# אסובוו קולינו OUR VOICES



JEWISH MUSEUM OF MARYLAND at the Herbert Bearman Campus

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY 2022 / 5782

## FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

According to biblical tradition, every seventh Jewish calendar year is meant to be a year of rest: the shmita year. In ancient times, fields were allowed to lie fallow, certain debts were released, and enslaved Jews were freed. This past year, 5782, has been such a year.

But how does this ancient sabbatical tradition relate to us today? Turns out, the underlying themes of shmita are deeply relevant to our present moment. There is an inherent value in having a community stop, rest, reflect and regenerate.

After the unprecedented challenges of 2020-21, we used the 2021-2022 year to pause, to reflect on our mission, and to create new opportunities from uncertainties. We found creative ways to connect with our audiences by moving to digital programming and virtual tours. Instead of snapping back to our prior form, we adapted and retooled.

We developed, under Sol Davis's leadership, a highly skilled and creative professional staff that is carrying the JMM into its next era. We executed participatory and socially engaged museum practices, expanded the demographics of people who engage with the JMM, and we built relationships with Jewish communities beyond Baltimore.

What's in store in the year ahead? We will continue to adapt, reset, and re-imagine.

We have an exciting exhibit schedule planned. We will reactivate our capital plan with a phased-in approach, beginning with much-needed renovations and refurbishments in our current building, including the addition of a production studio. We will carry on our commitment to inclusivity and accessibility, making sure the Museum is open and welcoming to all. Lastly, we will continue to serve as the convener for Jewish young adult groups in Baltimore City. This effort continues to solidify my vision for the JMM to be the linchpin for Jewish life downtown.

This past year will be remembered as a year of resetting and renewal. Like shmita, it was a year where we renewed our commitment to our mission and reimagined what the JMM can be in this rapidly evolving environment. It has been a pleasure serving as president this past year, and I look forward to reimagining the future together with you.

**Nancy Kutler** 

BOARD PRESIDENT

Manceplecker



## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The theme of our 2022 Annual Meeting was "Koleinu" (Hebrew for "Our Voices"). The title was purposefully chosen to highlight the Museum's growing practice of being a space that uplifts the many voices that comprise Jewish Maryland.

The pandemic has pushed cultural institutions into an accelerated turn toward digital technologies, and while nothing can replace the feeling of being together in a shared physical space, these technologies are platforms that carry the potential to allow us to elevate and hear more of your voices.

Here are some examples of ways that the Jewish Museum of Maryland has amplified voices over the past year:

- » Our original exhibition A Fence Around the Torah: Safety and Unsafety in Jewish Life included a series of community conversations about experiences of belonging and exclusion in contemporary Jewish American life.
- » The JMM's new podcast Disloyal is a platform for exploring political, cultural, and spiritual trends through a distinctively Jewish lens.
- » Twice-a-year Teacher Institutes organized in partnership with the Baltimore Jewish Council support teachers in their work teaching about the Holocaust

and include opportunities to hear first-hand accounts from Holocaust survivors and their descendants.

» In 2022, the JMM convened a meeting of representatives from more than a dozen groups of young Jewish adults within Baltimore City with the express intent of listening to their hopes for our local Jewish future and learning about ways the Museum can help to build that future.

Our work of elevating many voices is rooted in the tradition of social history: the belief that all Jewish voices are important and deserve a place within the record of Jewish Maryland that the JMM is charged with preserving.

I look forward to advancing this work with all of you in the coming year.

Sol Davis, Ph.D.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Board President Nancy Kutler.



Executive Director Sol Davis.

## **PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

The JMM used the constraints of the ongoing pandemic to continue to reimagine programming and engagement. We approached programming during the pandemic with care, limiting the capacity and frequency of in-person events while evolving our program design processes. For example, we started producing live virtual events, hybrid live and virtual events, as well as pre-recorded performances released online.

