The cover features a blue-toned background with a stylized American flag at the top, a globe in the center, and an aerial view of a city waterfront at the bottom. The text is overlaid on these elements.

The Jefferson

2019

ANNUAL REPORT

JEFFERSON  
EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

Dear Friends,

When you feel like stopping, think about why you started.

That seems like a good way to describe our drive here at the Jefferson, where the mission always was and always will be how we can better serve you and our region. As we see it, you want a better informed Erie, a better unified Erie, urgency in our civic pursuits, and transparency, all in an effort to create a brighter future for each and every one of us. We embrace those aspirations. And as we approach spring 2019, we are committed to helping each other become better informed citizens and, collectively, part of a more vibrant community.

We remain committed to serving as Erie’s forum for thoughtfully discussing and debating important issues, whether they be local, state, national, or global. As a think tank, we are committed to helping Erie’s public and private leaders gain an information edge about good ideas and best practices.

What will it take to succeed in 2019 and in the years ahead? Certainly it starts with hard work, listening to each other, coming together to make a difference, embracing nonpartisanship, and heeding the warning of Thomas Jefferson: “If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, it expects what never was and never will be.”

Collaboration is a key part of today’s Jefferson. As we describe in the following pages, we are proud of our work advancing Erie’s interests – in working with our top private companies and institutions, governments, future leaders through our civic academy, universities, and nonprofit organizations. But we know, too, that our mission reflects the absolutely best efforts of the Jefferson community, our Board of Trustees, and the talented Jefferson staff members and dedicated volunteers.

In sum, we are excited to report that 2018 was a watershed year for the Jefferson. We not only celebrated our 10th anniversary with the most dynamic programming we have ever undertaken – seven of our Global Summit speakers sold out their venues and we more than doubled our best attendance with about 6,500 tickets sold. We sponsored a record 125 lectures, programs, and classes, including collaborations with Celebrate Erie and the Erie Art Museum, Erie Maritime Museum, and the Robert H. Jackson Center. We received the first benefits of our scholars-in-residence program, produced solid essays on difficult subjects, and are now launching our satellite programs in the area. Just as importantly, we worked hard to make a real difference in the Erie region by finding our voice as a community think tank. Yet nothing was more gratifying than meeting with hundreds of our closest friends in a real Who’s Who of the Erie region at our 10th year anniversary dinner in June.

Thank you, members, friends, and supporters of the Jefferson community, for your hard work and enthusiasm, your thirst for knowledge, and your spirit to make Erie a better and more prosperous place. Now please join us in tackling even greater challenges in the year ahead.

Sincerely,

Ferki Ferati, Ed.D.  
President



Jefferson President Ferki Ferati

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# Community Progress

Since our founding in 2008, the **Jefferson Educational Society** has worked to examine the past, study the present, and explore the future. While endeavors to do so often look different from year to year, two words remain at the core of driving that effort: **Community Progress**.

*A decade after we first opened our doors to the public, the landscape of Erie has changed. That change is continuing into 2019, and the Jefferson has been – and remains to be – proud to play a critical part in that.*

Examining our past in new ways in 2018, the Jefferson took its programming offsite as part of **our plan to expand our programmatic offerings** beyond our home base at 32nd and State streets. During the summer, we announced that we would explore ways to ensure that transportation and access would no longer be barriers for education throughout Erie County, and for the first time ever, we presented lectures at **Celebrate Erie** as part of the annual festival's Cultural Division.



*Steve Scully interviews Chris Matthews at Gannon University's Hammermill Center in December.*

Invited by the City of Erie, the Jefferson examined Erie's maritime roots with historian and author Dr. David Frew; took a look at Erie's "colorful, hard-knocking political history" with Jefferson Publication's Coordinator Pat Cuneo; learned about the "man who helped settle the Erie frontier – Thomas Forster" with historian and author Sabina Freeman; celebrated

the creations and products that made Erie a success with Jefferson Decadian Scholar Dr. Judy Lynch; and explored the evolution of downtown Erie with retired lieutenant from the City of Erie Bureau of Police Jerry Skrypzak – calling on local experts to focus on local issues of the past still important to us today. A true celebration of Erie involves an examination of our past to understand our present and shape our future, and the Jefferson remains proud to have offered free programming at Celebrate Erie to Erie County residents.

Less than a month later, the Jefferson continued its outreach, offering the community the opportunity to "**meet the Schooner Lettie G. Howard**," with presentations by co-founder of the Flagship Niagara League Fred Langill and Niagara League Executive Director and Fleet Captain Billy Sabatini **at the Blasco Library**. Following the programming, attendees had the opportunity to tour the Lettie, the second tall ship in Erie's fleet alongside the Niagara.



*Erie's second Tall Ship was the focus of a Jefferson talk in partnership with the Flagship Niagara League in September.*

The Jefferson team is excited to continue that outreach into 2019. Jefferson programming will take place in Corry, PA at the **Higher Educational Council** and at the **Fairview Area Historical Society**.

But development isn't limited to calendar years and it can remain open-ended. The present may remain tied to the past and supported by the hopes of the future. And the potential of progress can be driven faster with more hands on the wheel.

On April 6, 2017, in partnership with the **Erie County Department of Health**, the Jefferson hosted Blue Zones Vice President Tony Buettner, who introduced the Erie region to the well-being and health initiative for the first time. Conversations sparked at that event remained active throughout the year and into 2018, with the news coming in November that Corry, Pennsylvania would become the first Blue Zones community in the northeastern United States thanks to funding sponsors UPMC, Highmark Health, and LECOM Health and the work of Erie County officials to pursue such an initiative. Among those joining the team that will guide the Blue Zones effort in Corry is Ashley Lawson, the President of the Jefferson's Civic Leadership Academy Alumni Network.

Also in 2017, at the Jefferson's hallmark annual event - Global Summit IX - **Bruce Katz**, co-author of *The New Localism: How Cities Can Thrive in the Age of Populism* and co-founder of The



From left, Erie Insurance Chairman Tom Hagen joins City of Erie Chief of Staff Renee Lamis, Mayor Joe Schember, and former Fresno Mayor Ashley Swearingin at Global Summit X.

New Localism Advisors and former Centennial Scholar of the Brookings Institution, presented on Erie's place in the "new localism." No stranger to Erie, Katz first presented at the Jefferson in 2014's Global Summit to discuss his seminal work *The Metropolitan Revolution: How Cities and Metros Are Fixing Our Broken Politics and Fragile Economy*.

In between, Katz took note of Erie and its potential. "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," Katz and co-author, the late Jeremy Nowak, wrote in *The New Localism*.

