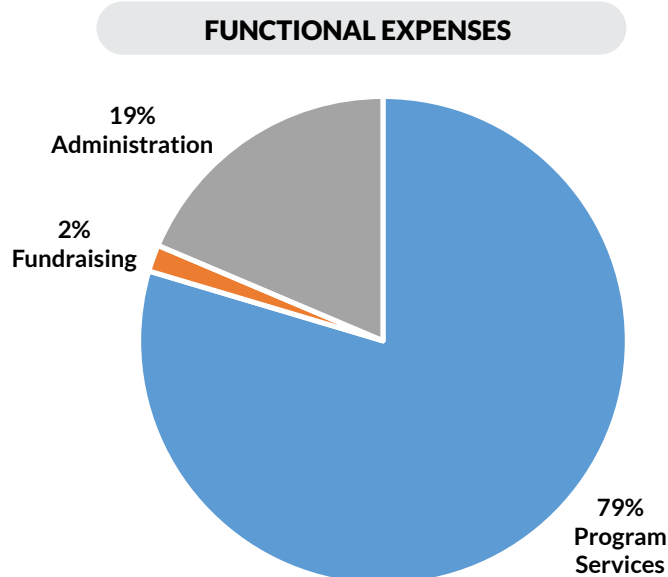
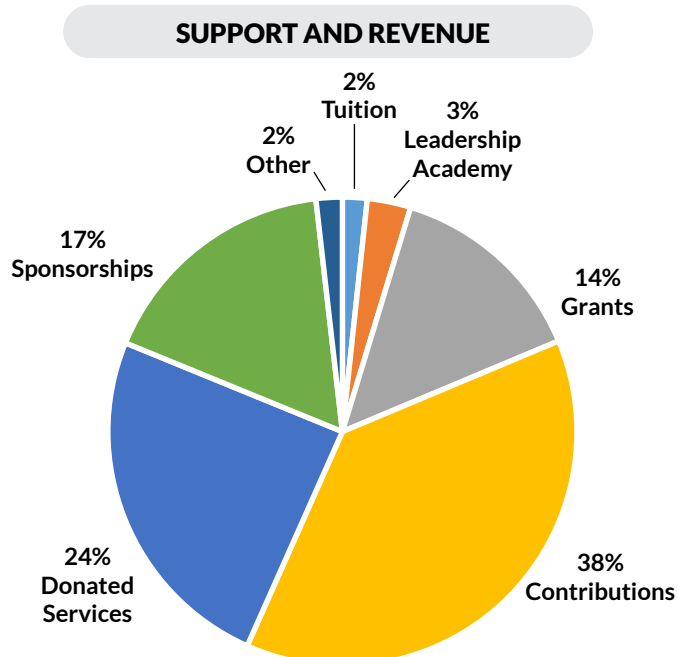
Ethan Bennett
Catlin Lowes
Olivia Wickline
Zehra Ferati
David Hull

With more than 79 percent of our expenses dedicated to program services, the Jefferson team remains confident our priorities are in the right order. Because of the Covid-19 impact, the Jefferson brought in significantly fewer dollars through programming, but increased its output significantly. We also remain committed to offering affordable or free programs to our members and the public about important community issues and initiatives. Even as we grow, we continue to allocate funds to our core missions at the Jefferson: the annual Global Summit; four seasons of programming each year; the Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy; and research and multimedia projects.

Jefferson Educational Society of Erie, Inc.
Statement of Financial Position at August 31, 2021 and 2020

ASSETS	2021	2020
Current Assets		
Cash	503,602	415,742
Pledges receivable - current	288,500	243,300
Accounts receivable	2,300	3,475
Inventory	21,492	22,679
Prepaid expenses	144,334	127,373
Total current assets	960,318	812,569
Property and equipment	1,680,019	1,680,019
Less: accumulated depreciation	504,945	446,436
Total property and equipment	1,175,074	1,233,583
Other assets		
Pledges receivable - long term	1,244,188	1,371,799
Endowment	584,081	502,202
Total other assets	2,135,392	1,874,001
Total Assets	3,963,661	3,920,153

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	2021	2020
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	27,185	17,062
Lines of credit	334,962	331,382
Accrued expenses	7,216	3,126
Current portion of long term debt	27,492	27,492
Total current liabilities	636,855	619,062
Long-term obligation, less current position	594,747	634,695
Net assets		
Without donor restrictions	942,395	772,997
with donor restrictions	1,807,664	1,893,399
Total net assets	2,732,059	2,666,396
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	3,963,661	3,920,153



JEFFERSON EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

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Examine **THE PAST.**

Study **THE PRESENT.**

Explore **THE FUTURE.**

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

JES MISSION

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

OUR BUILDING PARTNERSHIP

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