

NCJ  NY

National Council of Jewish Women New York

**ANNUAL  
REPORT  
FY 2018**

*A faith in the future. A belief in action.*

**JULY 1, 2017 - JUNE 30, 2018**

*"The challenges facing an increasingly complex society have never been greater. We must be fully aware that strong motivation and good intentions are not enough."*

*-Hannah G. Solomon, Founder of NCJW*

## OUR MISSION

National Council of Jewish Women New York (NCJW NY) is a grassroots organization of volunteers and advocates who turn progressive ideals into action. Inspired by Jewish values, NCJW NY strives for social justice by improving the quality of life for women, children, and families and by safeguarding individual rights and freedoms. NCJW NY directly impacts the lives of 40,000 New Yorkers annually, with the help of nearly 400 volunteers. NCJW NY serves New Yorkers from all walks of life, from all racial and religious backgrounds, and all services are non-sectarian.



# Letter from the Executive Director and Board President

Dear Friends,

The annual report is an opportunity to look back at the impact we have made in the last year—which has been truly impressive. We continue to feed the hungry, support the learning and growth of children, advocate for progressive change, and engage our volunteers in meaningful experiences.

From July of 2017 through June of 2018, we accomplished a great many things that advance our mission to serve and ensure the well-being of vulnerable populations—including women, children, families, and seniors—through our advocacy projects and direct service programs.

While government programs that serve the needy are being cut, and the hard-won rights of women, people of color, and the LGBTQ community are under threat, here at NCJW NY we are redoubling our efforts to confront these challenges. Our programs engaged nearly 400 volunteers this year—providing services and creating change. We served almost 200,000 meals to the hungry, outfitted 175 children at our Back 2 School Store, and supported the healthy living of 500 seniors in our community. In addition, we launched our Pro-Truth campaign, to expose and fight the tactics of fake women’s health clinics also known as “crisis pregnancy centers.”

As we prepare to enter our 125th anniversary year in 2019, we hope that you will join us as we continue the work that has impacted so many lives.

With gratitude and appreciation,



Andrea Salwen Kopel  
Executive Director



Susan Siegel  
Board President



# LEADING THE WAY

Advocacy: Powerful Voices. Progressive Change.

## Taking the Fight to Albany

On April 30, 2018, NCJW NY led a delegation of ten activists to Albany. Our delegation spoke with nine New York State legislators and/or their key staffers about pending legislation in the areas of reproductive rights and justice, immigration and refugee rights, and sex trafficking. Our primary focus was on passing the End Child Sex Trafficking Act. This package of critically important measures will help reduce the sexual exploitation of children through increased training of law enforcement, enhanced public awareness, and additional penalties for convicted traffickers. Since then, the bill passed both the State Senate and Assembly, and was signed by Governor Cuomo in August of 2018.



**In 2017:**

**870**

calls made to the  
National Human  
Trafficking Hotline\*

**333**

human trafficking  
cases reported\*

*\*From the National Human  
Trafficking Hotline/Polaris*

## Pro-Truth: Safeguarding Women

As part of NCJW NY's ongoing fight for reproductive rights and justice, we launched Pro-Truth with a press conference on the steps of City Hall in June 2018. Pro-Truth is a campaign and a movement, bringing together a coalition of advocacy groups, elected officials, service providers, and volunteers. Together we aim to expose and to fight the deceptive tactics of fake clinics—also known as “crisis pregnancy centers”—in New York City.

The campaign features an online hub—[www.protruthny.org](http://www.protruthny.org)—that provides information about the tactics of fake clinics; downloadable fact sheets and brochures; an interactive map showing the locations of legitimate healthcare providers and fake clinics in New York City and state; and action alerts for upcoming advocacy actions such as rallies and lobby days. The campaign has already garnered significant attention from the press, elected officials, and the general public, with nearly 20,000 visits so far to our website's map.



