



Annual Report

**The Jewish
Federation
of Greater
Binghamton**



**June 2023
through May
2024**



Mission Statement

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton strives to create a caring, vibrant, enduring community locally, in Israel and worldwide. The Federation uses its assets and contributions to strengthen local Jewish institutions and organizations, to support Jewish people in need, and to educate the people in the Southern Tier about Jewish values and identity.

Message from Leadership

Dear Community Members,

This year is different. After Hamas attacked Israel on October 7th, killing more than 1,200 innocent people and taking 240 hostages, our collective Jewish community was wounded, and continues to grieve to the depths of its soul.

Hope has been hard to come by, but we know that the Jewish people are resilient. We also know that difficult times generate compassion. With every dollar that has been given to support the Jewish Federation, Jewish Family Service or The Reporter, we have felt the burden lifted. For every volunteer who gave their time to make our community whole, we were so very grateful. With every person who engaged in one of the twenty-three Federation sponsored or co-sponsored events in the last year, we felt stronger.

This annual report highlights the impact of contributions to the Jewish Federation from June 2023 through May 2024. None of the work we do would be possible without all of you. We are humbled to serve the Binghamton Jewish community and we know, now more than ever, that our work is meaningful, and that we must continue to “take care of our own,” just as the generations who came before us have done.

