

JEFFERSON EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY



2020

ANNUAL REPORT

Vision and Impact



Dear Jefferson Supporters,

As we head into a new year and a new decade, two words come to mind: Thank you. Without you, we could not do the work we do at the Jefferson.

In 2019, that meant hosting more than 100 events at our headquarters at 32nd and State streets and at three offsite locations in Corry, Edinboro, and Fairview, where we launched our satellite programming (this year we have added North East). In 2019, that also meant producing two essays, two editions of the Journal of Erie Studies, and four of our new Jefferson Reports on timely issues – Erie’s reconnection with Zibo, China; updating the algal bloom threat, marking the first time a Global Summit speaker also contributed a written report; turning the focus to Erie’s food deserts; and outlining the real threat of losing minor league baseball. In 2019, our Global Summit speaker series also presented some of the nation’s greatest researchers and thinkers on cutting-edge topics, such as extraterrestrial life as seen through the eyes of Harvard University astronomer Avi Loeb, or an examination of today’s divided politics with Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist George Will.

We were able to do this work because of your support. It’s that simple. Similarly, we are a nonpartisan organization, in thought and in action, because we know that is the best way for our community to achieve progress.

The Jefferson continues to strive to be a center of learning, where critical issues are openly presented and discussed. We seek light, not heat, in the debate and discussion of issues that are important to all of us. Again, your support, by attending our events and by reading our publications, makes this possible.

While we are proud to offer 10 times the amount of programming than when we began in 2008, your support has also made it possible to offer our events free to all students and people who seek tuition waivers because of financial burden.

So, thank you, Jefferson supporters. We are grateful. We also ask you to join us once again in 2020 as we enter our 12th year and a new decade. The Jefferson has exciting plans, and we need your help and involvement. With your support, we know we can continue to impact our community in lasting ways.

Sincerely,



Ferki Ferati, Ed.D.
President



Jefferson President Dr. Ferki Ferati

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The Jefferson's Impact

Informing a Community that Learns Together

2020: We find ourselves equidistant from the turn of the millennium and 2040. We also find ourselves at the closing of one decade – the second of our second millennium – and the start of a new one.

As we reach these milestones, it is worth reflecting on the Jefferson's first decade to explore how the region's think tank for community progress is continuing onward.

Chiefly, since its launch in 2008, the Jefferson has served the region as a platform to discuss ideas. A place to examine the past, study the present, and explore the future, the Jefferson has key at its core – and in our tagline – the ideal of “Community Progress.”

Over the past 10 years, it has become common throughout the Erie community to hear the words: **“I heard it at the Jefferson.”**

The Jefferson began by focusing on themes vital to the civic cultivation of the community. From examining the Founding Fathers and Mothers and their impact on democracy, to the birth of modern democracy and Roman history, the Jefferson curriculum focused on the ideas that have shaped us.

But issues of the now also found space for discussion at the Jefferson, as the think tank team evolved its educational offerings. From discussions of community planning, dating back to 2010 when Senior Vice President of the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce Dave Porter came to Erie for the second Global Summit to examine “Regional Reinvention,” to the surge of community plans, ranging from Emerge 2040 to Erie Refocused and beyond through the five years to follow, as the Jefferson hosted various programs to explore regional and local planning and progress, the Jefferson has provided the testbed to explore the future and served

as a platform to evaluate and measure progress.

While the Jefferson offers programming year-round, drawing from the expertise of local scholars, the **Global Summit** remains a hallmark for the Jefferson, and often what we hear folks recognize the institution the most for. So it comes as no surprise that the big ideas present at the Summit captivated local crowds and spurred local reflection and discussion to beget homegrown action.

From E.J. Dionne headlining the first Global Summit, to Paul Kennedy presenting at the second installment, from Francis Fukuyama and Alice Rivlin at Global Summit III, to Karl Rove and David Brooks the next year, from Bill Kristol and Harry Markopolos to Sister Joan Chittister, Laura Bush, Michele Ridge, Bruce Katz, Cokie Roberts, Doris Kearns Goodwin, Governors Tom Ridge and Tom Wolf, Philip Rucker, Douglas Brinkley, Michael Eric Dyson, Elise Jordan, Howard Dean, James Fallows and Deborah Fallows, David Ignatius, and so many others in the years to follow, the Global Summit imports ideas to Erie, Pennsylvania and draws regional crowds to what has become the largest and most esteemed speaker series in the area.

This year for Global Summit XI, from the media, Pulitzer Prize-winning syndicated columnist and author **George Will** spoke to a packed Hammermill Center at Gannon University. Other news veterans – such as **Susan Page**, **Karen Tumulty**, and **Michael Smerconish** – were among this year's attendees, as well as two rising media stars: **Mary Katharine Ham** and **Alexi McCammond**.

While we have branded the Summit as a global experience – bringing renowned speakers to present on national and international ideas and trends – we went interstellar in 2019 with **Avi Loeb**, the



Dr. Avi Loeb, Harvard astronomer and academician

Harvard astronomer and academician who posed whether we are alone in the universe. Several others delighted and informed Jefferson audiences, such as historian **Edna Greene Medford**, algal bloom expert **Patricia Glibert**, economic conservative **Nile Gardiner**, former White House Press Secretary **Sean Spicer** and former Senator and U.S. Defense Secretary **Chuck Hagel**. An added



Columnist and Media Personality Michael Smerconish



Dr. Ferki Ferati, Ben Speggen, and Colleen Dougherty meet the C-SPAN visitors.

bonus was the addition of one of Erie's favorite sons, **Tom Ridge**, and Brookings Institution Senior Fellow **Camille Busette**. The Summit drew to a close with Erie's own **Eleanor Smeal**, co-founder of the Feminist Majority Foundation and a women's rights hero, who returned home to accept the Jefferson's highest honor, the Thomas B. Hagen Dignitas Award. We were also happy to welcome back Summit Chairman **Steve Scully**, a senior executive producer and editor at C-SPAN.

The continued success of the Jefferson's Global Summit demonstrates the community's hunger to learn. Too, it continues to prove that Erieites far and wide don't need to venture to larger cities to talk about big ideas because part of

the Jefferson's mission is to bring ideas to Erie.

What's more, for many Global Summit presenters, getting an invitation from the Jefferson brings them to northwestern Pennsylvania for the first time. While audiences have the opportunity to learn from them, the presenters have the opportunity to get to know Erie. From mentions in the Washington Post thanks to David Ignatius, shout outs on SiriusXM thanks to Michael Smerconish, to ongoing coverage in The Atlantic thanks to James and Deborah Fallows, the Jefferson continues to help get the word out about Erie.

But as important as helping to broadcast Erie's story is, ensuring the intellectual welfare of the community remains vibrant is vital to our venture at the Jefferson. When the Jefferson first opened its doors in 2008, our events drew an average attendance of 12. But for the past eight years, average attendance has consistently been more than 100.

But no matter the size of the audience, the mission has remained the same: Stimulate community progress through education and research activities. And throughout the years, more and more people recognize the benefit of that,



Tom Ridge, left, and Chuck Hagel respond to questions.

with our membership and donor base beginning in 2011 at 91 and growing to 869 in less than 10 years.

It's also becoming more common to hear: **"I read it, thanks to the Jefferson."**

Research has always played an important role in what we do as the region's think tank for community progress. From histories of local organizations, to our partnership with the Hagen History Center to resurrect *The Journal of Erie Studies*, to essays on critical issues facing the community, the Jefferson has always tried to ensure that the community could study the past, examine its present, and better explore its future.