### Advocacy Leader Profile: Hillary Zilz

Hillary joined NCJW NY's Advocacy Leadership Committee in the spring of 2018, and became the State Policy Advocacy (SPA) Chair for New York State six months later. As SPA Chair, Hillary works with other NCJW leaders from across the state to build advocacy strategies and support our shared work. “If there is an issue that bothers me, I want to do something about it. I love that I can direct my energy towards finding a solution.”

For Hillary, volunteering at NCJW NY has connected her to a community that shares her Jewish values. “Doing this work with other Jewish women who I identify with and feel at home with, feels like a wonderful sisterhood. These are my people. When I advocate, I feel very alive with them, because we share a similar vision—it's not based on party, but based on deep communal values. The word communal is important because it's a community supporting the individual and that is a very Jewish concept.” Looking ahead to her future with NCJW NY, Hillary said, “I really hope to make a difference. [As SPA Chair] I get to actually have a voice and to be an influencer and mover and shaker; I get to be part of the conversation and to carry the message. I feel so lucky and fortunate to have this opportunity. It's incredible, no other organization is like that.”



## Jewish Women's Resource Center: Educating and Empowering Women Since 1982

The Eleanor Leff Jewish Women's Resource Center (JWRC) celebrates the full spectrum of Jewish women's life experiences – religious, secular, public and private – through conferences, film festivals, book clubs, lectures and other cultural events.

In March 2018, the JWRC hosted the Jewish Women's Film Festival, with nearly 200 individuals in attendance. Attendees watched a series of films that focused on the experiences, aspirations, and accomplishments of Jewish women through the ages and throughout the world. We presented "The Ellie Award" for 2018 Best Film to director Anna Katrin Schneider for her documentary film, "My Paradise of Shards," about a woman who fled the Holocaust and found an escape from the tragedy around her by immersing herself in the art of mosaics.

We also honored the Original Six, a group of women directors who spoke out against gender discrimination in Hollywood in 1979. They formed the Women's Steering Committee, a branch of the Director's Guild of America that advocates for more female directors on film and television sets. Lynne Littman, who was one of the Original Six, accepted the honor on the group's behalf. Following the event, Joelle Dobrow, another member of the Original Six, sent a thank-you note that embodies what the Jewish Women's Resource Center is about:

Dear Remarkable Women,

Your glass-etched Ellie Award arrived last week....Receiving this honor is particularly touching coming from your organization. The Original Six took non-traditional career paths that were rarely sanctioned by our families. All six of us have a strong commitment to social responsibility and political activism. Four of the Original Six are Jewish. Oddly, we did not know some other characteristics we shared until preparations for our 35th Directors Guild Women's Committee Anniversary. Of the four Jewish women, we were either 2nd or 3rd generation immigrants. Three of us were first-born girls. That was when we also learned that Susan Nimoy, her husband Leonard and my ancestors came from neighboring Ukrainian shtetls...

...All of the Original Six proudly proclaim feminist pedigrees. Your award acknowledges our hard work. We've been forgotten for far too long. Sadly, few women directors today know of their lineage much less cinematic feminist history. I doubt they would want the term feminist even used about them.

It feels good to be remembered and honored. Thank you,

Joelle Dobrow

## The Next Generation: Emerging Leaders Council

In January 2018, three women came together to begin building the next generation of leaders of NCJW NY, and establishing the Emerging Leaders Council. Since then, we have built a council of six young women who are philanthropically minded and committed to the future of NCJW NY. In May of 2018, the Emerging Leaders Council hosted Emma Gray, Senior Editor at HuffPost Women and author of "A Girl's Guide to Joining the Resistance," for an evening to discuss her book, and the ways we can join the fight for justice and women's rights.

## Celebrating "Women Who Dared" at the 2018 Spring Gala

The **Woman Who Dared Award** honors women whose spirit, work and character exemplify the mission of NCJW NY. The award celebrates women who are compassionate, courageous, and powerful; women who are leaders in their fields; women who inspire and empower other women; and women who make a real difference in the lives of New Yorkers.

