



Rachel Kann Poetry Reading

Our Jewish Community 2020

These are just a handful of the events that the institutions and people in our community hosted during this challenging moment in time....



Conversations in Troubled Times
w/Eric Ward



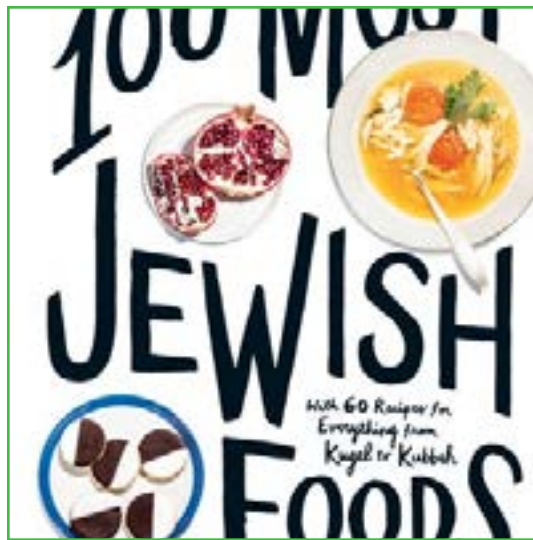
Honoring Ruth Bader Ginsburg:
A Former Law Clerk's Reflections



Anna Sobel
Shabbat Puppet Show



Outdoor Shofar Services



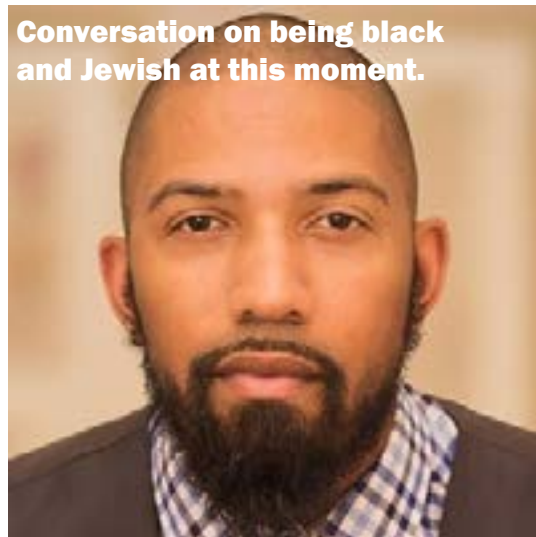
100 Most
JEWISH
FOODS
With 60 Recipes for
Everything from
Kugel to Kubeh



A Taste of Shavuot



Discussing Covid19 with
Hillel Yaffe Doctors



Conversation on being black
and Jewish at this moment.



Havdalah Havurah
4th Saturday of every month
@ Beit Ahavah 130 Pine St. Florence
7:00pm to 9:00pm
Come participate in Havdalah and
celebrate the spirit of Shabbat with
crafts, games, snacks and fun
activities for adults and families



Rosh Hashanah
Family Service



Book Talk - Ilan Stavans
Yiddish Book Center



Sparkle
Havdallah
Drag Story Time, Crafts and Live Music



Cooking with Tina Wasserman



Playground
Service:
Kabbalat Shabbat



Tot Shabbat Sukkot



& Kids Fun Run/Family Health Walk
@ the J

COMMUNITY STUDY

HELPING US DESIGN A ROADMAP TO THE FUTURE

Early this year, we completed the first study of our Jewish Community in over half a century. We are in the process of discussing our findings with the community.

We have learned about our community in order to better serve your needs and desires; so that we know where to grow and where to focus.

Understanding who we are as a community is a vital step towards making certain that we are meeting the needs of today, and anticipating the dreams of tomorrow.

Join us for a community discussion:

Monday, December 21, 5pm

To register, visit:

jewishwesternmass.org/cs



Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts
1160 Dickinson Street
Springfield, MA 01108

Sign up to receive our print newsletters here:

[SUBSCRIBE](#)

Register today for our Annual Meeting January 11, 2021

jewishwesternmass.org/meeting

FEDERATION'S COVID-19 RESPONSE

SPRINGFIELD--The Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts has as its core mission to build and sustain vibrant Jewish life in our community. For ninety-four years, the Federation has played a role in supporting, fundraising, and convening, but never in all that time has the need been so immediate and urgent as it has been during the Covid-19 crisis.

