DEAR FRIENDS,

Thank you for being part of Pearlstone! With gratitude and pride we celebrate another year of incredible growth and transformation:

• Over 20,000 participants impacted through immersive retreats, dynamic outdoor education, organic farming and community sustainability.

• Recognition and continuing investment from national Jewish leaders: Slingshot, the Jim Joseph Foundation, the Leichtag Foundation and Project Accelerate all support our cutting-edge Jewish Outdoor Food and Environmental Education (JOFEE) programming.

• A 180-acre visionary Campus Master Plan underway, with exciting transformation of our landscape with U-pick berries, beautiful meadows and a 1,800-seat amphitheater in progress.

• $1.5 million in facility enhancements, including renovated lodge rooms and lounges, outstanding energy efficiency and USDA Certified Organic farm-to-table cuisine.

• Hundreds of Jewish Baltimoreans making Pearlstone their home for our sold-out signature programs — Family Camp, Family Farm Festivals, Sukkot, Pesach and Shavuot celebrations.

• Tiyul Adventure Year and Tiyul Adventure Camp engage and inspire youth and families year-round, complementing our outstanding partnerships through Hebrew School on the Farm and Baltimore City school programs.

• Community Sustainability is in full swing with environmental education, action and advocacy that impact and change our campus, The Associated system and our region.

The future at Pearlstone could not be brighter as each year brings stronger business success, fresh innovation and authentic Jewish relevance. We are building an inclusive community that knows, believes and acts in ways inspired by Living Judaism — the interconnectedness of Jewish wisdom and care for the earth. Pearlstone is a new kind of institution, enabling new modes of Jewish expression and blazing new trails in Jewish life!

All of this is possible because of our partnership with The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore. Their support and guidance are essential, and it is our strength as a community that enables our collective success. We could not be prouder of our agency, its professional staff and lay leadership, and the great work that we all do together.

Thank you for supporting Pearlstone as we continue on this exciting journey.

Sh’hecheianu V’kiemanu V’Higianu Lazman Hazeh — How blessed we are to live, to thrive and to have arrived at this exhilarating moment in time.

B’Shalom,

Rachel Steinberg Warschawski, Outgoing Board Chair
Aaron Max, Incoming Board Chair
Jakir Manela, Executive Director
**OUR FOOD ETHIC**

It is our honor to nourish our guests in body, mind and soul.

Pearlstone food honors the bounty of our seasons, the tradition of our ancestors and the integrity of sustainable agriculture.

We strive to provide consciously outsourced, wholesome, delicious food inspired by crops grown on our farm and prepared with love.

We always aim to improve and we are proud to share our food journey with you.

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**OUR FOOD PRINCIPLES**

**Kashrut** – Core to everything we do, we will always prioritize kashrut and work with our Mashgichim and the Orthodox Union to maintain a 100% kosher kitchen and dining room.

**Community** – Our kosher food is accessible to the entire Jewish community and beyond. Our food is served in a communal manner, and our chefs introduce at least one meal each day to our dining hall guests as an educational opportunity in order to build relationships and gratitude for the earth’s bounty. We also cultivate staff community through monthly gatherings and seasonal appreciation events.

**Local** – We support our local food economy and local farmers, measuring and minimizing the energy and climate impact of transporting food across the country and globe. We are removing exotic, high-carbon-footprint items from our standard offerings, so that our weekly menus highlight freshly-harvested produce from our farm and other local farms, when possible.

**Sustainable** – We strive to serve nutritious, whole foods that are environmentally sound, economically efficient and socially responsible. We prioritize our organic farm produce, sustainably raised/caught fish, grass-fed beef, pasture-raised chicken and animal welfare overall. We strive to provide one percent of our eggs from our own heritage chickens, and we reduce meat meals to once a day unless otherwise requested. We also minimize and measure our waste through portion control and composting.
PEARLSTONE CENTER THEORY OF CHANGE

LONG TERM GOAL
A critical mass of Baltimore Jews who know, believe and act in ways that are inspired by Living Judaism

PROGRAM
With national funding support from the Jewish Community Farm Field Building Initiative, this year our board and staff worked together with a consultant to define our Theory of Change. Through hours of strategic dialogue, we identified the big change (long term outcome) that we want to create in the world, and how we want to get there with key target audiences — Youth & Families, Young Adults, and Leaders & Influencers. This Theory of Change then informed a new Evaluation Plan that focuses on both the short and long-term impacts of our programming.