On April 23, 2018, nearly 350 people gathered to celebrate NCJW NY's vital work and to honor four extraordinary women:

Ilene Balsam Marquardt, Managing Director and Senior Deputy General Counsel at UBS

Lindsay Ornstein, Partner at Transwestern

Perri Peltz, Documentary Filmmaker and Broadcast Journalist

Gail Simmons, Food Critic, TV Host, and Author



Gail Simmons, Perri Peltz, Ilene Balsam Marquardt, Lindsay Ornstein

# SERVING THOSE IN NEED





## Hunger

NCJW NY's Hunger Program provides nutritious food served in a warm and friendly environment. Our Monday Food Pantry provides a three-day emergency supply of both fresh produce and shelf-stable groceries to families in need, serving between 100 and 200 families each week. On Sundays and Wednesdays, our Community Kitchen provides patrons with either a hot, delicious meal or a brown bag meal they can take away.

### IN FY18, OUR HUNGER PROGRAM SERVED:



The direct involvement of our members and volunteers in both the Community Kitchen and the Food Pantry creates an additional dimension to our program. Fifteen volunteers consistently dedicate their time and energy each week to making this program happen. For repeat clients, particularly at the Community Kitchen, the familiar and friendly faces of our volunteers make their days a bit brighter. One Community Kitchen patron recently shared, "I come here because the food is delicious, and the people are really nice. You get really good service here, unlike some other places."

## Council Lifetime Learning

Council Lifetime Learning (CLL) continues to be a vital resource for seniors in Manhattan. Our broad array of program offerings – from art classes to discussion groups to free and discounted tickets to the city's finest shows – keep our participants engaged, growing, and learning, helping them to defy society's stereotypes about aging and its effects on mind and body. On average, 200 older adults came through our doors each week, and over the last year, approximately 500 active seniors participated in a wide range of events and activities.



In December 2017, we instituted our first annual Program Evaluation Survey, which was given to participants to assess their satisfaction with the program, solicit input, and to determine if our program is serving the intended population and achieving the intended outcomes. Below are some highlights:

**97%** of participants are satisfied or very satisfied.

**65%** of our participants live alone, and a whopping **68%** agreed that attending CLL programs gives them a reason to get out of the house.

**Nearly a third (28%)** of participants shared that CLL is the only community center or senior center they attend for programs.

Each of these statistics, taken in conjunction with other data gleaned from our survey, inform us that we are indeed reaching our primary goal—engaging the aging population in meaningful experiences that reduce isolation and improve their quality of life.

## Social Work Services

Our social worker provides referrals and resources to help both our Hunger clients and CLL participants navigate the complex systems of public benefits and social services.

Ms. G, a client of our Food Pantry, is from Mexico and speaks very little English. She needed help navigating the Department of Education's requirements to access support for her five-year-old son's special needs. She shared with our social worker that she was feeling overwhelmed and defeated in her efforts to do this alone. We scheduled a meeting with an attorney from the New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG), who was able to advocate for Ms. G. Her son now receives the support that is critical to his success, including learning assessments and tutoring, as well as emotional counseling.

## Pregnancy Loss Support Program

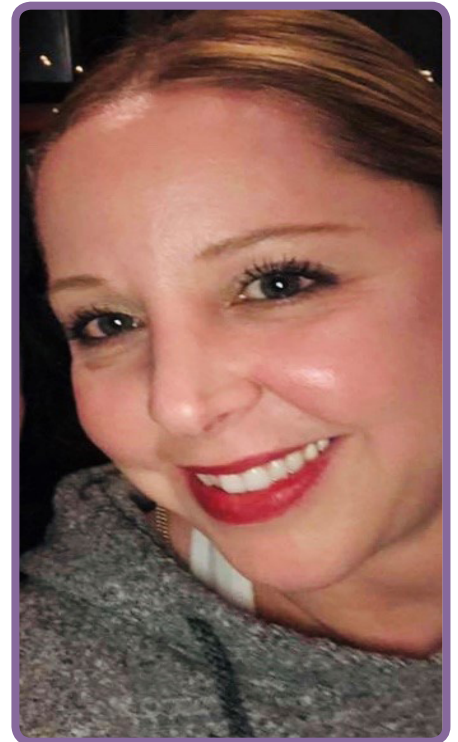
The Pregnancy Loss Support Program (PLSP) is an innovative program that utilizes professionally-trained volunteers to provide telephone counseling and in-person support groups for parents who have experienced miscarriage, stillbirth, or newborn death. All of our volunteers have been through the program themselves, so they can speak from personal experience to grieving parents, and at the same time continue their own healing process through service to others. We served approximately 100 families in FY18.

