

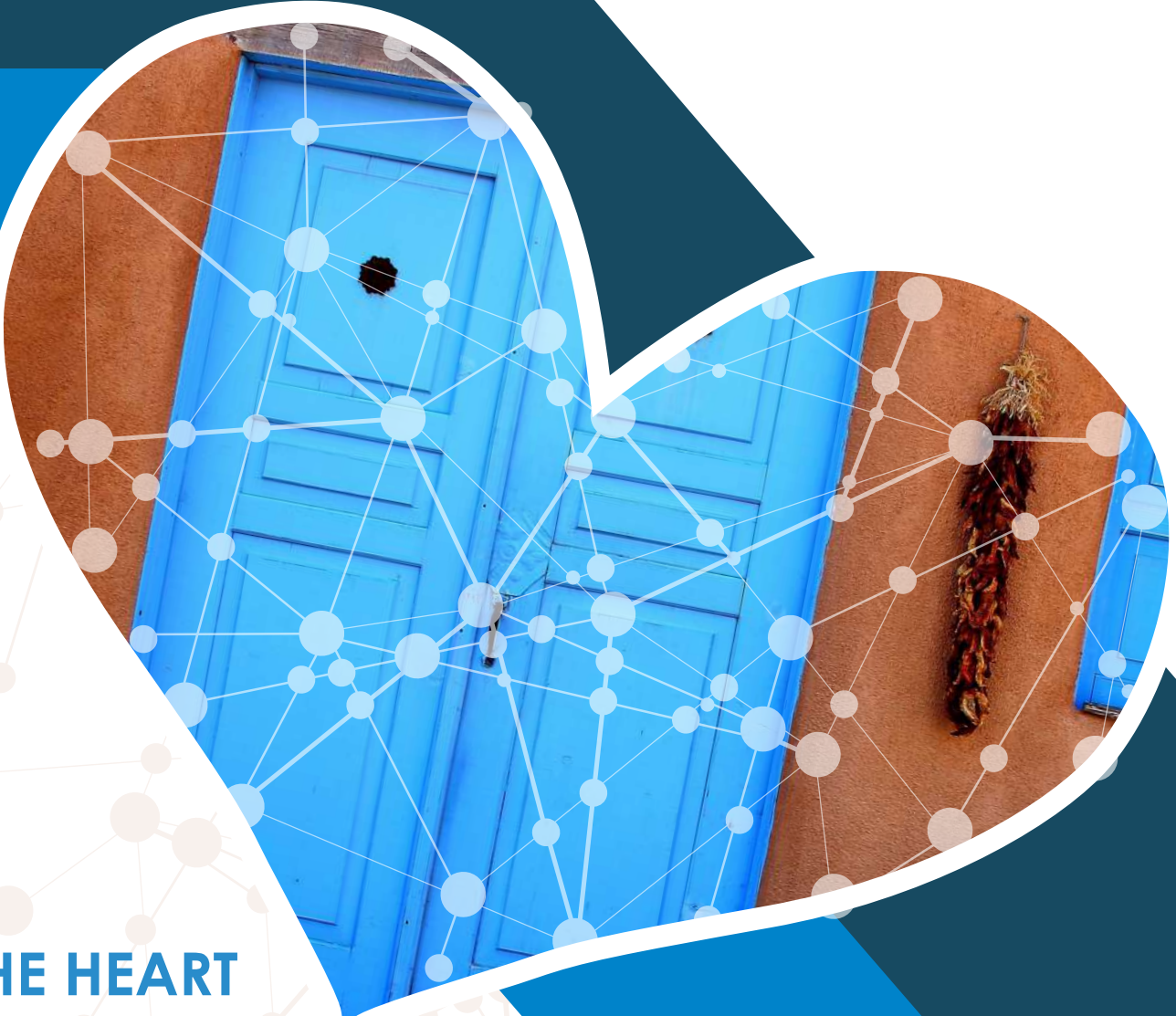


**JEWISH FEDERATION
OF NEW MEXICO**

Celebrating 70 Years: 5708-5778•1948-2018

2019

ANNUAL REPORT



**THE HEART
OF JEWISH
NEW MEXICO
SINCE 1948**

Incoming Board of Directors

Executive Committee

President: Ron Duncan Hart, Ph.D.

Immediate Past President: Marvin Gottlieb, Ph.D.