## Here is a selection of highlights from the past year's programs:

The Museum provided opportunities to gather in-person through limited capacity exhibition openings for A Fence Around the Torah and Blacklist: The Hollywood Red Scare, allowing opportunities for intergenerational audiences to experience the exhibits while enjoying music, refreshments, and the company of fellow visitors.

This year's annual meeting was called Koleinu (קולינו)
"Our Voices." The meeting was a chance to share the
voices of community members involved in and moved by
JMM's work this year. JMM staff and leadership showed
off their many talents through musical performances,
multimedia presentations, videos, a live podcast taping
and a fire-side chat about the Museum's young adult
engagement efforts.









The Jewish Museum of Maryland's 2022 Annual Meeting. PHOTOS BY WILL KIRK.







Art Sparks Mezuzah Magic workshop. PHOTO BY NAOMI WEINTRAUB.

This year JMM created new opportunities to explore social justice issues and the complexity and diversity of Jewish life through art.

Our Expressions of Us series featured Jewish artists, writers, and thinkers speaking about how they express their identities through their work. Sessions included reflections on Jewish life in Texas and Cuba, textiles in Jewish communities, and poetry in Jewish culture.

Naomi Weintraub, the JMM Community Artist-in-Residence, led a youth art program titled Art Sparks. Art Sparks is an artistic offering for families and youth ages 5 through 11, and it features videos, newsletters stuffed with activities and art projects, and in-person sessions on Jewish art, including a mezuzah making workshop.

Naomi also led a series titled DIY (Do It Yourself)

Jewish Folk Art, which featured workshops on weaving,
papercuts, and more.

## DIGITAL PROGRAMING HIGHLIGHTS

One lasting lesson that the pandemic taught us is that there are many ways that people can engage with the Museum's work. As we experimented with virtual and hybrid programming, we also deepened our digital production work, offering high quality video, audio, and online experiences. This allowed longtime JMM members and patrons opportunities to enjoy the Museum in new ways. It also meant that people from across the world have been able to engage with us, widely expanding our cultural reach.



## VIDEO

Virtual events were a fact of life once more this year, and our programming and communications teams worked to make each online event look and sound its best through investments in staff and technology. Whether it was our hybrid annual meeting, the Art Sparks video series for young people, or stories posted to our social media, we approached video with a new appreciation of what it can do to connect the Museum to our many audiences.

## **AUDIO**

This year we launched Disloyal, a podcast produced by our communications team. Disloyal is a podcast about art, culture, and history that uses the Museum's exhibits, programs, and collections as launchpads for talking about the political, cultural, and spiritual trends that are shaping the world today through a distinctively Jewish lens. In just a few months over a thousand different people listened to the podcast.

## **ENGAGEMENT**

We had a **25% increase** in Instagram followers, **over 4,000 unique visitors** to our online *A Fence Around the Torah* gallery, and a **56% boost** in people opening our weekly email newsletters.

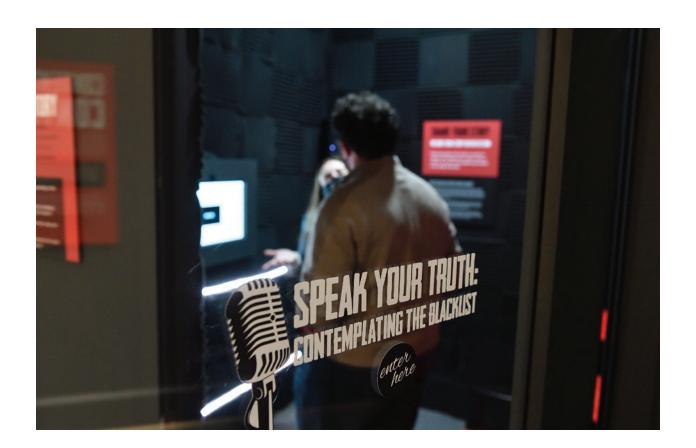
## STORYBOOTH

During the run of *Blacklist* we built a storybooth in the Feldman Gallery where visitors can record their thoughts on the Museum's exhibits. You can watch people's videos, and record your own, at jmmstories.org.