In that spirit, the idea of creating the **Jefferson Report** format in 2019 was to react more quickly to emerging public issues and to focus more narrowly on those subjects with quick-hit reports by experienced writers. In the last quarter of the year, the Jefferson produced four such reports on Erie's rekindling sister-city relationship with Zibo, China; a look at food deserts; examining harmful algal blooms and the threat they pose to our



Erie News Now Journalist Lisa Adams, at right, chats with Author and Journalist Susan Page.



Erie Mayor Joe Schember greets a young Zibo, China, host.

region's greatest asset – Presque Isle; and the economic impact of potentially losing our minor league baseball team.

While educational lectures and research-based publications remain the backbone of our think tank, they do not complete the full picture of the Jefferson's impact.

That is why in 2015, we launched our

Civic Leadership Academy so that young, emerging professionals in Erie would have the opportunity to better learn the form and function of local and state government to be more mindful and impactful in the civic cultivation of our region. A seven-month-long experience, the JCLA introduces participants to leadership in each of the three branches of state government in Harrisburg, and when cohorts return, they embark on a countywide tour of Erie to learn municipal government from those leading it – all the while working on research on critical issues facing the region, ranging from blight to poverty, the opioid crisis to the Blue Economy and more.

To date, more than 100 participants have graduated – some running for elected offices, others becoming more engaged in grassroots initiatives, and more still becoming more active participants in their own democracy.

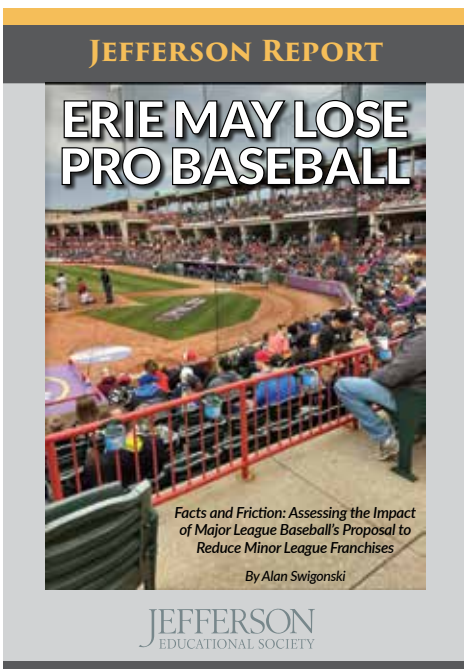
To continue to grow its offerings for these civically engaged up-and-comers, in 2018, the Jefferson introduced the **Raimy Fellowship Program** to the Civic Leadership Academy. An additional, optional tract, the Raimy Fellowship Program offers participants a deeper



Fairview's Lincoln Community Center is hosting Jefferson Satellite Programs.

dive into leadership philosophy and public policy with individuals completing specialized researched projects. On the cusp of graduating its second cohort, the Raimy Fellowship Program came to be because alumni of the Civic Leadership Academy wanted more, and the Jefferson listened and acted.

Another thing our team heard and acted upon was addressing the growth of our programming. While our lecturers at the



Jefferson Reports shine a spotlight on important local issues.



Penn State Behrend Chancellor Dr. Ralph Ford and his wife, Dr. Melanie Ford, attend the Global Summit with County official Gary Lee and Erie Attorney Tom Tupitza.



Avi Loeb, at right, meets new admirers.

Jefferson have been at our core since our launch, we recognized that not everyone had equitable access to our location. To ensure that geography and location would not be barriers of access to the educational fare we offer, the Jefferson team launched its **Jefferson Satellite Programming in 2019**.

The Satellite Programming began in Corry at the Corry Higher Education Council on February 27; Fairview at the Fairview Area Historical Society on March 5; and in Edinboro on the campus of Edinboro University of Pennsylvania on July 9. Throughout that year, the Jefferson hosted more than 30 programs, drawing an average attendance of 24 – double what the Jefferson began with in 2008 at its home base.

The Jefferson is also at work in these communities, helping to advance policy conversations. From hosting Metro 100-styled programming to examine planning efforts, to facilitating



Angela Beaumont and Colleen Dougherty, at center, take part in the Gannon Global Coffee Hour event.

introductions to national think tanks, to exploring opportunities from the USDA to empower and build up rural communities, the Jefferson team is dedicated to deploying its full set of think tank resources to these regions.

Further development of the Satellites is already underway in 2020. The Jefferson team remains grateful to the Fairview Area Historical Society for the warm and gracious welcome into the community. But with increasing attendance with many programs exceeding the space's capacity, the Jefferson partnered with the Erie County Public Library to begin hosting programming at the Lincoln Community Center Library. The first program of the year there, a look at the Erie Extension Canal led by local historian and profile author Dr. David Frew, drew a record turnout for Satellite Programming with a

packed room of 67 folks eager to review Erie's past.

The Jefferson also added a fourth location, debuting programming in the North East community at the Mercyhurst North East Ridge Library. On a cold January night, more than a dozen came ready to learn about the products and creations that have made Erie County a success – a popular program offered by Jefferson Scholar-in-Residence Dr. Judy Lynch.

The **Scholars-in-Residence** initiative marks another development at the Jefferson to make whole what our team can offer to the community. Dedicated scholars focusing on specific areas of scholarship, these local experts will produce publications and offer public presentations to take deeper, more guided dives into topics ranging from Erie history, to economic development, to immigration, to race relations, to environment, to leadership, and more, and we are excited for the work to come in 2020 and throughout the course of this new decade.

The Jefferson has served as the space where those in Erie County can come to educate themselves on critical issues facing not just our region but the nation beyond. In the decade ahead, the Jefferson is endeavoring to continue to provide that service while growing smartly to better serve the Greater Erie Region. Whether that's on interesting historical topics of the past or imperative issues of the now, it is so that we may learn, together, for decades to come.



Members of the Civic Leadership Academy take a break for refreshments.

THE JEFFERSON EXPANDS NEW INITIATIVES



The Jefferson team launched its Jefferson Satellite Programming in 2019 with locations in Corry, Fairview, Edinboro and most recently, North East.

The Jefferson team launched the Satellite programming initiative in 2019 in Corry, Edinboro and Fairview, hosting monthly programming at the Corry Higher Education Council, the Alexander Music Center at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, and the Fairview Area Historical Society. In 2020 the Jefferson continued its programming in these communities, expanding its programming in Fairview by moving to and partnering with the Erie County Public Library’s Lincoln Community Center and introducing programming in the North East Community in the Ridge Library on the campus of Mercyhurst North East. The Jefferson team has already doubled 2019 programming by offering 45 events January through June and is working with these communities to plan programming in July and beyond.

THE JEFFERSON SCHOLARS-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM

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



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



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

- Corinne Egan, B.A. – Women’s Studies*
- Paul Gambill, M.A. – Program Development*
- Baher Ghosheh, Ph.D. – Immigration*
- Johnny Johnson, M.Ed. – Education*
- Tom Murphy, M.S. – Community Development*
- Christine Riehl, M.P.P. – Program Development*





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 humble beginning in 2008, the Jefferson now boasts 869 members, sponsors, and donors dedicated to education, information, and civic growth.

