

# The Jefferson 2018

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CELEBRATING  
**10 YEARS OF IMPACT**  
IN THE ERIE COMMUNITY



A MESSAGE FROM JEFFERSON PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

Examining the past, studying the present, and exploring the future – these three principles lie at the core of the Jefferson Educational Society’s mission, and they have guided the work we’ve done over the past ten years. From the nearly one thousand lectures, courses, seminars, forums, and debates we’ve hosted to the myriad articles, essays, and books we’ve published, we have remained committed to serving Erie as a platform for purposeful discussion to drive civic enlightenment through educational engagement.



That is a mission we remain committed to as we march forward into the Jefferson’s second decade.

Over the past ten years, we have endeavored to preserve the past for study and examine key lessons to help the community better build the future of our region through civic, institutional, and familial research. Through the exploration of contemporary issues facing our region and nation, we have worked to ensure that Erie has a center of conversation that aims to shine a light on critical issues so that our future shines even more brightly.

Now, as we reflect on our progress and celebrate our continued growth, it is a time to plan the expansion of this marketplace of ideas.

In this document, you’ll see the thought-leaders the Jefferson has hosted since its founding in 2008 and can read about the various publications we’ve produced to drive productive and informed conversation. Reviewing our past provides the opportunity to examine the foundation upon which we plan to build our future.

In addition to continuing to offer access to nationally and internationally renowned scholars while drawing on the outstanding regional resources the greater Erie area has to offer, we would like to share with you our plans to expand our programming throughout Erie County. This is why we plan to afford the same world-class programming throughout the community by offering programming at satellite locations to guarantee that geography is not a barrier to education.

We also know the importance of sustained research throughout the community. While the Jefferson has drawn on – and will continue to draw on – regional expertise for its programming and publications, we want to augment these contributions in the coming decade by housing a Scholars-in-Residence Program at the Jefferson.

Beginning with the proud celebration of Dr. Judith Lynch – longtime Erie County Executive and the Jefferson’s founding Board of Trustees Chairwoman – as the Jefferson’s inaugural Decadian Scholar, we will attract local scholars to conduct continued research and produce sustained scholarship to benefit the greater Erie community.

The Jefferson has added Dr. Andrew Roth – whose higher education spans more than 45 years and includes numerous accolades as an administrator and as a faculty member – to its Scholars-in-Residence roster to focus on civic leadership. And as we push forward into the next decade, we plan to increase this initiative by housing experts who will offer critical insight into the areas of economic development; government and urban development; education; technology; history; cultural and social issues; and more.

With such growth, we must ensure state-of-the-art space for these scholars. The Jefferson has established a unique relationship with the Brith Sholom Congregation and looks forward to its continued partnership in this shared space, which has blossomed throughout the years with significant renovations the Jefferson undertook five years ago. It is again time that we make an investment in our current building space for these new initiatives and to improve our current programming.

As is true of our past accomplishments, our future plans are not possible without the community’s support. This is why I welcome you to reflect with us on our past growth and encourage you to consider the future and how you can be a part of it as we begin our first Growth Campaign to support these new initiatives.

I am proud to serve as the second president of the Jefferson and am thankful to have the opportunity to continue to grow the legacy left behind by the Jefferson’s founding president – and my dear friend and mentor – Dr. William P. Garvey.

Sincerely,

Ferki Ferati, Ed.D.  
President

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### BEGINNING THE JEFFERSON'S SECOND DECADE GROWTH CAMPAIGN

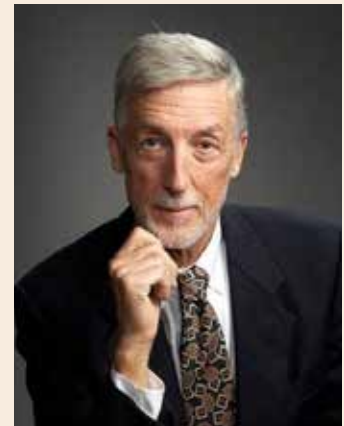
Dear Friends,

Much of the content of this special report will remind the growing community of Jefferson Educational Society supporters how much we have been able to accomplish in our first 10 years. We are proud that our role as the Erie region's think tank and nonpartisan home for researching and airing serious public issues has helped us to be recognized as a valued community institution.

But what of the next 10 years and beyond? Where does our mission take us now that the Jefferson – its members, its volunteers, its researchers, its speakers, its leaders, its community – has shown it is a vital voice in our civic-minded community? How will we continue to help lead problem-solving efforts and community involvement in the spirit of becoming a better city and region? First, nothing can be accomplished without your continued dedication toward that mission, your financial support, and your involvement.

The Jefferson Educational Society is proud to announce its Second Decade Growth Campaign to launch new initiatives and build its endowment while sustaining our traditional programs and operations into the future.

Jefferson staff and board members have been working since mid-2017 on our short-term and long-term goals. Topping that list is continuing our mission of providing courses, seminars, lectures, research, and publications/multi-media that advance the civic progress of the Erie region, its governments, communities, and citizens.



**"Fresh ideas,  
the thirst for education,  
and developing strategies  
to become a better community  
are our life's blood.  
Please help us take  
the Jefferson into the next  
decade and beyond."**

But the Jefferson leaders know that to continue to be a vital voice in the Erie community we must become even more diverse and bring our programming to every demographic of the Erie regional community. That is the thrust of our new initiative to take our programming off-site to remove transportation and location obstacles to civic education.

Additionally, we are working to develop our Scholars-in-Residence program where experts will contribute timely publications, lecture routinely throughout the region, and will serve as the go-to sources for data and analysis in Erie. Our research will also target the key areas of economic development, education, cultural and social issues, and new ideas. In an age of increasingly polarized government and civic life, we need the transparent, nonpartisan, unifying practices of the Jefferson now more than ever.

In the end, good ideas always win out when they are clearly and openly developed, articulated, and help make the Erie region a better place to live and work. That is the Jefferson mission.

So I am proud to serve as the Honorary Chairman of the Jefferson's Growth Campaign and I urge you to join me in raising the funds needed to continue our programming, research, publications, Leadership Academy, practices, and exciting ideas that have become synonymous with the Jefferson community.

Fresh ideas, the thirst for education, and developing strategies to become a better community are our life's blood. Please help us take the Jefferson into the next decade and beyond.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bruce Raimy".

Bruce Raimy  
Vice Chairman of the Jefferson Board of Trustees  
Honorary Chairman of the Growth Campaign  
Chairman of Raimy Corporation



## Where Conversations Commence and Ideas Take Action

### Why do communities need think tanks like the Jefferson?

We start critical conversations that encourage thoughtful action, both of which are evident in **Erie's planning and innovation**.

In 2010, the Jefferson brought **Dave Porter**, Senior Vice President of the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce, to Erie to present at the second annual Global Summit. Porter explored "**Regional Reinvention**," which helped spur new community plans, such as *Emerge 2040*, the regional plan; *Erie Refocused*, the city's comprehensive plan; and more.



The Jefferson follows through to make sure dialogue continues after the planning process. In October 2016, the Jefferson hosted its second **Metro 100** conference, which gathers Erie's community leaders and experts into one room to explore critical issues facing the region. This session featured czb, LLC planners – and authors of *Erie Refocused* – **Charles Buki** and **Peter Lombardi** – in conversation with **James Fallows**, a national correspondent for *The Atlantic* who reported on Erie for his *City Makers: American Futures* project. The talk centered on how to implement plans once adopted and how best to leverage community buy-in.

In 2014 for Global Summit VI, the Jefferson brought **Bruce Katz** to Erie for the first time – and it wouldn't be the last. Then, as the Founding Director and Vice President of the Brookings Institution's Metropolitan Policy Program, Katz discussed his seminal work on **cities and their development** in *The Metropolitan Revolution: How Cities and Metros Are Fixing Our Broken Politics and Fragile*



Bruce Katz

*Economy*, which includes the vital role innovation districts plan in driving progress in cities and regions.

Just one year later, the Jefferson brought Katz back to Erie for the think tank's **inaugural Metro 100** conference, an initiative begun in partnership with the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority after the organizations jointly joined the Brookings Metropolitan Leadership Council. Katz, along with Brookings Senior Fellow **Mark Muro** and The Reinvestment Fund Policy Solutions President **Ira Goldstein**, talked about the **vital role of advanced industries in a shifting economy in the 21st century**.

# Metro 100

That same year, the Jefferson welcomed **Darrell West**, Vice President of Governance Studies and Founding Director of the Center for Technology Innovation at Brookings, to discuss **the impact of gigafiber and internet technology** to illustrate how broadband technology is reshaping the world. Internet Service Provider **Velocity Network** became



Joel Deuterman

a Global Summit sponsorship for the first time that year, sponsoring West's discussion, which concluded with a panel discussion featuring Velocity President and CEO Joel Deuterman.



Antoine van Agtmael

In 2016, the Jefferson brought **Antoine van Agtmael**, the internationally renowned economist perhaps known best for coining the term "emerging markets," to Erie to discuss his recently published book: *Smartest Places on Earth: How Rustbelts are Becoming the New Hotspots for*

*Innovation*. Van Agtmael's work **highlights the shift in manufacturing in legacy industrial cities** – something clearly present in Erie.