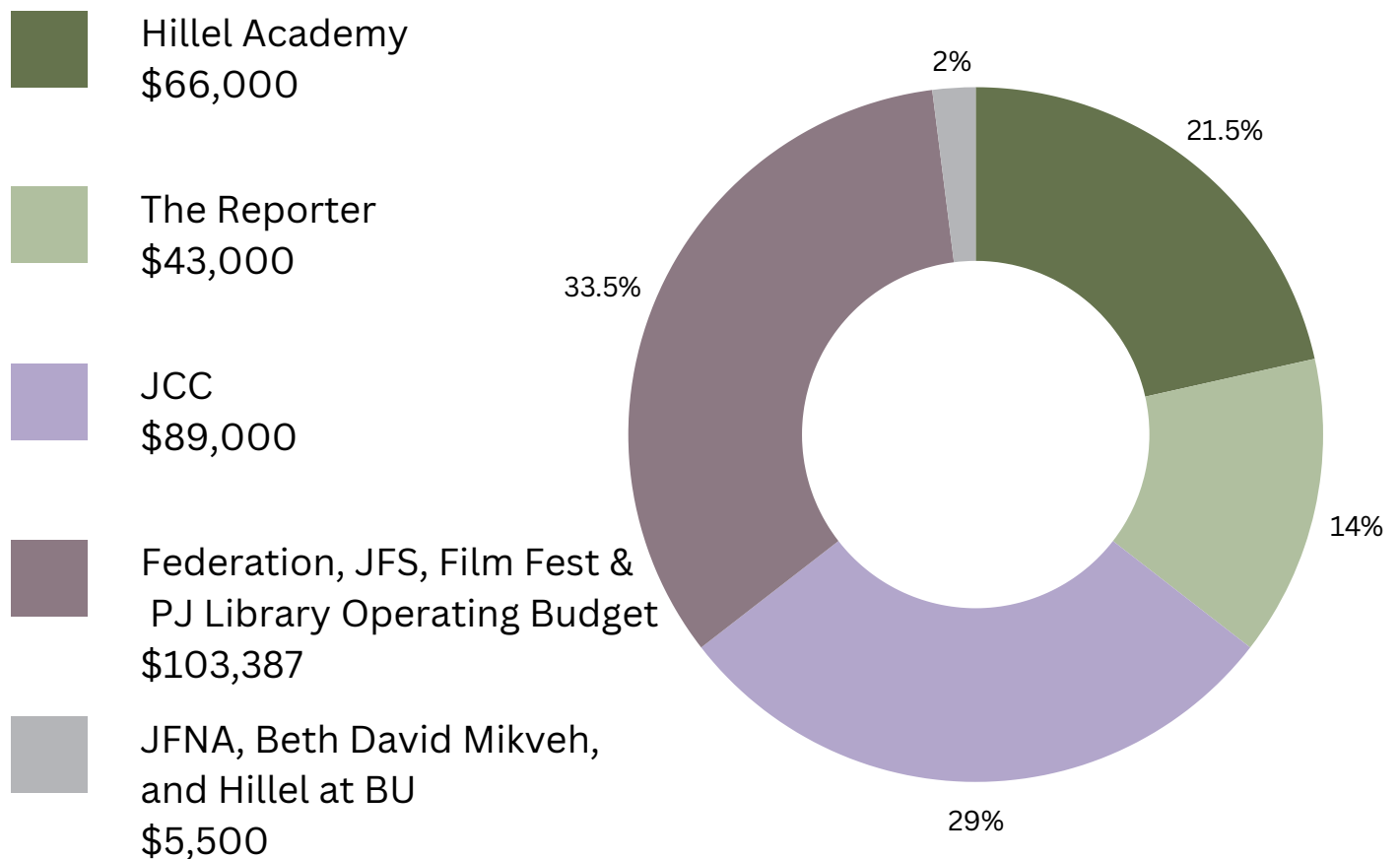
L'Shalom,

Shelley Hubal, Executive Director
Suzanne Holwitt, President

Federation Supported Organizations and Financials:

2023 Beneficiary Agencies & Allocation Distribution

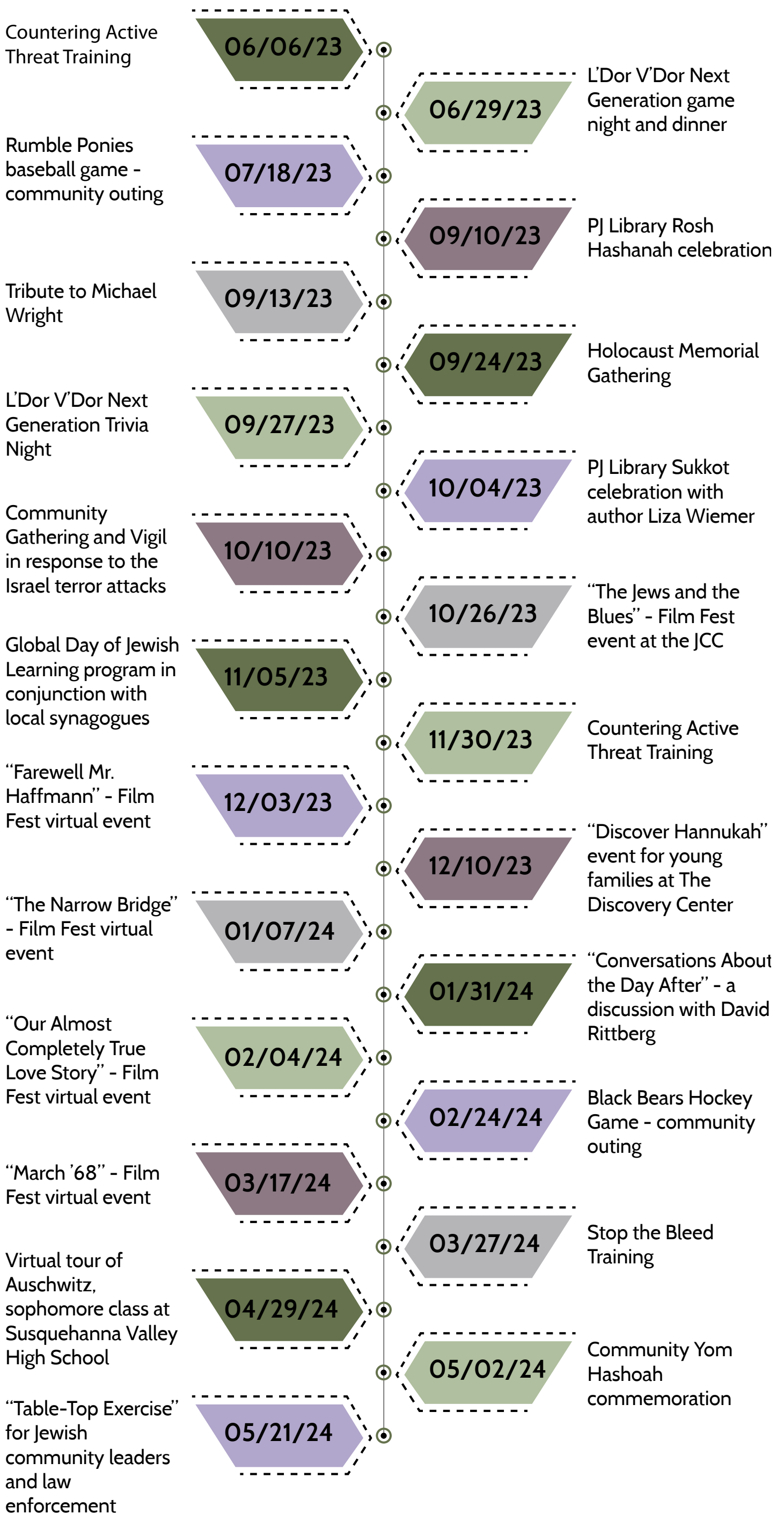
In November of 2022, the Federation Executive Committee and Board of Directors voted to allocate a total of \$306,887 to be distributed in the calendar year 2023. These allocations supported eight different organizations and programs. Funding for allocations came from annual campaign dollars.