COVID-19 RESPONSE TIMELINE:

Beginning on March 5, 2020 we began disseminating information about COVID-19 from the CDC through emails to our constituents, and a link to the latest news on the front page of our website.

By March 13th our PJ Library program was sending information to parents about how to talk to their children about the pandemic, and providing resources to help keep children entertained as the shelter-in-place orders began rolling out. This marked the beginning of an extraordinarily abundant stream of events, projects, activities, and resources that helped and continues to help parents keep their children occupied, educated, and entertained.



By March 15th we developed and implemented a plan to transition to a remote workflow to protect our staff and volunteers, while maintaining full operation and services to the community. Our Rachel's Table staff and volunteers were already exploring options to facilitate meal distribution to vulnerable populations in anticipation of an increase in need, while we worked to keep our volunteers safe.



By March 19th the Federation was planning and promoting some of the first virtual events for our Jewish community. These would grow to include national and global Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrations, concerts, comedy shows, lectures and presentations from extraordinary guest speakers, and dozens upon dozens of virtual shabbat and holiday events.

By March 20th the Federation had organized channels for our community members to request aid, and to arrange for volunteers to help those in need.

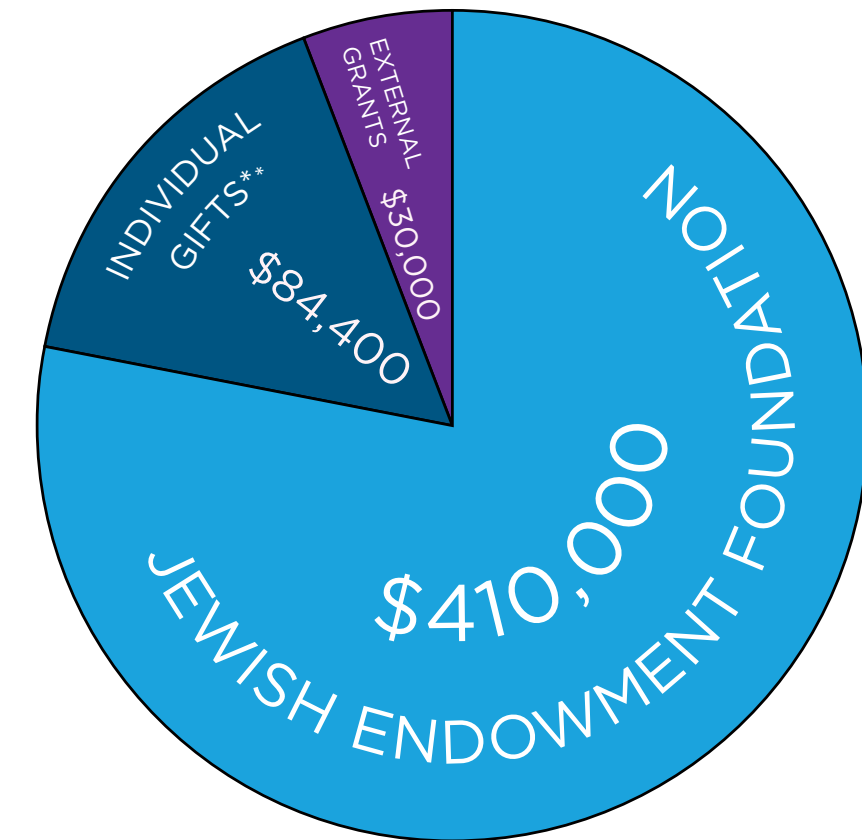
By March 27th, the Federation began sharing resources and assistance to help our community organizations secure highly competitive emergency grants made available by the government.

HEALTHY COMMUNITY EMERGENCY FUND

By April 3rd, the Federation and our Jewish Endowment Foundation had formally established the **Healthy Community Emergency Fund**, to raise and allocate funds to meet the urgent needs of our community's institutions, families, and individuals.