Since the Jefferson introduced conversations on innovation, **Velocity Network** has since relocated its headquarters to downtown Erie and continued its fiber deployment throughout the region. Meanwhile, under the leadership of Chief Executive Officer Tim NeCastro, **Erie Insurance**,



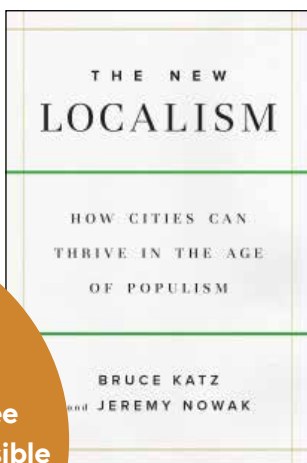
spearheaded the Erie Downtown Development Corporation, a newly created nonprofit designed to drive investment in the downtown. And the **Erie Innovation District**, a collaborative led by Mercyhurst University and funded by a \$4 million grant provided by the Erie Community Foundation in partnership with the Susan Hirt Hagen Fund for Transformational

Philanthropy and the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, announced the opening of its headquarters



at 717 State Street in November – just one day after the **2017 return visit from Katz**, who spoke on his latest book, *The New Localism: How Cities Can Thrive in the Age of Populism*.

After sustained interaction with Erie, Katz included the region in his work, chiefly noting: “We don’t need to travel farther than Erie, Pennsylvania to see that grand things are possible and that cities can leverage their distinctive advantages.”



“We don’t need to travel farther than Erie, Pennsylvania to see that grand things are possible and that cities can leverage their distinctive advantages.”

From Bruce Katz and Jeremy Nowak’s *The New Localism: How Cities Can Thrive in the Age of Populism*:

“A key leader in Erie is Ferki Ferati, president of the Jefferson Educational Society, who came to Erie from Kosovo in 1998.”

## Change-making Moments

**On June 25, 2017** – Erie Times-News reporter and editor Jim Martin tells the story about Erie Insurance CEO Tim NeCastro waiting for the end of the Jefferson Metro 100 program to ask Charles Buki a central question about the *Erie Refocused* comprehensive plan. “This is a great plan,” NeCastro says. “But where do we start?”



Charles Buki

Buki has a ready answer, recalls NeCastro: “He said you need to start putting together a coalition of private businesses who are interested in investing in the community.”

Eight months later, NeCastro files forms to create a nonprofit organization called the Erie Downtown Development Corp. It’s a group with a mission of investing in an area extending from Sassafras Street to Holland Street and from Perry Square to Third Street. **Once the EDDC’s new chief executive is on board, NeCastro noted, the EDDC expects to explain its new plans at the Jefferson Educational Society.**



Tim NeCastro

**March 23, 2017** – Pennsylvania Education Secretary Pedro Rivera comes to the Jefferson to face then-Erie School Superintendent Jay Badams and a standing-room-only crowd just days after Rivera rejected Erie’s \$31.8 million financial recovery plan. To the credit of all, Rivera confronts a number of volatile issues in a peaceful, safe public forum at the Jefferson, and he also impresses hundreds of concerned citizens by facing a crowd of protesters outside the front doors of the Jefferson before the forum begins. **The context is clear. As the Erie school crisis unfolded, the Jefferson responded with a public airing from all sides.**

**April 5, 2017** – James Fallows, of *The Atlantic* magazine, captures the spirit of the Jefferson as he writes about “Our Erie,” a new video about the economic and technological promise of the Erie region: “As we’ve been working away on our book based on our ‘American Futures’ travels over the past four years, my wife Deb and I have increasingly come to think of Erie, Pennsylvania, as the representative American city of this moment. ... The video touches on many aspects of a renaissance Erie, as covered in dispatches about this and others: **the Jefferson Educational Society (is) an unusually ambitious and vibrant civic organization. ...**”

## Brookings Connection

After contracting various Brookings Institution experts to present their research in Erie, the Jefferson formalized a relationship with Brookings in 2015 by joining the Institution's Metropolitan Leadership Council convened in support of the Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program in partnership with the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority. Through this relationship, the Jefferson:

- **Received valuable coaching** on developing stronger programming better designed to engage community experts and leaders, which led to the creation of the **Metro 100** conferences.
- **Worked with curated data** to issue a report on **Erie's advanced industries**, which produce \$2.7 trillion in annual output and account for 17 percent of the U.S. GDP while only making up 9 percent of the American workforce. Of the **50 total industries meeting Brookings' criteria, 27 are present in Erie County.**

# Metro 100



- Were featured in critical Brookings research in "**Erie's Rust Belt Activism**," written by Brookings Senior Fellow **Mark Muro**, who wrote:



Mark Muro

- "Over the last few years, the local Jefferson Educational Society has invited numerous national experts on cities and city economies to Erie to provide advice ... [and has] ... published a detailed paper of its own, drilling down on the region's 27 advanced industries with data supplied by Brookings. **Through such investigation and other inquiries, the region has worked to understand its current situation and develop a data-informed, authentic strategy for strengthening the Erie economy by expanding its advanced industries, in keeping with its manufacturing past.** The region's younger civic and business leaders have militantly bought into the

need to bolster the fundamental inputs to advanced-sector growth by strengthening the metro's innovation capacity, its STEM skills, and its 'ecosystem' dynamics."

- Muro added: "Nor has the region's civic leadership been content to simply strengthen innovation, skills, and the ecosystem. **Urgent and activist, Erie leaders are trying a lot of stuff.** They want to be 'actors in their own drama, rather than just being acted upon,' as *The Atlantic's* James Fallows remarked in a post after a recent visit."



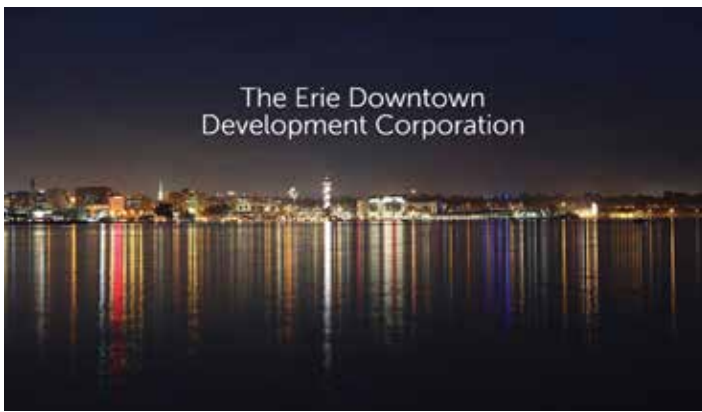
James Fallows

- Muro went on to mention the \$16.5 million investment made by **Penn State Behrend** to create the **Advanced Manufacturing and Innovation Center** and the region's comprehensive tech-startup initiative **Ignite Erie**, which links the region's universities, entrepreneurs, and finance people in a push to spawn new enterprises in the city.
- Muro concluded: "Ultimately, **Erie is working to answer the question, 'What about the other places?,' not with a definitive result but with a hopeful, activist perspective.** It has a vision and is trying stuff."

As Fallows writes: "Being active, rather than passive, is one working definition of today's American Idea."



James Fallows presents at Chautauqua Institution in summer 2017, followed by a panel discussion shown above featuring Jefferson President Dr. Ferki Ferati and then-Erie Mayoral Democratic nominee and now Mayor Joe Schember.



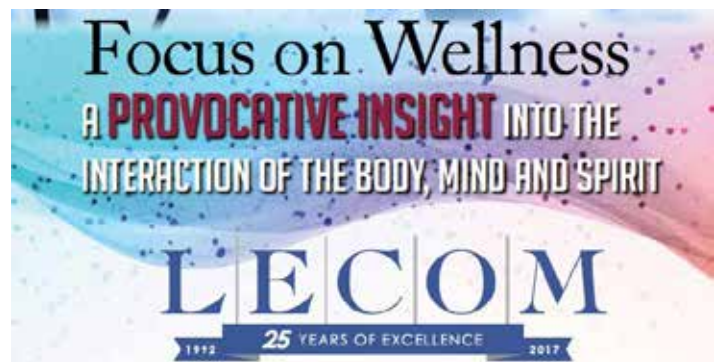
## Erie Insurance Civics Day

The Jefferson hosted the first Erie Insurance Civics Day symposium in November 2017 following work led by Erie Insurance to create the Erie Downtown Development Corporation.

The keynote presentations featured **Brookings Institution Centennial Scholar Bruce Katz**, who presented on “Continuing Erie’s ‘Metropolitan Revolution’” and former Pittsburgh Mayor and current **Senior Fellow at the Urban Land Institute Tom Murphy**, who explored “Driving Urban Progress.”

To better understand the role of education in Erie’s progress, the Jefferson welcomed **Maureen McClure**, Director of the International Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Pittsburgh, to present: “The State of Erie’s Public Education and the Future of Public Schools.”

The session also focused on exploring: “Why Erie has Yet to Achieve Its Best Self,” presented by Erie Insurance Chairman of the Board **Tom Hagen**; “Understanding the History and Form and Function of Erie County Government,” led by Jefferson Educational Society Decadian Scholar **Judy Lynch**; and “A Civic Perspective on Erie’s Economy,” offered by **Perry Wood**, the Executive Director of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority and co-author of the Jefferson Essay on Erie’s Advanced Industries.



## LECOM Health Summit

To help the country’s largest medical school celebrate its 25th anniversary by offering the gift of free presentations and lectures to the Erie community, **the Jefferson hosted the LECOM Focus on Wellness Health Summit: A Provocative Insight into the Interaction of the Body, Mind, and Spirit** during its Summer Term 2017 programming.

The inaugural Health Summit drew an average 270 attendees to each of the five events and featured LECOM faculty members and expert practitioners Doctors **Patrick Leary, Greg Coppola, James Lin, and Joshua Tuck**, along with a keynote address from Dr. **Ivan Rusilko**, who graduated from LECOM in 2010.

