



### CELEBRATING SILVER LININGS

"I am inspired by our community's generosity during these challenging times and that we strive to live by the words of our sacred tradition, 'Kol Yisrael arevim zeh la-zeh.' We are all responsible for one another."

- Annie Glickman



### CELEBRATING SILVER LININGS

"New opportunities to practice humility and gratitude and experiencing the blessings of meaningful relationships."

- Irv Robinson

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"Our silver lining is our grandson, Jonah Stein! He had a timely Bar Mitzvah project idea and ran with it. Jonah and his family have worked diligently through the pandemic, beading and selling MASKerAIDs (lanyards to hold face masks), with all the proceeds going to the JFS Food Pantry. Jonah has raised over \$20,000 and we are so proud of his dedication to stick with the project helping so many."

- Esther Stein





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"The B'nai Tzedek Youth Council worked hard this year, creating a virtual event, online meetings, and delivering invites. Although it was difficult, I had fun hanging out with my friends, and giving people an opportunity to donate to good causes. It was both challenging and fun, so I can't wait to do it again next year!"

- Ben Fine

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"Countless individuals and organizations within Greater Kansas City were (and continue to be) impacted by the negative implications of the pandemic. Through quick action, the J-LEAD program pivoted to a virtual format this year. We maximized the impact of our contributions by supporting organizations that had critical needs during the pandemic. While our members were not able to meet in person this year (as we normally do), we were able to adapt during these unprecedented times and fulfill the mission of our great program and the mitzvah of tzedakah."

- Kris Zeid

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"JCF has been a great resource for us as we reviewed and revised our charitable giving plans. Their expertise and knowledge helped clarify the work done by our attorney and helped us formulate our long-term plan. We are confident that JCF will fulfill our wishes and continue to support community institutions important to us."

- Rachel Krantz & Edward Goldstein

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“For me, the Silver Lining of 2020 has been being able to attend so many outstanding programs without having to travel. The JCF annual meeting is a perfect example. I can fete the accomplishments of many people I respect and admire!”

- Cynthia Gensheimer



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“When the pandemic hit, I started calling my 84-year-old aunt in Austin, TX once a week. This hour-long ritual has become extremely important to both of us, as we share current news and stories about her childhood in Marfa, TX and mine in Southern California. We have both agreed we will continue even after the pandemic is over!”

- Martha Gershun

### CELEBRATING SILVER LININGS

“We have found that the pandemic has brought us closer to friends and family rather than separated us. It is different certainly, but we have connected with more family and friends more often than before. Partly it is time and partly it is technology, but mostly it is the need to connect while you are isolated at home. We have connected with old college and high school friends and family we haven’t seen for years. We do a daily Zoom call with one of our sons who we used to talk to once or twice a month. We have a regular Shabbat Zoom call with 5 couples and do Zoom dinners with several other groups. And the ability to attend Board meetings remotely is a pleasure. Since we can’t travel, our budget finally balances. It has been fun and rewarding.”

- Gail & Gary Weinberg







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“Zooming and FaceTiming with family in other cities. Playing games online with family and friends all around the country.”

- Judy Jacks Berman

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### CELEBRATING SILVER LININGS

“In 2020, Congregation Beth Torah came together: around the (virtual) table, where we learned from each other and from our texts; in our (virtual) sanctuary, where we embraced our tradition and embraced one another; from our couches, where we reconnected with friends and connected with all fellow Beth Torah members; and at Beth Torah, where we committed

ourselves to tikkun olam. May all of us go from strength to strength, from 2020 to 2021, with a renewed commitment to our beloved Kansas City Jewish community.”

- Aviva Symons, *Congregation Beth Torah*

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“My first career was teaching elementary school in the Shawnee Mission School District. One of my former third grade students whom I hadn’t seen in 40+ years was in town for a death in her family and ended up staying here with her family for several months rather than traveling home to Maryland. She reached out to me, and we have shared driveway chats at my home and become dear friends as adults.”

- Marian Kaplan

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“In a challenging year for our community, our country and the entire world, Jewish Federation celebrates the silver lining that our community dug deep and provided extra generosity—as it often has during difficult times—to ensure we could care for the most vulnerable and, at the same time, continue to engage families, build community, and strengthen Jewish education and identity. This extra generosity allowed critical support of older adults, those who are food insecure, and those struggling with mental health challenges and/or financial crises.”

- Derek Gale, *Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City*

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“A silver lining at KU Hillel is we’ve been able to support our students throughout these turbulent times by creating new virtual programs, online therapy appointments with JFS, and Shabbat and holiday kits delivered with virtual celebrations — all so our students can bring Hillel into their homes.”

- Suzy Sostrin, *KU Hillel*

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## CELEBRATING SILVER LININGS

“I didn’t think my 17+ year-old dog was going to make it through the spring, but since I was home with her almost all of the time since mid-March, we were able to have many more months of quality time together.”

- Linda Lyon

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## CELEBRATING SILVER LININGS

“Spending time with our adult children who have been able to come back home for extended visits - and at the same time!!!! All of us are very grateful to have jobs that can be done remotely.”

- Lauren Mattleman Hoopes

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## CELEBRATING SILVER LININGS

“At its core, Midwest Center for Holocaust Education is about providing education. When 2020 forced us to stop in-person programming, it gave us the tools to become truly regional in our outreach. Our



silver lining is reaching record numbers of people throughout the Midwest with the lessons of the Holocaust and having the capacity to maintain that outreach even as we hope to return to in-person programming in 2021.”

- Jessica Rockhold, *Midwest Center for Holocaust Education*

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“Time to take multiple online classes through The Florence Melton Adult Education program.”

- Susie Goldsmith

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## CELEBRATING SILVER LININGS

“A positive thing to come out of this year has been the opportunity to slow life down a little and appreciate little things. Walks outside, connecting with family and friends more often. The reboot was needed to prioritize our lives again.”

- Jeff Mallin

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"Our son, daughter-in-law and 15 month-old grandson moved from Brooklyn to Leawood."

- Shanny Morgenstern



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"Five months living with my adult-ish daughters. Getting to know them better as adults. Lots of new recipes. And lots of long walks."

- Amy Shapiro

### CELEBRATING SILVER LININGS

"The joy of adding our seventh grandchild to the family and, most of all, the resilience that surrounds us."

- Marilyn Berenbom



### CELEBRATING SILVER LININGS

"We've had a bonus year with our daughter, who took a semester off from college. Our nephew was born on March 24th and we've enjoyed 'meeting' him and watching him grow via Facebook Portal."

- Kurt Kavanaugh



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"More time at home with my family and less time at extra-curricular activities."

- David Sosland