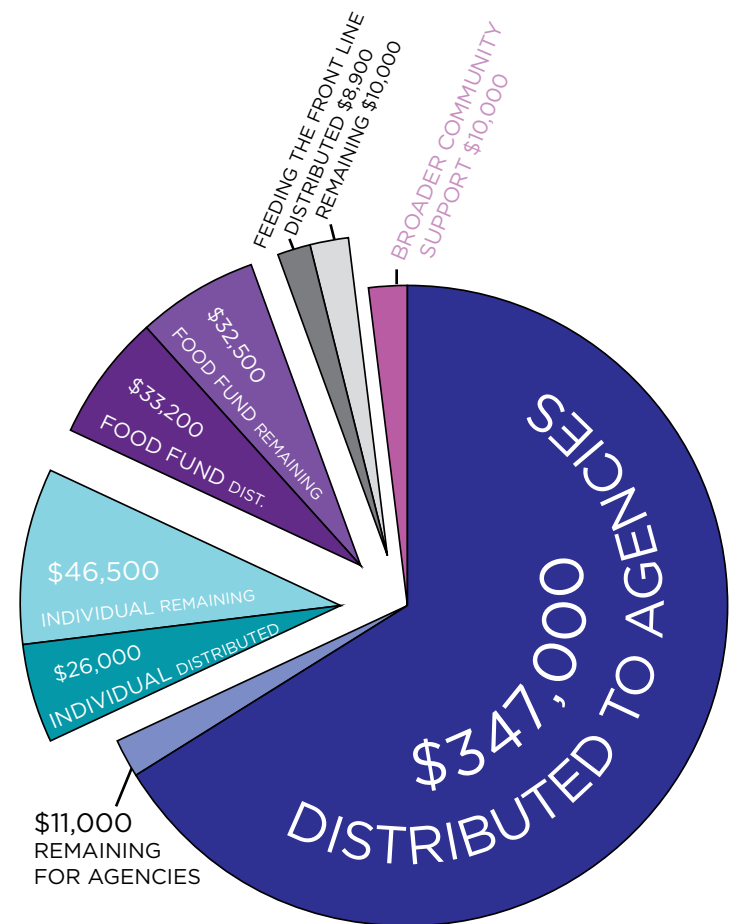
By April 29th, the Federation's Rachel's Table program launched the **Healthy Community Emergency Food Fund** to provide food to those in need in Hampden, Hampshire, and Franklin Counties. The program also established **Feeding the Front Lines**, to purchase meals for the healthcare workers who were risking their lives to protect all of us.

On May 22nd we rolled out a completely redesigned community calendar system spe-



*Report as of Sept 22, 2020

**Including face mask sales thanks to Suze Goldman's efforts, and the donation of artwork by Cindy Lutz Kornet!



\$524,400* RAISED/ALLOCATED

cially tailored to helping our constituent organizations and other community members to schedule and promote online events quickly and easily.



In early July our PJ Library program partnered with the Springfield JCC to distribute free Camp-in-a-Box hands-on activities to families with young children in our area.

By early September we'd built an online hub of virtual High Holy Days information to help our community easily discover and connect to the many services and events offered by our local Jewish organizations.

By November we had raised and allocated **over half a million dollars** to help our institutions and families. The details of how that money was collected and distributed is described in the accompanying charts. We are still seeking out those in need, so that no one is left behind during this pandemic.

NEW NORMAL

The Federation and all of us have long-since adjusted to our new normal, as much as it's possible to adjust to such a fluid set of circumstances. We have played a role in funding, convening, and promoting hundreds of virtual events for the benefit of our community. We have helped to provide for the basic needs of a community in crisis. We have helped to keep programs and institutions afloat in tumultuous times. But we have also had an eye towards the future.

In the midst of this turbulent year, we have completed our first study of our community in over half a century, and it is by far the most comprehensive look at the Jewish population in Hampden, Hampshire, and Franklin Counties. Its findings will inform us as we create a roadmap to the future for our organizations and families. We have learned about the habits, needs, wants, and strengths of our people.

The community study was based on data collected immediately prior to the pandemic, and so it will serve as a useful baseline for what is "normal" in our community. But as we have stated over and over in our communications this year, our goal is not a return to normal; we're aiming for extraordinary.

THE LYNN M. AND WILLIAM FOGGLE GREAT ISSUES LECTURE FUND



Bill Foggie, Thanksgiving 2019

William Foggie Z"L, Bill to his friends, was one of those people who loved to learn. He reveled in the exchange of ideas and for that reason, he created a lecture series hosted by Temple Beth El to promote dialogue about current issues of relevance in the community. It was so important to him, that he sponsored the program during his lifetime and endowed it as part of his legacy to the Jewish community of Western Massachusetts.