The Jefferson team hosted the event and designed the marketing campaign for the two-week-long Summit. The team also processed and handled registrations, and conducted lively Q&As with the presenters. With LECOM trusting the community’s think tank, the Jefferson was able to utilize its resources in event management and marketing to help LECOM celebrate its silver anniversary.

Of attendees surveyed, more than 75 percent said they would attend similar Summits at the Jefferson, which illustrates a vital role the Jefferson can play in hosting industry-specific Summits to showcase the vital work of organizations in the region.



## Perry 200

From 2012 to 2013, **the Jefferson Educational Society led the nation’s most comprehensive bicentennial celebration of the War of 1812** with the Perry 200 Commemoration. The two-year-long tribute featured 23 lectures; 14 signature events, including the Grand Patriotic Parade, which drew 125,000 people; 16 concerts, performances, and supporting events; five tours; and three contests with a total record attendance of more than 500,000.



# JEFFERSON MEMBERSHIP: INCREASING ACCESS TO EDUCATION



## Member support allows the Jefferson to:

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

**TOTAL GSIX SPONSORS: 25**

**TOTAL JES MEMBERS: 665**

**TOTAL COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS: 690**

## Global Summit IX Sponsors

**TOTAL GSIX SPONSORS: 25**

### PLATINUM

LECOM (Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine)  
Mercyhurst University

### GOLD

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### BRONZE

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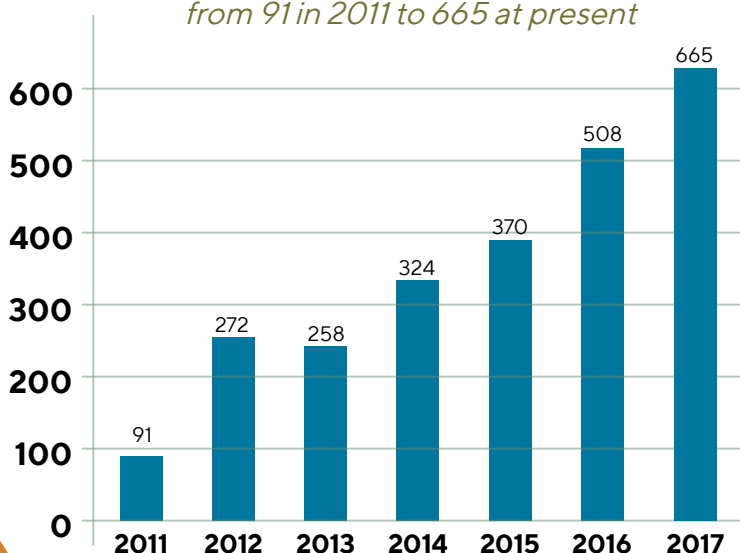
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For benefits and information regarding each sponsorship level, please call the Jefferson at 814.459.8000.

## JEFFERSON EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

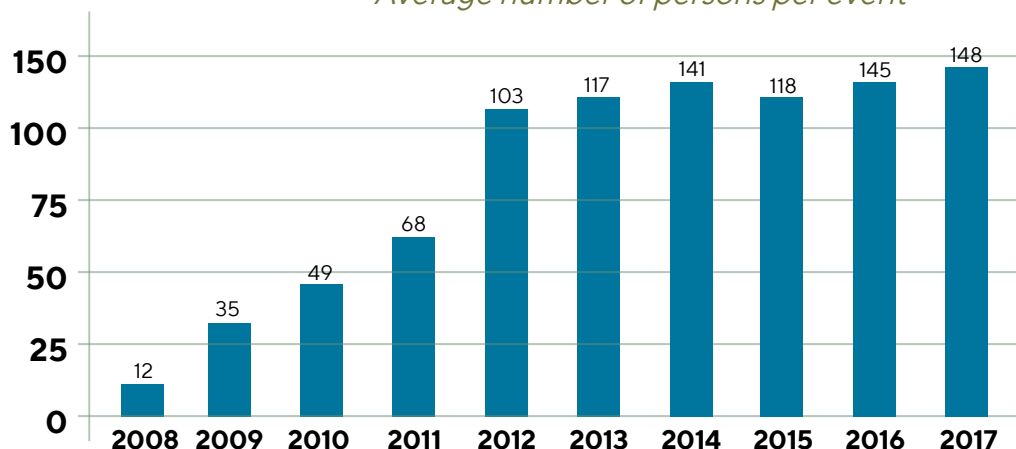
Founding Father: \$10,000+ (Lifetime Membership)  
President's Circle: \$5,000+  
Benefactor: \$2,500+  
Associate: \$1,000+  
Patron: \$500  
Supporter: \$250  
Contributor: \$100  
Friend: \$50  
Jeffersonian: \$25

**Growth in Members**  
*from 91 in 2011 to 665 at present*



More than 1,000 events held since 2008 and counting.

**Growth in Attendance**  
*Average number of persons per event*





## Total JES Members: 665

## Members and Membership Levels

### FOUNDING FATHERS

Charles Brock  
Carolyn Brock (deceased)  
Ferki & Katya Ferati  
William P. Garvey (deceased)  
Thomas Hagen  
Dale & Lynn McBrier  
Bruce Raimy  
Cecily Sesler  
William Sesler (deceased)  
Tim Spaeder

### PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

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Robert & Betsy Guelcher

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Patrick Cappabianca



“Over four years of living in Erie, I have been grateful for the informative and often stimulating programs of the Jefferson Society. The Jefferson has been a leader in Erie toward a new period of prosperity for its residents.”  
**John Moorhead, member since 2014**

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Amelia Carr  
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Jan Mandel  
Luther & Connie Manus, Jr.  
Bill Masiroff

## Top Attendance 2017

Milestones were reached by 15 Jefferson members who attended the most programs in 2017. The Jefferson held 71 events, including Winter Term (16), Spring (20), Summer (13), Fall (13), and Global Summit IX (9):

Julie Rieder  
Paul & Renee Gambill  
Norma Desser  
Thomas Tupitza  
Georgia Heynes  
Susan Schuette  
Jack & Jean Young  
Judy Sicari  
James Clement  
Lorraine Dolan  
Don & Betty Cornman  
Tim Spaeder  
Tom & Mary Kay Songer



“Social thinker Eric Hoffer observed that ‘in times of profound change, the learners inherit the earth, while the learned find themselves beautifully equipped to deal with a world that no longer exists.’ Thank you to the Jefferson Society who allows us to continue our learning.”  
**David and Nancy Eichelsdorfer, members since 2014**

## Top Attendance since 2011

Milestones were also reached for 14 Jefferson members who attended the most programs since 2011 when numbers were first recorded in our digital archives:

Paul & Renee Gambill  
Susan Schuette  
Tim Spaeder  
Cedric Rowley  
Maureen Plunkett

Tom & Ruth Dombrowski  
Bill Koehle  
Julie Rieder  
J. Howard & Carol Wright  
Hal & Mattie Fuller

Judy Mastrian  
Timothy McGill  
Kenneth McLaren  
Santa Merrifield  
Karen Miller  
John Mingey  
Claudia Mosso  
Daniel Muccio  
Rev. John Murphy  
David Murphy  
Douglas Murphy  
Donna & Kenneth Mushrush  
Howard Nadworny  
Gil & Joann Nagle  
Mary Lou Neithamer  
Tom & Fran New  
Marjorie O'Connor  
Rachel Ogden  
Monica O'Reilly  
Bill & Irene Overmoyer  
Ryan Palm  
Max Peaster  
Niels Pedersen  
Nancy & Robert Perry  
Charles Peters  
Donald & Rita Platte  
Marjorie Podolsky  
Diane Polensky  
Barbara Pollock  
Scott Rastetter  
Jessie Rathbun  
Sally Reed  
Marilyn Reiser  
Rosemary Renner  
Ralph Riehl  
Susan Roehrl  
Laurie Root  
Maureen Rovegno  
Marti & Jim Sawyer  
Joseph & Rhonda Schember  
S J Schmittle  
Craig Schneider  
Susan Schuette  
Stanley T. Schuyler  
Elaine Schwab  
Thomas Scully  
Brian Seelinger  
Loretta & Ron Seigley  
Juliana Semple  
Charleen Sertz  
Thomas & Nancy Serwinski  
Gary Shapira  
Randy Shapira  
Harold Sheldon  
Judy Sicari

Gertrude Simmons  
Allan Slovenkay  
David & Janet Smith  
M. Daniel Splain  
Mark & Lynn Squeglia  
Norman H. Stark  
Frank Supinski  
Donald & Anne Swift  
Alan & Linda Swigonski  
Jeff & Bethany Szumigale  
Jackie Tarr  
Thomas Thompson  
Edward & Deborah Tonkin  
Brad & Mary Triana  
Adam Trott  
Sharon & William Ulrich  
John Vanco & Kelly Armor  
Richard Vicary  
Lorraine Vitt  
Margaret Vivian  
Shelley Vybiral  
Richard E. & Jamie L. Wagner  
Adam & Ashley Welsh  
Eardly Wickramasinghe  
Patti Williams  
George & Cindy Willis  
Janet Wilson  
Leta Wilson  
Sally Wingerter  
Thomas & Annette Wittmann  
Caroline Wolff  
Carol Youngdahl  
Joe Zaczyk

"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. The Jefferson 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 and Deborah Tonkin, members since 2013**

Quality of Life Learning Center  
Weber Murphy Fox  
Knox Law  
Knights and Ladies of St. Patrick