Because of our members, the Jefferson has been able to increase its winter, spring, summer, and fall term programming, host valuable discussions and dialogues, conduct important research for community progress initiatives, publish essays, reports, and books about pertinent issues facing our region, train future civic leaders, and deliver a star-studded Global Summit each year. Through memberships and donations, we are making a positive difference in the entire 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.

Member support allows the Jefferson to:

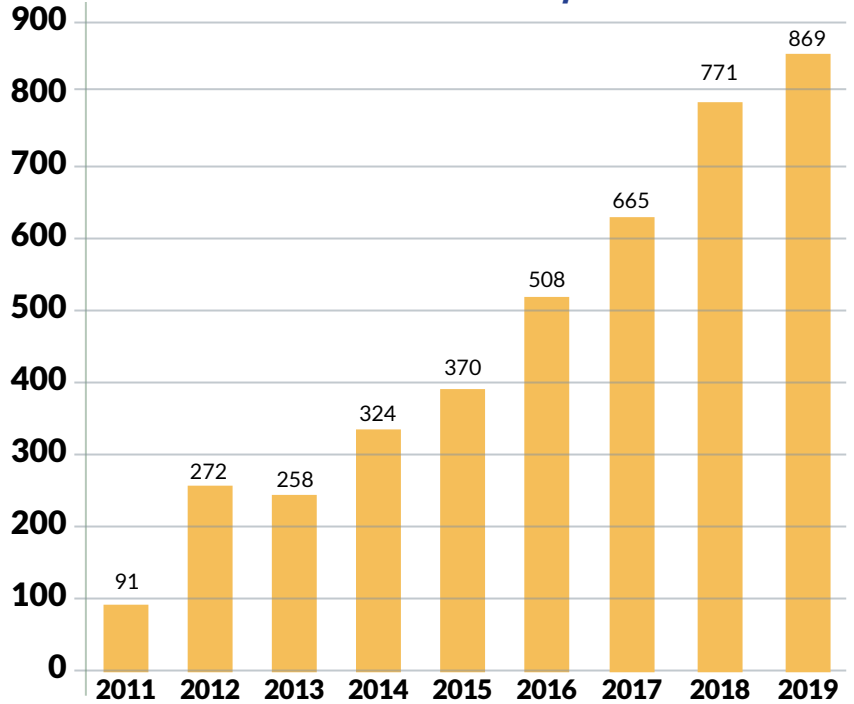
- Increase programming
- Keep ticket prices unchanged since 2008
- Expand outreach
- Produce and implement ideas in our region

Jefferson Educational Society Memberships are Available in the Following Categories:

- Lifetime Membership: \$10,000+**
- President's Circle: \$5,000+**
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- 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 869 at present



Total JES Members and Donors: 869

Members, Membership Levels, and Donors

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

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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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Paul and Renee Gambill, members since 2008

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Dave Ungerman
Matthew Upperman
Bernard Urbaniak
Eugene Ware
Richard Weiser
Rebecca Wellejus
Erin Wincek
Diane Woodie
Marian Wygant
Paul Ziegler

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Morgan Adams
Lainie Addressi
Mary Alferi Richmond
Bonnie Baker
Dr. Mark Baker
Joann Bambauer

Joseph Baniszewski
 Harry Bierley
 Will Bloomstine
 Katherine Boroquez
 Linda Bollensen
 Peggy Brace
 Jay Breneman
 Elzora Brezinski
 Janet Britt
 Kevin Buchheit
 Connie Burgert
 Gary Willis Cardot
 Barbara Charles
 Jimmy Cuneo
 Kevin & Mary Cuneo
 Pat & Robin Cuneo
 Pat Davis
 Melanie Demetro
 Jack Dile
 Karen Eisenhart
 Zehra Ferati
 Barb Fiorenzo
 Fred Garnon
 Joe & Anna Gehringer
 Yvonne Gersims
 Bonnie Ginader
 Gregory Godmaire
 Jack & Maxine Gold
 Janet Griffin
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 David Gustafson
 Pat Gustafson
 Richard Hahn
 Carl Hanes
 David Herman
 Thomas Howe
 Haki Idrizi
 Selvie Idrizi
 Larry Johnson
 Mandi Johnson
 Howard Joint

Kenneth Kaczowski
 Kristy Kaliszewski
 David Karrfalt
 Sheila Kemp
 Jochen Kindling
 Fr. Daniel Kresinski
 Agnes Kudlock
 Jacob Larsen
 Afrim Latifi
 Bardha Latifi
 Mentor Latifi
 Wook Lee
 Art Leopold
 David Lester
 Bob Lewis
 Karen Lewis
 Patricia Loubeau
 Sister Rita Lynch
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 Freda Tepfer
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 Matthew Wachter
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 Joan Zonno

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 OUR VERY GENEROUS
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 Erie Metropolitan Transit
 Authority

"Ten or so years ago, we attended a Jefferson program simply out of curiosity. It was fascinating, made us think, and expanded our interests. We have attended regularly and become members since then. It is for people who are open to learn about new concepts and programs. It is for people who don't mind seeing all sides of a struggle or conflict. It is for people who want to learn about history and how it has affected us today. It is for us."

Alex and Doris Gemovich, members since 2011

Erie News Now
 Erie Reader
 Paul & Renee Gambill
 Gannon University
 Baher Ghosheh
 Carl Hanes
 Donna Harrington
 Fran & Joyce Hayden
 Christine Hedlund
 Pamela Hime
 Linda Jennings
 Jewish Community Council
 of Erie
 Johnny Johnson
 John Kathman
 Linda Kidwell
 Knox Law
 William Koehle
 Ashley Lawson
 LECOM Health
 Mary Lincoln
 Logistics Plus
 Judith Lynch
 Bill Makarowski
 Michael Martin
 Vincent May
 Dale McBrier
 Maureen McClure
 McManis & Monsalve
 Associates
 Marquette Savings Bank
 MenajErie Studio
 Katharine Merriam
 Thomas Micelotta
 Denise Robison Mullen
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Denise Robison-Mullen
 Virginia Rogers
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 Patricia Schwarz
 William Sennett
 Judy Sicari
 Sneaky Pete's/Roadhouse
 698
 Mary Kay Songer
 Michael Songer
 Timothy Spaeder
 James Spoden
 Linda Stevenson
 Bridget Sutton
 Jeff Szumigale
 Michele Tome
 Michelle Totleben
 Thomas Tupitza
 United Way
 Velocity Network
 Maureen Walls
 Christine Walsh
 William Ware
 Abdullah Washington
 Wm. T. Spaeder
 WJET/Jet24/Fox66
 WQLN
 YourCause, LLC
 Remlee Zeiser

VOLUNTEERS

Bruce Arkwright
 Richard Arthur
 Jeanne Baker
 Ken & Irene Brasington
 Don Cornman
 Linda Graff
 Bill Makarowski
 Marjorie Podolsky
 Klaus & Elaine Retzlaff
 Chris Riehl
 Dave Robinson
 Tim Spaeder
 Mary Tredway
 Donna Wood
 United Way

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

Klaus and Elaine Retzlaff, members since 2018



GLOBAL SUMMIT THROUGH THE DECADE

From a humble start as a two-day conference in 2009, the Jefferson's annual Global Summit has grown to become an annual staple on Erie's civic calendar. Over its first 11 years, the Summit has become the largest and most esteemed speaker series in the region, featuring 109 of the most respected scholars, writers, and leaders in the nation.

