



Report to the Community 2020

Jewish Museum of Maryland
at the Herbert Bearman Campus
JewishMuseumMD.org



President's Report: Taking Histories

As a practicing physician I must have taken over a thousand (patient) histories. I took them not only to get to know my patients better, but also to understand the context of their complaint and thereby more effectively treat them.

We are all aware that our city, our state, the nation, and the world have been suffering grievously in recent months – with disease, economic uncertainty, social injustice, and an epidemic of mistrust. The challenges can seem overwhelming. But **as difficult as these times have been, still a good place to begin to look for answers is to take histories (and to share them).**

This Annual Report records another chapter in the history of the Jewish Museum of Maryland. FY '20 will be remembered as a year that came to a difficult end, with the Museum's doors shuttered for the last three and a half months of the year (March 17 to June 30). But that isn't the whole story of the year. Coming off of the most successful project in JMM history (FY '19's *Inescapable: The Life and Legacy of Harry Houdini*), this year our Feldman Gallery played host to two more JMM-original exhibits: last summer's *Fashion Statement* and *Scrap Yard: Innovators of Recycling*, which premiered in October.

By December we were running full steam, noshing on cookies at the Hanukkah Bake-Off, acquiring headsets to make synagogue and neighborhood tours more accessible, and playing the *Scrap Yard* board game nearly daily with visiting school groups. On February 9 a fabulous concert with Lori Şen kicked off the much-anticipated folk music edition of *JMM Live!* On February 27 more than 300 people gathered to celebrate the student history art projects in the international *My Family Story* competition sponsored by Beit Hatfutsot (Baltimore would ultimately produce an international winner for the sixth year in a row).

Then came March.

What happened next is one of the things that make me most proud of my affiliation with JMM. In the face of COVID 19's unexpected impact on our community, **Team JMM did not throw up their hands, but rather rolled up their sleeves and made an amazing pivot to digital.**

Over ninety students participated in JMM's 6th annual *My Family Story* exhibit. BZ Openden from Ohr Chadash Academy was chosen to be a part of The Museum of Jewish People at Beit Hatfutsot's international exhibit.



Turkish mezzo-sephano Lori Şen, guitarist Jeremy Lyons, and pianist Ying-Shan Su kicked off the Jewish Folk Life Festival with an afternoon of Sephardic art songs.



JMM Board President Robert Keehn shared remarks at the members-only opening of *Scrap Yard: Innovators of Recycling*.

Two weeks before the governor ordered us to stay at home, JMM began work on a new family activity website: wondernauts.org. They increased the frequency of our digital newsletter, adding new content every week. They started planning for live events as well, beginning with the fifth anniversary of the Baltimore Uprising. A live lecture on Jews and the Civil War with our director in early May brought together 159 screens, an estimated 200 plus guests from across the country, for a talk that was both amusing and thought-provoking (one of the many reasons we are going to miss Marvin when he retires at year end).

Museum professionals working side-by-side (but at least six feet apart) with our colleagues at The Associated were busy figuring out how to keep JMM financially healthy. The Federal PPP loans were critical, but so were the responses of the Board and general membership to our spring appeal. Despite pessimism in the stock market, we doubled our donations from last spring's campaign. **I want to add my personal thanks to all of you who contributed.**

So what's my prescription for JMM? **I recommend that we remain focused on our mission of connecting people (now more important than ever)** and that we all get plenty of exercise...exercising not only our brains and our wallets, but also our dreams for a better future.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Keehn".

Dr. Robert Keehn, M.D.

A Year Like No Other

Fiscal year 2020 has certainly been a wild ride. With all the changes and challenges of this year, here at JMM we were just as busy as ever. From *Scrap Yard* school field trips to new digital programming, our calendar was full to the brim with things to see, do, and learn. Here are just a few highlights!



JULY 14, 2019

JMM celebrated the passionate people who donate their time and talents to supporting our mission with our annual **Volunteer Appreciation Night**. Volunteers played the role of curator for the evening, creating stories around selected objects in JMM's collection.



AUGUST 5-7, 2019

JMM's annual **Summer Teachers Institute** partnered with the Baltimore Jewish Council, the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, and the American Visionary Art Museum to explore teaching "Women and the Holocaust."

This program was made possible by the generous support of Judy and Jerry Macks and Family and the Joan and Joseph Klein, Jr., Foundation.