But the Katz-Erie connection didn't end in November 2017. The Jefferson invited Katz back, along with Nowak, to Erie to present on June 15, 2018, at **the Jefferson's 10th Anniversary Gala**. While the Jefferson team reflected on our past 10 years and dreamed boldly about what lies ahead for the decades to come, we asked Katz and Nowak to do the same for Erie. The two repeated two words often throughout their discussions: **Opportunity Zones**.



Urban expert Bruce Katz, co-author of *The New Localism*, speaks at the Jefferson's 10th Anniversary Dinner.



Some of the members of the Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy enjoy the festivities at the Jefferson 10th Anniversary Gala.

Katz spoke of the game-changing ability that Opportunity Zones, a new investment tool aimed at spurring private investment in low-income census tracts by providing tax incentives to investors, will have nationwide. Too, he not only took note of Erie's work to designate eight zones in total, with six in the downtown core, but also observed how Erie's approach distinguished it from other cities.

Immediately following the June 15 event, Katz invited Erie Mayor Joe Sember and Erie Downtown Development Corporation CEO John Persinger to join him at the Accelerator for America Conference. Just 10 days later, Sember and Persinger were meeting with mayors and economic development chiefs throughout the country in Las Vegas.

Since then, Erie has garnered praise in national publications and continued to receive accolades from Katz and other Opportunity Zones experts. Those leading the Opportunity Zones conversations in Erie have also presented in national forums and in Washington, D.C.

But that wasn't the only idea to spring from the Nov. 2, 2017, Global Summit IX event featuring Katz.

To moderate the discussion with Katz following his presentation, the Jefferson invited **Tom Murphy**, former Pittsburgh Mayor and current Canizaro/Klingbeil



Former Pittsburgh Mayor Tom Murphy

Families Chair for Urban Development and Senior Fellow at the Urban Land Institute, to Erie. Observing the undertakings of the EDDC, a critical part of that night's discussion, Murphy suggested that Erie consider contracting the **ULI's Advisory Panel Services** to study and inform future downtown development.

A global real estate organization with a multidisciplinary approach whose work is driven by the more than 42,000 members "dedicated to responsible

land use and building communities," ULI has employed its Advisory Panel Services Program for more than 70 years to convene experts in the fields of real estate development and land use to "advise communities facing complex urban development challenges."

The Jefferson began working in early 2018 with the **EDDC, Erie Insurance, the City of Erie, and the Erie Community Foundation** to bring the resources and expertise of ULI to Erie by drafting an extensive briefing book on Erie, developing questions germane to urban development, organizing various meetings, and facilitating a tour of the downtown region.

Chaired by **Richard W. Reynolds**, president of the Needham, Massachusetts-based Reynolds Group, the Erie Advisory Panel offered its initial findings upon the conclusion of their week-long stay in Erie. In January 2019, the ULI Advisory Report for Erie became available to the public and the implementation thereof, through the work of the City and the EDDC, continues.

ULI noted that Erie is on "the cusp of change" and praised the region's waterfront and natural amenities that "are a strength matched by few markets." The panel addressed the questions posed by the Erie team and offered recommendations about how to continue to move development forward in 2019 and beyond.

*It's examples like this that remind us of the critical role the Jefferson plays in the community by providing a platform for discussion and a springboard from which ideas can be turned into action. And that's been at the core of what we have done since our earliest days.*

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 region’s comprehensive plan; *Erie Refocused*, the city’s comprehensive plan; and others.

After the release of *Erie Refocused*, the Jefferson invited lead planners Charles Buki and Peter Lombardi of czb, LLC., the firm that authored the comprehensive plan, back to Erie to provide follow-up conversations. In the room for that conversation, Erie Insurance President and CEO Tim NeCastro decided to approach Buki after the presentation. “This is a great plan,” he told Buki, as reflected in Jim Martin’s June 25, 2017 coverage for the Erie Times-News, “**but where do we start?**”

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

Eight months later, NeCastro filed forms to create the EDDC.

While not all conversations begin at the Jefferson, of course, we afford the community a place to gather for discussion. And not just with development but also with innovation and more.



Darrell West

Adding to the conversations begun by Bruce Katz in Erie, the Jefferson welcomed **Darrell West**, Vice President of Governance Studies and Founding Director of the Center for Technology Innovation at Brookings, to Erie. West, at 2015’s Global Summit, discussed



Jefferson Operations Director Ben Speggen leads the discussion with Deborah Fallows and James Fallows at Global Summit X.

the impact of GigaFiber and internet technology to illustrate how broadband technology is reshaping the world.



Antoine van Agtmael

One year later, the Jefferson hosted **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* at Global Summit VIII. 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. 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 Katz’s 2017 return visit. Since then, the Erie Innovation District has relocated to Velocity’s new headquarters at the former Rothrock Building.

Community action continues to germinate from the Global Summit. In 2018, the Jefferson welcomed renowned sociologist and prolific author **Michael Eric Dyson**.



Michael Eric Dyson

While Dyson was in Erie to discuss “Our Unfinished Conversation about Race in America,” he was able to meet with the City of Erie administration and serve as a keynote speaker at the launch for **The People’s Supper**, a national initiative led by three nonprofits, Faith Matters Network, The Dinner Party and Hollaback!, aimed at bringing communities together to discuss critical, pressing issues and develop collaborative solutions.

In 2018, Erie remained the national zeitgeist of cities and regions on the rise. After extensive coverage in their “City Makers: American Futures Project” for *The Atlantic*, **James and Deborah**

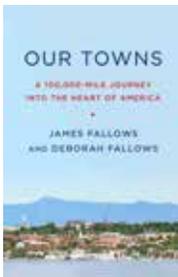
*It was a real honor and privilege to meet Michael Eric Dyson and hear his moving speech. He is making a positive difference in our country by speaking the truth with passion. I look forward to what he will do in the years ahead and to building a relationship with him.*

**Joe Schember** @JosephSchember



L-R: Ferki Ferati, Michael Outlaw, James Sherrod, Michael Eric Dyson, Marcus Atkinson, and Mayor Joe Schember.

**Fallows**, national correspondents for *The Atlantic*, published *Our Towns: A 100,000-Mile Journey into the Heart of America* with Erie as the last city featured. Later that year, **Our Towns** would go on to hit the bestseller list of the New York Times and receive praise from critics nationally.