LIVING JUDAISM
Pearlstone programs are unique and powerful because they are grounded in Living Judaism — the living, breathing, vibrant experience of the interconnectedness between people and planet, Judaism and sustainability, learning and doing. Living Judaism at Pearlstone has two primary dimensions. First, it is the Jewish inspiration we create through connection with the natural environment. Second, it is the environmental inspiration we create through connection with the Jewish tradition. Our work is rooted in the natural cycles embedded in the Jewish calendar, Jewish ethics and action related to sustainability and justice, and Jewish spirituality. Inspired by Living Judaism, we create immersive transformative experiences that integrate Jewish ritual and wisdom, hands on ecology, and community building and celebration.

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Pearlstone is pleased to have once again been awarded the Hazon Seal of Sustainability, which marks us as a national leader in sustainability among Jewish organizations.

**DOWN ON THE FARM**

Pearlstone maintains its commitment to beyond-organic growing practices. We are proud of our organic farm certification. This year we cultivated and picked our first organic strawberries and were honored to welcome people to join in U-Pick.

This year we dedicated an additional five acres to organic produce production. We tithed more than $8,000 of organic produce in support of our local community—with much of the produce going to the Maryland Food Bank and Westminster Food Rescue.

Pearlstone farm volunteers provided 1,800 hours valued at $44,442—a wonderful investment in our mission.

This spring, fruit trees gifted to Pearlstone through our Gift a Tree Campaign were planted around gentle paths and contemplative spaces on a Sunday afternoon in April. These young trees will grow into an edible “food forest” that will ripen its harvests for visitors to pick and enjoy year after year.

**SUSTAINABILITY**

Pearlstone leads Jewish Baltimore’s efforts to become a more environmentally sustainable community. Our goal is to cultivate Jewish communal culture that deeply values and invests in environmental health and sustainability. We work toward this goal through our educational programming, action and activism and legislative advocacy.

Through the Pearlstone Sustainability Coalition, local community members become leaders in making our Jewish future more sustainable for ourselves and our children.

**ACTION & ACTIVISM**

Pearlstone now has a Green Wellness Team that is working to raise awareness of sustainable practices for guests and staff and introducing new systems throughout our facilities and organizational culture.

Pearlstone administers The Associated’s Green Loan Fund, established in 2010 by an anonymous donor and which has since provided 15 loans totaling more than $500,000 to 14 local Jewish institutions. Green loans support energy conservation through lighting upgrades and renovations to heating and cooling systems, saving institutions more than $186,000 annually.

Pearlstone has partnered with The Associated to create a solar farm that will provide 50 percent of The Associated agencies’ collective electrical demand. This project will be the first of its kind for the North American Jewish community! Unfortunately there is currently a moratorium on solar development in Anne Arundel County (where our solar developer is planning this project), but we plan to move forward as soon as it is lifted.

**ADVOCACY**

In December, Pearlstone empowered local community members to learn more about environmental legislative issues through a new event, “Your Voice. Your Earth. Take Action,” in partnership with the Baltimore Jewish Council, Charm City Tribe and Repair the World. Senator Ben Cardin spoke to an intergenerational group of activists about climate change, and State Delegate (and new Pearlstone board member) Dana Stein previewed environmental issues arising in the 2018 Maryland General Assembly Session.

Join us! The Pearlstone Sustainability Coalition is working together towards a brighter future, and we welcome interested community members to get involved. Contact Joan Plisko at Pearlstone for more information.
The new 180-acre Pearlstone Campus for Living Judaism is the result of an inclusive two-year master planning process, building upon Pearlstone’s success in order to create a groundbreaking venue for Jewish life, learning and community building.

We live in a time when the Jewish community yearns for inspiration, while our broader American society searches for compelling models in sustainability — environmentally, socially, and financially. In this context, the new Pearlstone Campus is a compelling vision for a bright Jewish future. And, as Theodore Herzl said, “if you will it, it is no dream!”

Our Vision

• A low barrier, diverse community-building platform
• Immersive celebrations throughout the Jewish calendar
• Mutually beneficial partnerships across communities
• A beautiful, thriving landscape
• Community U-Pick organic crops
• Restored meadows, forests and wetlands
• Environmental sustainability that embodies and inspires a tikkun olam ethic
• A model of sustainability: ecological, social, financial and spiritual well-being
• Inspiring stories and lifelong memories
• Anchoring hospitality venues, East and West
• One-of-a-kind programmatic opportunities
• Sustainable agriculture, habitat restoration, green building, clustered development
• Integrated campus pattern language, pedestrian connectivity and enhanced flow
• North America’s first Jewish ecovillage
THANK YOU TO OUR STAFF

Pearlstone is a magical place because of the passionate, talented, hardworking professionals who make up our amazing staff community. We are incredibly grateful to you all. Thank you.