### Interview with Jodi Labow

Jodi Labow is the Chair of the PLSP Board of Advisors, a group of volunteer leaders who advise on policy decisions and program strategies. After experiencing her own loss in 2003, Jodi went through the program as a participant, and later went through our training to become a volunteer peer counselor.

"I felt very strongly that I wanted to give back to an organization that gave so much to me," she said. Jodi also shared that it is the volunteers that make PLSP such a special, enduring program. "There is something powerful about a program like this because it is based on volunteering, but also because it comes from people who dealt with their own loss."

The program continues to be dynamic, meeting new needs as they emerge. "It has matured with the times," Jodi said. "We are as inclusive as we can be and we want to make sure we welcome everyone and that the group is right for everyone." Jodi pointed to the increase in LGBTQ+ couples and single parents utilizing the program. "It's about moving with family structures," she added.



## The Helen Bloom LINC Program

The LINC (Lunch, Interaction, Nurturing, & Companionship) Program provides a stimulating, supportive, and joyful atmosphere for elders suffering from memory loss and mild to moderate dementia, along with their caregivers. LINC is based on the philosophy that stimulating activities geared to participants' interests and capacities can help to stave off continued decline and to boost overall mood throughout the day and week.

Each session includes making arts and crafts or exploring a poem together, followed by a healthy lunch. Participants are then joined by a professional musician who leads singing and dancing to the songs of the 40's, 50's, and 60's, sparking excitement and joyful memories. Caregivers also benefit from the LINC program—they find support and develop friendships with other caregivers, as well as increase their skills and resiliency. The program is held three days per week—Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays – with about eight to ten participants and their caregivers on any given day.



## Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters

HIPPY utilizes weekly home visits by professionally trained peer educators to empower parents who have little formal education to become effective first teachers for their young children, aged three to five. HIPPY was created by the NCJW Research Institute for Innovation in Education at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem in the late 1960s. Since then, HIPPY has blossomed into its own organization. Dedicated NCJW NY volunteers work in partnership with BronxWorks to provide HIPPY to 60 families in the South Bronx.

## KnitWits

Each week, a group of crafty and dedicated NCJW NY volunteers, known as the KnitWits, create handmade necessities such as sweaters, hats and scarves, as well as gifts like stuffed toys, for distribution to children in need. The KnitWits worked in partnership with Ronald McDonald House and Safe Horizons to ensure that these items were delivered to the intended population free of charge. In FY 18, the Knit Wits delivered more than 400 items all across the city.

## Jackson-Stricks Scholarship

This scholarship provides grants to enable individuals with physical challenges to pursue academic study or vocational training that will lead to a more independent life. In FY 18, we distributed \$5,000 in scholarships.

“It was amazing to have this experience with a child, and be with her as she made – and took ownership of – these decisions. My girl loved being able to pick her own things.”



BACK 2 SCHOOL  
Aisha Tandjgoria  
Goddard Riverside



## Back 2 School Store

On August 6, 2017, Council House was transformed into a very special department store, providing 175 children with a brand new outfit (shirt, pants, parka, sneakers, underwear and socks) as well as a backpack filled with school supplies and a reference book, entirely free of charge.

Best of all, the children chose each item themselves, based on their own tastes and styles. While children shopped with their volunteer “personal shoppers,” parents explored the Resource Center, where representatives from public and private agencies were on hand to inform parents about resources available in the community to support their family’s health, learning, and growth.