After first inviting Deborah Fallows to present at the Jefferson on the modernization of libraries in 2016, the Jefferson went on to welcome both of the Fallows back to Erie to conclude 2018's Global Summit X, presenting on *Our Towns* and their journey throughout America. At that event, Erie Mayor Joe Schember presented them with keys to the city, making them honorary citizens and they received this year's Thomas B. Hagen Dignitas Award for their ability to share Erie's narrative through *The Atlantic*, **Our Towns**, and beyond.

**But beyond that, the Jefferson has made an impact on its immediately local area.** In June 2018, the Jefferson partnered with the Academy Neighborhood Association to house the neighborhood's **Little Free Library**. Officially joining 18 other Little Free Libraries already established in Erie

County – and the more than 65,000 libraries in more than 80 countries around the world – the free-exchange library at the Jefferson continues to serve the community in the high foot-traffic area just outside of the main doors to the Jefferson.

But that isn't the only library in the neighborhood the Jefferson has played a part in.

Jay Breneman, Academy Neighborhood resident and graduate of the 2016 Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy cohort, launched the **Academy Neighborhood's Tool Lending Library**



Academy Neighborhood Association houses Little Free Library at the Jefferson.

– an idea he said he had after going through the Civic Leadership Academy and addressing the topic of blight with his cohort.

By design, the residents of the neighborhood can borrow tools from the library rather than having to consider purchasing something they need for around-the-home projects. Breneman approached Academy Neighborhood President Bob Hand with the idea, donating more than 50 of his own tools. The library has been a space where residents can gather Saturday mornings with the intention of improving their own community and beyond.

Like Breneman, other graduates of the **Jefferson's Civic Leadership Academy** are playing a big part of driving the community forward. Aside from her new work in Corry on the Blue Zones project, Ashley Lawson applied for and was appointed to the Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority Board. Breanna Adams, who works in the Erie County Department of Health and founded the Erie Free Store, volunteered extensively with Celebrate Erie to help launch various new divisions and programming for the festival. 2016 graduate Niken Astari Carpenter serves as the City of Erie's Liaison to the refugee and immigrant communities. And many others volunteer in their community to make Erie a better place today than it was yesterday while inspiring the course of tomorrow to be brighter than today.

In the following pages you'll read about other initiatives that have kept the Jefferson team busy in 2018. Some were begun a decade ago, some are still in the developmental stages. But all of them have two words in common: **Community Progress**.



**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 with only 91 members in 2008, the Jefferson now boasts 771 members, sponsors, and donors dedicated to education, information, and civic growth.

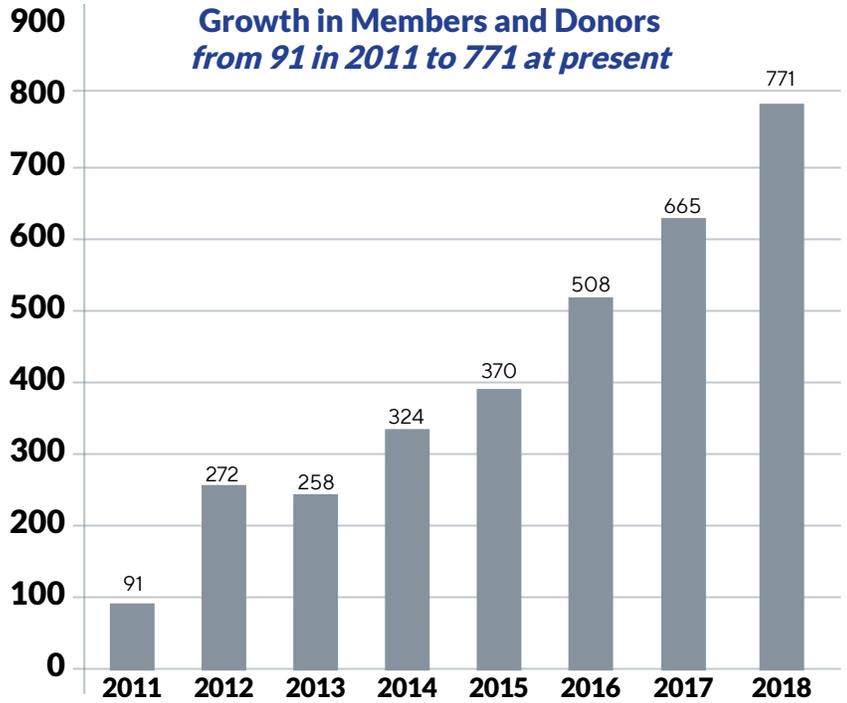
Because of our members, the Jefferson has been able to increase its winter, spring, summer, and fall term programming, host valuable discussions and dialogues, conduct important research for community progress initiatives, publish essays and books about pertinent issues facing our region, train future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

Through memberships and donations, you are making a positive difference in Erie. Following is a breakdown of our membership numbers, a list of members, and comments from several key supporters.

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

- Founders (Lifetime Membership): \$10,000+
- President's Circle: \$5,000+
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- Patron: \$500
- Contributor: \$100
- Friend: \$50
- Jeffersonian: \$25

**For information regarding memberships, please call the Jefferson at 814.459.8000.**



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Professor and retired FBI leader Bob Heibel, second from right, listens to remarks by Gen. Michael Hayden at Global Summit X.

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

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

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- Jane Albert
- Gilbert Asher
- Loretta Baran
- Benedictine Sisters of Erie
- George and Marion Bennett
- David and Diane Blake
- Dr. Jeffery and Carol Renz Blake
- Dr. Stanley Bogusz
- Jean Bojalad
- Sheila Brugger
- Gary and Roberta Bukowski
- Fran Buseck

- Adam Welsh
- Edward and Carol Whitbred
- Eardly Wickramasinghe
- Patti Williams
- George and Cindy Willis
- Leta Wilson
- Diana Wolfe
- Carol Youngdahl
- Joe Zaczyk
- Peter and Susan Zurn

- Phyllis Pope
- Audrey Reigel
- Carol Restifo
- Elaine Retzlaff
- Klaus Retzlaff
- Frances Rosiak
- Carolyn Ruth
- Laura Schaaf
- Mary Pat Schlaudecker
- Leslie Schmidt
- John Scott
- Stephen Sensor
- Rita Serafini
- Judy Shapiro
- Ginny Sivak
- Jerry and Alma Jean Skrypzak
- Jim and Mary Lou Speice
- Bill Steger
- Rebecca and Michael Sterbank
- Mary Ellen Stickle
- Lenora Stull
- Julie Suleski
- Donald and Anne Swift
- Thomas Todd
- Pamela Tylwalk
- Dave Ungerman
- Eugene Ware
- Richard Weiser
- Rebecca Wellejus
- Diane Woodierend