In October 2017, Bill notified the Jewish Endowment Foundation (JEF) of his intention to create the Lynn M. and William Foggie Great Issues Lecture Fund. The purpose of the fund was to support the annual lecture at Temple Beth El. He partially funded this endowment in 2019 and it was fully funded after his passing earlier this year.

Michelle Lancto, COO of the Jewish Federation, recently had the opportunity to speak with Bill's wife, Lynn Foggie about him and the genesis of the lecture series. Lynn told her that Bill's passion for lectures and the news media derived from his education at Dartmouth. He took a course on great issues; the main subjects of which came from contemporary stories in the news media. He started reading the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Christian Monitor and other major newspapers of the time. Lynn attended the lectures with him, and even

took notes for him. She told Michelle, "I was a fifties wife. His interests were my interests, and mine his. I was always so proud of him. He was so well educated and well versed in what was going on in the world."

Lynn said that the Dartmouth lectures and newspapers gave Bill a window to the world and inspired his lifelong love of learning. It was that love of learning he wanted to share with his friends and neighbors. He wanted the lecture series to be held in a synagogue to inspire people to gather there, not just for services. He hoped it would strengthen the community to come together as both Jews and citizens of the world.

We are grateful to Bill for all of his contributions to the Western Massachusetts Jewish community, particularly in both creating this program and providing the means to continue it for years to come. May his memory be a blessing.

The Jewish Endowment Foundation is a division of the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts. To learn more about creating your Jewish legacy, please contact Michelle Lancto at 413-732-9994, ext. 240 or mlancto@jewishwesternmass.org, or Stew Bromberg, CEO at 413-737-4313, ext. 239 or sbromberg@jewishwesternmass.org.

WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY

WORDS OF WISDOM: WOMEN PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF WESTERN MASS

On November 1, 2020, the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts (JFWM) presented the Women Presidents of the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts virtual program and luncheon. During this panel discussion, past women presidents of the JFWM Betsy Gaberman, Donna Feldman, Susan Weiss Firestone, Susan Goldman, Susan Kline, Ronda Parish, Ann Baidack Pava, and Diane Troderman shared their experiences and insights.

Highlights from the program included an introduction by Women's Philanthropy Chair Lara Curtis; a memorial tribute to the first woman president of the JFWM, Belle Rosen; presentations by each past woman president; and breakout rooms each hosted by a former president and a current member of the Women's Philanthropy Steering & Development Committee, where program participants engaged in informal conversation about the current and future direction of our Jewish community.

EACH BROUGHT HER OWN UNIQUE CONTRIBUTION TO THE CONVERSATION

Betsy Gaberman (presided 1987-1989) shared about her focus on tikkun olam and social activism was inspired by Belle and Harold Rosen and Betsy's parents Jonas and Anne Heit, and how the 1967 war motivated her commitment to Israel. She spoke of the importance of the Community Relations Committee, which she helped create and is still active today.

Diane Troderman's (presided 1989-1991) presidency saw the transition to global involvement during a time period that included the Ethiopian Jewish exodus, the Gulf War, Scud missiles attacks on Israel, and the March on Washington. The idea of Jewish renewal is key for Diane; as she said, "Being Jewish stabilizes our lives, gives meaning, [and] we all want to live meaningful lives."

Donna Feldman (presided 2001-2003) was inspired by the 1967 war, which took place when she was 16 years old. Her 1986 trip to Israel was motivation that "it's our turn" to step up and become active and do our part, because being Jewish added to the feeling of so much at stake. These pivotal moments led to her commitment to being responsible for the Jewish people and for Israel as the Jewish homeland.

Ann Pava's (presided 2003-2006) focused on coming together as a community where ev-



eryone's point of view is valuable and strong opinions should be treated with love and care because strong opinions demonstrate commitment and caring. Ann's leadership modeled teamwork and the success that comes from building a team that includes strong lay leaders and strong staff professionals: Because no one leads alone.

Sue Kline (presided 2006-2009), reminisced on the way she unified people who had various opposing views of Israel. Her accomplishments include the creation of the Resource Center for Jewish Education, which was of special importance to the Pioneer Valley and Jewish schools. Sue Kline and CEO

Harold Berman led the transition of the Federation from "Greater Springfield" to "Western Massachusetts," as the organization shifted to serve Hampden, Hampshire, and Franklin counties as a whole.