Opposite top: The Jewish Museum of Maryland storybooth.

PHOTO BY WILL KIRK.

Opposite bottom: Reclaiming Tu B'Av.







Tu B'Av is a full moon festival dedicated to love, that comes six days after Tisha B'Av, the anniversary of both Temples' destruction. Tu B'Av, literally meaning the 15th of the Jewish month of Av, is an ancient Jewish holiday.



But what does the

15th of Av have

to do with love &

relationships?

Basheret is a Jewish concept referring to the other half of someone's soul, also a term meaning a platonic or romantic soul mate.



Some believe, that 40 days before a person is born, a heavenly voice announces their 'Basheret'.



Tu B'Av is 40 days before Rosh Hashana, the Jewish New Year.



Some believe this is why Tu B'Av a potent day of love & deep connection.

## How was Tu B'Av celebrated in ancient times?



In ancient times, people would throw all their white clothes into a pile, and pick up something to wear that wasn't theirs.



In ancient times, Tu B'Av focused on heterosexual relationships & patriarchal standards of beauty.

Now many Jewish communities acknowledge the holiday's past in order to reinvent and reclaim
Tu B'Av for the future.

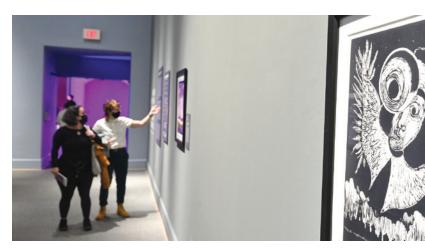
## **EXHIBITIONS**

This year the JMM presented two exhibitions in the Feldman Gallery, A Fence Around The Torah: Safety and Unsafety in Jewish Life and Blacklist: The Hollywood Red Scare. We also staged a lobby exhibit of recent acquisitions in the Orientation Space.

## A FENCE AROUND THE TORAH

A Fence Around The Torah: Safety And Unsafety In Jewish Life is a contemporary art exhibit that explores how Jewish communities navigate the concepts of safety and unsafety in traditional, contemporary, and futuristic ways. It was curated by JMM Curator-in-Residence Liora Ostroff. The featured artists tap into ancestral and historical Jewish narratives, while imagining what safety, solidarity, and mutual aid mean in today's world. The exhibit features video. sculpture, installation, painting, textile, poster art, poetry, and more reflecting on queer life and Judaism, racial justice in Jewish spaces, cultural dialogues and political dissent, mythological narratives around unsafety, and dreams for inclusion and solidarity coming from within Jewish institutions and the organized Jewish community.

In the lead up to the opening of A
Fence Around The Torah, we hosted
a series of community conversations
about the core themes of the
exhibit. We also hosted a series of
virtual tours of the exhibit led by
the curator and launched a virtual
gallery for the exhibit that drew
visitors from around the world.









A Fence Around The Torah opening reception, featuring art by Judith Joseph, Julie Weitz, and Daniel Toretsky.
PHOTOS BY WILL KIRK.







Blacklist: The Hollywood Red Scare
in the Feldman Gallery.
PHOTOS BY WILL KIRK.

### BLACKLIST

Blacklist: The Hollywood Red Scare is an original exhibit created by and on loan from Jewish Museum Milwaukee. The exhibit tells the story of the mid-20th century anti-Communist Red Scare and how it affected people in the film industry. The timely exhibit looks at how politics, art, economics, and social dynamics were affected by the shifting definitions of what it meant to be patriotic. The show took on new relevance today, when questions over free speech, journalism, and freedom of assembly are all back in the news.

Remembering the lessons and warnings of the Hollywood Red Scare feels especially relevant now. This show forces us to ask questions about political polarization, government and industry overreach, and threats to freedom of speech and assembly that are just as vital now as they were during the Cold War.