**FRIENDS**

- Elizabeth Allen
- Kathleen and Edward Althof
- Stanley Anuszkiewicz
- Lance and Bernadette Barclay
- Marilyn Brown
- Joe Brown
- Noel Burgoyne
- Paul Burroughs
- Fran Buseck
- Rita Cappello
- Christine Cavarretta
- Barbara Chaffee
- Kim Chase
- Nancy Chiappazzi
- Duane Edward Churchill
- Mary Daly
- Emily Dauber
- Kathy Desante
- Judith Dormann
- Barbara Drew
- Natalie Dwyer-Haller
- Michelle Ellia
- Jim and Mary Ellia
- Janice Etchison
- James R. Freeman
- Sabina S. Freeman
- David and Mary Ann Frew
- Charlie Gallagher
- Caitlin Handerhan
- John Harkins
- Patty Herr
- Thomas Kalkhof
- Bruce Kibler
- Jochen Kindling
- J. Patrick Kloecker
- Leigh Kostis
- John Kozlowski
- Henry Krieger
- Klea Latifi
- Linda Lorah
- Helen Lucas
- Barbara Makarowski
- William Makarowski
- Marjorie Mildner
- Brenda Moore
- Tom New
- Nancy O'Neill
- Monica O'Reilly
- Karen Orloff
- Wendy Ormond

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

**Sylvia Jarema, member since 2017**



*“Introducing our community to candid discussion and opposing viewpoints is vital to our region’s future. I’m a member of the Jefferson Society because it has a strong track record of giving our*

*region moments of pause as we hear from local, national, and international experts on topics of relevance to the future. This access ensures we don’t become too comfortable but rather continuously listen to both history and current thought as a guide. They also act as community connectors, bringing people and discussion together across boundaries.”*

**Erin Wincek, member since 2016 and JCLA 2015 alumnus**

- John Schriefer
- Gena Shingle
- Marilyn Silin
- Terry and Shirley Snyder
- Jane Springer
- Anthony Squeglia
- Nancy Starr
- Taylor Steinberg
- Anita Stiles
- David and Donna Stoczynski
- Lesia Stone
- Sr. Dorothy Stoner, OSB
- Sr. Lucia Marie Surmik
- Leo Swantek
- Mariana Syrotiak
- Phyllis Tarasovich
- Bonnie Tarcia
- Freda Tepfer
- John and Alex Tredway
- Nancy Twichell
- Kathe Umlauf
- Matthew Wachter
- Edward Wellejus
- Kathie Whipple

- Patrick Cappabianca
- Church of Jesus Christ
- Dario Ciprini
- Gerard Custer
- Kathleen Dammeyer
- Christine Decrease
- Norma Desser
- William and Sally Dewitt
- Dennis Dolan
- Tom and Ruth Dombrowski
- Daniel Dulong
- Theodore Ely
- Janice and Dave Farrell
- Charles Ferrugia
- Evelyn Finney
- Robert Fisher
- Hal and Mattie Fuller
- Kathleen Gallagher
- Fairview Garden Club
- Aaron Gast
- Alex and Doris Gernovich
- Kelly Grant
- Nancy Group
- Elizabeth Guelcher

*"Being a member of the JES is not just about sitting in a lecture hall. It's about engaging with world-renown speakers; sharing thoughts and feelings with other members; and, exploring the vast universe of learning. I serve as a volunteer because I want to be a part of an organization that serves our community by promoting the values of education, diversity, and dialogue. I want to do my part in helping in the growth and preservation of one of Erie's finest assets."*

**Bill Makarowski, member since 2017  
and JES volunteer**

Pat Harkins  
Georgia Heynes  
Stephanie Hicks  
Pamela Hime  
Gary Horton  
Barbara and Robert Hourigan  
Karol Jaworek  
Donna Juniewicz  
Shirlee Kirk-Haden  
Robert Hahn  
Robert Hand  
William and Christine Koehle  
MaryJane Koenig  
Joseph Kwashnak  
Sevin Land  
Margaret Lindenberger  
George Lucore  
Helen Lucas  
Judy Lynch  
Jim W. Martin  
Michael Martin

James McBrier  
Marybeth McCarthy  
Adam McClelland  
Timothy McGill  
James McKibben  
Albert and Jan Messina  
Karen Miller  
John Moorhead  
Tom New  
Robert North  
Ryan Palm  
Donna Parker  
Delores Pasiecznik  
Joseph Pillitteri  
Jeff and Doris Pinski  
Ronald and Diane Polensky  
Cynthia Purvis  
Bruce Raimy  
Ralph Riehl  
Virginia Rogers  
Andy and Judy Roth

Joseph Salvia  
Karl and Julie Sanchack  
Craig Schneider  
Susan Schuette  
John Scott  
Norman H. Stark  
Sr. Dorothy Stoner  
Julie Suleski  
Stacie Sullivan  
Mary Szpara  
Lorraine Vitt  
Maureen Walls  
Herman and Lynn Weber  
Susan Wellman  
Scott and Linda Whalen  
J. Howard and Carol Wright  
Robert Zaruta  
Remlee Zeiser  
Roger Zurn  
United Way

## SUSTAINING IMPACT: THE AGORA LEGACY SOCIETY

### What is the Agora Legacy Society?

In Ancient Greece, Agoras provided platforms for the presentation and discussion of ideas that would promote civic progress and enlightenment. The Jefferson Educational Society continues the Agora tradition of public discourse to seek civic enlightenment and to generate the discussion of issues that matter to the region and beyond.

The goal of the **Agora Legacy Society**, which launched in fall 2015 as the Planned Giving Initiative of the Jefferson Educational Society, is to provide the critical, long-term support necessary to further the mission of the Jefferson Educational Society, and also ensure the ability to continue and expand civic research so necessary to fostering the development of productive and meaningful discussion.

Three major donors to the fund best explain what it is and why it is important to them:

*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. -Tim Spaeder*



**Tim Spaeder**



**Christine Riehl**

*The Jefferson Educational 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*



**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.**

*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. - Christine Riehl*

*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. - Maureen Plunkett*



**Maureen Plunkett**



## 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 10 years, the Summit has become the largest and most esteemed speaker series in the region, featuring 93 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.

 Nice to debate a Republican who thinks the country is more important than a political party. Elise Jordan is a thoughtful and very bright Mississippi Republican and I respect her.

**Howard Dean**  
@GovHowardDean



 Such a pleasure to be with @BenSpeggen tonight for @JeffersonErie event. Erie, Pa. is a place that as @JamesFallows has written, is defying the national trend toward political dysfunction and solving problems.