The idea is simple: Invite some of the best thinkers to Erie to tell us about their cutting-edge studies or insightful work on important issues, and point the focus on Erie and its challenges. The Global Summit has grown in number of speakers and attendees each year and remains the signature series of events for Jefferson members and the entire Erie regional community.

GLOBAL SUMMIT I (2009)

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

GLOBAL SUMMIT II (2010)

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

GLOBAL SUMMIT III (2011)

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

GLOBAL SUMMIT IV (2012)

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

GLOBAL SUMMIT V (2013)

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

GLOBAL SUMMIT VI (2014)

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

GLOBAL SUMMIT VII (2015)

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



E.J. DIONNE



PAUL KENNEDY



ALICE M. RIVLIN



KARL ROVE



HARRY MARKOPOLOS



SISTER JOAN CHITTISTER



COKIE ROBERTS

GLOBAL SUMMIT VIII (2016)

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



DORIS KEARNS GOODWIN

PHOTO BY 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



Sean Spicer talks about his experience being former White House Press Secretary with Ben Speggen at Global Summit XI.



Edna Greene Medford, a Professor of History from Howard University, responds to a question from Ben Speggen at Global Summit XI.



White House Media Panel (Steve Scully, Karen Tumulty, Alexi McCammond, Mary Katharine Ham) discusses Campaign 2020.



George Will captivates a Global Summit XI crowd while talking politics.



From left: Chairwoman Joyce Savocchio, Ferki Ferati, Dignitas Award winner Eleanor Smeal, Thomas B. Hagen, Christine McClure, Judy Lynch.

Global Summit XI Sponsors:

Platinum

- LECOM Health
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- Thomas B. Hagen Dignitas Award

Gold

- Gannon University
- Erie News Now

Silver

- Brock Institute
- Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
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- Velocity Network
- PNC Bank
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- WQLN Public Media

Copper

- Marquette Savings Bank
- Northwest Savings Bank
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- MenajErie Studio
- Erie Reader
- Curtze Food Service
- Jewish Community Council of Erie

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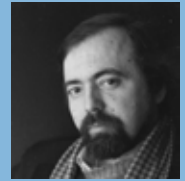
For benefits and information regarding each sponsorship level, please call the Jefferson at 814.459.8000.



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.

Dynamic. Interactive. Collaborative.

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

RESEARCH

Blue Economy: The 2019 JCLA cohort explored the Blue Economy and addressed what they learned in this group action project. The goals of this project was to educate residents and visitors of Erie County about the Blue Economy and vast opportunities that exist in the areas of science, infrastructure and economic development, and to create broader awareness through an educational exhibit that showcases the current state of the Blue Economy and key opportunities that exist for Erie County.



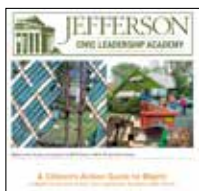
Poverty report: In 2018, JCLA participants applied the lessons learned from the program to a group action project focused on Poverty in Erie County, which yielded the creation of a Community Poverty Index. This project intends to identify and address structural impediments to elevating the economic status of people living in poverty by examining a selection of resources in low-income, middle-income, and high-income ZIP codes across Erie County.



#ErieOpioidProject: In addressing the opioid epidemic, the 2017 JCLA cohort produced the media awareness campaign, *Many Stories, One Story*, to change the conversation about addiction from one of demonizing stigma to one of encouragement and compassion. The participants interviewed recovering addicts, policy experts, and medical professionals in an effort to shed light on the crisis sweeping the nation.



Blight report: To highlight successful strategies for addressing blight undertaken by other cities and regions, the 2016 JCLA participants drafted **A Citizen's Action Guide to Blight**. The group's work has since been cited in various meetings and remains a vital tool for the region's leaders when discussing blight and how to combat it.



Tunnel: The 2015 JCLA cohort explored forming a potential connection between the Erie's east side and the eastern part of Presque Isle. Their research led to numerous discussions and meetings regarding the feasibility to address the limited access to Presque Isle.



HARRISBURG AND COUNTYWIDE SESSIONS SECTION

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



During a **two-day retreat to Harrisburg**, participants of the Civic Leadership Academy have met with Governor Tom Wolf, Pennsylvania Superior Court Judge Victor P. Stabile, and leadership from both the House of Representatives and the State Senate as well as the Erie delegation. The group has also met with policy experts specific to the research projects they've explored to help them begin to find solutions to issues that affect Erie and Pennsylvania.

Each year after returning from Harrisburg, the **JCLA visits numerous municipalities throughout Erie County** to learn about the history, challenges, and future plans of those regions. Along the way, they've met with the Erie County Executive; the Chairman of County Council; the Mayor of the City of Erie; the President of Erie City Council; Supervisors from Fairview, Harborcreek, Millcreek, and North East; leaders from Corry and Union City; the Mayor of Wesleyville; the Borough Manager for Edinboro; numerous policy experts – including former DNC Chairman Howard Dean, former RNC Chairman Michael Steele, and John Hudak, Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution – to help inform their research; and toured the State Correctional Institution in Albion.



"Being a part of the Leadership Academy means being a voice for Erie County and becoming more educated on our community's needs. We are all leaders of change and hopeful to play a part in creating ways in which our entire community can become more educated as well."

– Toni Mazanowski, Velocity Network and Emma Eisert-Włodarczyk, Millcreek Township School District

JEFFERSON CIVIC LEADERSHIP ACADEMY GRADUATES

2019 GRADUATES

Matthew Allen, Red Letter Hospitality
 Nathan Bish, Erie Insurance Group
 Jeffrey Bloodworth, Gannon University
 Joe Cuneo, Mercyhurst University
 Emma Eisert-Wlodarczyk, Millcreek Township School District
 Veronica Fields, Erie City Hall, Dept. of Economic and Community Development
 Lisa Fischer, United Way of Erie County
 Maggie Ignasiak, Erie County Public Library
 Ericka Knight, Erie County
 Andrea Konkol, Penn State Behrend
 Lydia Laythe, U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants
 Annē Lewis, Red Letter Hospitality
 Sarah Loftus, Howard Hanna Real Estate Services
 Justin Mason, Energy Consultant at GMA
 Sherri Mason, Penn State Behrend
 Toni Mazanowski, Velocity Network
 Patrick Miller, WQLN
 Martha Nwachukwu, Erie County United
 Emily Perrotta, Graduate Student
 Cole Schenley, Books Galore
 Jay Shaffer, Erie Insurance Group
 Darnell Stallworth, Pennsylvania Stands Up
 Honey Stempka, Erie County Dept. of Planning and Community Development
 Juanita Maria Stokes, Charter Communications
 Matthew Washek, L'Arche
 Ashley Westgate, ServErie
 Andona Zacks-Jordan, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine

Breanna Adams, 2016
 Kevin Arrington, 2015
 Niken Astari, 2016
 Julie Barry, 2018
 Angela Beaumont, 2015
 Jada Best, 2018
 Paige Bosnyak, 2017
 Kristin Bowers, 2017
 Carissa Brandt, 2018
 Jay Breneman, 2016
 Joelyn Bush, 2017
 Michelle Butler, 2016
 Correy Connolly, 2018
 Chanel Cook, 2015
 Lisa Counasse, 2015
 Meagan Cousins, 2017
 Kurt Crays, 2018
 Chelsea Curlett, 2018
 Emily Dauber, 2017
 Dusti Dennis, 2018
 Brian Dorio, 2016
 Patrick Duda, 2017
 Joylene Ehrich, 2018
 Jennifer Farrar, 2015
 Ferki Ferati, 2016
 J. Brian Foht, 2017
 Kevin Forte, 2017
 Bill Frackowiak, 2017
 Kerry Franz, 2015
 Natalia Garcia, 2017
 Jamilya Gates, 2018
 Tim Giblin, 2015