### FRIEND

Liz Allen  
James Amsterdam  
Catherine Anderson  
Annita Andrick  
Stanley Anuszkiewicz  
Quyen Aoh  
Joseph Baniszewski  
Lance & Bernadette Barclay  
Donald Beckman  
Marian Beckman  
Carol Blake  
Dr. Jeffery Blake  
Bishop Dwayne Brock  
Timothy Bruno  
Noel Burgoyne  
Paul Burroughs  
Fran Buseck  
Veen Cahoon  
Elizabeth Carlson  
Christine Cavarretta  
Jon Chisholm  
David Croft  
Michael Dent  
Kathy DeSante  
Tom & Ruth Dombrowski  
Donna Douglass  
John Downey  
Natalie Dwyer-Haller  
Michelle Ellia  
Jim & Mary Ellia  
William Ericsson  
Barbara Felix  
David & Mary Ann Frew  
Rev. Leo Gallina  
Fair View Garden Club  
Kelly Grant  
Dr. Kenneth Grugel  
Jamie Heynes  
Timothy Hofmeister  
Norma Jafko



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

**Paul and Renee Gambill, members since 2008**

Thomas Kalkhof  
Elizabeth Kelly  
Jochen Kindling  
Marc Kirchner  
Judy Kissman  
Susan Knapp  
David & Maryann Kozak  
Msgr. Henry Kriegel  
Sarah Larson  
Judy Lynch  
Mary Beth McCarthy  
Emma McCloskey  
Brenda Moore  
Barbara Newcamp  
Robert North  
Wendy Ormond  
Josie Osiecki  
Joseph Pillitteri  
Phyllis Pope  
Carol Restifo  
Frances Rosiak  
Marilyn Rositer  
Fred Rush  
Carolyn Ruth  
Bill Scholz  
Judy Shapiro  
Jim & Mary Lou Speice  
Mary Spicer  
Leo Swantek  
Freda Tepfer  
Chris Thomas  
Tim Thompson  
Thomas Todd  
James Toohey, Sr.  
Pamela Tylwalk  
Michael Wahlster  
Jean Waterhouse  
Rebecca Wellejus  
Diana Wolfe

### JEFFERSONIAN

Jane Albert  
David Alfieri  
Richard Arthur  
Cindy Belczyk  
Harry Bierley  
Tom & Lupe Billingsley  
Ted Bloomstine  
Katherine Bojorquez  
John & Diana Brautigam  
Elizabeth Bucarelli  
Connie Burgert  
Barbara Caserta  
Nicken Astari & Allan Carpenter  
Joseph Chessario

Vienna Cocuzzi  
Don & Betty Cornman  
Pat & Robin Cuneo  
Kevin & Mary Cuneo  
Jimmy Cuneo  
Gerard Custer  
John Dauber  
Laura Dibacco  
Jack Dile  
Lorraine Dolan  
Janice Donahue  
Judith Dormann  
Mary Duval  
Corrine Egan  
Theodore Ely  
Nicholas Emmanuele  
Valmira Ferati  
Visar Ferati  
Selman & Zehra Ferati  
Sean Federko  
Barbara Fiorenzo  
Kathleen Gallagher  
Ken Gamble  
Joe & Anna Gehringer  
Bonnie Ginader  
Nancy B. Gittere  
Marybeth Graml  
Kelly A. Grant  
Leo Gruber  
Pat Gustafson  
David Gustafson  
Hana & Michael Haas  
David & Lori Hanes  
David Herman  
Stacey Hetrick  
Pamela Hime  
Barbara Hourigan  
Steve Jakubcsik  
Kevin & Barb Kantz  
David Karrfalt  
Sheila Kemp  
Thomas Knapp  
Carol Knoble  
Mary Jane Koenig  
Leigh Kostis  
John Kozlowski  
Fr. Daniel Kresinski  
Agnes Kudlock  
Sevin Land  
Sarah & Gary Larson  
Art Leopold  
David & Beth Lester  
Linda Lorah  
Helen Lucas  
Sally Lund  
Sean F. Lynch



"The Jefferson is a gift to our community. The programming offered is always educational, thought-provoking and beyond interesting. The quality of the programs and the caliber of the speakers are excellent. Not only is there a wide array of local

educators, scholars, community leaders offering their insights but the national speakers who grace your stage contribute to Erie's visibility and good reputation. The Global Summit brings us the best of the best and the Erie citizenry is given the opportunity to learn, grow and broaden their perspective. Thank you!"

**Karen Miller, member since 2014**

Judy Lynch  
William Makarowski  
Darryl Makepeace  
Nicole Martin  
Vicke Marz  
Denise McFadden

Timothy McGill  
Katy Merrium  
Clemence Mershon  
Barbara Miller  
Kathy Murray  
Kevin Nelson

Nancy O'Neill  
Donna Parker  
Olga Perederiy  
Stephen Pizzo  
Cynthia Purvis  
Janice Pytlarz  
Patrick Reed  
Caroline Reichel  
Doug & Sherry Rieder  
Bob & Luann Roberts  
Mary & Dave Robinson  
The Rowley Family  
Ruth Ann Scanzillo  
Kathleen Schaaf  
Suzanne & Charles Scheuer  
Leone  
Mary Pat Schlaudecker  
Pastor Travis & Jennifer  
Schmidt  
John Schrieffer  
Megan Schuschu  
Charlene Sisson  
Terry & Shirley Snyder  
Kathleen Spafford  
Ann Spence

Jodi Stanton  
Gordon & Nancy Starr  
Mark Steg  
Bill Steger  
David Stoczynski  
Donna Stoczynski  
Lesia Stone  
Dorothy Stoner, OSB  
Lenora Stull  
Eran Swartzwelder  
Jan Sweny  
Mary Szpara  
Phyllis Tarasovich  
William Tarbell  
Patricia Tellers

Ally Thomas  
James Toohey  
Walter Toperzer  
Colleen Tredway  
Mary Tredway  
John & Alex Tredway  
Kathe Umlauf  
Dave Ungerman  
Richard Valahovic  
Robert Wehrer  
Ruth Wehrer  
Judith Wittman  
Donna Wood  
Marian Wygant  
Erie Torch Club



"Reaching into the past to prepare for the future."

**Connie and Luther Manus, members since 2008**

## SUSTAINING IMPACT: THE AGORA LEGACY SOCIETY

Planned giving through the Jefferson's **Agora Legacy Society** ensures individuals can support the work of the Jefferson for years to come.

The **Agora Legacy Society**, which was launched in 2015, provides critical long-term support for the Jefferson's work. Three major donors to the fund best explain what it is and why it is so important to them.

### Tim Spaeder

The Jefferson Educational Society promotes civic enlightenment and community progress, and I like that. The programming and lectures presented at the JES have provided my family and me opportunities for intellectual enrichment like no other institution in the Erie region. I want to be sure that the JES will be here for my children and future generations of the Spaeder family. That is why I have included the Jefferson Educational Society in my estate planning. Please join me in supporting The JES and ensuring that this important regional asset is here for many generations to come.



### Christine Riehl

The Jefferson Education Society was founded the summer I returned from Washington, D.C. to live in Erie, Pa. The JES saved my intellectual life. I was accustomed to going to lectures, concerts, and exhibits at the Library of Congress, all the museums of the Smithsonian, and think tanks, like the Brookings Institution. And, here, in my own hometown I could find equivalent speakers, reading groups, programs, and lectures. I've been in seventh heaven ever since the first lecture JES President Dr. William Garvey gave on Alexander the Great. When Dr. Garvey asked me if I had any suggestions or wanted to participate in any way, I suggested something like the Aspen Institute, a prestigious program started by Walter Isaacson and held for a week each summer in Aspen. The very next fall, we instituted the Global Summit. One can now overdose on intellectual stimulation for two weeks every November in Erie! And it is my privilege to serve on the Board of Directors.



Ancient Greece's Agora marketplace for ideas is the subject of artist Michael Hinman's painting that hangs in the Jefferson Hall. The intricate frame holding the painting was created by Brad Triana.

### Maureen Plunkett

I've been a supporter of the Jefferson Educational Society since its inception. I like the idea that it uses its resources in a variety of ways. The JES presents lectures, seminars, and debates to explore topics and ideas, new and old, in a thoughtful and engaging way. The Jefferson also gets people involved in doing things that haven't been done before, solving old problems with new ideas. This organization has been a boon for the Erie community, bringing world-class speakers to its annual Global Summit and placing Erie's citizens at the cutting edge of new ideas. These initiatives make the Jefferson a leader in our city and broader region. I support the Jefferson for all the above reasons but, more personally, because my children and grandchildren live in a community that will need to grow and adapt to meet the changing times in the world around them. Erie needs an organization that can truly be a 'Think Tank for Community Progress.' I encourage you to join me in supporting The Jefferson Educational Society so our community can continue to have a forum for these new ideas.





# 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 nine years, the Summit has become the largest and most esteemed speaker series in the region, featuring 77 of the most respected scholars, writers, and leaders in the nation and the world.

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** (columnist, ethicist): "The money matters. And secret money is corrupting, secret money is dangerous, secret money leads to scandal."

*Other speakers: Kevin Fickenschier, M.D., George S. Howard, Ph.D., Stephen Porter, J.D., William A. Smith, Ed.D.*

## GLOBAL SUMMIT II (2010)

**Paul Kennedy** (historian and author): "Sometimes we don't see the Palestinian side because no one is willing to take them seriously because they have a reputation of being terrorists."

*Other speakers: Elaine C. Kamarck, Ph.D., Harvey A. Bender, Ph.D., G. Terry Madonna, Ph.D., Dave Porter, DEcD, Alan J. Russell, Ph.D.*

## GLOBAL SUMMIT III (2011)

**Alice M. Rivlin** (economist, founding Director of the Congressional Budget Office): "The increase in inequality in income is a longtime trend, but the pressure on the middle- and low-income workers is going up rapidly, especially if they live in an area where there are high housing and gas prices."