**David Ignatius**  
@IgnatiusPost



 Kicking off @JeffersonErie #globalsummit10 with @DavidIgnatius. 3 weeks of fantastic speakers.

**Kathy Dahlkemper**  
@kdahlkemper



### GLOBAL SUMMIT I (2009)

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



E.J. DIONNE

### GLOBAL SUMMIT II (2010)

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



PAUL KENNEDY

### GLOBAL SUMMIT III (2011)

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



ALICE M. RIVLIN

### GLOBAL SUMMIT IV (2012)

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



KARL ROVE

### GLOBAL SUMMIT V (2013)

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



HARRY MARKOPOLOS

### GLOBAL SUMMIT VI (2014)

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



SISTER JOAN CHITTISTER

### GLOBAL SUMMIT VII (2015)

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



COKIE ROBERTS

### GLOBAL SUMMIT VIII (2016)

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



DORIS KEARNS GOODWIN

### 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.



CHRIS MATTHEWS



David Ignatius



James Fallows and Deborah Fallows accepting the Thomas B. Hagen Dignitas Award at Global Summit X.



Jefferson Publications Coordinator Pat Cuneo interviews Gen. Michael Hayden at Global Summit X.



Progressive Howard Dean talks politics with conservative Elise Jordan at Global Summit X.



Michael Eric Dyson (author, orator, professor), captivated a Global Summit X crowd at Northwest PA Collegiate Academy. Dyson's talk prompted several standing ovations, such as this one led by Paul Gambill and Mayor Schember (center).



Michael Eric Dyson

“Nationalism is the belief that no matter what one’s country does—whether racist, homophobic, sexist, xenophobic, or the like—it must be supported and accepted entirely. Patriotism is a bigger, more uplifting virtue.”

## Global Summit X Sponsors:

### Platinum

LECOM Health  
Erie Insurance  
Thomas B. Hagen Dignitas Award

### Gold

Gannon University  
Erie News Now

### Silver

Brock Institute for Mega Issues  
in Education  
Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority  
Velocity Net  
Penn State Behrend  
PNC  
YourErie.com/Jet 24/Fox 66  
(Anonymous sponsor)

### Bronze

Wm. T. Spaeder  
Printing Concepts, Inc.  
McManis & Monsalve Associates  
Sneaky Pete’s

### Copper

RBC Wealth Management  
Erie Reader  
Marquette Savings Bank  
McInnes Rolled Rings  
Northwest Savings Bank  
Brith Sholom Congregation

### Patron

Knox and Associates  
Northwest Pennsylvania Collegiate  
Academy

**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.



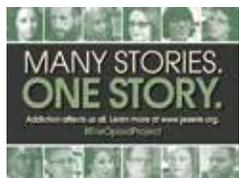
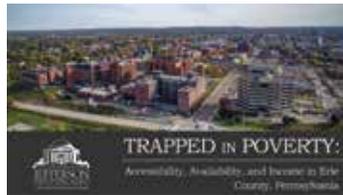
2018  
Shown left to right: Ferki Ferati, County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper, Mayor Joe Schember, Dignitas Award winners James Fallows and Deborah Fallows, along with Tom Hagen and Ben Speggen.

# 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

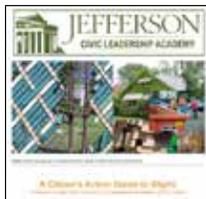
**Poverty report:** In 2018, JCLA participants applied the lessons learned from the program to a group action project focused on Poverty in Erie County, which yielded the creation of a Community Poverty Index. This project intends to identify and address structural impediments to elevating the economic 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 explore solutions to which issues 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 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 below:



Howard Dean



Bill Flanagan



Michael Steele



Judge Victor Stabile



Dean Pepicello



Dr. Rachel Levine



Kathy Dahlkemper



Dr. John Hudak



John Groh

# JEFFERSON LEADERSHIP ACADEMY GRADUATES

## 2018 GRADUATES

Julie Barry, Edinboro University  
 Jada Best, United Way of Erie County  
 Carissa Brandt, Erie Art Museum  
 Correy Connelly, Erie County Public Library  
 Kurt Crays, Erie United Methodist Alliance  
 Chelsea Curlett, Robert Benjamin Wiley Community Charter School  
 Dusti Dennis, Housing Authority of the City of Erie  
 Joylene Ehrich, Erie Insurance Group  
 Jamilia Gates, Safe Harbor Behavioral Health of UPMC Hamot  
 Heather Hinz, United States Air Force  
 Jessica Hunter, Epic Web Studios  
 Patreece Johnson, Urban Erie CDC, Housing Authority  
 Doug Magee, Erie Insurance Group  
 Stephanie Montgomery, Stairways Behavioral Health/Agresti  
 Tori Moore, County of Erie/HR  
 Marwah Obaid, Gannon University  
 Michael Outlaw, Office of the Mayor  
 YahMoorah Shakoor-Hooker, Progressive Insurance  
 April Soriano, Greater Erie Community Action Committee  
 Nick Taylor, MenajErie Studio  
 Seth Trott, Rezian, Ltd.  
 Jim Wertz, Edinboro University  
 Brian Zona, L'Arche Erie

Breanna Adams, 2016  
 Kevin Arrington, 2015  
 Niken Astari, 2016  
 Angela Beaumont, 2015  
 Paige Bosnyak, 2017  
 Kristin Bowers, 2017  
 Jay Breneman, 2016  
 Joelyn Bush, 2017  
 Michelle Butler, 2016  
 Chanel Cook, 2015  
 Lisa Counasse, 2015  
 Meagan Cousins, 2017  
 Emily Dauber, 2017  
 Brian Dorio, 2016  
 Patrick Duda, 2017  
 Jennifer Farrar, 2015  
 Ferki Ferati, 2016  
 J. Brian Foht, 2017  
 Kevin Forte, 2017  
 Bill Frackowiak, 2017  
 Kerry Franz, 2015  
 Natalia Garcia, 2017  
 Tim Giblin, 2015  
 Varun Gupta, 2016  
 Riki Hay, 2017  
 Kati Hecker, 2017  
 Andrew Henderson, 2015  
 James Heubel, 2016  
 Kyle Hinsdale, 2015

Khadija Horton, 2016  
 Andrew Hromyak, 2015  
 Amanda Iadeluca, 2016  
 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  
 Tom Maggio, 2016  
 Heather McBrier, 2017  
 Tiffany McCloud, 2016  
 Michael McCormick, 2015  
 April Morrison, 2015  
 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  
 Patrick Simpson, 2015  
 Paul Smola, 2016  
 Depend Tamba, 2017



Tiffany Thomas, 2016  
 Tyler Titus, 2017  
 Mary Tredway, 2017  
 Alvin Tucker, II, 2015  
 Laura Walchack, 2015  
 Maureen Walls, 2016  
 Shawn Waskiewicz, 2017  
 Brad Wiertel, 2017  
 Matthew Wiertel, 2016  
 Erin Wincek, 2015  
 Nina Wolfarth, 2015  
 Perry Wood, 2016  
 Jessica Yochim, 2017  
 Andrea Zdaniewski, 2017

## COMMUNITY IMPACT



2018 JCLA cohort collected grocery data used to create a Community Poverty Index (CPI) to place a weight on the costs of poverty across ZIP codes in Erie County.