SEPTEMBER 19, 2019

JMM celebrated the opening of the *Baltimore's Local Grocer: Celebrating 75 Years of Eddie's of Roland Park* lobby exhibit with a night of Eddie's top chefs flipping, frying, and facing off over a holiday classic in our **Latke Showdown!**

OCTOBER 26, 2019

The **Members-Only Opening** of *Scrap Yard: Innovators of Recycling* was all about family. With performances and stories from those “born into it,” we celebrated the scrap community, past and present.



NOVEMBER 7, 2019

Homeschool families from across Maryland joined JMM for a special **Homeschool Day** of hands-on learning about immigration.



DECEMBER 15, 2019

Amateur bakers delighted visitor taste buds (and our sweet tooth) with their delicious cookie creations at the **2019 Great Jewish Bake Off**.





JANUARY 28, 2020

Seventeen representatives from the **Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI)** took a personal tour of *Scrap Yard: Innovators of Recycling*, an exhibit that would not have been possible without ISRI's support.



FEBRUARY 19, 2020

No experience necessary! Participants got creative celebrating a traditional Jewish folk art in this sold-out **Paper Cutting Workshop** as part of our *JMM Live! Jewish Folk Life Festival*.



MARCH 26, 2020

JMM invited our communities to experience the wonders of space from home with **Wondernauts.org**, where families explore hands-on activities together.

APRIL 23, 2020

In observance of Yom HaShoah, JMM created the ***Holocaust Memory Reconstruction Project*** digital gallery, hmrpjmm.tumblr.com, featuring moving collages created by Holocaust survivors and their families.



MAY 7, 2020

In conjunction with our online exhibit, GrayinBlackandWhite.com, JMM and the Reginald F. Lewis Museum presented ***Current Voices: Uprising + 5***, a pair of live stream discussions marking the five-year anniversary of the Baltimore Uprising.



JUNE 7, 2020

Families read stories, sang songs, and talked about how to be accepting of others with Baltimore's Bambi Galore during ***Drag Queen Story Hour***.



Stories

When we say *History is Now*, we mean a lot of different things. The stories here highlight a few facets – from capturing current events to helping people connect our past to our present and future.



Residents from Weinberg Woods participated in Talia's tour of Scrap Yard.

Learning Together

This spring presented Visitor Services Coordinator Talia with an opportunity to adapt JMM's in-person tour of *Scrap Yard* into a digital experience – a first in JMM's history.

Tours provide groups opportunities to learn together. In-person tours showed Talia that guided discussion helps people engage meaningfully with our exhibits. Now, in the digital environment, quieter guests, who may not have participated during an in-person tour, have the option to share their thoughts using the chat feature.

Talia shared that, "having the opportunity to bring our stories into the homes of our visitors has been an amazing experience!" We are committed to finding new ways to share our stories, because we know **learning matters**.

Want to try Talia's virtual tour yourself?

More info here: tinyurl.com/ScrapVirtualTour



You can watch a recording of the conversation Tracie moderated here: tinyurl.com/GiordanoAndAllen

“Untitled.” Photograph by J.M. Giordano, 2015.

Connecting Yesterday to Today

When the planned lobby exhibit *Gray in Black and White* became the online exhibit GrayinBlackandWhite.com, we also converted the planned companion programs into online programs. I had the honor to moderate a Zoom conversation between photographers Joe Giordano and Devin Allen.

Though I had never met either man prior to that evening, we had a great conversation. We talked about their work, the Baltimore Uprising in 2015, what has changed, and what hasn't. Little did we know on May 7 that the photos and our conversation would take on new and urgent relevance and resonance a little more than two weeks later with the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

The national reckoning with racism that ensued underscored how important projects like this are, and reinforced JMM's commitment to continue to be a **convener of important conversations**, especially the difficult ones. — Tracie Guy-Decker, Deputy Director



Young Baltimorean making Sambuska at home.

JMM Collects Stories of the Pandemic

This summer JMM kicked off a statewide collecting initiative to **document the stories** of Jewish Marylanders during the COVID-19 crisis. Here's one such story we've collected:

“As we transitioned to school at home, we were lucky that our Jewish day school adapted the curriculum to online learning in fun and creative ways. It allowed the kids to thrive and move through the curriculum. [My son] doing Chumash homework, lower school Tefilah; and making Sambuska with his Judaics class. . . We leaned into the quarantine but have worked to find ways to still have fun while staying safe.”