Needs Assessment

In 2023 a needs assessment was completed. You can check it out at www.jfjb.org/about-us/needs-assessment.

Timeline of Sponsored or Co-Sponsored Events





PJ Library sends free Jewish themed children's books to families across the community every month; enabling young children to connect with their Jewish roots in a meaningful way.

Thanks to an anonymous donor, in 2023 we were able to provide monthly PJ Library subscriptions to 93 young Jewish children in our community. PJ Library also sponsored three programs in the last year. Our Hannukah party at the Discovery Center had more than 75 participants. That is an impactful investment in our future!

The 2023-2024 Binghamton Jewish Film Fest consisted of four virtual films and one in-person screening. Approximately one film per month was shown between October 2023 and March 2024. The Binghamton and Ithaca communities combined for more than 220 views of our five films.

Thanks to generous donations from the Rozen Foundation and the generosity of our community members, we were able to keep the film fest free to the community.

BINGHAMTON JEWISH FILM FEST

Annual Campaign



The Federation Annual Fundraising Campaign began one week after the horrific Hamas attacks on Israel. With heavy hearts, our task felt more urgent, meaningful and relevant. We are so grateful for the many community members who showed their support, and continue to do so during this difficult chapter in our collective history.

The Annual Campaign for 2023 raised \$301,837 in total from 306 donors. The theme of the 2024 Campaign is "We take care of our own," chosen because it is about compassion and sustaining community now and for the future. We took this quote from our own Marcy Yonaty, who uses this term often. To date, the 2024 Campaign has raised \$236,814.01 from 299 donors.

A special thank you to the David and Virginia Eisenberg Foundation for its enduring support of the Federation.

"Serving as the chair of the Federation Annual Campaign is a challenging task, but one that I am proud to do because it is my way of giving back to the community that has given me so much. After October 7th I witnessed the resilience and generosity of the Binghamton Jewish community first-hand. They showed up. They gave. They made the Campaign a success and I am grateful for each donor and each volunteer."

-Marilyn Bell, Campaign Chair

Jewish Family Service

Guided by the principal of “Chesed” or loving-kindness, Jewish Family Service delivers essential human services to individuals and families facing challenges to their well-being. Financial assistance is provided within specific guidelines as funding permits. It is through thoughtful listening and compassionate caring that JFS can help people move from instability to a more secure and positive place. JFS collaborates with the human service network in Binghamton to meet the needs of the community.