Secretary/Vice President, Financial Resource Development: Mimi Efroymsen

Vice President At-Large: Sabra Minkus

Treasurer: Jon Bell, CPA

Nominating Chair: Edie Blaugrund

At-Large Members

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Sharon Cosby

William Fine

Nurit Patt

Deena Rosenberg

Nancy Terr

Term Expires in 2021:

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Linda Goff, Ph.D.

Steve Ovitsky

Penimah Silva

Term Expires in 2020:

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Susie Sandager

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Ex-Officio:

Rabbi Neil Amswych

Rabbi Deborah Brin

Rabbi Chavah Carp

Rabbi Paul Citrin

Rabbi John Feldman

Cantor Barbara Finn

Rabbi Arthur Flicker

Rabbi Min Kantrowitz

Rabbi Larry Karol

Rabbi Berel Levertov

Rabbi Martin Levy

Cantor JoAnn Rice

Rabbi Harry Rosenfeld

Rabbi Chaim Schmukler

Rabbi Dr. Jack Shlachter

Professional Team

Executive Director: Zachary Benjamin (through May 31, 2019)
Robert Lennick (as of June 10, 2019)

Deborah Albrycht, **Director of Finance**

Ya'el Chaikind, **Social Services Manager, Jewish Care Program in Santa Fe**

Jennifer Dennis, **Senior Programs Manager, Jewish Care Program**

Addey Dominguez, **PJ Library Assistant**

Rabbi Arthur Flicker, **Chaplain, Jewish Care Program**

Rabbi Jordan Gendra-Molina, **Sephardic Heritage Program**

Kristen Gurule, **Administrative and Accounting Specialist**

Sara Koplik, Ph.D., **Director of Community Outreach**

Sarah Leiter, **Community Outreach Coordinator**

Erin Tarica, LMSW, **Director of the Jewish Care Program**



Message from President Ron Duncan Hart, Ph.D.



This year, 2018-2019, has been a good year for the Jewish Federation of New Mexico in many ways. After the high point of celebrating the seventy years of the federation and of Israel last year with the Blue and White Night Gala with Matisyahu and other events, this year has been one of steady consolidation of federation

programs and the unexpected process of searching for a new executive director. I would like to thank the donors of New Mexico who ensure the future of Jewish life in our state by their contributions to the federation and the programs that it supports. You make this possible. I would also like to thank the professional staff of the federation for the outstanding job that each one is doing and has been doing all year, starting with Deborah Albrycht, director of finance, for her job of managing the financial health of the organization.

The Sephardic Heritage program had an outstanding year, and it has grown to its greatest extension yet under the direction of Sara Koplik, Ph.D. She originally envisioned the need for this program and took the lead in establishing it. This program is one of the largest in the world at this point, and it has processed thousands of applications this year for the Spanish citizenship program for descendants of Jews persecuted in past centuries. People apply from throughout the Americas, including the United States, Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, Peru, and Brazil, and from other parts of the world, such as Russia. Rabbi Jordan Gendra-Molina, Ph.D., a native Spanish speaker, has been added to the staff and is working directly with applicants to the program, interviewing and helping them correctly develop their documentation of Sephardic Heritage. Kristen Gurule has had a major role processing in making this program work, preparing the extensive forms and reports, and communicating with the appropriate officials in New Mexico and Spain.

The Jewish Care Program continues its strong service to the Albuquerque and Santa Fe communities under the direction of Erin Tarica with the collaboration of Jennifer Dennis in Albuquerque and Yaël Chaikind in Santa Fe. Their service to some 100 regular clients and many more occasional clients in the two cities, including Holocaust survivors and to the elderly in our communities is Tikkun Olam in action.

This has been an especially active year in programming, starting with the Yom Limmud 2018 last August in Santa Fe with three award-winning authors and outstanding Jewish studies scholars: Vanessa Paloma Elbaz (University of Cambridge UK), Avinoam Patt (University of Connecticut), Joseph Ski-

bell (Emory University). Later in the year, the federation programming committee with Sabra Minkus organized special programs with Bob Baer, an ex-CIA operative in the Middle East, and multi-day, multi-city series of programs on the B'nei Menashe people of India, which featured acclaimed author Hillel Halkin and two representatives from the B'nei Menashe community in Israel, Isaac and Jessica Thongjom, each talking about the process of Jewish identity and returning to the contemporary practice of Judaism.

