

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



JBI INTERNATIONAL

FOUNDED IN 1931 AS THE
JEWISH BRAILLE INSTITUTE



Connecting Blind and
Visually Impaired Individuals
to the Jewish World

CO-CHAIRS' LETTER



Dear Friends,

We want to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all of JBI's supporters, partners, volunteers, staff, and other friends. With your dedicated assistance in 2021, JBI has continued to cope with and address many of the challenges of this frequently changing and uncharted landscape.

JBI's commitment to blind, visually impaired and physically handicapped members of the community—in the U.S. and worldwide—remains unabated. We know that many of our library patrons, especially visually impaired older adults, remain more isolated than ever. For them, JBI's free books, periodicals, liturgical texts, and cultural programs are a lifeline. We are equally dedicated to providing personalized educational and religious materials that children who are blind or visually impaired request so that they can learn alongside their peers, become Bar/Bat Mitzvah and participate in communal life.

As we settle in to a new "post-pandemic normal," we must look ahead and focus on how we can better serve our blind, visually impaired and reading disabled library patrons now and into the future. Regardless of new technologies, changing reading tastes, and the evolution of the Jewish community, JBI continues to adapt so that we will be there for anyone who wants assistance, anywhere in the United States and abroad.

In January of 2022, JBI's longtime and devoted President and CEO, Dr. Ellen Isler, passed away suddenly. Ellen led JBI for the past two decades with intelligence, wisdom, and heart. We have dedicated the JBI Voices periodical, a bi-monthly compendium of articles from a wide variety of Jewish and secular news outlets, in her honor and memory. We will continue to miss her.

We are fortunate to have Livia Thompson, JBI's Interim President, guiding JBI through this time of change. Everything that we are doing, from actively recruiting new volunteers and encouraging the return of more existing volunteers, to reviewing new production technology and delivery platforms, and expanding our outreach to serve more people in need, is based on our passion and devotion to our patrons. JBI is committed to working hard to ensure that we are THE foremost resource for free Jewish-interest materials in accessible format for visually impaired, blind and reading disabled individuals of all ages, denominations and backgrounds.

Thank you for your support and for your caring.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven P. Polivy".

Steven P. Polivy, Co-Chair of the Board

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan L. Schlechter".

Susan L. Schlechter, Co-Chair of the Board

WORDS OF THANKS TO JBI

My father was a proud Jew. He and my mother decided that I would celebrate my Bar Mitzvah just like my older brother. I had the Braille text from JBI, and the “trope” from my Hebrew School Principal’s recording... Where would I be without JBI? At worst, a spiritually wandering Jew... At best, perhaps a marginally affiliated Jew whose attachment might not have lasted more than a generation. JBI is part of the many blessings G-d has bestowed on me, beyond count. – Michael, New York City



My 97 year old grandmother, Miriam, would like me to thank you for the large print Haggadah which she used for the seders. It is very much appreciated! --Liz, U.K.

Thank you so much for the critically important work that you do. You are not simply sending books to patrons, you are fundamentally changing how they are able to experience life. The books are so important to my grandmother. It is her lifeline, her mental stimulation and they provide her with tremendous enjoyment. – Gail, Chicago

Every year I look forward to receiving your Braille Jewish calendar. Several years ago I received from JBI the Braille Chumash and Haftarah Books which I use when I attend services at my synagogue. Thank you for all that you do. -- Frances, British Columbia

I’m 91 years old. JBI was a blessing to me for all the 20 years I’ve been a member. Now after two cornea transplant surgeries your service is even more valuable to me. Thank you for the job you are doing” – Iris, California

Your provision of Books on Tape to my mother has been an invaluable resource and lifeline to her. Her cognitive abilities are sharp as a tack. She is no longer able to read newspapers, magazines or books, nor can she manage the TV, computer or iPad. She is limited to the phone calls, walks, in person conversation, radio and Books on Tape. Her particular interest is Adult Nonfiction, and even more particularly -- Jewish Adult Nonfiction. It is for that reason that our family so appreciates your organization and its services. Your librarians are expeditiously responsive to specific requests. For all of this, we are grateful. - Miriam, Brookline, MA

My son was very happy to use the Large Print Haggadah--he felt special and that he was a part of the celebration. – Marcie, New York

If you or a loved one could benefit from JBI’s services, please call 1-800-433-1531 or visit www.jbilibrary.org. JBI’s knowledgeable librarians will be happy to help.

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2021 HIGHLIGHTS

⌘ We fulfilled requests from patrons worldwide—8,300 Audio and Large Print circulating books, 12,000 periodicals and cultural programs and just under 4,100 Large Print, Braille and Audio liturgical and life cycle publications were circulated, all free of charge and delivered to our patrons’ doorsteps.

⌘ Through our annual “Haggadah Outreach Campaign,” 1,350 visually impaired individuals who would otherwise have been unable to participate in a Seder received a free Large Print or Braille Haggadah (in various languages and for different denominations). These new patrons were contacted by our library team to encourage them to take advantage of our full range of offerings. Our goal is to promote the widest use of our free services by all who can benefit

⌘ JBI converted 100 analog Talking Book titles from its archive to digital format, bringing the number of Digital Talking Books to over 4,600.

⌘ JBI produced customized Braille, Audio, or Large Print educational materials for every blind and visually impaired student who turned to us. These included Bar and Bat Mitzvah preparation materials and anything else related to participation in Jewish life and learning. Last year, as always, the variety of requests was extremely wide-ranging, and our staff worked diligently to make sure that each book was ready for a child when he or she needed it.

⌘ We awarded five exceptional college and graduate students with The Nathan L. and Susan K. Wolfson Scholarships.