In order to evaluate the success of the program and implement improvements for the future, we distributed surveys to the families we served, as well as the volunteers who helped. By all measures, the Back 2 School Store continues to be a huge success.

**99%**

said the B2SS helped their children feel more prepared for school.

**96%**

said the B2SS helped their children get **more excited** for school.

**89%**

of parents said their children were **“very happy”** with the items they selected at the store.

**54%**

of parents said they would have been **unable to obtain these same types of items without the B2SS**. Of those, 62% said they would have made do with hand-me-downs, and 27% said they would have purchased thrift store items.

### In 2017:

- 175 children served
- 150 volunteers engaged

# Children's Literacy Program

Our Children's Literacy Program aims to engage children in a lifelong love of books and reading, thereby helping to close the gap in school performance for economically disadvantaged children. Our Reading Tutors program operates in partnership with three after-school sites in Manhattan, training and deploying volunteers to provide one-on-one reading sessions with age-appropriate materials for children in kindergarten through 4th grade. Students keep their books after they have read them with their tutors, building up a home library over the course of the year.

In FY 18, the Reading Tutors program served more than 60 children each week and operated at three sites in Manhattan:

- Union Settlement's Rising Stars program in East Harlem, serving 20 children
- University Settlement's Campos Plaza Community Center on the Lower East Side, serving 20 children
- Lincoln Square Neighborhood Center's after-school program, serving 20 children

"It has been gratifying for me to see the kids' progress over the past few years. I began reading with one student last summer when he was preparing to enter first grade. He said he could not read at all and was initially hesitant to listen to me read to him. During the summer, we gradually found some books he liked. Now, he is eager to read three books at each session. His vocabulary is growing rapidly and his confidence has skyrocketed."

– Gail Hessol, NCJW NY Board Member and Reading Tutors Volunteer

## Volunteer Leader Profile: Janine Bronen

Janine is a former nursery school teacher and volunteer in our Reading Tutors Program at Union Settlement. Having recently moved back to the city after raising her children in Westchester, Janine decided to get back into volunteering: "I was volunteering with another organization, and at some point I ran into an old friend. She had just started tutoring with NCJW NY and suggested that I join, and the rest, as they say, is history! I live right in the neighborhood, and I didn't even realize NCJW NY existed. I'm so glad I found NCJW NY!"

Why does Janine love tutoring? "The kids! I love the kids! And I love helping them. It's very rewarding to see them start to love to read." There are many different organizations that utilize volunteers, but Janine finds NCJW NY so special because it allows her to express her Judaism in her own way. "I get to live my Jewish values through tutoring—even though the kids don't know or realize that the organization is Jewish—I see it as Jewish. I love working with the other women... Everyone I've met is terrific; and they all share the same values as I do, and that is great. It's a wonderful community to be a part of."



# NCJW NY LEADERSHIP & STAFF

## Board

Susan Siegel, President  
Lynn Judell, Vice President  
Karol Todrys, Secretary  
Michael Gottlieb, Co-Treasurer  
Susan Sack, Co-Treasurer

Megan O'Flynn Cohen  
Gail Hessol  
Gail Hochman  
Lynette Lager  
Elaine Mandelbaum

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Chris Holo	Robin Tunick
Beverly Katz	Elaine Weiss
Doris B. Katz	
Carol L. Klapper	
Florence Kohn	