## **ACQUISITIONS**

Recent Acquisitions was a lobby exhibit that was presented in the Orientation Space at the end of 2021. It featured some of the items recently acquisitioned into the Museum's collections. The exhibit included paintings, clothes, dolls, and even a covid-era quilt.



Collage of recent Jewish Museum of Maryland acquisitions by Naomi Weintraub. Items include shoes, a meat grinder, a wedding cake topper, and a doll.



"Fence was built in Sol's vision of a participatory model. There were so many different levels of involvement from the Curator-in-Residence to the selection committee and the artists. Each of those people had their own networks that they were able to engage in the work, both in Baltimore and beyond, including audiences that had never engaged with the Jewish Museum of Maryland before."

ERIKA RIEF HORNSTEIN, BOARD SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

## **ONLINE EXPERIENCES**

We baked virtual experiences into our exhibit calendars this year in ways we never had before. These included virtual conversations about the themes raised by A Fence Around The Torah, online tours of Fence and Blacklist from the curators and docents, and live interviews over Zoom about the history and contemporary implications of Blacklist: The Hollywood Red Scare.

One exciting virtual event was Jewish comix artist and zine maker Rena Yehuda Newman's presentation on telling Jewish stories through comix, which included writing and drawing activities for the participants.

## **EDUCATION**

Learning matters to us here at the JMM, and our growing education team has been hard at work developing and providing both in person and virtual educational experiences.

The JMM has continued to provide meaningful educational offerings on the topics of immigration, Judaism, Baltimore, and the Holocaust, both through digital programs for students and professional development opportunities for educators. Over the course of the last year, the JMM education team worked with students from public, private, parochial, and Jewish congregational and day schools.

In partnership with the Baltimore Jewish Council, we hosted two Teachers Institutes that advanced sound methodological practices within Holocaust education. Each Teachers Institute strives to connect educators with scholarly information about the Holocaust, provide classroom-ready resources, and create a community space to explore the pedagogy of teaching this history in the classroom.

Our Summer Teachers Institute 2021 focused on the experiences of marginalized communities in the United States in the 1930s and 1940s. We contextualized U.S. involvement in the Second World War, pedagogical

frameworks for teaching traumatic and difficult histories, and the techniques for helping students make informed, nuanced, and sensitive historical connections.

Our Winter Teachers Institute 2022 focused on the ways Jewish individuals and communities engaged in spiritual resistance in the face of Nazi attempts to degrade and dehumanize them. Educators explored young writers' diaries, musical performances in the Theresienstadt transit camp, the Oyneg Shabbes archive in the Warsaw Ghetto, religious observance in the Gurs concentration camp, and primary source objects that told stories of personal acts of courage. In selecting this topic, we helped debunk the pervasive myth that Jewish people offered no resistance in the face of Nazi oppression.

This year, we also hosted our My Family Story exhibit, which featured the work of students at Krieger Schechter Day School. These students embarked on a journey to discover their family histories, making meaningful connections to their own personal stories through research and art making. Students had the opportunity to view their projects on display at the Museum and tour the Lloyd Street and B'nai Israel Synagogues.

My Family Story is part of the My Family Story in Memory of Manuel Hirsch Grosskopf program hosted by ANU – Museum of the Jewish People in Tel Aviv.



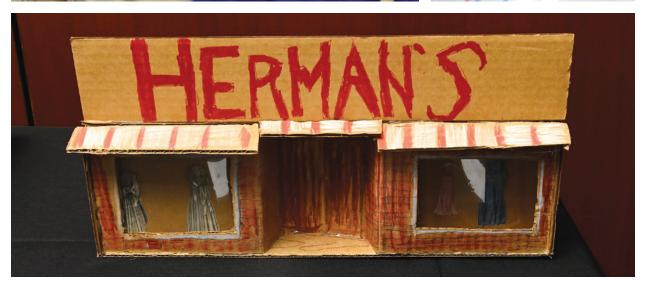
Selection from

My Family Story.