Grace Adebogun
Alena Antaniuk
Alaksandr Antaniuk
Marcus Brown
Salle S. D’Alonzo
David Danelle
Perni Dejamette
Shari Donato
Elliott A. Donato
Brandon S. Drake
Kyle Elepols-Stultz
Rachel J. Feldman
Benjamin Katz
Rebecca Lynne
Lenkiewicz
Laura Leventhal
Corey Andrew Link
Mikoz Levan
Rabbi Piachysh
Lichtensten
Sanobar Mamatkulova
Jakir Manela
Liga Mardari
Ghenade Mardari
John Mardari
Galina Mardari
David S. Matiaslav
Gleem M. Madel
Anna Janova Messick
Shari Y. Mink
Joseph T. Murray
Rebecca P. Pauvert

FY2018 Board Members
Rachel Steinberg Warschawski, Chair
Aaron Max, First Vice President
Emili Benad, Second Vice President
Rachel Segal, Treasurer
Ken Schwartz, Secretary
Eli Schlossberg, At-Large

List of Previous Board Chairs
Richard Pearlstone, Founder
Josh Fidler, Founding Chair
Michele Lax
Pacy Oletsky
P. J. Pearlstone

The Board continues to guide the actions and priorities of Pearlstone with wisdom, grace, humor and strength.
Thank you to our supporting foundations and individual donors who believe deeply in our mission and invest our innovative work. Your support makes all of this possible!

The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore
Estelle Aperberg
Baltimore Ashkelon Partnership
Bancroft Foundation
Judy Barakas
Stephanie Baron
Allison/Adam Baumwald
Bearman Foundation
Emile Bendit, M.D.
Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Fund
Blaustein Philanthropic Group
Barbara/Leonard Bloom Fund
Brett Cohen
Gershon/Sandy Eisenberg Foundation
SaraLyn Elkin
Feldman Family Fund
Rachel Feldman
Josh/Genine Macks Fidler
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Grossman Family Fund
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Esther/Richard Hidary
Heidi Hiltz
Hoffberger Foundation for Torah Study
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Joshua Talbon
Lisa Titman
Richard Trosch
Rachel Steinberg Warsawski
Nathan and Jillian Weinberg Family Foundation
Abby Weinstock and Shawn Sefert
Joseph Winkler
Peggy/Fred Wolf Philanthropic Fund
Zimmerman Fund for Children

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS $194,503

OPERATING REVENUE
- Other Income $67,327
- Contributions $133,153
- Grant Revenue $602,961
- Associated Allocation $796,007
- Retreat Center Income $2,537,803
TOTA L REVENUE $4,137,251

OPERATING EXPENSES
- Fundraising $179,218
- General and Administrative $505,185
- Other Program Expenses $968,249
- Retreat Center Expenses $2,290,096
TOTA L EXPENSES $3,942,748

This is a list of donors to Pearlstone as of March 31, 2018.
MISSION
Pearlstone ignites Jewish passion. Our retreat center, farm and programs enable and inspire vibrant Jewish life. Engaging Jewish, faith-based and secular organizations, individuals and families, Pearlstone serves all ages and backgrounds throughout Baltimore, the Chesapeake region and beyond.

Pearlstone Brand Values
We are genuine and open and embrace all with loving warmth.
We create intimate and personal connections that facilitate the interconnectedness of people no matter their background or affiliation.
We help people simplify and focus on the fundamental elements of life.
We connect people to the land so they can understand and value the connection between adam and admah; people and earth.
We bring Jewish values to life, connect to Jewish roots and inspire people to live Jewish values.
We teach through joyous, hands-on-experiences.
We create an environment and programming that fosters spiritual experiences.
We embody, tech and inspire the practice of environmental sustainability.

See you next year!
Tiyul Adventure Day Camp, Week 1
June 18-22, 2018
Tiyul Adventure Day Camp, Week 2
June 25-29, 2018
Family Farm Festival: AMERICANA
July 4, 2018
Family Farm Camp
July 4-8, 2018
Tiyul Adventure Overnight Camp, Week 1
July 23-29, 2018
Tiyul Adventure Overnight Camp, Week 2
July 30-Aug 5, 2018

Sukkot Retreat
September 28-30, 2018
Family Farm Festival: HARVEST
September 30, 2018
Family Farm Festival: TU BiSHVAT
January 20, 2019
Pesach at Pearlstone
April 19-28, 2019
Family Farm Festival: AVIV
April 14, 2019
Shavuot Beit Midrash
June 7-11, 2019
Tiyul Outdoor Adventure: Fall & Spring
10 Sundays, Fall & Spring

PEARLSTONE CENTER
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