“The Leadership Academy is absolutely excellent because it allowed me to truly form bonds with the people in my cohort who are trying to make a difference.”

*April Soriano, Community Care Coordinator/GECAC*



## RAIMY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

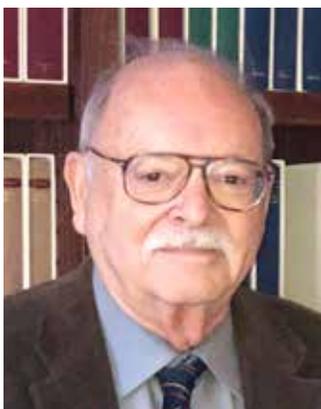


Scholar-in-Residence  
 Dr. Andrew Roth

For the first time in 2018, the Leadership Academy offered an optional track, the Raimy Fellowship Program, to participants who wish to combine practical civic engagement with leadership theory. Under the guidance and experience of Scholar-in-Residence Dr. Andrew Roth, Raimy Fellows studied leadership, applied their knowledge to a practical policy problem in the local region, and linked their research to the overall Leadership Academy group action project. The designated Raimy Fellows will join the facilitator on a trip to Washington, D.C., to visit several policy institutes, research foundations, and to enjoy a tour of Capitol Hill and some of the capital’s monuments and other attractions.



## We need a Better Education for All



**2018** 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 for Mega Issues was going on strong in its eighth year as a co-habitant of 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. 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. This integrative method is based on the educational ideals of Milton, Jefferson, and Lincoln, and has 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 “American Dream in the U.S., Europe and Asia” held at the Jefferson in 2018. 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 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, this empowerment I hope, will only grow stronger with my plans to talk about the purpose of our government, e.g. why justice and re-integration, seem to be forlorn concepts in U.S. prisons. I will also keep probing the U.S. presidential history for invaluable lessons to be learned for today. And, yes, music is coming back into the Jefferson Hall, 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



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 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. 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 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.

## Program Highlight 2018

In 2018, the Brock Institute remained loyal to its mission to educate the public on mega issues in an integrative way. Its term programs included an eclectic blend of panel discussions, lectures, and narrated music performance. During Global Summit X, Ian Morris, a Stanford scholar born in Britain, and Charles Brock, an Oxford scholar born in the U.S., enjoyed a masterfully crafted conversation on war and the benefits of technological, albeit not moral, advancement.



Charles Brock and Ian Morris discussing the “good and bad” of warfare during the Global Summit kick-off event on Nov. 1.

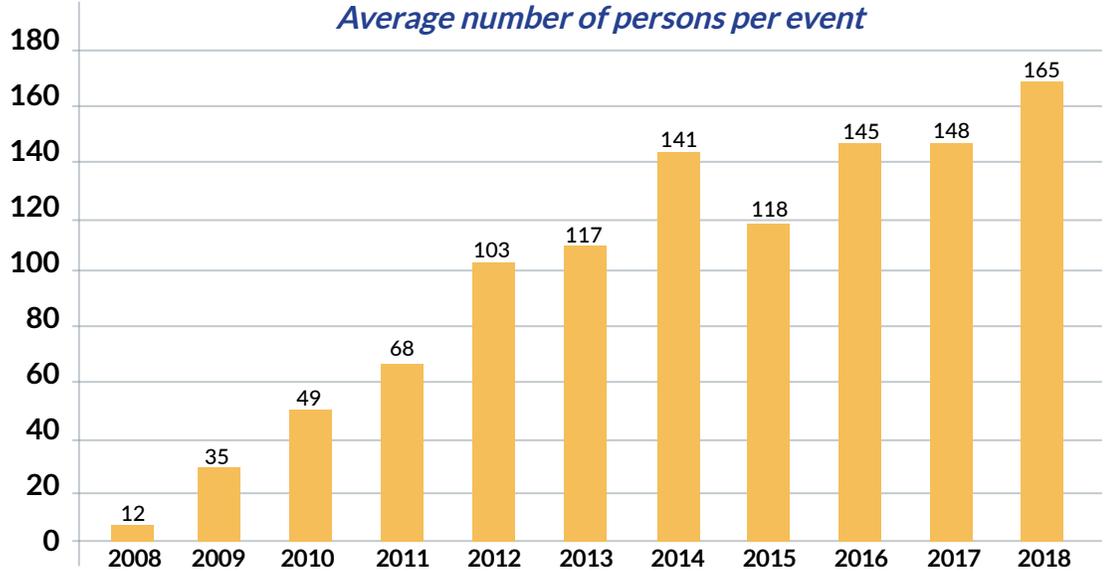
In a highly appreciated fall term panel discussion, faculty members of local universities discussed the American Dream in the U.S., Europe, and Asia and if the American dream could possibly be healthier elsewhere. In the summer program, Charles Brock presented in a lecture on World Religions and World Crises that a sustainable and productive dialogue between religious and secular thinkers could make us a less fragmented and exclusivist society. Drawing from his extensive research on American presidential missions, a spring term lecture focused on aspects of J.Q. Adams’ and Jackson’s backgrounds, politics, and why their missions are crucial to shaping the binary form America has become. One of the best attended Brock Institute events in 2018 took place when Charles Brock told the history of American blues through the music itself, presented by the blues band Steppin’ Pappy and special guest Rodger Montgomery.

A horizontal timeline with a red dotted line and lightning bolt icons for each year. The events are as follows:

- 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**: Gardens of Monticello and Erie’s Little Italy take center stage at Brock  
Music and lecture combine in an evening of Appalachian folk music and lecture by Rev. Brock
- 2018**: Rev. Brock narrates and musicians perform “The Story of the Blues”  
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

Programming has been key to the Jefferson's community outreach since the organization's inception. The Jefferson hosted a record 125 programs in 2018, including lectures, classes, visiting lectures, and Global Summit X events. We have also launched our visiting lecture series at sites throughout the Erie region and have featured a number of programs by resident scholars Andy Roth and Judy Lynch.