Varun Gupta, 2016
 Riki Hay, 2017
 Kati Hecker, 2017
 Andrew Henderson, 2015
 James Heubel, 2016
 Kyle Hinsdale, 2015
 Heather Hinz, 2018
 Khadija Horton, 2016
 Andrew Hromyak, 2015
 Jessica Hunter, 2018
 Amanda Iadeluca, 2016
 Patreece Johnson, 2018
 Alison Kaminski, 2016
 Andrew Kerr, 2017
 Hannah Kirby, 2015
 Andrew Kochirka, 2016
 Halle Kostansek, 2016
 Steve Krivonak, 2015
 Christopher LaFuria, 2015
 Afrim Latifi, 2017
 Ashley Lawson, 2016
 Christal Lepak, 2017
 Doug Magee, 2018
 Tom Maggio, 2016
 Heather McBrier, 2017
 Tiffany McCloud, 2016
 Michael McCormick, 2015
 Stephanie Montgomery, 2018
 Tori Moore, 2018
 April Morrison, 2015
 Marwah Obaid, 2018
 Michael Outlaw, 2018

Tiffanie Page-Collazo, 2016
 Ryan Palm, 2016
 Kevin Pollock, 2015
 Shawnta Pulliam, 2015
 Veronica Rexford, 2015
 Lesley Ridge, 2015
 Kevin Schaaf, 2017
 William Scholz, 2015
 YahMoorah Shakoor-Hooker, 2018
 Patrick Simpson, 2015
 Paul Smola, 2016
 April Soriano, 2018
 Depend Tamba, 2017
 Nick Taylor, 2018
 Tiffany Thomas, 2016
 Tyler Titus, 2017
 Mary Tredway, 2017
 Seth Trott, 2018
 Alvin Tucker, II, 2015
 Laura Walchack, 2015
 Maureen Walls, 2016
 Shawn Waskiewicz, 2017
 Jim Wertz, 2018
 Brad Wiertel, 2017
 Matthew Wiertel, 2016
 Erin Wincek, 2015
 Nina Wolfarth, 2015
 Perry Wood, 2016
 Jessica Yochim, 2017
 Andrea Zdaniewski, 2017
 Brian Zona, 2018

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Raimy Ideas Essays:

The Barriers to Entry

A Study of the difficulties of Minority-Owned Business Creation and a Specialized Storefront Incubator Remedy for Erie, Pennsylvania
 By Seth Trott and Michael Outlaw

Erie Urban Garden Network

Proposal for Fighting Food Insecurity in the City of Erie East Side Communities
 By YahMoorah Shakoor-Hooker

Sharing Skills Can Make A Difference:

A Program to Confront Rural Poverty Through Volunteerism
 By April Soriano

Voting and Registration Differences in Erie, Pa.:

Geographic and Demographic Trends and Implications
 By R. James Wertz, Ph.D.

This collection of essays represents the culmination of more than eight months of work by five dedicated participants of the Raimy Fellowship Program. Responding to suggestions from alumni of the first several Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy (JCLA) cohorts, the Jefferson team created an advanced developmental experience in applied leadership theory.

As a reward for their efforts, the Raimy Fellows, along with Jefferson Educational Society team members Ferki Ferati, Ben Speggen, Angela Beaumont, and Andy Roth spent two intense days in Washington, D.C. One day was spent on Capitol Hill meeting with U.S. Rep. Mike Kelly (R-Pa.), staff members in Sen. Charles Schumur's (D-N.Y.) office, and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's (D-Calif.) offices. On another day, the Fellows met scholars doing the same kind of research they did at The Cato Institute, where they met Michael Tanner, author of *The Inclusive Economy*; at The Heritage Foundation, where they had lunch with Nile Gardiner, Director of the Margaret Thatcher Center for Freedom; and at The Brookings Institution, where the Fellows met Mark Muro, Senior Fellow and Policy Director of the Metropolitan Policy Program; and Darrell West, the Vice President and Director of Governance.



Raimy Fellows and the Jefferson Staff in Washington, D.C., in March 2019.

"I appreciate the opportunity to engage in thoughtful policy discussions with varying perspectives from liberal to conservative. Positive policy change for our people will not start until we are willing to engage with people who may not have the same viewpoint – but they must be willing to listen and find an area of understanding. No one wins if no one is willing to listen." – YahMoorah Shakoor-Hooker

How do we prepare to confront life's issues?



At the core of the Brock Institute for Mega Issues lies my personal and academic conviction that citizens and students alike need to think in broad spheres in order to emerge better prepared for mastering the issues of our times. Regardless of our specific academic studies, we need a balanced education that will prepare us for jobs, friends, and family, and awareness of the huge problems that the world is facing so that maybe we can do something about them.

2019 was an extraordinary year of reflecting on a decade of successful and cutting-edge programming that has contributed, perhaps even initiated, change-making developments in the Erie region. The Brock Institute was going on strong in its ninth year as a co-habitant of the Jefferson, where it can thrive intellectually and programmatically due to common beliefs, shared values, and effective teamwork.

The integrative method of education that we pursue is based on the educational ideals of Milton, Jefferson, and Lincoln which have successfully found their way into higher education and the base for the Brock Institute programs at the Jefferson. After our 2018 lecture series, the “American Dream in the U.S., Europe and Asia,” we presented programs in 2019 as diverse as “Mary Magdalene: The Battle over a Woman’s Place in History” and “An Evening with Mountain Music: The Melting Pot Sounds of Appalachian Folk Music,” with Pat and Jim Cuneo. I also enjoyed meeting, sponsoring, and introducing historian Edna Greene Medford to a Jefferson Global Summit audience in late fall.

Individual growth experience happens when students acknowledge that they leave college with a deeper understanding of what government – or they – can do about mega issues, such as education, racism, climate change, populism, and immigration. The same view is shared by many of our Jefferson patrons after a lecture.

I look forward to engaging our inquisitive community to learn about the connectivity between politics, economics, engineering, business, law, art, music, literature, philosophy, psychology, sociology, religion, and science. At the Brock Institute, we want to strengthen the individual ability to make connections and solve problems. As we move forward, this empowerment I hope will only grow stronger with my plans to talk about the purpose of our government. I will also keep probing United States presidential history for invaluable lessons to be learned for today.

And, yes, music will return to the Jefferson hall in 2020, yet not solely as a form of entertainment but to tell us why music is such a telling part of our nation’s many-faceted soul. While our work continues to make the Brock Institute a community resource for integrative teaching method and problem-solving, we remain committed to the Jefferson mission of being the home for thoughtful public discussion.

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, 2108.



2008

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



2010

Institute launches its first courses and lectures



2011

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



2012

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



2013

Brock Institute renovations unfold, including library



2014

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



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

What is Mega Issues Education?