Susan Weiss Firestone (presided 2013-2015) was inspired by her parents, Ruth and Fred Weiss, and was involved in Young Leadership Cabinet. Her commitment to adult Jewish learning and community leadership have inspired her involvement in local, national, and international organizations. Her apt analogy that the Federation system is like a Jewish Mutual Fund struck a chord with participants.

Suze Goldman's (presided 2015-2017) emphasis was on uniting the Upper and Lower Pioneer Valley and ensuring that portals to Jewish life and Jewish community are open to all. Her goal was to find different ways for people to connect, including the Pioneer Valley Jew-

ish Film Festival which continues to bring people together from across the community. She shared fond memories of Belle Rosen bringing rugelach to community members getting on the bus for a 1983 Federation Mission, which exemplified the kind of caring leadership Suze has emulated.

Ronda Parish (presided 2017-2019) has been inspired to continue her service to our Jewish community. Ronda attended Jewish education programs from Temple Beth El, United Hebrew School, and Camp Ramah in Palmer, Massachusetts until she left for college. As an adult, she joined Sinai Temple with her family and became immersed in the

Jewish community. Her first trip to Israel took place at age 25 with the Livnat Israel program, where she had a transformative experience negotiating water rights with Palestinians. She shared her belief that to keep the community strong, the Jewish population needs to be connected, engaging and accepting everyone.

From the memories and learning shared by these former women presidents, the clear message of the Women Presidents of the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts virtual program is l'dor v'dor, from generation to generation. Today's Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts, its Jewish Endowment Foundation, Women's Philanthropy, Community Relations Council, NextGen, Rachel's Table, PJ Library Western Massachusetts, Anna P. Housen Israel Desk, and other programs and initiatives have grown from the seeds planted by every Jewish leader who has played a role in this community. The special strength of women in leadership, inspired by these past women presidents of the JFWM and the women who have served in every capacity as part of the JFWM, has bolstered our strength as a community to support each other today, even in the midst of a pandemic.

Programs begun decades ago are still crucial today, providing the leadership, guidance, and funding needed to maintain our vibrant Jewish community. Create a Jewish Legacy, which began in 2008, is currently rebooting the program, to begin in 2021. Our legacy is not simply what we leave behind; it is how we have inspired others and enabled sustainable growth for our community. Thanks to your gifts as philanthropists, leaders, and volunteers, the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts' 2020 Annual Campaign will help fund the ongoing needs of our local Jewish agencies, including vital support services for Jewish families, and support our overseas partners providing programming for Jews in need, absorption centers, women's health crisis centers, hospital programs, youth at risk programs, and more. Now is the time, and today is the day for all of us to give back and sustain our community in the year ahead:

If not now, when?



Since 1992, Rachel's Table has been focused on reducing food waste and alleviating hunger. Pre COVID-19, over 200 volunteers delivered food that is still healthy but not saleable, due to being close to expiration in a supermarket, leftover in a farm field, or cooked but not served in a local restaurant. Unfortunately, hunger before this current pandemic was continuing to grow, spurring Rachel's Table to expand geographically to encompass Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin Counties, as well as adding more meat, dairy and produce to its 6-day-a-week deliveries. For instance, in October 2019, Rachel's Table delivered approximately 13,000 pounds of food to just over 40 agencies, while in October 2020, we delivered over 70,000 pounds of food to 53 agencies. Western Massachusetts, and Hampden County in particular, has one of the highest food insecurity rates in the state, according to a Feeding America study in 2020. Special food purchasing programs like shelf-stable milk, protein and Thanksgiving meals complement the donated food to provide greater variety and support better nutrition.

Enter COVID-19. Food, water, and shelter are essential, and those providing these

services, such as grocery workers, food rescue programs and food banks, were deemed essential to continue operating while most of us were sheltering in place. During the early stages of the pandemic, the food supply chain was broken, or at best unpredictable, and at the same time unemployment was skyrocketing. The pandemic has led Feeding America to project that 54 million Americans may become food insecure. Families and individuals that had never done so before began waiting in lines at food pantries. Now, 1-in-4 children are food insecure. The need, which was already large, grew tremendously.