*Other speakers: General Michael V. Hayden, Joel Parker, Ph.D., Freddie H. Fu, M.D., Francis Fukuyama, P.D., Steve Scully, M.S., Michael J. Songer, J.D.*

## GLOBAL SUMMIT IV (2012)

**Karl Rove** (GOP political expert, operative): "I spent part of my childhood in Utah. I went to a high school that is 95 percent Mormon, and only in Utah could a Presbyterian and a Jew both be gentiles." Global Summit IV

*Other speakers: David Brooks, Ira Byock, M.D., Barry Casselman, M.F.A., Tom Flynn, Robert Kirschner, Ph.D., Norman Ornstein, Ph.D.*

## GLOBAL SUMMIT V (2013)

**Harry Markopolos** (whistle blower, author): "Failure is a great teacher. There is no such thing as overnight success. The (Bernie) Madoff case was like that for myself and my team (of investigators) for nine years. We repeatedly went to the government about Madoff and no one would listen."

*Other speakers: Howard Dean, M.D., Crislyn D'Souza-Schorey, Ph.D., David Gergen, J.D., William Kristol, Ph.D., Brian Lamb, B.A., Thomas E. Mann, Ph.D., Ian Morris, Ph.D., Richard Norton Smith, Edith Widder, Ph.D.*



## GLOBAL SUMMIT VI (2014)

**Sister Joan Chittister** (writer, ethicist, religious leader): "Beware the religion that turns you against another one."

*Other speakers: Donna Brazile, Stephen Burt, Ph.D., Laura Bush, M.A., Bruce Katz, J.D., Charles C. Mann, Michele Ridge, M.A., Gregory Skomal, Ph.D., Michael Steele, J.D.*



## GLOBAL SUMMIT VII (2015)

**Cokie Roberts** (writer, commentator): "The truth is, the notion that gay marriage is harmful to marriage, is sort of mind-boggling, because these are people trying to get married."

*Other speakers: Danielle Allen, Ph.D., Anthony Atala, M.D., Nile Gardiner, Ph.D., Norman Gevitz, Ph.D., Bas Lansdorp, M.S., Aaron David Miller, Ph.D., Eric Raimy, Ph.D., Darrell West, Ph.D., Gov. Tom Wolf, Ph.D.*



## GLOBAL SUMMIT VIII (2016)

**Doris Kearns Goodwin** (Pulitzer Prize winning historian, author): "It used to be that people had figures – political leaders, or people like Walter Cronkite in the old days –where you had a sense of trust in their authority. But I'm not sure that those figures exist in the same way that they used to."

*Other speakers: Antoine von Agtmael, M.B.A., M.A., Fred Barnes, Rev. Jeffrey Brown, M.Ed., M.Div., Lesley Lee Francis, Ph.D., Robert Hass, Ph.D., Andres Lozano, M.D., M.R. O'Connor, M.S., David Orr, J.D., Gov. Tom Ridge, J.D., Donald Sheehy, Ph.D.*



## GLOBAL SUMMIT IX (2017)

**Andrew Card** (former White House chief of staff): "I grew up in a family where 'politics' was not a dirty word. My father's mother had a great influence on my political life, my public life, because she had been a suffragette."

*Other speakers: Bruce Katz, J.D., Jay Cost, Ph.D., Steve Scully, M.S., Philip Rucker, B.A., Tara Palmeri, B.A., Byron York, M.S., Douglas Brinkley, Ph.D., Jackson Janes, Ph.D., Caitlin Welsh, M.P.A., Ellen Jorgensen, Ph.D., Lt. Gen. James Dubik, Ret., Ph.D.*



## The Summit Mission

Jefferson audiences easily recognize the “big names” from Global Summits over the years, and there were many – Doris Kearns Goodwin, Cokie Roberts, E.J. Dionne, David Brooks, Governors Tom Ridge and Tom Wolf, Douglas Brinkley, Andrew Card, Howard Dean, David Gergen, Karl Rove, Michael Steele, William Kristol, Jeffrey Brown, Steve Scully, Lt. Gen. James Dubik, Philip Rucker, and Donna Brazile, to name a few.

But a great deal of the Summit’s impact, we think, has been sponsoring perhaps less-well-known experts speaking on absolutely groundbreaking subjects. That is how Dr. Andres Lozano, for example, wowed a Global Summit VIII audience with his incredible work on deep brain stimulation. Urban planning experts like Bruce Katz, Darrell West, and Antoine van Agtmael were able to model their presentations specifically to Erie and our challenges, while medical experts gave hope to those craving new information. Those experts included Anthony Atala (3D printing of human tissue), Norman Gevitz (Future of Osteopathic medicine), Crislyn D’Souza-Schorey (Insights on cancer research), Freddie Fu (Orthopedic surgery and sports medicine), and Harvey Bender (Science, politics and human genome).

Perhaps most intriguing of all were the speakers who discussed trends and the future regarding issues that tap into our passion for learning and wonder. The list is long and impressive: Bas Lansdorp (Mission Mars: Dreams into reality), M.R. O’Connor (Wilderness in the 21st century), Ellen Jorgensen (Biohacking and do-it-yourself science), Ian Morris (The future of humanity), Edith Wilder (Unexplored potential of the Deep Sea), Gregory Skomol (Insights into ecology of the Great White Shark), Ira Byock (Dying well in America: End of life care), Robert Kirshner (The Runaway Universe: Einstein’s blunder undone), and Stephen Porter (Climate change and international cooperation).

The Jefferson has special plans for this year’s tenth Global Summit, but one thing will never change. We try to find special speakers working on the cutting edge of their academic disciplines, to bring them to Erie to share their truly global ideas.



## 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.



Steve Scully interviews Doris Kearns Goodwin at Global Summit VIII.

“I was very impressed with the community engagement at the Global Summit. ... It was clear the Jefferson has had a huge impact on Erie.”

Darrell West, Ph.D., Vice President of Governance Studies, Brookings Institution



Rev. Jeffrey Brown, “architect of the Boston Miracle,” speaks at Global Summit VIII on reducing youth and gang violence.

“The Global Summit meets a real need, providing a forum for raising big questions. ... Any city would be proud to have an organization like the Jefferson.”

Ian Morris, Ph.D., Stanford University



## We need an Integrative Approach to Learning



As one of the founding members of the Jefferson Educational Society, I feel honored to have witnessed its extraordinary growth and development from a very fine yet small organization to an accomplished think tank that leaves a positive and lasting imprint on our community. 2018 is marking 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. With immense appreciation, I saw the Brock Institute for Mega Issues, launched in 2010, find its natural habitat at the Jefferson, where it can thrive intellectually and programmatically due to common beliefs, shared values, and effective teamwork.

At the core of the Brock Institute lies my personal and academic conviction that citizens and students alike need to think in broad spheres in order to emerge better versed and prepared for mastering the issues of our times. This integrative method is based on the educational ideals of Milton, Jefferson, and Lincoln, which have successfully found its way into higher education at Penn State Behrend, where students are introduced to questions that reflect the complexities of the nation. Likewise, this method forms the base for the Brock Institute lecture series, such as the “Governance Matters: The Challenges to Good Government” held at the Jefferson in 2012. 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. But best of all, this method keeps me on my toes and forces me to look under the carpet.

I am excited about how far we at the Jefferson have come, and I look forward to engaging whoever is inquisitive enough 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 in the Jefferson’s second decade, this empowerment is to be taken into the community at large and we are working on new concepts, such as “Debating the Purpose of Government” for Jefferson patrons, the publication of my book *Holy Warrior Presidents*, as well as a Jefferson Essay on world religions in a local context. 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.

Sincerely,

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



Charles and his late wife, Carolyn, were founding supporters of the Jefferson and Brock Institute.



Leading the Institute are the Rev. Brock and Executive Assistant Angela Beaumont.



**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 dates to its inception



**2013**

Brock Institute renovations unfold, including library





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. As mega issues are challenges to good government, Rev. Brock analyzes the politics, beliefs, and leadership styles of several American presidents. His extensive research on presidents and their controversial notions of America as the “chosen nation” will be published in the near future.

## The Brock Library

The Brock Institute of Mega Issues has completed its political science reference library. The library catalogs more than 800 titles in the categories of American presidents and Congress, history, foreign policy, English history, philosophy, and humanities, plus the complete volumes of Library of America. All books were donated by supporters of the Jefferson Educational Society, and the reading room is open to the public.



## Program Highlights Over the Decade

Since 2010, the Brock Institute has featured a number of provocative programs, including a lecture series on revolutions in the United States, France, Italy, and Russia; Jesus Christ as a political and religious Messiah; American presidents and their missions abroad; conflict and solutions by world religion; the ongoing effects of racism in our society; and the influence of politics and economics in government.



Starting in 2017, Rev. Brock introduced a successful blend of lecture and performance, recounting the story of bluegrass and blues accompanied by excellent musicians including Jim Cuneo, Pat Cuneo, the band Steppin’ Pappy, and local blues great Rodger Montgomery.



Members of Steppin’ Pappy and fellow musicians Jim Cuneo and Rodger Montgomery play to a packed Jefferson Hall on Feb. 1, 2018, telling “The Story of the Blues.”



2014

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



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 top institute issues.



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 combining history, philosophy, and theology.

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

## 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



As part of the Academy, participants develop their **leadership skills** by engaging in research to address critical issues facing their community.