The Santa Fe Distinguished Lecture Series with the support of the Jewish Federation has invited a series of scholars to talk about Jewish issues throughout the year, including Shalom Sabar on Rembrandt and the Jews (Hebrew University, Israel), Alma Gottlieb on Cape Verde Jews (Brown University), Steven Ovitsky on Jewish music in Germany in the early Nazi period (Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival), Eugene Garver on Spinoza (University of Texas), Misha Klein on Jews in Brazil (University of Oklahoma), Halley Faust on Jewish ethics in healthcare (past president of the American College of Preventive Medicine), and Alan Levenson on anti-Semitism in Germany before the Nazis (University of Oklahoma).

The most dramatic change for our Jewish Federation has been Zach Benjamin leaving to accept a position in California at the Long Beach/Orange County Federation after successfully leading us for the last four years. We are saddened to see him and Taina leave. We thank Zach for his untiring contributions to the federation and his many trips to Jewish communities throughout the state. He has strengthened programming and galvanized the Jewish community leadership groups in Albuquerque and Santa Fe; he reacted quickly after the Tree of Life shooting in Pittsburgh to call security meetings and activate collaboration with Homeland Security, the FBI, and local police agencies. He leaves our Jewish Federation in a strong position. We wish them well in this new stage in their lives.

Starting in February, we began the search process for a new executive director with a search committee composed of Marvin Gottlieb, Sabra Minkus, Mimi Efroymsen, Edie Blaugrund, Jon Bell, Penimah Silva, Linda Goff, and myself. We received over sixty applications for the position and narrowed the list to five finalists. After initial interviews with each of the finalists, the unanimous selection was Robert Lennick. He went through two additional rounds of interviews with the search committee, senior staff, and the full board of the Jewish Federation. Each group gave him unanimous approval. Rob Lennick will begin as the new executive director on June 11, and he is looking forward to the opportunity to get to know the Jewish leadership and community in New Mexico.

We look forward to the 2019-2020 year under the new executive director with the Jewish Federation of New Mexico continuing from strength to strength.

Message from Executive Director Zach Benjamin



It is with both *nachas* and sadness that I leave this remarkable community and my position with the Jewish Federation of New Mexico. I am proud of how Jewish New Mexico evolved during my time here. I saw siloes collapse, giving way to open, diverse, collaborative Jewish spaces in which institutions and their leaders thrive. Together, we are fostering Jewish culture and a love of Judaism in the Land of Enchantment.

The Jewish Federation of New Mexico has achieved unprecedented strategic benchmarks these past several years, including historic growth in fundraising and distribution, delivery of services, and expansion of our footprint to fulfill our statewide mission. Most importantly, however, federation has successfully reset its narrative and posture toward our Jewish communities, bringing together Jewish New Mexicans of all stripes, facilitating dialogue, encouraging communication, and helping to create a spirit of collaborative service to the Jewish people of New Mexico, from Albuquerque and Santa Fe to Taos and Las Vegas, and beyond.

I hope that, for my small part, I have been able to leave our corner of the Jewish world at least a little bit stronger than it was when I arrived. I hope that, along with our world-class lay leadership and my immensely talented professional colleagues, I have

helped hold a mirror up to our Jewish communities, and that the image reflected back is one in which we can all take pride.

I know that every member of our Jewish community will embrace the federation's next executive director, Rabbi Rob Lennick, with the same warmth and sincerity with which my wife, Taina, and I were welcomed four years ago. Rob brings with him a world-class track record of collaborative leadership, and I—along with our board—are confident that he will continue to raise the bar for every Jewish New Mexican.

I wish to extend my warmest thanks to every member of the federation board with whom I've been fortunate enough to work, to our tremendous donors, and to the three presidents under whom I've been privileged to serve, including past presidents Sabra Minkus and Dr. Marvin Gottlieb. I am especially grateful to our current president, Dr. Ron Duncan Hart, not only for his vision and steady hand of leadership, but also for his grace and good humor as he took on the search for the next executive director. Any success federation enjoyed on my watch would have been impossible without the contributions of my immediate predecessor, Sam Sokolove. I was fortunate enough to stand on Sam's shoulders, as well as those of past executive director Elisa Simon, community matriarch Mimi Efroymson, and a long list of selfless volunteer leaders who laid the foundation for federation's most recent achievements.