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

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

The Brock Library

The Brock Library has completed one of the largest private reference libraries in Erie with more than 800 titles concentrating on political science in the categories of American presidents and Congress, history, foreign policy, English history, philosophy, and humanities. It also houses the complete volumes of Library of America. All books were donated by supporters of the Jefferson Society. The elegant Brock Library with its large conference tables can be used as a comfortable room for dinner and lunch roundtable discussion, as a pre-event venue during the Global Summit, for board meetings, and staff celebrations. The reading room is open to the public daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Holy Warrior Presidents

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

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

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



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

Gardens of Monticello and Erie’s Little Italy take center stage at Brock
2017

Rev. Brock narrates and musicians perform “The Story of the Blues”
2018

An Evening with Mountain Music: The Melting Pot Sounds of Appalachian Folk Music
2019

2015
Institute tackles “The New Jim Crow: Mass incarceration as a system of racialized social control”

2016
Institute examines politics of climate change, fascism, and American leadership

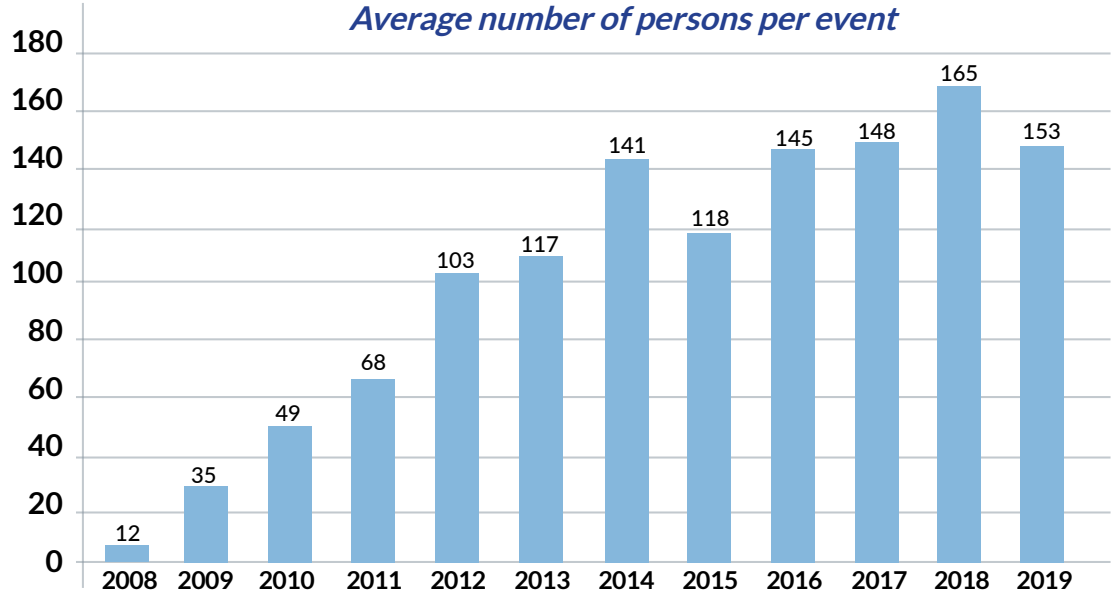
2017
Music and lecture combine in an evening of Appalachian folk music and lecture by Rev. Brock

2018
Rev. Brock “Jesus the Warrior” program illustrates “integrated” learning by combing history, philosophy, and theology

2018
Rev. Brock and Ian Morris discuss the “good and bad” of warfare at the Global Summit X kickoff

2019
Institute discusses “Mary Magdalene: The Battle over a Woman’s Place in History”

Growth in Event Attendance
Average number of persons per event



Programming has been key to the Jefferson’s community outreach since the organization’s inception. The Jefferson hosted 121 programs in 2019, including lectures, classes, visiting lectures, and Global Summit X events. We also launched our visiting lecture series at sites throughout the Erie region and featured a number of programs by resident scholars Andy Roth, Baher Ghosheh, and Judy Lynch.

Top Attendees in 2019

Many thanks to our members who attended the most JES events throughout 2019:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Paul & Renee Gambill | William & Christine Koehle |
| Dorothy Bloom | Ken & Irene Brasington |
| Lorraine Dolan | Bruce Kindt |
| Tom & Ruth Dombrowski | Sheila Brugger |
| Timothy Spaeder | Christine Riehl |
| J. Howard & Carol Wright | Al Richardson |
| Donna Juniewicz | Ed Lesser & Mary Ellen Dahlkemper |
| Norma Desser | Edward Hobart Tonkin |
| Georgia Heynes | Richard & Catharina Buys |
| Judy Lynch | Seth Trott |
| Hal & Mattie Fuller | |



Writer George Will captivates the crowd at Global Summit XI.

2018 IN REVIEW



JANUARY:

With and About Projects by Natalie Brasington features Legendary Cyphers.

FEBRUARY:

Jefferson hosts a program discussing the essay, “Facing Racial Disparities: Is Erie the Worst City in America for African-Americans?” by Dr. Margaret Smith and Dr. Susan McDevitt of Edinboro University released in January.

MARCH:

Scholar Ed Whitbred presents Lower Parade Street: Erie’s “Ellis Island” program in the Jefferson Hall.

APRIL:

Social Justice Month: Paul Spradley discusses Race in Erie; Matt Harris talks about the School to Prison Pipeline; and Billy Sabatini describes the educational impact of Sail Training.

MAY:

Jackson Janes explores “The Berlin Wall Thirty Years Later, Lessons and Legacies.”

JUNE:

Tom Webb visits Erie for a special event, “Root Causes of the Migrant Crisis: Focus on Honduras.”



George Will (left) and Sean Spicer during Global Summit XI.

A word about philosophy. We approach programming from a liberal arts point of view in that we try to sponsor 15 to 18 programs in each regular term on current, diverse, and classical topics. Subjects typically range from history, politics, current events, and social and cultural issues to science, the environment, mathematics, climate, and the law.

In the last year and moving ahead, we are trying to incorporate courses and series of programs to treat some subjects in more depth than can be approached in a single program. Likewise, we incorporate the publication of essays and journals with a presentation on those publications to help readers gain a fuller appreciation for the subject.

As always, we also make an effort to involve Jefferson members and supporters in offering ideas for programs, and taking part in the programs through our question-and-answer format following a presentation.

Thanks, Jeffersonians, for playing a vital role in our programs.



Johnny Johnson, Jefferson Board Member, discusses Erie's Black Heroes at Celebrate Erie 2019 in City Hall.



Old friends and colleagues Chuck Hagel and Tom Ridge, join Joel Deuterman and Keith Taylor at Global Summit XI.



At far right, Katherine Howe, New York Times bestselling author, discusses the history of class and gender exemplified in the witch hunts of Salem.



JULY:

Jefferson Dinner features Mike Tanner from the CATO Institute on "The Inclusive Economy."

AUGUST:

For the second year, the Jefferson presents at Celebrate Erie with five lectures at City Hall.

SEPTEMBER:

Hagen History Center Executive Director George Deutsch kicks off the 2019 Fall Term with a presentation on "President Lincoln and Chief Justice Taney: The Great Antagonists."

OCTOBER:

Distinguished Visiting Speaker John Hartig visits Erie to discuss Great Lakes Revival.

NOVEMBER:

Global Summit XI, featuring a talented group of presenters including Edna Greene Medford, Eleanor Smeal, George Will, and Chuck Hagel, captivates Erie audiences for three weeks, drawing 6,000 attendees.

DECEMBER:

The Jefferson closes out the year with "Corry: Together the Community Rises", a look at the rich past, current opportunities, and the bright future of Corry, Pennsylvania.