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



### Top Attendees in 2018

Many thanks to our members who attended the most JES events throughout 2018:

- |                               |                            |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Dorothy Bloom                 | Judy Lynch                 |
| Tom and Ruth Dombrowski       | Bill Makarowski            |
| David and Nancy Eichelsdorfer | Delores Pasiecznik         |
| Hal and Mattie Fuller         | Christine Riehl            |
| Paul and Renee Gambill        | Helen Shimek               |
| Jim Haas                      | Mary Kay and Tom Songer    |
| Sylvia Jarema                 | Michael Songer             |
| Bruce Kindt                   | Tim Spaeder                |
| William and Christine Koehle  | Ed Hobart Tonkin           |
| Beth Lewis                    | J. Howard and Carol Wright |
|                               | Jack and Jean Young        |



The Jefferson hosted the Erie Regional History Challenge on June 4, 2018.

## 2018 IN REVIEW



### JANUARY:

Jefferson publishes Michael Fuhrman's essay, "Time to Act: The Case for Heritage Tourism and Rebuilding Erie's Three Historic Forts."



### FEBRUARY:

Brock Institute and Jefferson present "Story of the Blues," featuring Jimmy Cuneo, Rodger Montgomery, and Steppin' Pappy, to sold-out crowd.



### MARCH:

Meteorologist Tom Atkins explains "Erie's Humbling Weather" in Jefferson collaboration with Erie Torch Club.



### APRIL:

Two popular collaborations: Muhammad Ali biographer Jonathan Eig lectures in partnership with the Robert H. Jackson Center; and panelists debate racial issues discussed in the play, Clybourne Park, in partnership with the Erie Playhouse.



### MAY:

Scholars Andrew Roth and Judy Lynch continue their series presentations on 1968 and Erie's economic history, respectively. Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy debuts its opioid awareness project.



### JUNE:

The entire Jefferson community celebrates 10th anniversary with a dinner featuring urban experts Bruce Katz and the late Jeremy Nowak.



Biographer Jonathan Eig discusses Muhammad Ali, his latest book subject, at a program in April. Eig's appearance was held in partnership with the Robert H. Jackson Center in Jamestown, N.Y.

**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.



Members of the Urban Land Institute met in Erie in late July and early August. Fourth from left is former Pittsburgh Mayor Tom Murphy, ULI's Senior Resident Fellow.



The Falls Fellows converged on #Erie - what a great experience! Thank you Jim and Deb for being the common denominator. #Our Towns.

Ashley Swearengin  
@ashleyCVCF



Thank you @JeffersonErie for recognition of #civic leadership. Congrats #LeadershipAcademy cohort. Truly appreciate your work on #poverty issue.

Kathy Dahlkemper  
@kdahlkemper



**JULY:**

MenajErie Studio debuts its film about the refugee experience, "Rust Belt New Americans."

**AUGUST:**

Five Jefferson lecturers – David Frew, Judy Lynch, Pat Cuneo, Sabina Freeman, and Jerry Skrypzak – present programs at the Erie Art Museum as part of Celebrate Erie.

**SEPTEMBER:**

Jefferson publishes Judy Lynch's essay, "The Lurking Threat: Harmful Algae Blooms Pose Global, Local Hazard."

**SEPTEMBER:**

Jefferson hosts a special program on the 1893 schooner Lettie G. Howard featuring Fred Langill and Captain Billy Sabatini at the Erie Maritime Museum.

**OCTOBER:**

Jefferson and the Erie Philharmonic collaborate on program featuring famed pianist Marc-Andre Hamelin.

**NOVEMBER:**

Global Summit X, featuring an all-star cast of presenters including Doris Kearns Goodwin, Michael Eric Dyson, General Michael Hayden, and James and Deborah Fallows, captivates Erie audiences for three weeks, drawing 6,500 attendees.

**DECEMBER:**

Television news personality Chris Matthews closes out Global Summit X with a chat with CSPAN's Steve Scully at Gannon's Hammermill Center.

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.

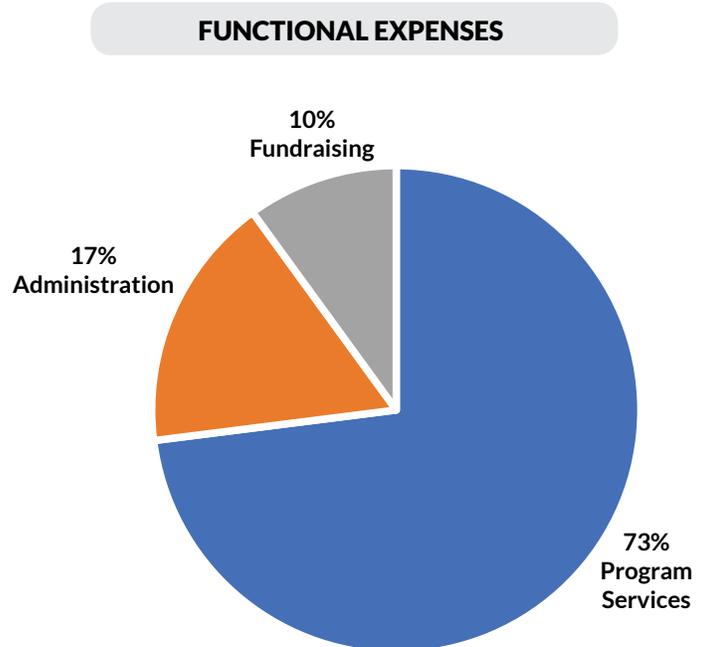
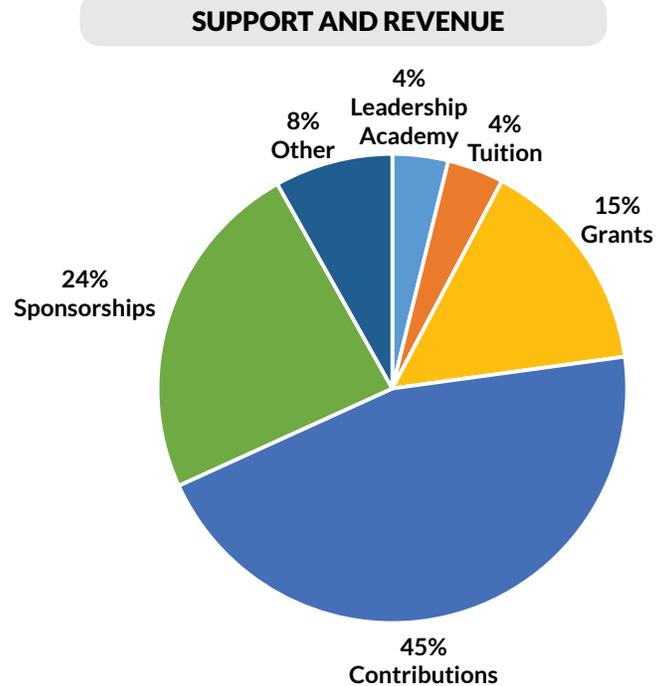
**Jefferson Educational Society of Erie, Inc.**  
**Statement of Financial Position at August 31, 2018 and 2017**