PHOTO BY WILL KIRK.







"Students mentioned that they had learned about the Holocaust in the past but never learned about the individual stories that go beyond film reels and statistics. It inspired many to have conversations with their elders about their own histories and cultural heritages."

8TH GRADE TEACHER FROM ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS REFLECTING ON JMM'S HOLOCAUST MEMORY PROJECT DIGITAL PROGRAM

# "I know for a fact, I'm a better, more enlightened individual for having had this opportunity."

SUMMER TEACHERS INSTITUTE 2021 PARTICIPANT



Selections from My Family Story along with an invitation to the 2022 Winter Teachers Institute.
PHOTOS BY WILL KIRK.





"Every speaker was excellent, and I feel so grateful to have stumbled upon this professional development opportunity that was truly lifechanging and will deeply affect my pedagogical practices."

SUMMER TEACHERS INSTITUTE 2021 PARTICIPANT

"So many connections and applications to what I do everyday in the classroom... I feel as if I was on a journey with friends – and we ended our time together feeling restored and excited to engage our learners."

SUMMER TEACHERS INSTITUTE 2021 PARTICIPANT

## **COLLECTIONS**

## Over the past year the collections department continued to gather and preserve an array of meaningful materials for our growing collection.

From photographs, portraits, and everyday objects, to clothing, documents, and oral histories, the JMM collections and archives include many materials that tell the stories of Jewish life in Maryland.

The collections team recently added a new Collections Manager and Reference Assistant. This expansion of the team means the Museum is better equipped to assist researchers of all types who want to explore the stories our archives and objects collections tell. Our collections team will also continue to explore ways to add more voices and stories to our collections.

Images and recordings from our collections have been used in several articles, podcasts, and TV spots from outlets including CBS Mornings, WAMU's Dish City, WYPR's The Maryland Curiosity Bureau, Mashed.com, and The Washingtonian.

Additionally, the collections team has been working on an exciting new project titled Synagogue Stories: A Tradition of Change on Lloyd Street, a 36-minute video about the history of the two historic synagogues on our campus. Featuring a plethora of fascinating finds from our collections, it is available to view both onsite and online on our YouTube page.



A collage by Naomi Weintraub from materials in the Jewish Museum of Maryland's collections about summer camp. It includes artwork from a program for the Camp Airy 1983-1984 staff banquet (JMM 1993.059.167), a photograph of Ruth Cohen at Camp Airy (JMM 1993.059.051) and a boy eating a watermelon while wearing a camp t-shirt (JMM 1998.040.005).



JMM collects objects that tell the story of Jewish life in Maryland. Objects in the museum are searchable through JMM's online catalog.



The JMM's collections include hanging artwork ranging from street scenes to portraits, along with framed diplomas, awards, and ketubot (Jewish wedding contracts).



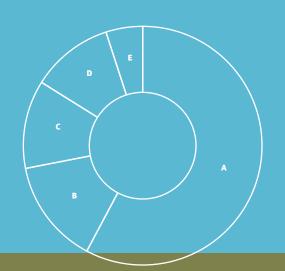
JMM's archives include over 250 manuscript collections, 70,000 photographs, and 850 oral history recordings.



The Museum collections include objects manufactured by Jewish-owned businesses, including a selection of umbrellas from Polan Katz & Company.