In addition to books and essays, the Jefferson in 2019 introduced “Jefferson Report” editions to its publications repertoire. These 10- to 15-page essays on timely subjects included examinations of the reconnected relationship between Erie and Zibo, China; the increased threat of algal blooms; Erie’s “food deserts” and what’s being done about them; and the ongoing response to Erie’s possible loss of minor league baseball.

The Jefferson has published nine books, and several more book projects are underway. The number of essays grew to 10 with two more in 2019, and several more essays and reports are being developed for 2020.

In addition, since reviving the *Journal of Erie Studies* in partnership with the Hagen History Center, the Jefferson has published eight editions to explore history, including two in 2019.

Jefferson Reports

- Charrette CUDC Report: Reconnecting the Bayfront
- “Erie May Lose Pro Baseball” by Alan Swigonski
- “Erie Delegation Confident After Trip to China” by John Guerriero
- “Harmful Algal Blooms: A Threat to the Waters of the World” by Patricia Glibert
- “Food Deserts Still Common but Communities Fight Back” by Julia Guerrein

The Jefferson Essays

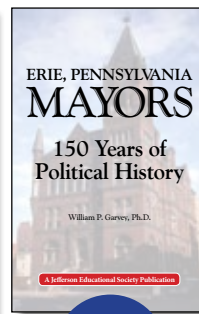
- Rainy Ideas Essays
- “Facing Racial Disparities: Is Erie the Worst City in America for African Americans.” By Margaret Smith, Ph.D. and Suzanne McDevitt, Ph.D.
- “The Lurking Threat: Harmful Algae Blooms Pose Global, Local Hazard.” By Judy Lynch, Ph.D.
- “Time to Act: The Case for Heritage Tourism and Rebuilding Erie’s Three Historic Forts (2018).” By Michael Fuhrman, M.S.A.
- “Erie’s Mayoral Race (2017): Analyzing Voter Turnout and Primary Election results.” By Pat Cuneo, B.A.
- “Erie’s Public Schools: History, Challenges, Future.” By R. James Wertz, Ph.D.
- “The Case for Connecting Presque Isle to Erie’s East Side – A Historic Opportunity.” By Michael Fuhrman, M.S.A.
- “Erie’s Advanced Industries.” By R. James Wertz, Ph.D., and Perry Wood, M.S.
- “Is Erie A Safe City? Perception, Reality, Recommendations.” By Kyle Kasinec, B.A.

Journal of Erie Studies

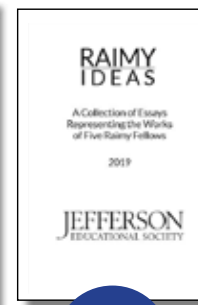
- **Journal of Erie Studies, Volume 44, No. 2**
In this special edition of the *Journal of Erie Studies*, a single article is dedicated to the Woman’s Club of Erie as we approach the 100th anniversary of women’s suffrage. This article is written by Melinda Meyer and David Frew.
- **Journal of Erie Studies, Volume 44, No. 1**
Contributions by: Judy Lynch, Ph.D.; Cheryl Rush Dix and Sara Thompson; Roy Strausbaugh; Bruce Kibler; and Ben Spегgen



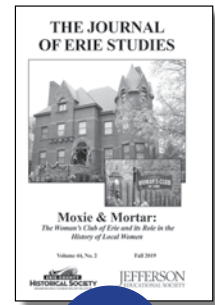
5
Reports



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Books



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Essays



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Journal of
Erie Studies

- **Journal of Erie Studies, Volume 43, No. 1**
Following Dr. Judy Lynch’s article on how Erie’s geology affected Erie’s early economic development is Jeanne Kidder’s forty-six-year content index of the *Journal of Erie Studies*. This comprehensive index lays out the table of contents for each issue the journal has ever published.
- **Journal of Erie Studies, Volume 42, No. 1**
Contributions by: Roy Strausbaugh, Ph.D.; Dave Bierig and David Frew, Ph.D.; Larry Flatley, J.D.; Christine Kern, Ph.D.; and Christopher Schaney, Ph.D., and Mitzy Schaney
- **Journal of Erie Studies, Volume 41, No. 1**
Contributions by: William P. Garvey, Ph.D.; Theodore J. Karle, M.B.A.; Julie Suleski, M.A.; and David Frew, Ph.D., and Jerry Skrypzak, B.A.
- **Journal of Erie Studies, Volume 40, No. 1**
Contributions by: Dr. M. Raymond Bruce; David Frew, Ph.D.; Curtis McCoy; David Pedler; Allen G. Quinn; Dr. Aldona Sendzikas; and Jerry Skrypzak, B.A.
- **Journal of Erie Studies, Volume 39.1, No. 1**
Contributions by: Larry Flatley; Janna Napoli and Mary Ann Owoc; J. Michael Campbell; and Tonya Boyer.
- **Journal of Erie Studies, Volume 40, No. 1**
Contributions by: Dr. M. Raymond Bruce; David Frew, Ph.D.; Curtis McCoy; David Pedler; Allen G. Quinn; Dr. Aldona Sendzikas; and Jerry Skrypzak, B.A.

Books

- **Erie, Pennsylvania MAYORS: 150 Years of Political History.**
By William P. Garvey, Ph.D.
- **Rise and Fall of the Erie Extension Canal: From Packets to Railroads, Manufacturing, and the Gilded Age.** By David Frew, Ph.D., and Jerry Skrypzak, B.A.
- **Lou Tullio: A Real Erie Guy.** By Cory Vaillancourt
- **Erie’s McCormick Family History: An Irish-American Journey.**
By William P. Garvey, Ph.D.; Julie Suleski, M.A.; and Carl J. Anderson, III
- **Hamot’s 30 Year March to Distinction.** By the JES Public Policy Institute (PPI)
- **A History of the Erie School District.** By Frank Anderson; William P. Garvey, Ph.D.; and Bob Guerrein, Ph.D.
- **Mercyhurst North East: 20 Years of Growth and Prosperity.**
By Judy Lynch, Ph.D.
- **Victory: Erie, The War of 1812, and the Battle of Lake Erie and Victory: Erie, The War of 1812, and The Battle of Lake Erie: The Young Readers Edition.** By Cornell Green, B.A.
- **Perry 200 Commemoration Souvenir Book.**
By David Frew, Ph.D., and Jerry Skrypzak, B.A.

CHAIRWOMAN JOYCE SAVOCCHIO:

Join us in the New Decade



“I wish I’d had a Jefferson when I was Mayor of Erie.”

I have said those words many times over the years. Having spent one career in education and another as an elected city official, I came to really appreciate fresh ideas, innovation, and good, old-fashioned hard work. Those are the key ingredients to getting important things done, and those qualities represent so well the mission of the Jefferson.

I am very proud to serve the Jefferson community as its board chairwoman, being able to see up close the vision, planning, and hard work it takes to help make the Erie region a better place to live and work.

And running through all of it is you – our greatest resource – and your strong work ethic, values, faith in education, and desire for progress.

No, we didn’t have the Jefferson when I was Mayor, but we have it now. Please join me in helping the Jefferson pursue and fulfill its goals as we enter a new decade. Our Jefferson community will succeed because of your support, your involvement, and your challenge to make us a better organization and a better community.