**#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:** The 2016 JCLA participants drafted **A Citizen's Action Guide to Blight** to highlight successful strategies for addressing blight undertaken by other cities and regions. 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 Concept:** The 2015 JCLA cohort explored forming a potential connection between 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

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



During the **two-day retreats to Harrisburg**, participants of the Civic Leadership Academy have met with Governor Tom Wolf, the Chief Justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Thomas Saylor, and leadership from both the House of Representatives and the State Senate. The group has also met with policy experts specific to the research projects they've explored to help them begin to explore solutions to which issues affect Erie and Pennsylvania.



Each year after returning from Harrisburg, the **JCLA visits numerous municipalities through 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 President of County Council; the Mayor of the City of Erie; the President of Erie City Council; Supervisors from Fairview, Harborcreek, Millcreek, and North East; representatives 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.



Graduates through the years have met and learned from Federal, Local, and Civic Leaders... with just a few illustrated here:



Howard Dean



Bill Flanagan



Paul Voitek



Michael Steele



Dean Pepicello



Gov. Tom Wolf



Kathy Dahlkemper



Dr. John Hudak



Sen. Dan Laughlin



# AND JEFFERSON DINNER SERIES



**2015 Graduates**



**2016 Graduates**



**2017 Graduates**

## JEFFERSON LEADERSHIP ACADEMY GRADUATES

### 2015

Kevin Arrington, Young Entrepreneur Society, Inc  
Angela Beaumont, Jefferson Educational Society  
DaWayne Cleckley, PBS39 Station  
Chanel Cook, Erie County Public Library  
Lisa Counasse, WQLN Public Media  
Jennifer Farrar, EmergyCare  
Kerry Franz, Erie Insurance  
Tim Giblin, Corry Redevelopment Authority  
Andrew Henderson, Stairways Behavioral Health  
Kyle Hinsdale, NE Foods, Inc.  
Andrew Hromyak, USDOJ  
Hannah Kirby, Ember + Forge  
Steve Krivonak, NAMI  
Christopher LaFuria, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania  
Michael McCormick, Erie Beer Company  
April Morrison, Erie Insurance Group  
Keith Moses, Propel Schools  
Kevin Pollock, F.N.B. Corporation  
Shawnta Pulliam, Nurturing Hearts, INC  
Veronica Rexford, Urban Erie Community Development Center  
Lesley Ridge, Socialution Media  
William Scholz, Radius Cowork  
Patrick Simpson, Erie Insurance Group  
Alvin Tucker, II, Wealth Generators  
Laura Walchack, Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel  
Erin Wincek, Erie County Public Library  
Nina Wolfarth, Barber National Institute

### 2016

Breanna Adams, Erie County Department of Health  
Niken Astari, Erie City  
Jay Breneman, Erie County Council  
Michelle Butler, GE Transportation  
Brian Dorio, Erie Insurance Group  
Ferki Ferati, Jefferson Educational Society  
Varun Gupta, Penn State Behrend  
James Heubel, Cumulus Media  
Khadija Horton, Erie County Public Defender's Office  
Amanda Iadeluca, County of Erie  
Alison Kaminski, GE Transportation  
Andrew Kerr, Erie City Mission  
Andrew Kochirka, Erie Times-News/CyberInk  
Halle Kostansek, WQLN Public Media  
Ashley Lawson, Gannon University  
Mac Lewis, The Cork 1794  
Tom Maggio, ECGRA  
Tiffany McCloud, Her P.O.W.E.R. Inc.  
Tiffanie Page-Collazo, Women's Roundtable Erie  
Ryan Palm, Mercyhurst University  
Paul Smola, Graco High Pressure Equipment  
Tiffany Thomas, St. Vincent Hospital  
Bradley Triana, BOTH Studios  
Maureen Walls, Erie School District  
Matthew Wiertel, Velocity Network  
Perry Wood, ECGRA

### 2017

Paige Bosnyak, Planned Parenthood Advocates  
Kristin Bowers, Office of the County Executive  
Joelyn Bush, United Way of Erie County  
Meagan Cousins, Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority  
Emily Dauber, Erie Art Museum  
Patrick M. Duda, Erie Insurance Group  
J. Brian Foht, Foht Investment LLC  
Kevin E. Forte, L'Arche Erie  
William Frackowiak, Stairways Behavioral Health  
Natalia Garcia, WQLN Public Media  
Riki Hay, Gannon University  
Katrina Hecker, Erie Insurance Group  
Afrim Latifi, Allstate Insurance  
Christal Lepak, Youth Leadership Institute of Erie  
Heather McBrier, Stairways Behavioral Health - BLOOM  
Kevin Schaaf, TechnipFM  
Depend Tamba, Quality of Life Learning Center  
Tyler Titus, Harborcreek Youth Services  
Mary Tredway, Jefferson Educational Society  
Shawn Waskiewicz, Flagship Niagara League  
Brad Wiertel, Velocity Network  
Jessica Yochim, MenajErie Studio  
Andrea Zdaniewski, Erie Insurance Group

*Graduates of the Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy have since organized the JCLA Alumni Network, a means of keeping alumni both engaged with each other and in their community through routinely gathering to learn from civic, community, and industry leaders, as well as contribute back to the region through initiatives led by the alumni.*

## COMMUNITY IMPACT



**2016 JCLA cohort members organize a community clean-up to gain hands-on experience combating blight.**



**2017 JCLA cohort members participate in the Humanity Against Heroin event by producing insightful literature to distribute at the event.**

## CULTIVATING CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

*The Jefferson Dinner Series convenes elected officials and key industry stakeholders throughout Erie County to discuss key issues impacting the region.*



**2015**

Jefferson Dinner Series with Pa. Sec. of Agriculture Russell Redding: "Agriculture in Pennsylvania – History, Challenges, Future."



**2016**

Jefferson Dinner Series with Pa. Sec. of Education Pedro Rivera: "The Future of Public Schools in Pennsylvania's Education."



**2017**

Jefferson Dinner Series with Kerry Kirkland, Pa. Deputy Secretary of the Bureau of Diversity, Inclusiveness, and Small Business for the Department of General Services



Programming has been the backbone of Jefferson community outreach since the organization's inception. The number of classes and lectures has averaged nearly 80 a year with average attendance at each program of more than 140 individuals in recent years.



Dr. Judith M. Lynch

### Judith M. Lynch honored as Decadian Scholar

Dr. Judith M. Lynch, the first Chairwoman of the Jefferson Educational Society and Erie County Executive for 20 years (1982-2002), has been selected as the Jefferson's first Decadian Scholar.

Dr. Lynch, who earned her Ph.D. in History from the University of Pittsburgh, is a recognized scholar and the longest-serving top executive in Erie County government history. Her work for the Jefferson and helping lead the organization since its beginning is unparalleled, including her role as the Founding Director of the Jefferson Alliance for Community Progress.

Dr. Lynch, a Meadville area native, is a teacher, writer, lecturer, and researcher who has also written several books. Two of them, "Our Corner of the World: Economic History of Erie County," and "The History of Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine," will be published imminently. She also continues to provide leadership, writing and lecturing for Jefferson audiences and the organization's pursuits.

Dr. Lynch's naming as Decadian Scholar is more than just an honor. She will continue to research, write and lecture at the Jefferson and serve as both a role model and academic leader.

### Jefferson Speakers Honor Roll

In 2017, the Jefferson sponsored 71 program events during our Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall terms, plus Global Summit IX. As in past years, many academic and community leaders and visiting experts made this programming possible, and the Jefferson's strong audiences established another attendance record, topping the previous record attendance of 2016.

Since the Jefferson's founding in 2008, a number of speakers appeared more than a dozen times, topped by the late Jefferson Founding President William P. Garvey, who delivered a remarkable 55 lectures. Other honorees include Charles Brock, Michael DeSanctis, Corrine Egan, David Frew, Baher Ghosheh, Ed Grode, Barry Grossman, Robert Hass, David Kozak, Mark Squeglia, and R. James Wertz.



National correspondent for *The Atlantic* James Fallows (left) moderates an audience discussion with czb, LLC, planners and authors of *Erie Refocused* Charles Buki (right) and Peter Lombardi.



2008

Doors open at The Jefferson



2009

Jefferson hosts first Global Summit



2010

Brock Institute launches



2011

Thomas B. Hagen Dignitas Awards debut honoring Steve Scully



2012

First of a two-year Perry 200 commemoration involves 100,000 people in region



2013

Jefferson's Five-Year Gala and Jefferson/Brock renovations commence



2014

Jefferson Alliance for Community Progress, Jefferson's civic action arm, launches; Dinner, Essay programs begin

Including the most recent publication, *Erie, Pennsylvania MAYORS*, the Jefferson has published nine books, examining the political, business, and cultural history of Erie.

The Jefferson Essay series offers critical analysis of key issues affecting the region, including crime, economic development, education, history, and political trends.

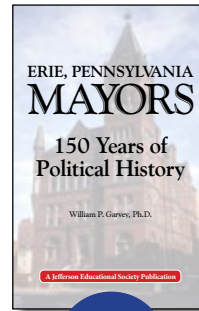
Since reviving the *Journal of Erie Studies* in partnership with the Erie County Historical Society, the Jefferson has helped publish five editions to explore Erie's history.