Finally, the achievements of our federation simply would not be possible without the remarkable professional team that serves our Jewish communities each day with genuine respect and passion for our mission. Deborah Albrycht, Ya'el Chaikind, Jennifer Dennis, Kristen Gurule, Sara Koplík, Erin Tarica, and our superb colleagues: it's been a privilege to serve alongside you. Thank you for all you do to advance the richness and vibrancy of Jewish life throughout New Mexico.

2018–2019 Allocations

Israel and Overseas:

• Jewish Federations of North America "fair share dues" and overseas allocation:	\$10,000
• Ramat HaNegev – Environment-Social Fund for Ramat HaNegev's Residents:	\$10,000
Subtotal:	\$20,000

Regional and National Organizations:

• American Friends of Leket Israel:	\$1,500
• BBYO:	\$1,000
• Birthright Israel:	\$1,000
• The TOLI Holocaust Teacher Development Program:	\$2,000
• World ORT Inc.:	\$1,500
Subtotal:	\$7,000

Local Programs:

• A Long Journey: The Hidden Jews of New Mexico film project:	\$500
• Congregation Nahalat Shalom – Casa Sefarad:	\$1,500
• Congregation Nahalat Shalom – Jewish Artist Collective & Gallery Program:	\$1,000
• Creativity for Peace – Summer Peace Camp:	\$1,200
• Fathers Building Futures – Fathers Crafting Kosher Caskets:	\$3,500
• Hillel at UNM (directly managed by Federation):	\$41,386
• Holocaust & Intolerance Museum of NM:	\$3,000
• Jewish Care Program (directly managed by Federation including Holocaust Survivor Program, Senior Program & Chaplaincy Program):	\$85,238
• Jewish Care Program Santa Fe Office (directly managed by Federation):	\$29,973
• Jewish Community Center – Cultural Programs:	\$12,500
• Jewish Community Center – Youth Programs:	\$5,000
• Jewish Community Council of Northern New Mexico:	\$500
• Jewish Community Foundation of New Mexico:	\$17,160
• Jewish Genealogical Society of New Mexico:	\$1,000
• Jewish University:	\$1,500
• Keshet Dance Company:	\$1,500
• Las Vegas Jewish Community Inc.:	\$5,000
• New Mexico Jewish Historical Society:	\$3,855
• Santa Fe Middle East Watch:	\$4,000
• Taos Jewish Center:	\$5,000
• Temple Beth Shalom – Seniors Reaching Out Program & Judaism Through The Arts Program:	\$5,500
Subtotal:	\$229,812

Restricted Allocations:

• D'Vora Project:	\$50
• Israel Independence Day:	\$1,000
• Jewish Community Center – Latke Vodka:	\$100
• RACAA:	\$1,500
• Statewide Outreach:	\$2,500
• Yom Hashoah:	\$1,000
• Young Adult Division:	\$2,000
• Youth Conclave Scholarships:	\$1,500
Subtotal:	\$9,650

Midyear Allocation Awards

• Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh – Victims of Terror Fund:	\$1,000
• Miscellaneous:	\$4,090
• The Jewish Federations of North America – Victims of Terror Fund:	\$1,000
Subtotal:	\$6,090

Total Allocations Fiscal Year 2018-19: \$272,552

The Year in Review

Strengthening our Commitment to Fighting Anti-Semitism

In the wake of rising anti-Semitism and increasing global violence against Jewish and other vulnerable communities, the Jewish Federation of New Mexico launched its *United Against Anti-Semitism* initiative in 2019. Beginning with our New Mexico Remembers commemoration of Yom HaShoah, which brought over 150 observers to the state capitol rotunda to honor those lost in the Holocaust, *United Against Anti-Semitism* is providing community education on anti-Semitism, how to identify it, and why it is critically important to fight it with the same urgency and fervor as any other form of bias. The initiative will include public forums on anti-Semitism, a series of lectures by experts on bias and prejudice, other activities to ensure that this particularly vicious, potentially lethal form of hate is confronted at every opportunity.