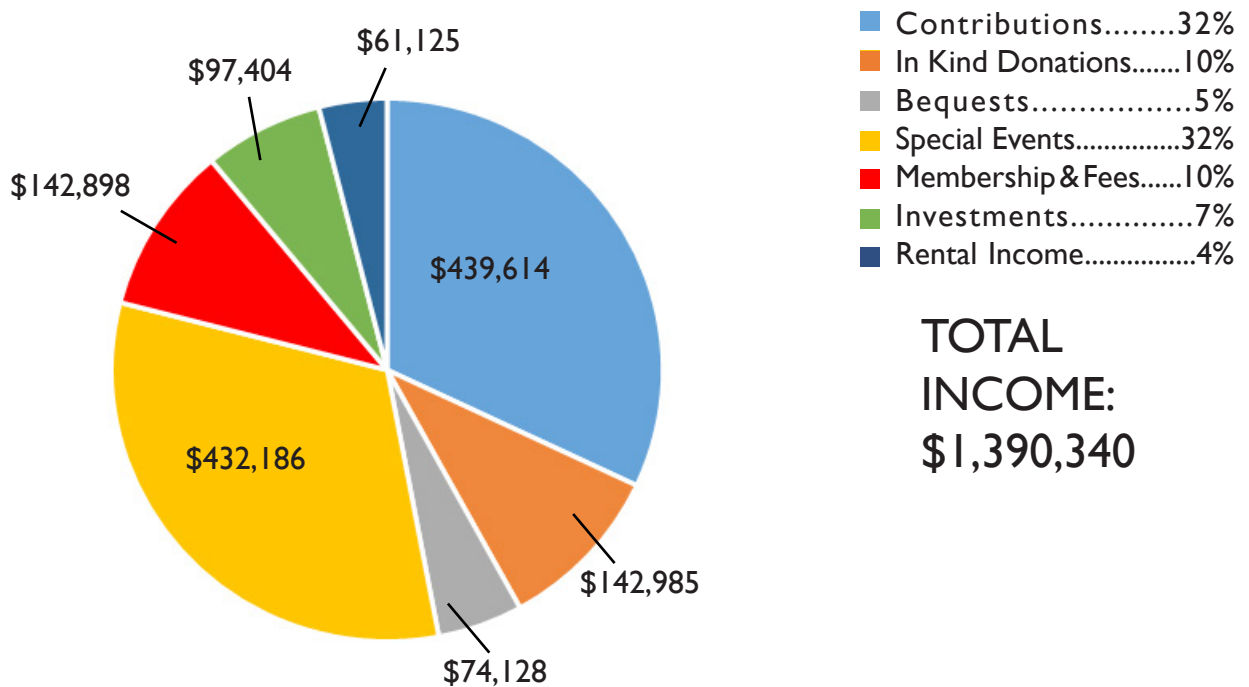
## Staff

Andrea Salwen Kopel, Executive Director

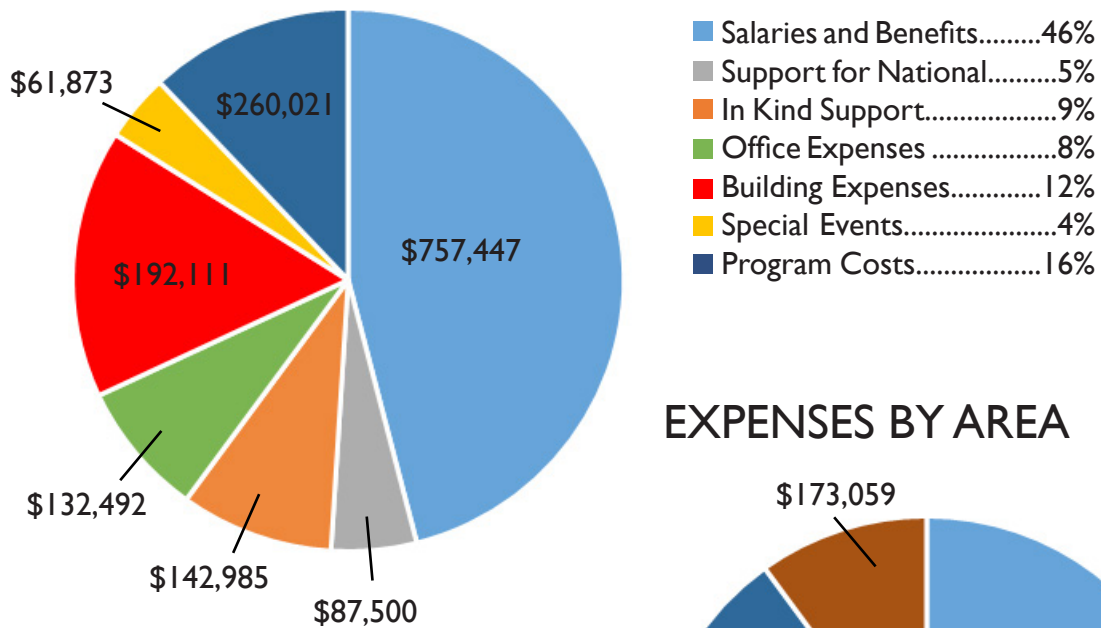
Rita Shapiro, Director of Finance and Operations  
Naomi Skop Richter, Director of Community Programs  
Sarah Waldbott, Director of Development  
Aviva Zadoff, Director of Advocacy and Volunteer Engagement  
Sarah Burstein, Development and Communications Associate  
Denise Paradiso, Program Assistant  
Letitia Maun, Social Worker  
Louie Nazario, Cook