## Publications

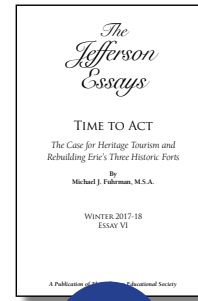
- **Perry 200 Commemoration Souvenir Book.**  
By David Frew, Ph.D., and Jerry Skrypzak, B.A.
- **Victory: Erie, The War of 1812, and the Battle of Lake Erie and Victory: Erie, The War of 1812, and The Battle of Lake Erie: The Young Readers Edition.** By Cornell Green, B.A.
- **Mercyhurst North East: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

## Journal of Erie Studies

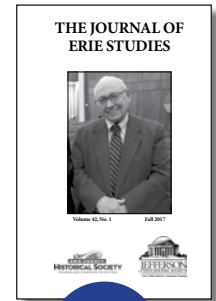
- **Journal of Erie Studies, Volume 39, No. 1**  
Contributions by: Tonya Boyer, B.A.; J. Michael Campbell, Ph.D.; Larry Flatley, J.D.; Janna Napoli, B.S.; and Mary Ann Owoc, Ph.D.



9  
Books



6  
Essays



5  
Journal of  
Erie Studies

- **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 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 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

## The Jefferson Essays

- "Is Erie A Safe City? Perception, Reality, Recommendations."  
By Kyle Kasinec, B.A.
- "Erie's Advanced Industries." By R. James Wertz, Ph.D., and Perry Wood, M.S.
- "The Case for Connecting Presque Isle to Erie's East Side – A Historic Opportunity." By Michael Fuhrman, M.S.A.
- "Erie's Public Schools: History, Challenges, Future."  
By R. James Wertz, Ph.D.
- "Erie's Mayoral Race (2017): Analyzing Voter Turnout and Primary Election results." By Pat Cuneo, B.A.
- "Time to Act: The Case for Heritage Tourism and Rebuilding Erie's Three Historic Forts (2018)." By Michael Fuhrman, M.S.A.



2015

First Jefferson Leadership Academy class graduates



2016

Agora Legacy Society forms; Second Metro 100 Conference focuses on Erie Refocused Comprehensive Plan; Jefferson membership hits 500 for first time.



2017

First LECOM Summit held; William P. Garvey's Political History Book publishes; Dr. Ferki Ferati named Jefferson President; First Erie Insurance Civics Day held; Dinner/program addresses heightened challenges facing Erie's minority community; Scholars-in-Residence program starts.



2018

Jefferson President Dr. Ferki Ferati continues the tradition of the Presidential Lecture Series started by Jefferson Founding President Dr. William P. Garvey with Ferati's talk on Hannibal and Spartacus in January 2018. The series has been renamed the William P. Garvey President Lecture Series.

## A WORD ABOUT OUR ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

With nearly 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 that 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.

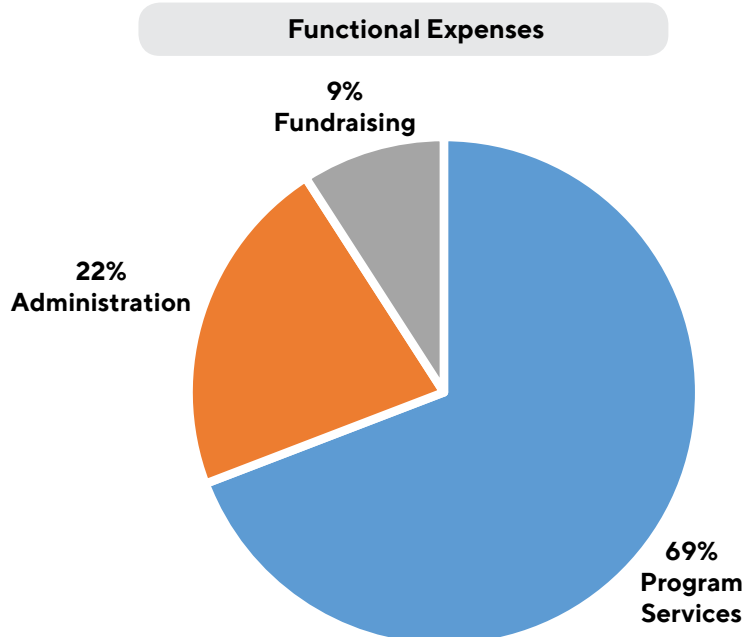
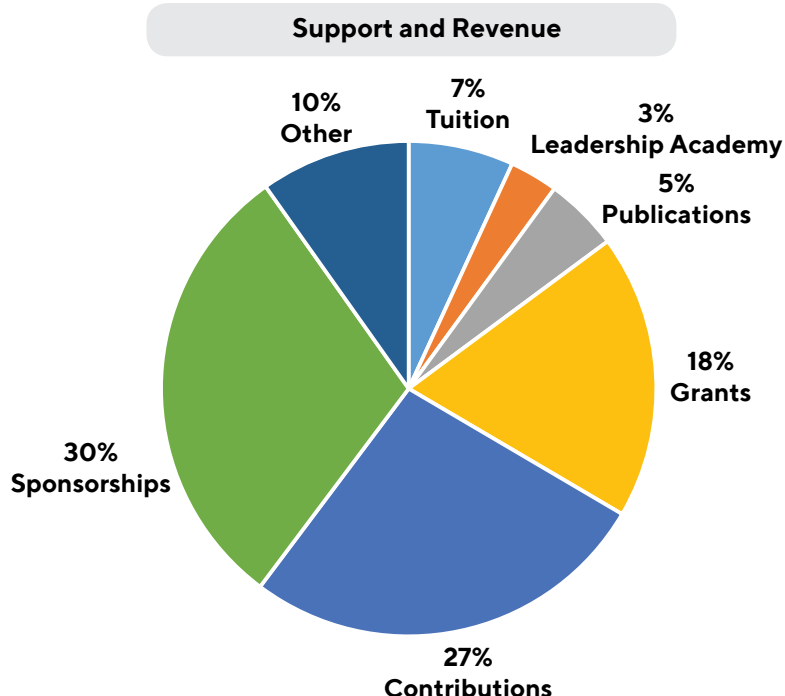
#### Statement of Financial Position at August 31, 2017 and 2016

##### ASSETS

	2017	2016
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash	113,431	208,802
Pledges receivable - current	375,000	225,000
Accounts receivable	25,079	0
Employee advances	8,462	3,462
Prepaid expenses	42,866	26,392
Total current assets	562,838	463,656
<b>Property and equipment</b>		
Land and building	760,561	760,561
Building improvements	820,167	802,038
Furniture and equipment	99,291	94,285
	1,680,019	1,656,884
Less: accumulated depreciation	263,517	197,817
Total property and equipment	1,416,502	1,459,067
<b>Other assets</b>		
Pledges receivable - long term	1,300,000	1,675,000
Endowment	421,990	393,340
Total other assets	1,721,990	2,068,349
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>3,701,330</b>	<b>3,991,063</b>

##### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

	2017	2016
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable	31,984	10,025
Short-term debt	395,075	460,818
Accrued expenses	12,785	10,314
Current portion of long term debt	25,000	25,000
Total current liabilities	464,844	506,157
<b>Long-term debt</b>		
Mortgage payable	592,087	632,087
Less: current position	25,000	25,000
Net long-term debt	567,087	607,087
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>1,031,931</b>	<b>1,113,244</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		
Unrestricted net assets	594,399	577,819
Temporarily restricted net assets	1,125,000	1,350,000
Permanently restricted net assets	950,000	950,000
Total net assets	2,669,399	2,877,819
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>3,701,330</b>	<b>3,991,063</b>





# LETTER FROM THE JEFFERSON CHAIRWOMAN

Fellow Jeffersonians:

We have come a long way since those very early days of the Jefferson Educational Society when just the kernel of an idea inspired us to dream of a community that was better informed and better engaged in civic issues large and small. And dream we did.

We dreamed that we could provide a home for thoughtful discussion or debate on any subject important to us as individuals or to our city, region, state, and nation.

We dreamed that we could dedicate a space to learn from knowledgeable speakers and presenters – whether of local, regional, or national sources – who had the ability to communicate their ideas and expertise, and to spark our imaginations and drive to grow as people and citizens.

We dreamed to turn the spotlight on our most pressing problems and most daunting challenges as a community, through research, dialogue, writing, and multimedia platforms. And to recognize the accomplishments and commitment of others.

We dreamed we could be a part of something bigger than ourselves. Somewhere we could learn together, to test our beliefs, to be transparent, to be open, and always objective. To be part of a place that will endure.

I think a lot of us feel a sense of pride and humility for what we have accomplished. Most of us believe that we are on the right track, but we also recognize that the Jefferson's mission to enlighten must never end if it is to succeed. Thank you, everyone, for helping us embark on our first decade here at the Jefferson Educational Society, and please join us as we launch our next adventures in the years to come.

Joyce A. Savocchio  
Board Chairwoman  
Jefferson Educational Society



Joyce A. Savocchio  
Board Chairwoman

## BOARD OFFICERS:



Vice Chairman Bruce Raimy



Treasurer Charles Caryl



Secretary Charles Brock

## Board of Trustees

**Charles Brock** – Trustee – Director, Institute on the American Dream and Faculty/Senior Research Fellow, Penn State Behrend; Director, 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

**Judith M. Lynch** – Trustee – JES Decadian Scholar, Former Erie County Executive (1982-2002)

**Dale McBrier** – Trustee – Co-Owner, Lyndal Enterprises

**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

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

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

**Gregory Sesler** – Trustee – Attorney, Sesler & Sesler

**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

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

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

### Trustee Emeritas

**Tom Hagen** – Trustee Emeritas – Chairman, Custom Engineering Co.; Chairman, Erie Insurance Group

**Brian Lilly** – Trustee Emeritas – Owner, Lilly Broadcasting



**Dr. William P. Garvey**, a lifelong student of history, politics and education, will be remembered as an Erie civic leader of more than four decades. He died at age 81 on Aug. 9, 2017.