Bringing the Best of Jewish Learning to the Land of Enchantment

Led by Board President Dr. Ron Duncan Hart, the Jewish Federation launched its Distinguished Lecture Series in the fall of 2018, bringing a host of nationally recognized authorities on subjects ranging from Jewish music, philosophy, geopolitics, law, and beyond. Lecturers have included world-renowned author Joseph Skibell, Cambridge University's Vanessa Paloma Elbaz, global authority on Spinoza Dr. Eugene Garver, the University of Oklahoma's Dr. Misha Klein, and more. In August, 2019, the Distinguished Lecture Series will welcome Dr. Deborah Lipstadt as part of Federation's *United Against Anti-Semitism* initiative.

Creating a Vibrant Hillel at the University of New Mexico

Last year, Hillel at the University of New Mexico welcomed Sarah Leiter as Community Outreach Coordinator. Since her arrival, Sarah has spearheaded the creation of Hillel's new Instagram account (@GreenChileHillel), helped launch a comprehensive student welcome program, initiated a new "Weekly What's Up" e-mail to Hillel's full database, and, along with Director of Hillel Dr. Sara Koplik, has increased efforts to reach out to other student organizations, as well as to communicate with students' families and alumni. Hillel continues to improve its ability to reach Jewish students and their families, as well as to build critical relationships throughout the Jewish and broader communities.

Certifying Ancient Jewish Roots

The Jewish Federation of New Mexico is one of the world's only organizations certifying Sephardic heritage for both Jews and non-Jews whose families escaped the 15th-century Spanish Inquisition, thus qualifying them to apply for Spanish citizenship. The program, which has been featured in *The New York Times* and a wide range of other global media outlets, continues to grow, with thousands of applications already approved or currently under review by historian Sara Koplik, Ph.D., federation's director of community outreach, and her team. The Jewish Federation of New Mexico has received applications from across the US, Mexico, Costa Rica, Peru, Ecuador, Venezuela, the UK, Russia, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Israel, and beyond, and is making a truly global impact.

The Year in Review

Standing Up for Israel

Fighting deligitimization efforts against Israel and the Jewish people is central to the mission of the Jewish Federation of New Mexico. Our leaders educate the media, interfaith clergy, and community members on the destructive goals of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement. Each year, we successfully work with the Jewish Federations of North America, American Jewish Committee (AJC), and other advocacy groups across the country to secure New Mexico civic leaders' support for legislation and action to strengthen the U.S.-Israel relationship. Federation professionals and volunteers also regularly publish editorials and speak on behalf of the New Mexico-Israel relationship before the Albuquerque City Council, Bernalillo County Commission, Santa Fe civic leadership, and faith leaders from across the state.

Responding to Need Across the Jewish World

The Jewish Federation of New Mexico is committed to assisting Jewish communities in crisis, wherever they may be. This year, we provided emergency financial assistance to Jewish communities in Houston, Pittsburgh, Florida, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and Israel. We stand ready to respond to Jews in need here in New Mexico, nationally, and abroad.

Nurturing Jewish New Mexico from Generation to Generation

For the first time in the history of our federation, we are providing connections to Judaism for people at every stage of the life cycle, in every corner of our state. From PJ Library, which provides free Jewish children's books to families with children ages six months to 11 years, to scholarships for high school students, administration of Hillel at the University of New Mexico, support for the ABQ Tribe Young Professionals Group, and our Jewish Care Program—which provides social services for seniors and Holocaust survivors, funds Jewish burial for those who cannot afford it, and further serves vulnerable Jewish and general populations across the state—and financial support for nearly 40 nonprofit organizations and programs throughout the state (including in Taos, Las Vegas, Cuba, and beyond)—the Jewish Federation of New Mexico provides access for every Jewish New Mexican to Jewish values and the broader Jewish community.



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*List completed on May 14, 2019. We apologize for any errors or omissions.

Jewish Federation of New Mexico Mission

The Jewish Federation of New Mexico both funds and administers programs to advance the character of Jewish life across our state and in our homeland, Israel.

We accomplish this by:

- Prioritizing, funding and implementing programs that meet the needs of Jews of all ages in New Mexico.
- Strengthening Jewish identity and participation among Jewish New Mexicans in both rural and urban settings.
- Providing a voice for the Jewish community, through publications and mass communications, that addresses critical issues and celebrates Jewish life.
- Sponsoring programs that inspire and develop multi-generational Jewish leadership.
- Supporting Israel and Jews in need around the world and by mobilizing the Jewish community to respond to humanitarian needs.

Contact

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