— Anonymous, 41, Baltimore

Share your own stories with us here: tinyurl.com/HistoryIsNow

FY 2019 Statement of Financial Position

Year Ending June 30, 2019

Net Assets & Liabilities

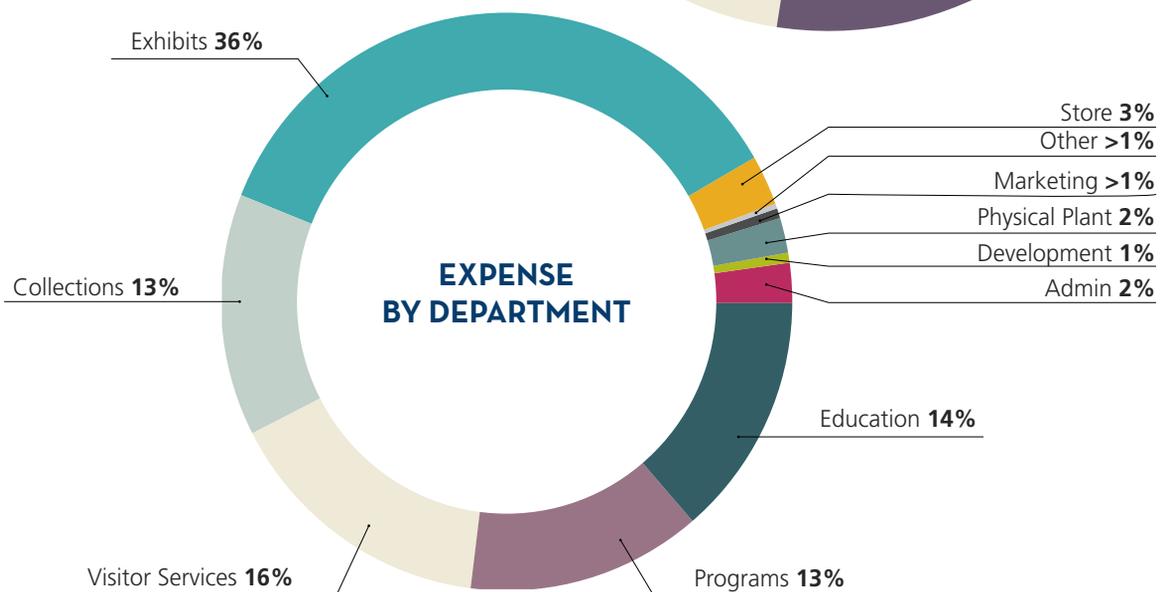
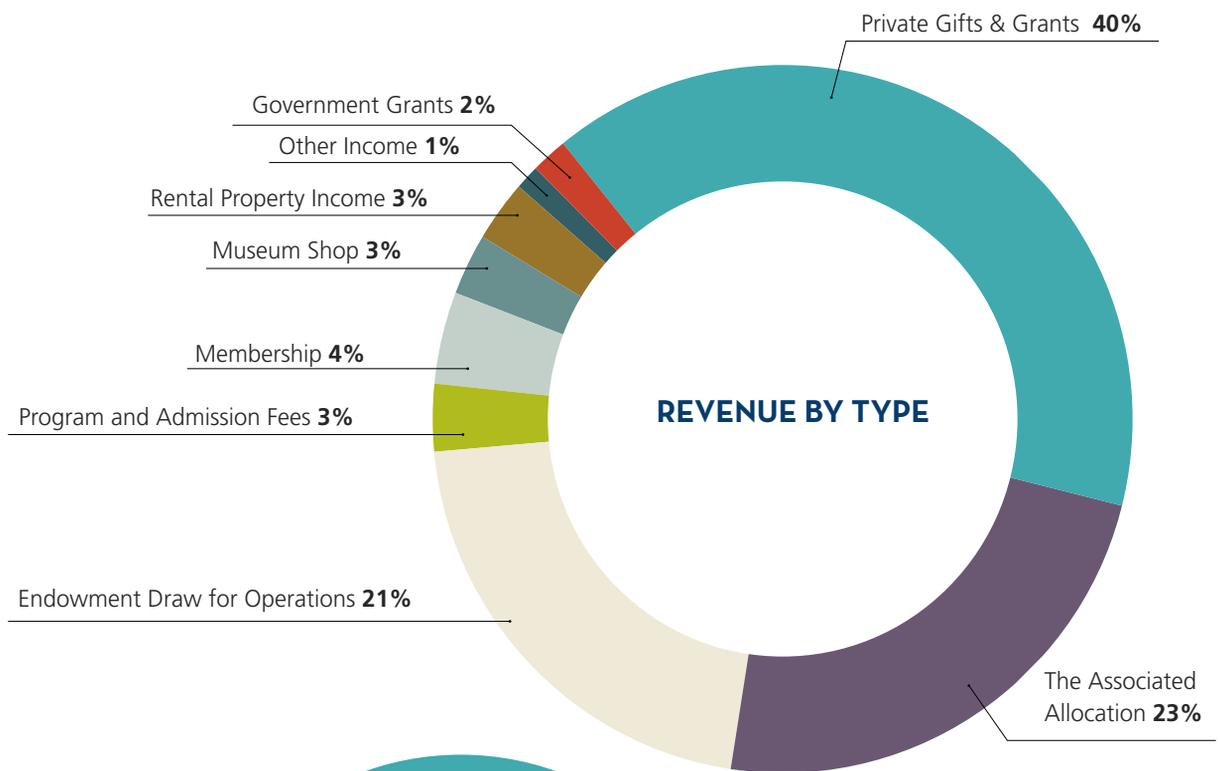
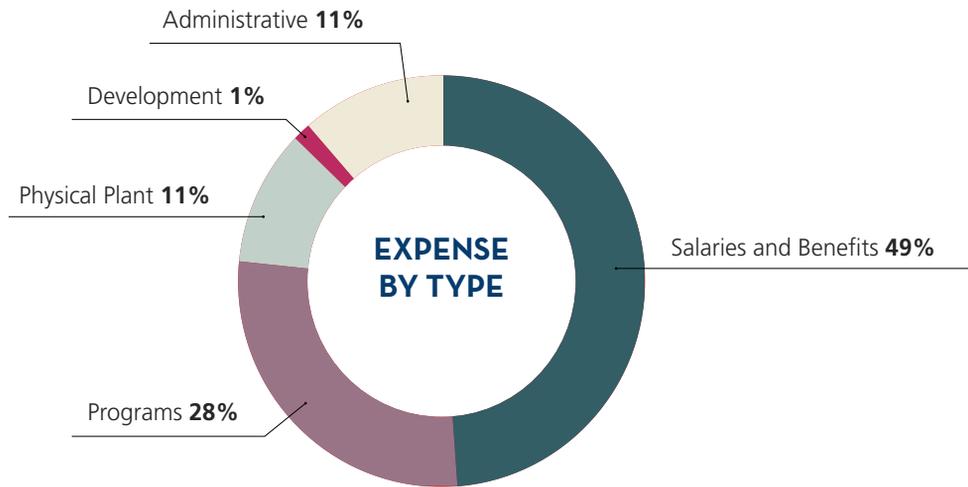
ASSETS	2019
Cash	767,507
Investments	5,852,892
Other Investments	7,735
Accounts Receivable	11,793
Contributions and Grants Receivable	164,235
Museum Shop Inventory	49,754
Deposit	27,012
Due from The Associated	13,421
Property & Equipment	1,421,683
Property Leased to Others	1,397,532
TOTAL ASSETS	\$9,713,564
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	103,506
Notes Payable	6,691
Deferred Revenue	5,325
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$115,522
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	
Operating Results (including depreciation)	(240,650)
Loss/Gain in Value Board Designated	(55,148)
Gifts/Grants: Donor Restricted Assets (Capital & Project-based)	291,313
Investment Gain (Unrestricted)	25,107
Investment Gain (With Donor Restriction)	99,040
TOTAL CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$119,662
TOTAL NET ASSETS 6/30/2019	\$9,598,042