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FY2021 Year Ending June 30, 2021

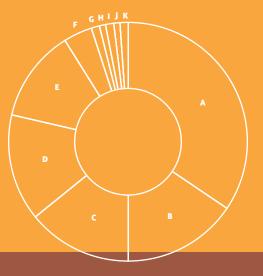
NET ASSETS & LIABILITIES		OPERATING RESULTS FY2021	
Assets		Revenue	
Cash	\$ 1,314,842	Associated Allocation	\$ 421,114
Investments	7,291,968	Membership Dues	63,422
Other Investments	11,109	Draw on Investment Income	353,435
Accounts Receivable	95,341	Gifts & Grants —	
Contributions and Grants Receivable	367,666	Unrestricted and released from restriction	682,829
Museum Shop Inventory	52,263	Earned Income & Other	80,468
Deposit	17,705	TOTAL PENEMUE	 
Property & Equipment	1,259,508	TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 1,601,268
Property Leased to Others	1,328,722	_	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 11,750,121	Expenses	
	\$ 11,/50,121	Public Interpretation & Exhibitions	532,971
		Education & Community Services	475,324
Liabilities and Net Assets		Collections, Sites & Research	160,045
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	103,714	Fundraising	159,483
Due to The ASSOCIATED	0	Administration	202,018
Notes Payable	0	Museum Shop	46,331
SBA Loan	0	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 1,576,173
Deferred Revenue	2,500		
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 106,214	OPERATING RESULTS	
		BEFORE DEPRECIATION	\$ 25,096
Change in Net Assets			
Operating Results (including depreciation)	(224,495)	Depreciation (buildings & equipment)	\$ (249,590)
Loss/Gain in Value Board Designated	(55,240)	Results including depreciation	\$ (224,494)
Gifts/Grants: Donor Restricted Assets			
(Capital & Project-based)	240,166		
Investment Gain (Unrestricted)	741,656		
Investment Gain (with Donor Restriction)	1,549,308		
TOTAL CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$ 2,251,395		
TOTAL NET ASSETS 6/30/2021	\$ 11,643,907		



## **EXPENSE BY TYPE**

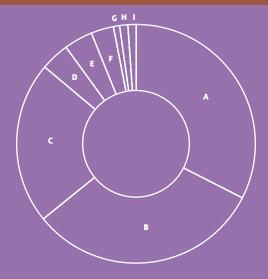
- A 58% Salaries + Benefits
- B 14% Programs
- C 12% Administrative
- D 11% Physical Plant
- E 5% Development

## **EXPENSE BY DEPARTMENT**



- A 36% Exhibits
- B 16% Programs
- C 15% Education
- D 15% Visitor Services
- E 13% Collections
- F 4% Store
- G >1% Other
- H >1% Marketing
- l >1% Physical Plant
- J >1% Development
- K >1% Admin

## REVENUE BY TYPE



- A 33% The ASSOCIATED allocation
- B 32% Private Gifts and grants
- C 22% Endowment draw for operations
- D 4% Development Government grants
- E 4% Membership
- F 3% Rental property income
- G 1% Program and admission fees
- H >1% Museum shop
- l >1% Other income

## **DEVELOPMENT**

Over the past year the JMM has continued to care for existing relationships and connections while building new ones, developing new projects and fundraising resources.

We have received privately and publicly funded grants from foundations and the State of Maryland. These grants support a wide range of JMM projects, educational offerings, exhibition production, and new and public programs. We continue to steward the historic Lloyd Street Synagogue and ensure that proper funding and preservation measures are taken for this ongoing work.

In addition to raising funds to support the Museum's ongoing work and expand its reach, we continue efforts to grow our membership. To achieve this, we are reaching out to members who recently had their membership expire to ensure they received notification that it was time to renew. We simultaneously attempt to attract new members through a variety of dynamic programming and outreach, including offering free household memberships to people becoming B'Mitzvah at local synagogues.

"Our upcoming capital project will allow the architecture and physical space to take the forms needed to support and advance a post-pandemic museum. In all of this work, we're developing participatory practices, working to expand and diversify the communities we work with, and serving as a platform that draws on our communal past to help us imagine and build a just and abundant Jewish future.

SOL DAVIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS** (Contributors July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022)

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## SUPPORT THE JEWISH MUSEUM OF MARYLAND

## SUPPORT JMM

Your generous financial and volunteer support of JMM sustains us and helps us grow. As we continue to embrace participatory museum practices, your contributions allow us to create programs, curate exhibits, expand our collection, produce podcasts and videos, and better represent the fullness of Maryland's Jewish community. Your support ensures that we keep building opportunities for learning, cultural production, and dialogue in our community.