During this time, Rachel's Table needed to completely change operations, to re-set the Table. Our volunteers are predominantly over the age of 60, and we were not willing to risk their health and safety or that of others in the community. We expanded our outreach to additional local partners with the capacity to recover what food was still available to donate, and we reinforced our purchase programs by introducing the Healthy Community Emergency Food Fund, thanks to Steve and Alissa Korn, to deliver healthy protein, produce and milk to an increased number of agencies.

RE-SETTING THE TABLE: MEETING THE NEED, TOGETHER

In addition, with the gracious spirit of Suze Goldman, we began feeding frontline health-care workers as an effort to thank them for putting their own lives on the line. We sponsored a virtual 5K walk/run which allowed anyone in the world to get fit while fighting hunger.

Our efforts included partnering with New England Dairy to distribute farm-fresh milk and dispensing supermarket gift cards to families to support food security as well as enabling them a choice to purchase culturally and personally desired food. We continue to partner with several non-profits to deliver boxes of fresh meat, dairy and produce to families each week with the USDA's Farmer to Family Food Box Program. Fruitful, (pun intended), partnerships with the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts and Onedeeds, a virtual product donation platform tailored to our agencies' needs, keep Rachel's Table in the forefront of purposeful innovation. We added more partners and food donors to our roster. Since the need has more than tripled, we have more than tripled our work in the community.

Due to a recent generous bequest from the Vinick family, Rachel's Table's has been able to increase the amount of food delivered during this time of unbridled need. Each of our 53 partners will receive \$1,000 to purchase food in the next few months. We are also bringing back our Sanford and Toba Kimball Food Bank of Western Massachusetts Project to support our mutual partners by supplying funds for them to purchase food at a great discount. And this is just the beginning. If there were ever a time in which the work that we do is most needed, it is now, and with this generous gift, we can do that work with surety.

Although we can hope for a speedy recovery with a vaccine, the long-term effects of hunger and joblessness will not end so speedily. Hunger was already growing, and now the increasing gap between abundance and need is being widely experienced by more people,

especially the working poor, single mothers and people of color. The work that Rachel's Table does is needed now and for the foreseeable future.

As the need grows, the need to sustain ourselves is also growing. Our efforts to reach far and wide, and to do so in the important ways we are being called to do, needs sustenance as well. We welcome your support to help us reset the Table so that all people can have access to the food they need, now and beyond this pandemic.

Join us to reach into the future – a future where hopefully the gap between abundance and need may cease to exist. Join us in making sure our neighbors can feed themselves and their families; help us make sure their children have healthy food to support brain development. Help us match need with abundance.

As we continue to "feed the need", we can also help to "change the story" so that, when seeing hunger as a "we" rather than an "us" vs "them" problem, we can work together to change systems, advocate for legislation, teach our youth to create the future they want us to live in. Whether it's working with the Coalition to End Hunger, or partnering with youth leaders in diverse communities who are growing their own food in what are considered "food deserts," or inviting residents of our recipient partners to come out and glean for themselves and others, Rachel's Table is working to change the story one step, or one kale leaf, at a time.

The oft-used quote of this pandemic is that "we are in this together." We are, although differently. However, together, we can find a way out of hunger. It is upon us all to find that way.

We encourage you to join us to help Rachel's Table sustain itself as we sustain others, and work together to find the way.

This article was in part published in the October newsletter of the Provider's Council.

THE GIFT OF BERNARD J. VINICK

Generosity is a tangible thing. It sometimes feels abstract to give to a cause, and more so to plan a bequest. But working at the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts, the staff is granted a rare view of the actual mechanics of it all. We see how the legacy gift of one person becomes the education of another, and how it feeds a thousand hungry bellies. It is our privilege to shepherd those dollars and cents from a fund into a tuition check, or a purchase order for food that will feed a family in need, or to carry a box of holiday supplies to family with young children. And so, it is with deep and profound gratitude that we expe-

rience the generosity of Bernard J. Vinick.

Bernard "Bernie" Vinick was a member of Temple Beth El, and a Springfield native, having been born here in 1928. It was here that he went to high school and college. It was here that he made his home, and here where he has left an enduring legacy. Bernie's bequest to the Federation's Rachel's Table program is already helping to meet the unprecedented need caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. He has helped to increase and expand food delivery throughout the region; part of an ongoing effort, as we look toward a difficult winter and beyond.