Operating Results FY2019

Revenue	
Associated Allocation	411,767
Membership Dues	71,798
Draw on Investment Income	355,150
Gifts & Grants - Unrestricted and released from restriction	736,546
Earned Income & Other	171,286
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,746,547
Expenses	
Public Interpretation & Exhibitions	611,329
Education & Community Services	542,977
Collections, Sites & Research	209,333
Fundraising	196,732
Administration	124,635
Museum Shop	54,708
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,739,714

Operating Results Before Depreciation **\$6,833**

Depreciation (buildings + equipment)	\$(247,483)
Results including depreciation	\$(240,650)



FY20 Donations to the Collections

Objects, photos, and other physical items are powerful tools for connecting to our stories. Thanks to the generosity and forethought of our members and friends, JMM is able to add new, meaningful materials to our collections every year. Inspired by our summer 2019 exhibit *Fashion Statement*, here are a few new accessions from the collections that show what we wear tells our stories.

This silver lame gown was made by Frima Meister. She trained as a seamstress in her native Poland. These skills helped her survive World War II, supporting her family by sewing for military wives, then teaching other refugees how to sew in an Austrian displaced persons camp. Frima continued her sewing in her new home in Baltimore, providing alterations to customers and making clothing for her family.

Gift of Cerrill Meister, JMM 2020.28.1.