# BY THE NUMBERS

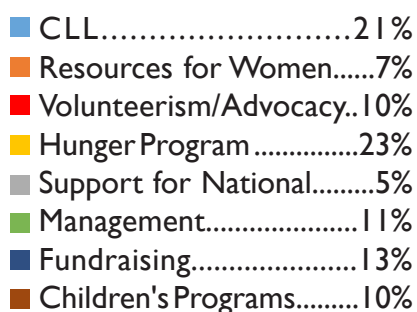
## INCOME



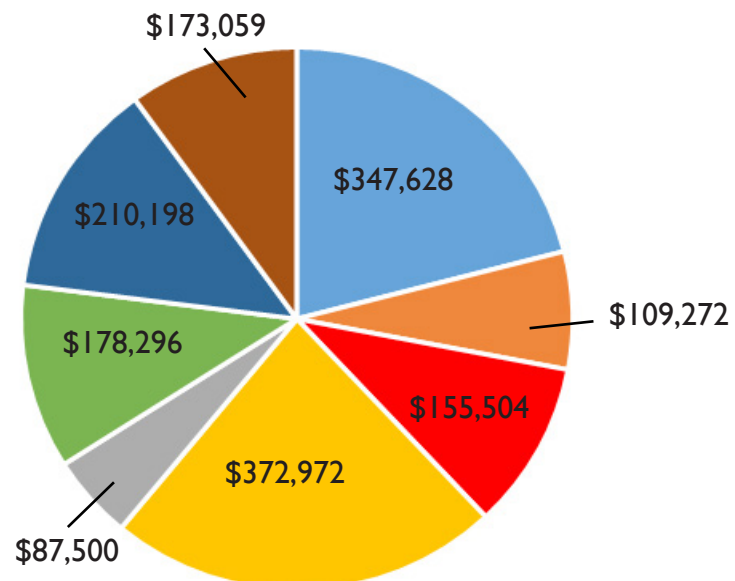
## EXPENSES BY FUNCTION



**TOTAL EXPENSES:**  
**\$1,634,429**



## EXPENSES BY AREA







## Our Supporters

### \$15,000 and up

Valerie Cooke  
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 Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz  
 Julian Wells