Joyce A. Savocchio

BOARD OFFICERS:



Vice Chairman Bruce Raimy



Treasurer Charles Caryl



Secretary Charles Brock

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ashley Lawson – Trustee – Blue Zones Project Corry

Judith M. Lynch – Trustee – Asst. Professor, Mercyhurst NE College, Former Erie County Executive (1982-2002)

Dale McBrier – Trustee – Co-Owner, Lyndal Enterprises

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

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

Doris Stawniak Pinski – Trustee – President, Brith Sholom Congregation

Bruce Raimy – Vice Chairman – Chairman, Raimy Corporation

Christine Riehl – Trustee – JES Adult Learner Representative

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

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

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

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

Timothy Spaeder – Trustee Owner/Operator – Wm. T. Spaeder Co., Inc.

Jeff Szumigale – Trustee – Senior Vice President, PNC Bank

Adam Welsh – Trustee – Owner and CEO, Flagship Multimedia Inc., Editor in Chief, Erie Reader

TRUSTEE EMERITAS

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

FERKI FERATI, ED.D **President**



Dr. Ferki Ferati is in his fourth year as President of the Jefferson Educational Society, where he leads the Erie region's think tank and its divisions of Community programming and Global Summit speaker series, Offsite programming, Civic Leadership Academy and Raimy Fellows, Scholar-in-Residence, Publications, and Journal of Erie Studies. Dr. Ferati joined the Jefferson at its inception in 2008, and was promoted to Executive Director in 2009, Vice President in 2013, and President in 2017. He earned his doctoral degree from the University of Pittsburgh's School of Education in

2017, his Master's degree in Public Administration from Gannon University in 2012, and his Bachelor's degree from Mercyhurst University in 2007. Dr. Ferati is also a graduate of Leadership Erie (2010 and 2011) and the Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy (2016).

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



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

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



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

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



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

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

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



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

DEA WOODWARD **Finance Coordinator**



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

MORGAN ADAMS, B.A. **Membership Coordinator and Special Projects Assistant**



Morgan Adams, an Erie native, joined the Jefferson Educational Society in September 2018 as the Administrative Assistant and moved into her role as the Membership Coordinator and Special Projects Assistant in October 2019. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from Edinboro University in May 2018. During her time at University, she worked with the Sociology Department and the Office of Social Equity on a research climate survey regarding the prevalence of sexual misconduct on Edinboro University's campus. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Delta, the International Sociology Honor Society.

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.

HEATHER ZUBER **Administrative Assistant**



Heather Zuber, an Erie native, joined the Jefferson Educational Society part-time in March 2019 and made the transition to the new administrative assistant in October 2019. Heather and her husband, A.J. Zuber, are the parents of three daughters. She is actively involved at her church, Grace Harborcreek, where she serves in various volunteer capacities. She and her husband also lead a Senior High weekly Bible study in their home and are members of an adult life group that empowers married couples.

MICHELLE MELCHER KNIGHT, M.S.W. **Civic Leadership Academy Program Coordinator**



Michelle Melcher Knight serves as the part-time program coordinator for the Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy. Prior to relocating to Erie and joining the staff, Michelle was the Social Justice and Outreach Minister for Our Lady Queen of Peace Church in Arlington, Va., where she developed and led the social justice and advocacy programs for a church membership of 2,200 households. Michelle has also worked in public policy and legislative advocacy. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Family Studies

from the University of Maryland and a Master's of Social Work from Catholic University of America.

SUPPORT STAFF **Colleen Dougherty** **Zehra Ferati** **David Hull**

With more than 70 percent of our expenses dedicated to program services, the Jefferson team remains confident our priorities are in the right order. 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, 2019 and 2018

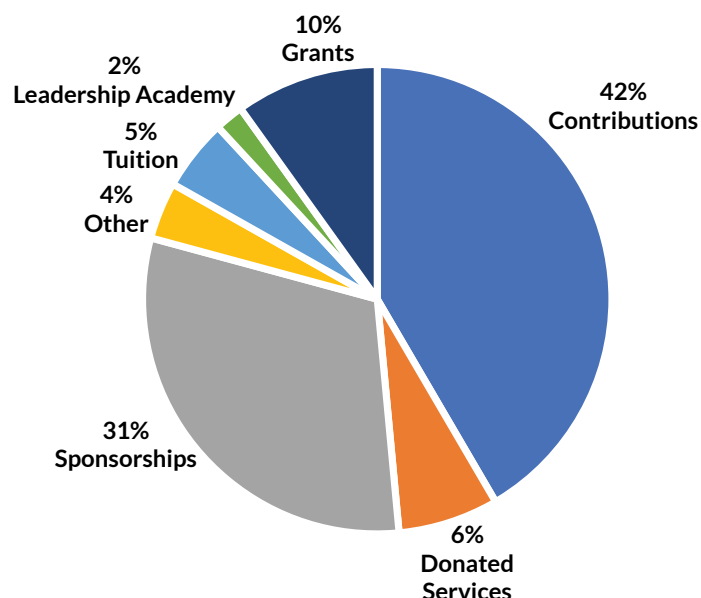
ASSETS

	2019	2018
Current Assets		Restated
Cash	\$226,053	\$135,500
Pledges receivable - current	510,400	325,000
Accounts receivable	3,775	365
Inventory	22,689	25,041
Prepaid expenses	6,432	11,224
Total current assets	769,349	497,130
Property and equipment	1,680,019	1,680,019
Less: accumulated depreciation	-387,322	-326,563
Total property and equipment	1,292,697	1,353,456
Other assets		
Pledges receivable - long term	1,486,267	1,591,967
Endowment	467,838	457,569
Total other assets	1,954,105	2,049,536
Total Assets	4,016,151	3,900,122

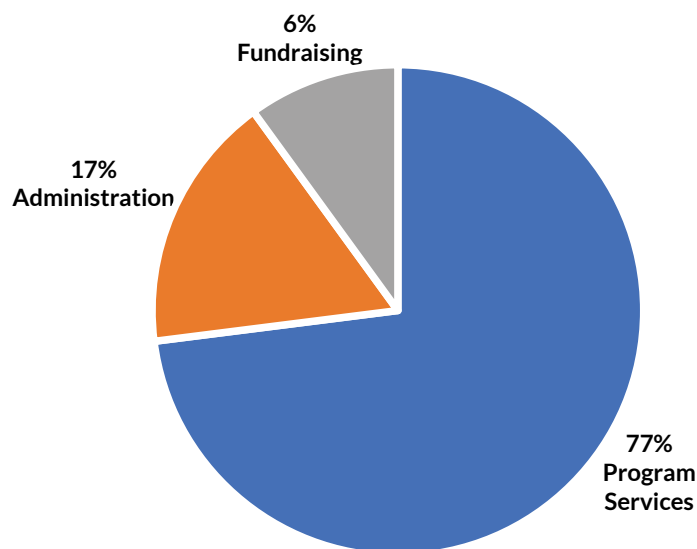
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

	2019	2018
Current liabilities		Restated
Accounts payable	\$27,614	\$68,062
Lines of credit	382,614	301,212
Accrued expenses	1,254	127
Current portion of long term debt	25,000	27,083
Total current liabilities	436,482	396,484
Long-term obligation, less current position	485,003	527,087
Net assets		
Without donor restrictions	1,022,465	659,584
with donor restrictions	2,072,201	2,316,967
Total net assets	3,094,666	2,976,551
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	4,016,151	3,900,122

SUPPORT AND REVENUE



FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES



JEFFERSON EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

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Examine **THE PAST.**

Study **THE PRESENT.**

Explore **THE FUTURE.**

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

JES MISSION

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

OUR BUILDING PARTNERSHIP

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