Whitney Whiteman's daughter truly made this 2018 Beth Tfiloh summer camp t-shirt her own. Adding fringe, removing sleeves, embellishing with sparkles, ribbons, and beads, and getting the perfect tie-dye design, this shirt reflects the personality of its owner "to a T."

Gift of Whitney Whiteman, JMM 2020.29.1.



Dr. Mark Isaacs made a statement every time he walked the family dog in winter with this Nazi officer's hat. Dr. Isaacs collected this piece during his World War II military service and felt that wearing it was way to remind everyone that the Nazis and their ideology were defeated. It didn't hurt that the hat is also extremely warm!

Gift of Mildred Isaacs, JMM 2019.47.1.



This knitted outfit was created by Ruth [Rebecca] Teplitsky Freedman. Russian-born Ruth emigrated with her mother to Argentina, where she trained as a fine needle-worker before moving to Baltimore where she raised a family of her own. This donation to the collection also includes a Singer sewing machine purchased in 1928 for Ruth's career, along with an album of her embroidery samples. *Gift of Toby Epstein, JMM 2019.56.19, 21.*



Baltimore's history of garment manufacturing is deep – including the making of hats. This photo shows hatmaker Joseph Rodman (center) with fellow workers inside a hat manufacturing workroom, c. 1930s. *Gift of Robert and Carol Keehn, JMM 2020.10.2.*

Head to tinyurl.com/JMMNewCollections to see the full list of new donors to the JMM collections.

Contributors 2019-2020

\$20,000+

The Associated: Jewish Federation of Baltimore
Cohen Opportunity Fund
Estate of Hya Heine
Institute for Museum and Library Services
Miriam Winder Kelly
The Louis B., II and Josephine L. Kohn
Family Foundation
The Joseph & Harvey Meyerhoff Family
Charitable Funds
National Endowment For The Humanities
PNC Greater Maryland

\$10,000-19,999

The Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Fund
For The Enrichment Of Jewish Education
Bloomberg Philanthropies
Baltimore National Heritage Area
Larry Boltansky
Charles Crane Family Foundation
Gershow Recycling
Huron Valley Steel
Integrated Shredder Technology
Liebherr Equipment Source - Baltimore
Leonard and Lindley Weinberg
Zimmerman Fund For Children
Duke and Phyllis Zimmerman

\$5,000-9,999

Maryland Historical Trust
Alter Trading Corporation
Baltimore Hebrew Congregation
Louis and Frances B. Booke Memorial Foundation
Nelson & Sara Fishman Family Foundation
Sheldon and Saralynn Glass
Greif Family Fund, Carol Sandler
Hecht-Levi Foundation
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Ronnie and Alli Russel Charitable Foundation
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\$1000-4,999

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Eddie's Of Roland Park
The Eliasberg Family Foundation, Inc.
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Roberta and Ira Greenstein
Tracie and David Guy-Decker
Lola and Joseph Hahn
Bonnie and Howard Heneson
Sandra and Thomas Hess*
Israel Bonds
JPride Baltimore



Don't Think of it as 'Goodbye!'

Marvin Pinkert has been the executive director of JMM since 2012. In his tenure here he has overseen more than twenty exhibits, put us on a trajectory for increased attendance, engaged our Jonestown community, successfully won and executed multiple 6-figure grants from the Federal government, and inserted an unnumbered amount of puns into JMM's everyday life. Like with all good things, Marvin's time at JMM is coming to a close, as he plans a well-deserved retirement and full-time dedication to his newly-minted title, "Grandpa Pinky."

Some of Marvin's fans on the staff and board have decided to create the **Marvin Pinkert Exhibit Innovation Fund** in his honor. This new endowment fund will support the kind of innovative thinking in exhibit design and interactivity Marvin championed in his time at JMM.

Help us show Marvin how much he means to us by making a gift to this new fund. To contribute to the Pinkert Fund, or to send Marvin your best wishes, please email Tracey Dorfmann, Director of Development, tdorfmann@jewishmuseummd.org.

William and Mildred Kaplan
 Charitable Foundation
 Barbara P. Katz
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 Philip Tulkoff
 Angela Wells-Sims and Brian Sims
 Deborah Zager
 David and Paulette Zee

\$500-999

Phyllis Blum**
 Mindie Flamholz**
 Dr. and Mrs. Stanley Friedler**
 Sheldon and Shelley Goldseker**
 Benjamin Greenwald**
 Barbara and Michael Hettleman**
 Erika and Jonathan Hornstein**
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 Anita Kassof
 Ann Kahan
 Eileen Leikach
 Elizabeth K. Moser**
 Tammie Plant**
 Robert and Irene Russel**
 Ray Weinstein**
 Ronald and Arlene Weitzman**

**1845 Society Members*

***Lloyd Street League Members*



JMM was pleased to debut our new assisted listening devices to enhance tours of the synagogues, Jonestown neighborhood, and exhibits.