⌘ We provided personalized services to our patrons, with our librarians speaking with patrons and their family members daily on the phone to make sure that we are meeting their particular needs.

köszönöm gracias СПАСИБО merci multumesc תודה רבה שיינעם דאנק ۞ dziękuję

JBI INTERNATIONAL

(ESTABLISHED AS JEWISH BRAILLE INSTITUTE OF AMERICA)

Condensed Statement of Activities (Year ended December 31, 2021)

SUPPORT AND REVENUE	2021
Contributions and grants	1,903,830
Legacies & bequests	293,552
Investment activity	1,835,893
Other revenue and support	253,471
Total Support and Revenue	4,286,746
EXPENSES	
Program services:	
Libraries and library development services	1,322,841
Educational and cultural programs	168,245
JBI periodicals	312,283
Outreach to Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union	95,126
Israeli assistance program	373,992
Outreach and Library recruitment	743,726
Total Program Services	3,016,213
Management and general	270,014
Fundraising	374,019
Total Expenses	3,660,246
Change in Net Assets	626,500

Condensed Balance Sheet (Year ended December 31, 2021)

ASSETS	2021
Cash and cash equivalents	1,516,766
Investments	17,402,537
Contributions receivable	43,597
Property and equipment, net	5,443,458
Other assets	1,917,863
Total Assets	26,324,221
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
LIABILITIES:	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	125,330
Other liabilities	465,561
Total Liabilities	590,891
NET ASSETS:	
Without Donor Restrictions	
General operating	1,118,994
Board designated reserve	280,200
Board designated endowment	8,054,963
Investment in Property and equipment, net	484,777
Total Without Donor Restrictions	9,938,934
With Donor Restrictions	
Purpose restricted	2,795,404
Beneficial interest in Trusts and Perpetual Trusts	1,648,068
Endowment	6,392,243
Investment in Property and equipment, net	4,958,681
Total Net Assets	25,733,330
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	26,324,221

JBI Programs

LIBRARIES AND LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

- ⌘ Circulating library of more than 13,000 Talking Books as well as several thousand Large Print and Braille titles
- ⌘ Customized educational materials for students
- ⌘ Special publications and liturgical materials for all denominations
- ⌘ Volunteer recording studio program
- ⌘ Materials available in 9 languages distributed globally
- ⌘ Personalized services to our patrons

OUTREACH TO THOSE IN NEED

- ⌘ Reaching out to blind, visually impaired, reading disabled and physically handicapped individuals through schools, libraries, JCC's, senior centers, social service agencies, advertisements, etc.
- ⌘ Educating the community at-large about JBI's free and unique services
- ⌘ Collaborations with other organizations serving similar populations to maximize impact

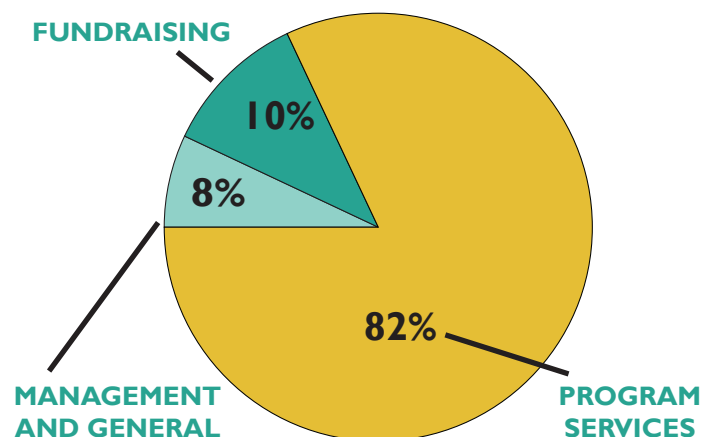
JBI PERIODICALS SERIES AND EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL PROGRAMS

- ⌘ Audio concert, drama and lecture series
- ⌘ *JBI Voices* and *Jewish Braille Review*--JBI's own bi-monthly anthology of articles drawn from a wide variety of publications, (*Jerusalem Report*, *Commentary*, *Moment*, *Tikkun*, *Hadassah*, and many others), with a separate and distinct Russian-language version

ISRAEL PROGRAM

- ⌘ The JBI Low Vision Clinic (including a dedicated Children's Clinic) and Mobile Screening Program (Tel-Aviv)
- ⌘ JBI sponsored recording studios at the Central Library for the Blind in Israel

FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES



JBI MISSION STATEMENT

JBI International, founded in 1931 as The Jewish Braille Institute, seeks to empower blind, visually impaired and reading disabled individuals to participate fully in educational, cultural and communal life by providing free access to works of Jewish and general interest through its Braille, Large Print and Audio Libraries. Our global programs in many languages serve people of all ages and backgrounds.

THE JBI LIBRARY

JBI's global library offers Jewish and general interest materials – fiction, nonfiction, periodicals, cultural and liturgical materials – in accessible formats in English, Russian, Yiddish, Spanish, Hebrew, Hungarian, Romanian and Polish. We serve readers on six continents.

JEWISH EDUCATION & JEWISH CONTINUITY

JBI enables blind, visually impaired and reading disabled children to obtain a Jewish education alongside their peers by providing customized educational materials in Braille, Large Print and Audio. The JBI Library also helps adults blind from birth as well as those who have become visually impaired later in life to savor the joys of reading and lifelong learning.

ISRAEL PROGRAM

In 1983, JBI established and has since continued to support the premier Low Vision Clinic in Israel, located at the Sourasky Medical Center in Tel Aviv. The Clinic seeks to maximize the residual vision of those with severe impairment, whether it be the result of congenital disease, aging or injury.

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