**ASSETS**

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Currents assets</b>		
Cash	143,933	111,431
Pledges receivable - current	325,000	375,000
Accounts receivable	365	25,079
Employee advances	0	8,462
Prepaid expenses	36,265	42,866
Total current assets	505,563	562,838
<b>Property and equipment</b>		
Land and building	760,561	760,561
building improvements	820,167	820,167
furniture and equipment	99,291	99,291
	1,680,019	1,680,019
Less: accumulated depreciation	-326,563	-263,517
Total property and equipment	1,353,456	1,416,502
<b>Other assets</b>		
Pledges receivable - long term	1,875,000	1,300,000
Endowment	449,136	421,990
Total other assets	2,324,136	1,721,990
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>4,183,155</b>	<b>3,701,330</b>

**LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable	68,062	31,984
Short-term debt	301,212	395,075
Accrued expenses	127	12,785
Current portion of long term debt	27,083	25,000
Total current liabilities	396,484	464,844
<b>Long-term debt</b>		
Mortgage payable	554,170	592,087
Less: current portion	-27,083	-25,000
Net long-term debt	527,087	567,087
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>923,571</b>	<b>1,031,931</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		
Unrestricted net assets	659,584	594,399
Temporarily restricted net assets	1,300,000	1,125,000
Permanently restricted net assets	1,300,000	950,000
Total net assets	3,259,584	2,669,399
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>4,183,155</b>	<b>3,701,330</b>



CHAIRWOMAN JOYCE SAVOCCHIO:

## Miracle on 32nd Street



**W**e have a constant challenge at the Jefferson: How can we shine a light on an important civic, state, national, or international issue without turning up the heat?

Thanks to the Jefferson community of learners, that little miracle happens at every program as a presenter makes his or her case and the audience asks follow-up questions, pressing for just a little bit more knowledge.

Offering provocative programs is one of our key missions at the Jefferson. Another is continuing to develop as a community think tank, nurturing creative people, ideas, solutions, and best practices in any number of

ways. We promote constructive change and action through education, and always with a goal of inspiring us to be better informed citizens on the path to building a better community.

Thank you, everyone, for your support as we begin our second decade at the Jefferson. With you, we know we can create many more little miracles on 32nd Street in 2019 and beyond.

*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

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

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**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.

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**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 has been with the Jefferson Educational Society since its founding in 2008. Dr. Ferati began his work at the Jefferson serving first as the think tank's Director of Research and Operations but was quickly promoted to Executive Director in 2009, to Vice President in 2013, and became the organization's President in 2017. In June 2017, Dr. Ferati 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, Dr. Ferati received his Master's in Public Administration from Gannon University. He earned his Bachelor's degree from Mercyhurst University, majoring in Intelligence Studies and minoring in Russian Studies in 2007. Dr. Ferati is also a graduate of Leadership Erie (2010 and 2011) and the Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy (2016), and was a member of the Erie Reader's inaugural class of 40 Under 40.

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

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

**BEN SPEGGEN, M.A.****Director of Operations**

Ben Speggen joined the Jefferson Educational Society in February 2015 as its Program Developer, and in 2017 became the Director of Operations. He oversees the think tank's events, ranging from its local and distinguished visiting scholars lecturers, its Global Summit series, the Jefferson Dinner series, the Metro 100 conferences, and more. 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.****Project Manager****Executive Assistant to the Director of the Brock Institute**

Angela Beaumont works both with Rev. Charles Brock, and with the Jefferson Educational Society in many roles, including Coordinator of the Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy. 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 organization in Washington, D.C. and for DHL in Bonn, 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 and now serves as the Leadership Academy's coordinator and helps facilitate the Jefferson Dinner series.

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

Pat Cuneo serves as the Coordinator of Publications at the Jefferson Educational Society. He is a former reporter, editor, and columnist for the Erie Times-News. An Erie native, he is a 1978 graduate of the University of Notre Dame and studied journalism at Poynter Institute and the American Press Institute. He performed as a singer-songwriter for the Alex Findley Band at regional folk festivals for more than a decade, and was a member of the Nashville Songwriters Association from 1992 to 2007. Pat is a board member of the Boys & Girls Club of Erie and a life member of *The Erie Times Old Newsies*.

**MORGAN ADAMS, B.A.****Administrative Assistant**

Morgan Adams is an Erie native who joined the Jefferson Educational Society in September of 2018 as the Administrative Assistant. She graduated from Edinboro University with a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology 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 also a member of Alpha Kappa Delta, the International Sociology Honor Society.

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

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 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.

**SUPPORT STAFF**

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Dave Robinson

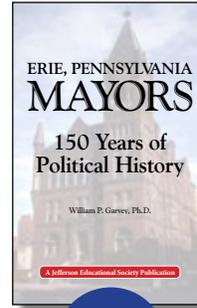
Tim Spaeder

Donna Wood

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.

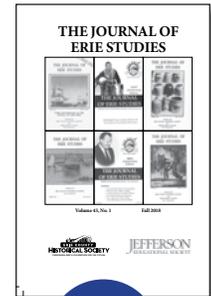
Since reviving the *Journal of Erie Studies* in partnership with the Erie County Historical Society, the Jefferson has helped publish five editions to explore Erie's history.



9  
Books



8  
Essays



5  
Journal of Erie Studies

## Books

- **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 39.1, 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.
- **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
- **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.

## 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.
- "The Lurking Threat: Harmful Algae Blooms Pose Global, Local Hazard." By Judy Lynch, Ph.D.
- "Facing Racial Disparities: Is Erie the Worst City in America for African Americans." By Margaret Smith, Ph.D. and Suzanne McDevitt, Ph.D.

# 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.