JFS impact June 2023 – May 2024:

- \$9,550 to Jewish families “We Remember You” program
- \$2,003 miscellaneous emergency financial help
- \$2,185 rent or moving assistance
- \$700 grocery cards
- 72 emotional support calls
- 70 well check calls
- 45 referrals to food pantries
- 38 referrals to NYSEG for funding support
- \$630 in assistance for NYSEG bills
- 35 referrals for housing and rent support
- 10 referrals for home care
- 45 referrals for mental health support
- 28 referrals for legal assistance
- \$200 in gas cards for emergency travel
- 3 home visits
- 11 collaborations with families out of the area
- 4 referrals for employment assistance
- 2 refugee assistance support calls
- \$300 in direct Israeli refugee assistance distributed

JFS would like to thank all our donors for their generosity.

The Reporter

The Reporter keeps our area informed of Jewish activities, programming and important news (local, national and global). Our staff continues to find ways to remain solvent and relevant during the ongoing struggles of print media. *The Reporter* is received in more than 1,000 homes by people in 41 states. *The Reporter* Committee is also looking for ways to increase our digital presence and offer more digital opportunities to our readers.

During the pandemic, we kept readers connected with online resources and by promoting virtual programming offered by various Jewish organizations. In 2023, *The Reporter* won a Syracuse Press Club award for a guest column by Professor Jonathan Karp.

The Reporter staff wants to thank its loyal readers and generous supporters. We are dedicated to continuing the important work of keeping the Binghamton Jewish community connected and informed.

Safety & Security Committee Annual Report

LIVE**SECURE**



In the last year, the Safety and Security Committee Chair and Federation Director maintained an on-going relationship with the central-western NY Jewish security cooperative. After the Israel terrorist attacks on October 7th, and the resulting increase in global unrest, this relationship became vital. Consultation and communication with the cooperative Director and the Secure Community Network improved our day-to-day security posture. The cooperative has also been essential in assisting our local institutions in applying for grant funding to improve security infrastructure. Additionally, we continued to develop relationships with the FBI, the Department of Homeland Security, local police, state police and the Broome County Sheriff's office. These relationships have become essential to keeping our community safe.

Consistent with its purpose statement, the Safety and Security Committee accomplished the following between June 2023 and May 2024:

- \$1,500 distributed in mini-grants to offset the cost of High Holiday security were distributed to Beth David Synagogue, Chabad at Binghamton University, Temple Concord and Temple Israel.
- Seventeen Stop the Bleed Kits were purchased and distributed to the following institutions; Beth David Synagogue, Chabad at Binghamton University, the JCC, Temple Beth El in Oneonta, Temple Concord, Temple Israel and the Norwich Jewish Center.
- Three communitywide security training courses were held, educating 95 community members on "Stop the Bleed" and "Countering Active Threat" procedures.
- Local Jewish leadership and first responders participated in a table-top exercise designed to identify strengths and weaknesses of security procedures.
- \$18,104 raised for our community security fund.
- \$14,500 raised to fund an essential infrastructure project at a local synagogue.

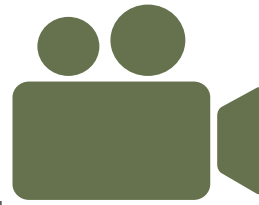
*"Improving our security posture comes at a high cost. Federation wants to thank all the donors who gave to the chai security Campaign. Your generosity will help us to meet our needs for years to come."
- Shelley Hubal*

Fed By Numbers



1,030

copies of The Reporter delivered to homes every other week



5 Binghamton Jewish Film Fest screenings



\$301,837

raised in 2023 Campaign

\$9,550

in funds distributed to Jewish families through the "We Remember You" program

\$6,018

distributed in emergency relief funds



306

donors

contributed to the

2023 Campaign



communitywide sponsored or co-sponsored programs

17 Stop the Bleed kits

+ purchased and + distributed to local Jewish institutions



93

Children

receiving PJ Library books