

THE 2004 MAIN REPORT

OF THE TWIN CITIES JEWISH POPULATION STUDY



**MINNEAPOLIS JEWISH FEDERATION
AND
UNITED JEWISH FUND AND COUNCIL OF ST. PAUL**

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2004 TWIN CITIES JEWISH POPULATION STUDY

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September 2, 2005

On behalf of the Minneapolis Jewish Federation, we are pleased to present to you the Main Report of the 2004 Twin Cities Jewish Population Study. This study could not have been completed without the enormously generous support of the Harry Kay Charitable Foundation, and we are grateful for their commitment to ensuring our community's strength and vitality now and in the future.

In releasing these results to the community, we are especially indebted to Judy Gavisser, who, together with Scott Ross (St. Paul), chaired the 2004 Twin Cities Population Study Committee. Judy's leadership, knowledge, and enthusiasm ensured that our Federation, and the entire Minneapolis Jewish community, were engaged in the study process, and we appreciate the enormous time and effort she devoted to ensuring that the results of this study would be useful to, and utilized by, our community for years to come.

In conducting this groundbreaking study, the Minneapolis Jewish Federation and its partner, the United Jewish Fund and Council of St. Paul, engaged consultant Ira M. Sheskin, Ph.D. Ira serves as the Director of the Jewish Demography Project of the Sue and Leonard Miller Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies at the University of Miami, and is an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography and Regional Studies at the University of Miami. Ira has served as the lead consultant for 31 Jewish community studies and was significantly involved with the 1990 and 2000-01 National Jewish Population Surveys. His experience and expertise were invaluable to us in every stage of this process, and we have great confidence in the study findings.

We look forward to using the results of the 2004 Twin Cities Jewish Population Study in planning efforts that will have a significant impact on our community over the years to come. The Federation has recently launched a major planning initiative, chaired by Beth Kieffer Leonard, which will engage synagogues, agencies, and individuals across the community in setting goals and developing strategies to address key themes that emerge from the study. Additionally, the Federation is exploring ways to reorganize itself internally to better plan for community needs, cultivate diverse resource streams, and communicate a full picture of the important work that we do locally and overseas. There will be many additional opportunities for community engagement over the next six months as this planning process further evolves.

We are proud of the successful completion of this study and look forward to sharing its findings with the community. We are confident that this data will be instrumental in helping the Federation, agencies, and synagogues work together to touch Jewish lives and build Jewish community here in Minneapolis, in Israel, and around the world.

Best regards,

Tom Sanders
President

Joshua M. Fogelson
Executive Director



September 2, 2005

The United Jewish Fund and Council is pleased to present to you the Main Report of the recently completed Twin Cities Jewish Population Study. The UJFC is currently engaged in an analysis process that will lead to an action plan to implement the key results of the study. We expect to conclude this process by late fall or early winter.

The UJFC thanks the Harry Kay Charitable Foundation for its generous support in funding the study. We are also very thankful to Scott Ross and Judy Gavisser, Population Study Committee co-chairs, for their leadership and vision during this long and involved process. Finally, we acknowledge the indispensable role of Ira M. Sheskin, Ph.D., Director of the Jewish Demography Project of the Sue and Leonard Miller Center for Contemporary Judaic studies, and Associate Professor in the Department of Geography and Regional Studies at the University of Miami. Ira has served as the lead consultant for 31 Jewish community studies, and he was significantly involved in the 1990 and 2000 National Jewish Population Surveys.

We are very confident that this study will provide our community, agencies and synagogues with significant planning information to enhance services and facilities in the St. Paul area Jewish community over the next five to ten years.

Eli Skora

Eli Skora
Executive Director

Alan Milavetz

Alan Milavetz
President

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Joshua Fogelson, Executive Director of the Minneapolis Jewish Federation, provided overall direction for the project. Gil Mann, President of the Minneapolis Jewish Federation, 2002-2004, constantly challenged me to think in new ways, resulting in a number of interesting questions being added to the questionnaire.

For St. Paul: The author wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Eli Skora, Executive Director of the United Jewish Fund and Council of St. Paul, and his staff, who provided valuable assistance and support.

My wife, Karen Tina Sheskin, M.S.Ed. (Community Counseling), deserves recognition for her assistance in all stages of the project. A special thanks goes to Sarah Markowitz, who proofread the questionnaire and the Summary reports and made numerous analytical suggestions that have led to many improvements in the reports. Joshua Sheskin provided valuable assistance as the Assistant Field Supervisor during the telephone interviewing. Our newest team member, Roberta Pakowitz, helped in numerous ways.

L'dor V'dor
From Generation to Generation

Ira M. Sheskin, Ph.D.

September 2005
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A special thank you to our interviewing team for their dedicated efforts and to all 1,240 respondents for agreeing to be interviewed.

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