The Estate of Laura Zinn

### \$5,000 to \$9,999

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 Bette Baum  
 Judith Garson  
 David Gussack  
 Gail Hessel  
 Gail Hochman  
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 Samantha Knowlton  
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 The Estate of Esther Singer  
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 Michele Teitelbaum  
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 Atlantic Philanthropies Director/  
 Employee Designated Gift Fund  
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The Bella Spewack Article Fifth Trust  
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 Thomas Hughes  
 Brian Hull  
 Laurence Hyman  
 Ben Indek  
 Jewish Community Youth Foundation  
 Lynn Judell  
 Joel Kassimir  
 Marina Kaufman  
 Vera Kohn  
 Lynette Lager  
 Debra Larsen  
 Kenneth Lench  
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Helaine Lerner  
 Lewis & Moulin Family Fund  
 Janice Linzer  
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 Community House of  
 Bensonhurst  
 McConnell Valdes LLC  
 John McGrath  
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 Daria Myers & Mitchell Schrage  
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 James Neu  
 Carol Nulman  
 Lindsay Ornstein  
 Otto Family Advised Fund  
 Lori Perlow  
 Joseph Pollaci  
 Reussi Capital LLC  
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 Michael Rubenstein  
 Stella Sayles  
 Ileen Schoenfeld  
 Elana Sigall  
 Gail Simmons  
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 Matthew Stern  
 Pamela Takiff  
 Shari Teitelbaum  
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Eric Wiesen  
Jo-Anne Williams  
WME  
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**\$500 to \$999**

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Estelle Beckson  
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Galina Breslav  
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Jacobson LLP  
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Rachel George  
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Morgan Gorospe  
Stacey Grill Kopp  
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Leslie Harwood  
The Hebrew Home Foundation  
Stephen Henry  
Laurie Hutner  
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Leonard Karp  
Natalie Katz  
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Jean Krosner  
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Mario Platero  
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Patrick Robinson  
Roberta Ross  
Linda Sanders  
Dara Schaefer  
Lynne Schell  
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Adam Schwartz  
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Elaine Thomas  
Lindsay Tomenson  
Jan & Bruce Tranen  
Ellen Ullman  
Vicki Miles Weiner  
Charles Winnick  
Hillary Zilz  
Lawrence Zweifach

**\$250 to \$499**

American Express Foundation  
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Martin Balsam  
Ellen Bender  
Chelsie Biegel  
David Brause  
Rita Braver & Robert Barnett  
Lauren Brent  
Joan Bronk  
Catherine & David Budd  
Jenny Carchman  
Anne Carroll  
Elizabeth Chandler  
Cassandra Clark  
Jodi Cohen  
Stephen Cohen  
Lori Cohen & Christopher Rothko  
Sybil Cotler  
Frank Cuccio  
Culbert & Stenson  
Hillary Darnell  
Katherine Davisson  
Joseph Deutsch  
Shirley & Leon Dinitz  
Gillian Eddins  
Susan Emanuel  
Steven & Sandra Felderstein  
Dean Feldman  
Robert Finkel  
Marsha & Richard Frances  
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Kathia Gamba  
Alen Gershkovich  
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Melissa Kotcher  
Beth Lauren  
Vicki Lepage  
Katherine Lerker

Joshua Levine  
Ruth & Mitchel Levine  
Paul Lockwood  
Colleen Mahoney  
Gary Mandel  
Audrey Marquardt  
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Talia Metson  
Andrew Meyers  
Jennie Miller  
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Jake Nathan  
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Rich Orloff  
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Adam Stoltz  
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Annette Tomarazzo  
Jonathan Tootell  
Harry Walters  
Elaine Weiss  
Wendy Wilshin  
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**\$100 to \$249**

Karen & William Aarons  
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Lynn Abraham  
Eileen Adler  
Eleanor Allen  
Anonymous  
Michael Bagalman  
Marilyn Bakun  
Margo Barish  
Beit Rabban Day School  
The Benevity Community Impact  
Fund  
Susie Ben-Moshe  
Laura Berger  
Sandy Berstein  
Michael Berman  
Ethel Bernard  
Alex Bernstein  
Christina Bernstein  
Malcolm Bersohn  
Francine Beyer  
Rachel & Martin Bialer  
Josh Bider  
Bernice Boltax  
Maia Bookoff  
Pamela Bowman  
Joshua Bratspies  
Jay Brodsky  
Marion Buchbinder  
Andrew Ceresny

Grace Chandler  
Cheryl Chang  
Nancy Charnas  
Brian Cohen  
Victoria Cook  
Mina Crasson  
Helen Cristofalo  
Renate Crollini  
Gail Daitch  
Jill Danenberg  
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