## BECOME A MEMBER

Membership is a wonderful way to actively support the JMM and the exciting programs, exhibits, and cultural productions we bring to the community. There are many benefits to membership, including access to our weekly email newsletters and member-only receptions and events. Most importantly, your membership supports the programs, exhibits, collections, and everything else we do here at the JMM.

Join our community of members today, and consider gifting JMM memberships to people for birthdays and special occasions.

## **VOLUNTEER**

We rely on a dedicated community of enthusiastic and hard-working volunteers to support the Museum mission and programming.

## ANNUAL GIVING

Annual contributions are vital to sustaining our Museum, and tribute donations are a wonderful way to mark special occasions or honor someone's memory.

### CORPORATE GIVING

Corporate sponsors and patrons receive broad recognition and benefits for employees and their families.

## CREATE A LEGACY

Remember the JMM in your estate plans through a direct bequest or another planned financial vehicle arranged during your lifetime.

## **CONTRIBUTE TODAY!**

For more information about how to make a one-time donation, recurring gift, or a planned future gift contact **Development Coordinator Chris Sniezek at 443.873.5171** or **csniezek@jewishmuseummd.org.** 

You can also mail a contribution to:

Jewish Museum of Maryland
Attn: Chris Sniezek, Development Coordinator
15 Lloyd Street Baltimore, MD 21202

## **CONTACT US**

Phone: 410.732.6400

Email: info@jewishmuseummd.org

Donate: donate@jewishmuseummd.org

"I want to extend my deepest thanks to our staff, the heartbeat, the daily pulse, the rhythm, the melody and as you heard the multi-vocal harmony of this Museum. Our staff continues to persevere through these very challenging times. We have an amazing team of professionals."

SOL DAVIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## JMM PEOPLE

STAFF

Trillion Attwood
Deputy Director

Joanna Church

Director of Collections

Ilene Dackman-Alon
Director of Education

Sol Davis

Executive Director

Wendy Davis
Volunteer Coordinator

Tracey Dorfmann

Development Director

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Administrative Coordinator

Sue Foard

Administrative Specialist

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Program Coordinator

Mark Gunnery

 $Director\ of\ Communications$ 

and Content

Ayana Harris

Administrative Assistant

Lily Herman

Education Program Coordinator

Maggie Hoffman

Archivist

Sarah Huston Collections Manager

Noah Mitchel Program Coordinator

Marisa Shultz

Education Program Manager

Chris Sniezek

Development Coordinator

Naomi Weintraub

Community Artist-in-Residence

Paige Woodhouse

Director of Strategic Projects

**VOLUNTEERS** 

Michael Andorsky

Jenny Baker Fran Banks

Meg Berman

Robbin Bord Marty Buckman

Maxine Cohen

Ted Cornblatt

Wendy Davis

Lois Fekete

Laraine Fisher

Arlene Friedman

- 1 -----

Stephany Gilbert

Roberta Greenstein

Lola Hahn

Rachel Jablon

Joyce Jandorf

Harvey Karch

Vera Kestenberg

Nancy Kutler

Bruce Lebowitz

Sarah Levitas

Laurie Margolies

Shelly Mintz

Rita Plaut

David Rothenberg

Travis Rothert

Karen Rubin

Steve Rubin

David Scher Marvin Spector

Judy Tapiero

Harald Tappall

Harold Toppall

Helene Waranch Ray Weinstein

Lynn Witkin-Weinstein



Members of the Jewish Museum of Maryland's staff at the 2022 Staff Summit at Pearlstone Retreat Center.

The Jewish Museum of Maryland 15 Lloyd Street Baltimore, Maryland 21202 NON PROFIT ORG. U.S. Postage PAID Baltimore, MD Permit #8472

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