Endowments

L. and S. Bendann Documentation Endowment
Louis and Henrietta Blaustein
Museum Endowment
Louis and Frances B. Booke Research
Endowment
Checket Family Website Endowment
Florence Cohen Beautification Endowment
Collections Conservation Fund
Doris and Benjamin Fishman
Education Endowment
Isaac and Catharine Hecht
Acquisition Endowment
Hoffberger Family Exhibition Endowment
Israelson Newsletter Endowment
Betsey and Philip Kahn Publications Endowment
Katz Family Library and Research Endowment
Zanvyl and Isabelle Krieger
Museum Endowment
Anita and Mickey Steinberg
Internship Endowment
Edith Rothschild Weinberg Family
Museum Endowment
Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation
Jewish Museum Fund
Robert L. Weinberg Family History Endowment
Ellen Kahan Zager Accession Endowment

Associated Endowments for the Benefit of JMM

Joseph and Minna Feldman Lecture Endowment
(Sadie B. Feldman and
Rossetta A. G. Glashofer)
Sheldon & Saralynn Glass
Education Endowment Fund
Sigmund Stanley Hartz Endowment Fund
Benedict and Babette Rosenberg
Endowment Fund



This past year, volunteers contributed over 3,600 hours of their time.

Volunteering Goes Virtual

Volunteer docent Harvey Karch's tours of the Lloyd Street Synagogue have a personal touch. Not only was his great-grandfather a member of the shul, but his father's bar mitzvah took place there in 1936. Harvey is keeping those connections vibrant during quarantine by transcribing oral histories given by Baltimoreans. Harvey writes, "Transcribing oral histories has proven to be a great way to keep me in touch with my family roots."

Before quarantine, archival volunteer Laurie Margolies could often be found cataloging archival collections. While at home she has been helping to translate Hebrew and Yiddish documents. "I am happy to be able to do something to help preserve the Jewish history of Maryland, even from my kitchen table!"

Harold Toppall's recent activities are very different from his usual front-desk volunteering. He has been hard at work transcribing handwritten travel diaries from the archives. Harold says "JMM allows an enjoyable outlet for my skills while also providing outstanding insight into pertinent Jewish events and ideas."

While 2020 has seen JMM's volunteers sharing their time and talents in new and unexpected ways, one thing has stayed the same, they continue to inspire us through their actions.

Interested in volunteering with the Museum?
Contact wdavis@jewishmuseummd.org.

JMM Team

VOLUNTEERS

Collections & Exhibitions

Kathy Abbott
Fran Banks
Marty Buckman
Lou Church
Margaret Church
Maxine A. Cohen
Lois Fekete
Lola Hahn
Joyce Jandorf
Harvey Karch
Vera Kestenberg
Sharan Kushner
Laurie Margolies
Sylvia Nudler
Rita Plaut
Nancy Rombro
Marvin Spector
Judith Tapiero
Harold Toppall
Lynn Witkin-Weinstein

Docents

Dr. Michael Andorsky
Robbin Bord
Bob Brooks
Ted Cornblatt
Dr. Howard Davidov
Wendy Davis
Lois Fekete
Helene Goldberg
Robyn Hughes
Joyce Jandorf
Harvey Karch
Sharan Kushner
Nancy Kutler
Dr. Bruce Lebowitz
Lawrence Levin
Sarah Levitas
Rita Plaut
Karen Rubin

Steven Rubin
Phil Sagal
David C. Sher
Ellen Stein
Helene Waranch
Ray Weinstein
Lynn Witkin-Weinstein

Museum Shop

Carol Buckman
Maxine A. Cohen
Laraine Fisher
Stephany Gilbert
Rachel Jablon
Robin Kaplan
Travis Rothert

Front Desk

Margarita Berman
Jacob Davenport
Maxine Gordon
Roberta Greenstein
Betsey Kahn
Jonathan Kollin
Shelly Mintz
Harold Toppall

Special Events

Roberta Greenstein
Robin Kaplan
Abram (Abe) Kronsberg

My Family Story

Robert Davis
Wendy Davis
Howard Davidov
Maureen Davidov
Saralynn Glass
Roberta Greenstein
Dr. Robert Keehn
Nancy Kutler
Erika Rief Hornstein
Aliza Friedlander
Rick Gwynallen