DO YOU NEED HELP? LET US KNOW



In response to the COVID-19 pandemic the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts has been working to help Jewish institutions, individuals, and families to weather the storm. Central to this effort was the establishment of a Healthy Community Emergency Fund.

Thanks to the generosity of donors, and funding from the Jewish Endowment

Foundation of Western Massachusetts, the Federation has collected over half a million dollars to help our community.

We have already distributed aid to dozens of individuals and families. Additional funds are being used to safeguard community institutions; to ensure that even during a crisis, Western Massachusetts is home to vibrant Jewish life. Funds have

already been distributed to 12 local Jewish agencies.

The Federation has partnered with Jewish Family Service of Western Massachusetts (JFS), an independent third-party, that is reviewing and evaluating applications for individual and family assistance. JFS provides exceptional social services, grounded in Jewish values, to support

individuals and families from diverse cultural and economic backgrounds. Their involvement ensures that aid is distributed appropriately.

If you are in need, please use the link below to request aid for yourself or your family:

[Request Aid](#)

In the midst of hardship and uncertainty, the Federation is here, creating solutions like the Healthy Community Emergency Fund to support individuals, families, and local Jewish agencies. We anticipate brighter days ahead as we unveil the results of the first study of our Jewish community in more than half a century, and partner with local Jewish agencies and community members to create a roadmap for our shared future. For **94 years**, the Federation has preserved traditions, sustained institutions, embraced new arrivals, and preserved the legacy of those who came before. All of this is possible because of your generosity.

What does the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts do?

- The Federation and Jewish Endowment Foundation provide grants and allocations to local Jewish agencies and synagogues.
- We provide **free books to children** through [PJ Library](#) Western Massachusetts.
- We organize events and **empower women leaders** through [WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY](#).
- We reduce food waste and **provide food to those in need** through [Rachel's TABLE](#).
- We build the future of Jewish life in the Pioneer Valley through [NextGen](#).

Much is left to be done, and we cannot do it without you.

Will you give today to our 2020 Annual Campaign?

Your gift will help build and sustain vibrant Jewish life in Western Massachusetts, in Israel, and around the world.

If not now, when will we be needed most?

If not now, when can we make a difference for ourselves and for each other?

If not now, when will we have a greater impact?

"If only for myself, what am I? If not now, **when?**" – Hillel the Elder

If not now, **when?**

jewishwesternmass.org/give

Dear Friends,

This has been a challenging year. We started off in January with new members of the Board of Trustees and Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts Officers. We had plans around last year's Annual Meeting campaign theme of "Oh the Places We'll Go!"

That was December 2019. In January we welcomed our new Board members with a Board orientation program to prepare them for the road ahead. But unfortunately, we did not see the cliff. By the end of February, we were preparing plans to have our staff work remotely should the COVID-19 virus begin to appear in our community. On March 16th we were making plans to cancel many events and started to better understand the use of ZOOM for meetings. We went from a community where a few people were experienced with the technology, to one where most people participate in at least one ZOOM meeting each week.

Our upcoming Annual Meeting on January 11, 2021 will be a virtual event this year. I promise you we will still be presenting our new nominees for a vote, along with a guest speaker from JAFI (Jewish Agency for Israel), and a bit of special entertainment. I look forward to your participation in this historic virtual annual meeting.

May 2021 bring us all health and safety.

Stewart L. Bromberg, CEO



2021 JFWM

BOARD OF TRUSTEES NOMINEES

The Nominating Committee of The Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts announces the following slate of Trustees for 2021, to be presented for a vote during the 2021 Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts Annual Meeting on January 11, 2021

Officers of the Board of Trustees: Dr. Ben Falk, *President and Chair of the Board of Trustees*; Lara Curtis, *1st Vice President*; Tani Sapirstein, *2nd Vice President*; Blair Barondes, *Treasurer*; Amy Siegel, *Secretary*; Ronda Parish, *Immediate Past President*

New Board of Trustee Members: Matthew Bertuzzi; Miryam Kabakov; Gail Lansky; Susan Polansky

Continuing Board of Trustee Members: Michelle Anfang; Louis Davis; Anya Griffith; Martin Lesser; Robyn Newhouse; Sarah Shtrax