Known for his exceptional work ethic and dedication to education and public discourse, Dr. Garvey founded the Jefferson Educational Society at age 73 in 2008 as Erie's think tank for community progress. He considered it his crowning achievement.

Dr. Garvey had already experienced a storied career in education, having served as Mercyhurst University President for 25 years before retiring in 2005. Before reaching that post, he had served as a history professor and dean of the college.

Dr. Garvey's many achievements ranged from his role as a writer, author, and lecturer to his work in government. He helped advise the adoption of Erie County's Home Rule Charter, served as the county's first Director of Administration, and relished his role as adviser and mentor to many political and business leaders. He served on numerous boards and committees, including more than two decades on the Erie-Western Pennsylvania Port Authority, from which he led construction of the Bicentennial Tower at the foot of State Street and played a key role in building a replica of the U.S. Brig Niagara. Dr. Garvey also headed two signature Erie County celebrations marking the 200th anniversary of the community's founding in 1995 and the Perry 200 Commemoration in 2012-13, honoring the 200th anniversary of Oliver Hazard Perry's historic naval victory over the British in the Battle of Lake Erie in 1813.

But of all his accomplishments, Dr. Garvey was most proud of his development of the Jefferson Educational Society, building its staff and board of leaders, and defining its mission to be a haven for thoughtful, nonpartisan public conversation on important local, state, national, and global issues. Dr. Garvey never sat still, and his unbridled public spirit will continue to drive the Jefferson in the years ahead.

## STAFF OF THE JEFFERSON EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

Jefferson President **Dr. Ferki Ferati** has been with the Jefferson since its founding in 2008. He began as the think tank's Director of Research and Operations and was quickly promoted to Executive Director in 2009, to Vice President in 2013, and President in June 2017. Also in June 2017, Ferki successfully defended his doctoral dissertation, *The Rise and Decline of the Chautauqua Movement: Lessons for 21st Century Civic Adult Education*, at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Education. In 2012, he received his Master's degree in Public Administration from Gannon University and, in 2007, he earned his Bachelor's degree from Mercyhurst University, where he majored in Intelligence Studies and minored in Russian Studies.

The **Rev. Charles Brock**, M.Litt. is a founding member of the Jefferson Educational Society and currently serves as Secretary of the Board of Trustees. Additionally, the Erie native serves as the Director of the Brock Institute for Mega Issues Education at the Jefferson and is also acting minister of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Girard, after having served for four decades as a minister and scholar in the United States and Great Britain. Charles is also Director of the Institute on the American Dream at Penn State Behrend, where he teaches politics and religion. He is an Emeritus Fellow, Chaplain, and Director of Ministerial Education at Mansfield College in Oxford, UK, where he taught for 35 years.

**Ben Speggen** is the Director of Operations at the Jefferson. He joined the organization in February 2015 as its Program Developer. In November 2015, Ben was promoted to Program Director, and now oversees all of the think tank's operations and events, including lectures, the Global Summit series, the Jefferson Dinner series, and the Metro 100 conference. Since 2016, he has also directed the Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy. A former college instructor, Managing Editor of the Erie Reader and host of local radio and television programs, Ben earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in English from Gannon University.

After many years working in the small business sector, **Mary Tredway** joined the Jefferson in September 2015 as its Administrative Assistant. She now serves in a number of roles at the Jefferson, including Membership Coordinator and Controller. Mary earned a Bachelor's degree in History from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania and continues to use her experience in historical and library research as part of her multiple duties at the Jefferson.



With her extensive business and academic credentials, **Angela Beaumont** works both with the Rev. Charles Brock and with the Jefferson in many roles, including Coordinator of the Jefferson Alliance for Community Progress. Her 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, Angela moved with her family to the United States, where, among many other pursuits, taught German on the college level. Angela earned a degree in American Studies and Business from the University of Kassel in Germany.

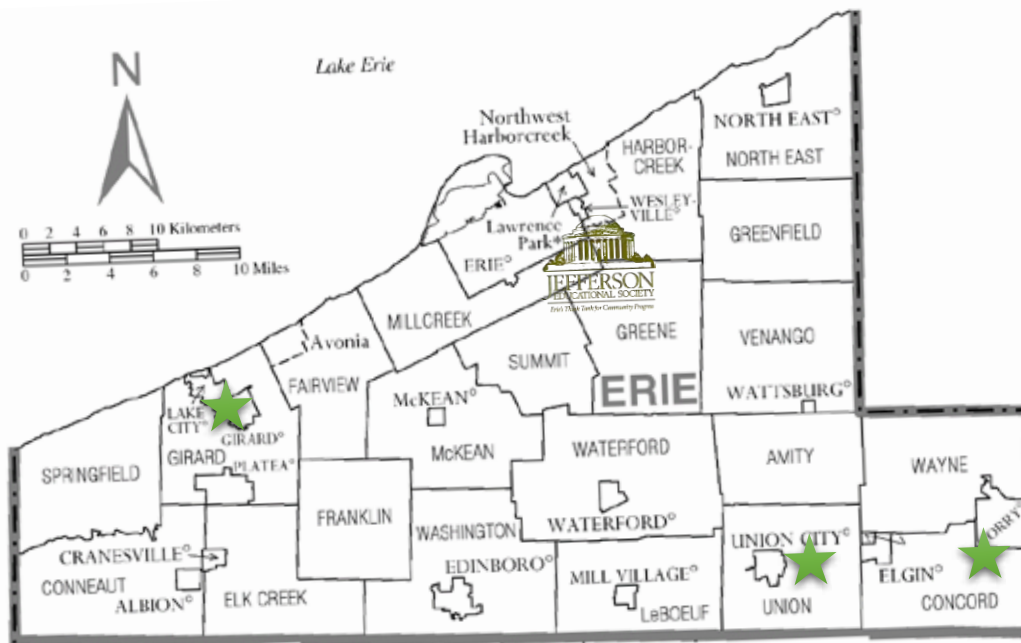
**Pat Cuneo**, who joined the Jefferson in February 2016 to work with the late Dr. William P. Garvey on his book, *Erie, Pennsylvania Mayors: 150 Years of Political History*, serves as Coordinator of Publications for the organization. He is a former reporter, news editor, editorial page editor and columnist for the Erie Times-News. An Erie native, Cuneo is a 1978 graduate of the University of Notre Dame and studied journalism at Poynter Institute and the American Press Institute. He taught journalism at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, Gannon University, and the former Alliance College.

**Olga Perederiy** Olga joined the Jefferson in October 2016 as the Administrative Assistant, but serves in a variety of roles at the organization. Upon graduating from Penn State University in 2015 with a Bachelor's degree in English and a minor in Politics and Government, Olga spent a year in Los Angeles gaining experience in the public relations entertainment industry. After returning to Erie, she decided to expand her scope in the nonprofit sector. She speaks Russian fluently and ultimately hopes to use her language abilities in a foreign relations career.

**Bradley 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 of Pennsylvania, studied photography while living in Prague, and completed his Master's of Fine Arts degree at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Brad is also a musician and has taught woodworking and design courses at Edinboro University.

**Julie M. Suleski**, M.A., Editor of the Journal of Erie Studies  
**Zebra Ferati**, Support Staff





Through local expansion, The Jefferson will offer programming at additional locations throughout Erie County, such as the Universalist Church in Girard, The Corry PA Higher Educational building, and elsewhere, to ensure transportation and location are not barriers to civic education.

## Scholars-in-Residence Program

The Jefferson is launching a Scholars-in-Residence Program for one big reason – it's the next important step in our development as a think tank.

In recent years, the Jefferson brought in several of the most innovative thinkers in the business, such as:

- **John Hudak**, a senior fellow in Governance Studies at Brookings;
- **Mark Muro**, a senior fellow and policy director at Brookings;
- **Nile Gardiner**, director of the Margaret Thatcher Center for Freedom at The Heritage Foundation;
- **Aaron David Miller**, the Middle East analyst and Vice President for New Initiatives at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C.;
- **Former Pittsburgh Mayor Tom Murphy**, a senior resident fellow at the Urban Land Institute;
- **Lt. General James Dubik, Ret.**, a senior fellow at the Institute of the Study of War.

Now that we're entering our second 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 will help us reach the next level as the Erie region's think tank for community progress.



Scholars-in-Residence Program at the Jefferson



Produce biannual essays or one book; lecture during each programmatic term.



Produce research in the areas of

- Economic Development
- State of Nonprofits
- Governments/Urban Development
- Education
- Technology
- History
- Cultural and Social Issues
- New Ideas

**Andrew Roth, Ph.D.**, is continuing a career in higher education that has spanned more than 45 years. At Mercyhurst University, he was a tenured faculty member; a coach – he founded the women's soccer team; and for more than 25 years a senior administrator as Director of Admissions, VP for Enrollment, Vice President of Academic Affairs, and Dean of the College. In 2003, he assumed the presidency of Notre Dame College until his retirement in June 2014 after receiving an Honorary Doctorate for his leadership and service and being named President Emeritus. Most recently, Dr. Roth served as the interim President of St. Bonaventure University until August 2017. He has since joined the Jefferson Educational Society as a first Scholar in Residence, focused on the development of the Civic Leadership Academy with the introduction of the Raimy Fellows.







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*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.*

Examine THE PAST.  
Study THE PRESENT.  
Explore THE FUTURE.

*For more information or to contribute to the  
Jefferson Growth Campaign,  
call 814.459.8000.*

#### **THE JEFFERSON 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 Employer 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 Society 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 action.

#### **OUR BUILDING PARTNERSHIP**

The Jefferson Educational Society of Erie and the Brith Sholom Congregation, 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.