Interns

Hannah Balik
Mallory Connaughton
Elana Neher
Megan Orbach
Ariella Shua
Talia Marie Smith
Ash Turner

Committees

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Edie Creeger
Rochelle Eisenberg
Simone Ellin
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Michelle Gordon
Andrew Harrison
Morty Libov
Larry Rosenberg
Michael Saxon
Amanda Shore Davis
Karen Singer
Mark Smolarz
John Sondheim
Beth Van Why
Peggy Wolf

Consultants

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Inna Alesina
Ashton Design
Becker & Frondorf
Forest E. Bell
Changing Media
Dellon Design
Jonathon Scott Fuqua
Jennifer Goss at
Echoes & Reflections
GWWO Architects
Barry Kessler
Will Kirk
Zachary P. Levine
David London

Katherine Lyons
Linda Medvin at Florida
Atlantic University
Cassandra Myers
Danielle Nekimken
Karissa Paglione
Natalie Pilcher
P+M Exhibits
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Introduction to Corporate
Design—Spring 2019
The Mill at Stevenson
University
Nadene Vevea
Amelia Voos
Ziger / Snead Architect

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z'l of blessed memory



Blacklist: The Hollywood Red Scare **– Opening Summer 2021**

In October 1947, the House Un-American Activities Committee called Hollywood figures to testify about allegations of communist propaganda in American films. Hollywood's movie moguls (many of whom were themselves Jewish) responded by creating a self-imposed blacklist of those implicated in the proceedings, preventing those on the list from earning a living in their chosen field. With that list, the film industry became the first US industry to adopt a blacklist as a policy used against employees whose political beliefs ran counter to current political winds. It would not be the last.

Blacklist: The Hollywood Red Scare, originally curated by the Jewish Museum Milwaukee, explores the intersection of politics, art, economics, and the social dynamics that impacted the American First Amendment during Hollywood's Red Scare. Today, as free speech, journalism, and freedom of assembly resurface as rights in need of protection, *Blacklist* takes on new relevance, providing a look back at an era in which art, artistic expression, and speech were threatened.

We need help bringing this exhibit to Baltimore. To become a sponsor or for more information, contact Tracey Dorfmann at tdorfmann@jewishmuseummd.org.



Celebrating a Centennial

Mazel Tov! This year marks a major milestone for The Associated, and JMM is happy to be a part of the celebrations. For the past 100 years, The Associated, alongside its family of supportive agencies, has played an integral role in Baltimore’s Jewish community and the greater Baltimore area.

Lorie Rombro, JMM’s Archivist, processed, cataloged, and searched documentation from over 16 Associated-related collections, including more than 100 historic scrapbooks and 4,000 photographs. She gathered information, quotes, photos, and documents of how The Associated has evolved to meet the needs of its community.

Lorie’s efforts can be found in the historic stories shared on The Associated’s website and exhibit. She shared, “it was an honor to spend the last 3 years researching the history of such an extensive and interesting organization and learning about how The Associated has assisted all aspects of our community.”

associated.org/celebrating-100/

JMM FY20 Staff List

Marvin Pinkert
Executive Director

Laura Grant
Program Assistant

Tracie Guy-Decker
Deputy Director

Ayana Z. Harris
Administrative Assistant

Trillion Attwood
Director of Programs and Visitor Experience

Rachel Kassman
Development and Marketing Manager

Joanna Church
Director of Collections and Exhibits

Talia Makowsky
Visitor Services Coordinator

Ilene Dackman-Alon
Director of Education

Jeanette Parmagiani
Director of Holocaust Program

Wendy Davis
Volunteer Coordinator

Lorie Rombro
Archivist

Tracey E. Dorfmann
Director of Development

Christopher Sniezek
Manager, Esther’s Place

Sue Foard
Membership and Volunteer Coordinator

Paige Woodhouse
Project Manager

Museum Educators

Allene Gutin
Alex Malishostak

Marisa Shultz

Students took a hands-on approach to history during field trips to Scrap Yard: Innovators of Recycling.



Visitors enjoyed JMM’s original exhibit *Fashion Statement*.

Support the JMM

The Jewish Museum of Maryland relies on the generosity of our members, friends, and the larger community to keep telling our stories and connecting each other to our history. Help us grow and sustain our calendar of exhibits, public programs, educational resources, and community projects!

BECOME A MEMBER

Membership is a wonderful way to become involved with and support JMM. Join our community of members today.

VOLUNTEER

We rely on our dedicated group of enthusiastic, outgoing, and hard-working volunteers to support the Museum mission and programming.

