



Jewish Federation of Lincoln

Report from the Strategic Planning Discussion Groups

The Board of the Jewish Federation requested input from our donors on a range of matters including the mission and priorities for allocation of resources. A summary of the results is as follows:

- Most people believe that the existing mission as stated in the bylaws was fine and there were no revisions needed.
- Discussions and survey input regarding allocations of donation indicated a strong preference for supporting the Jewish youth activities, especially the community school.
- The highest average score lent support for the United Jewish Communities (UJC) to be distributed in Israel and around the world.
- The great schism in the Lincoln Jewish community involves the percent of allocation dollars to be sent to UJC versus the percent to be focused on local community growth and development. Additional funding recipients include family emergency relief, local Jewish agencies in Lincoln and Omaha, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, UJC, the Lincoln Jewish Community School and Youth camp-ships and other youth group activity support.

Members of the community reported being appreciative of the opportunity to provide direct input. Several suggestions were clearly communicated:

1. Donors want to be kept informed of the Federation activities and the UJC distribution of funds more frequently. Most of us agreed that depending on the annual meeting to provide reports for the year wasn't as effective as we'd hoped. This quarterly newsletter, and the Federation information in the SST and Tifereth Israel bulletins will hopefully give our donors the desired information in a timely manner.
2. Community members wanted to see more programs locally for Jews of all ages. Suggestions included bringing in a Scholar in Residence, artists using a variety of media and performances focusing on Judaic music and culture.

One participant noted, "Supporting the Jewish community through the Federation is one of the most important things I do." The Federation has a big challenge in maintaining such faith and appreciation, balancing the different needs and interests of its members and at the same time, keeping up with the changes in our local and larger community. If you would like a copy of the survey results, please visit our website or contact the Temple or Synagogue office.

Super Sunday- June 29th

Your Federation representative may be contacting you on or around Sunday, June 29th for your annual pledge. Please feel free to ask your caller any questions you may have, and know how much your donation is appreciated. A special note of thanks to our callers, who volunteer their time and skill to help our community reach its campaign goal!



Jewish Press Subscription

Did you know that all members of the Federation who donate a minimum amount receive the Jewish Press? Each subscription is \$33.00. Last year, the Federation of Lincoln paid \$5,400.00 to cover the cost of member subscriptions. The Jewish Press is a great way to stay informed of local and regional events, and we are delighted to help bring this to your door. However, if you prefer not to receive the Jewish Press, please notify Jennifer Rosenblatt at 423.8569 and we will discontinue your subscription next year.



Federation Shabbat

On June 6, the Federation hosted the annual Shabbat evening. The service was led by Rabbi Immanuel and Nancy Coren assisted by Elaine Evnen, Jenifer Rosenblatt, Sarah Kelen, Marcia Kushner, Jaine Evnen Merliss and Eleanor Kirkland.

Beth Seldin Dotan from the Holocaust Education Committee of the ADL attended the evening and gave a talk on the many positive impacts the ADL has had locally and nationally. Beth spoke about the great programs that have been implemented in Nebraska to further Holocaust education in the elementary, middle and high schools. Beth Dotan also worked with our teachers in the Lincoln Jewish Community School to train them in age appropriate Holocaust curricula, and recognized the success of our recent program "Kites and Dreams."

UJC Update

- Recently, the UJC Budget and Financial Committee approved a fiscal 2008-2009 budget of 37 million dollars. These funds, down from 46 million at the time of the merger, are used for education, leadership and community development. UJC President and CEO Howard Reiger reports "whether responding to crisis in Israel, providing disaster relief or supporting federations' long term goals, we are entering a new phase in which we can make an even bigger impact.
- The Israel Emergency Campaign (IEC) reported allocations for 2008 appropriating 28% for war emergencies, 6% to Vulnerable Populations and Immigrants, 8% to Sderot and surrounding regions. The UJC provided 16.5 million in assistance to Sderot and has pledged 13.6 million more. Additional allocations by the IEC include advocacy initiatives, long term education needs and post traumatic intervention.
- The UJC Network communities, including the Jewish Federation of Lincoln, have launched a flood relief effort for the communities in Cedar Rapids, Iowa City and Waterloo, Iowa. Additional states receiving funds following tornado damage include Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Mississippi and Wisconsin. The UJC collaborates efforts with Jewish Family Services and Jewish Community Centers serving those areas.

These are a few examples of where your UJC and Federation dollars are going. Thank you for investing in our Jewish Community locally, regionally and around the world, this is a beautiful opportunity to fulfill the privilege of Tikkun Olam (repairing the world), Tzedakah (pursuing justice) and Klal Yisrael (taking responsibility one for the other).

Jewish Federation of Lincoln
P.O. Box 67218
Lincoln, Nebraska 68506

Jaine Merliss, President
Elaine Evnen, Treasurer
Jennifer Rosenblatt, Secretary
Sarah Kelen, Campaign Chair
David Feingold, Youth Scholarship Chair

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Permit 494
Lincoln, NE