ANNUAL GIVING

Annual contributions are vital to sustaining our mission. Tribute donations are a wonderful way to remember special occasions and events, celebrate a birthday, or honor someone's memory.

CORPORATE GIVING

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

CREATE A LEGACY

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Stepping into the Scrap Yard: JMM's Original Board Game

At JMM, we create experiences for students to engage with history. In the case of *Scrap Yard: Innovators of Recycling*, this came in the form of a board game.

Scholars from 1st grade through high school stepped into the shoes of historic scrap businesses to understand the economics and entrepreneurial spirit of the scrap industry. Students worked together on teams, buying and selling scrap items while competing for the highest profit.

One 7th grader reflected "at first, I thought it was a dirty job that doesn't pay much, but now I think it's a good paying job that requires good business skills."

At the end of the game, students were inspired to treat trash as a resource and consider actions that imagine a greener future. Students shared that they can "be a leader by acting as a role model in participating in recycling" and "educate people on how important it is. If you know the benefits then you'll be more likely to incorporate it into your life."

Learn more about *Scrap Yard* at:
[ScrapYardExhibit.org](https://www.ScrapYardExhibit.org)

Message from Incoming President

This is not the incoming president's report I expected to be writing, but then, nothing in 2020 is quite as we expected it would be. As the Senior Vice President of JMM's Board of Directors this past year, I've had the privilege to spearhead some essential conversations. I was honored to chair the Visioning Committee, tasked with articulating guiding principles that would shape the capital expansion—what we call our Evolution Plan—for 2020 and beyond. Through that process, the Committee and then the Board articulated the following new mission, vision, and values statement for the Museum:

We connect people to Jewish experiences and Maryland's Jewish community to its roots. We inspire everyone to explore history, take action, and imagine a better future.

People matter. We nurture **discourse**. We know issues of vital importance must be discussed with empathy and civility.

Things matter. We preserve the **documentation** of Maryland's Jewish communities. We provide a repository of expert and authentic resources.

Place matters. We are a **destination**. We are an educational and cultural attraction located at the heart of Baltimore's historic Jewish community.

Learning matters. We foster **discovery**. We provide experiences, not merely information.

Actions matter. We inspire **deeds**. We transform curiosity into experience, experience into memory, and memory into action.

As fate would have it, rather than guiding architects and fundraisers, **this new statement is in fact guiding us through the very different reality in which we find ourselves in 2020.**

Thanks to the strength of our mission, vision, and values, our strong relationship with The Associated: Jewish Federation of Baltimore, and the creativity and dedication of JMM's staff and board, **we have been able to pivot in response to the pandemic, emerging even stronger on the other side.**

As we work to figure out what the new normal will be, I'm proud to say that JMM has stayed true to our values. Our digital programs are not watered-down substitutes for in-person programs. Rather, **we are seizing the opportunities of quarantine to uncover new ways of presenting material and the result is reaching more diverse audiences.** These innovative programs include live-streamed collaborations with colleagues around the corner at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum and around the world at the Jewish Museums of London, South Africa, and Australia.

Incoming JMM Board President Nancy Kutler shared remarks at our annual Volunteer Appreciation event, July 2019.



NASA Goddard's Social Media Team enjoyed a sneak peek at our upcoming *Jews in Space* exhibit last summer.



Ken Kolodner and Elke Baker performed in the Lloyd Street Synagogue as part of our *JMM Live!: Jewish Folk Life Festival* in March 2020.

We already know the year ahead will bring more opportunities and more challenges. We will bid farewell to our esteemed executive director Marvin Pinkert, and welcome a new executive director. We will develop and mount new exhibits, new programs, and new educational experiences, all within the demands of a post-COVID world. We have an extraordinary exhibit planned for the fall, *Jews in Space: Members of the Tribe in Orbit*, which chronicles the ties between Jewish culture and exploration of the cosmos and includes some incredible artifacts from the history of astronomy and space exploration. **Another special opportunity will occur in October when we celebrate the 175th anniversary of the Lloyd Street Synagogue, the oldest standing synagogue in the state of Maryland.** I'm delighted to report that the staff is turning lemons into lemonade by developing a socially distanced celebration where we can all participate.

We will, I hope, restart our planning for a capital and programmatic expansion at the appropriate time. While on "pause" for the moment, we are fortunate to be in a position to easily pick up where we left off when the opportunity presents itself. **I am optimistic of our success, and I have no doubt our mission, vision, values, creativity, and dedication will get us there.**

Sincerely,

Nancy R. Kutler
Board President



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The Jewish Museum of Maryland is an agency of The Associated

