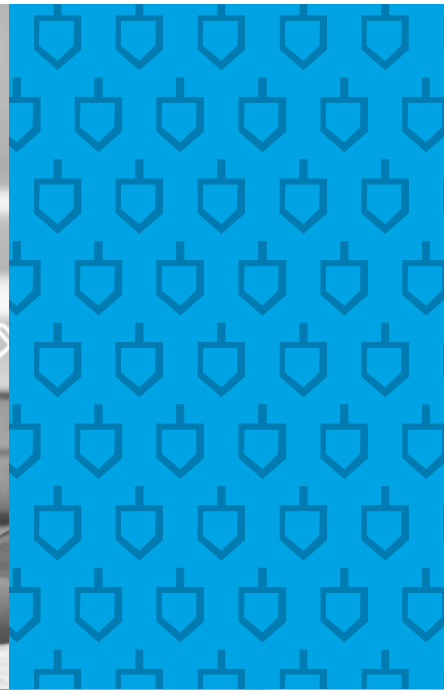


A PUBLICATION OF THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF THE SACRAMENTO REGION

THE VOICE

YOUR SOURCE FOR LOCAL & GLOBAL JEWISH NEWS



ACTION+WISDOM+ LEADERSHIP
= ENDOWMENTS

A decorative graphic featuring a row of nine lit candles with yellow flames. Below the candles is a blue and white patterned border with a repeating diamond and zigzag motif. To the left of the candles are vertical blue and yellow stripes.

WINTER 2018-5779

THE VOICE

a publication of The Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region

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The Jewish Federation

OF THE SACRAMENTO REGION

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

All's Well That Ends Well WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, 1741



As I sit in front of my computer to prepare my article for the VOICE, I can hardly believe that it is going to be my last column. Where has the time gone?

I decided to review my first attempt at writing a column in September of 2016. The title: "To Volunteer is a Gift You Give Yourself." I noted the responses, kind and humorous like, "You are doing what?" "Are you a glutton for punishment?" I thought it was an honor and found out it is exactly that. I was filled with goals and star dust!

My second column, December 2016, brought what I never imagined would be my first success story. That headline was "Relevant or Irrelevant — That is the Question?" A community leader claimed we were irrelevant and this Federation junkie fumed! At my earliest opportunity, I made contact with the young man and we found a friendship through our community interaction. He kept me in the political loop and I kept him informed of our community work. Within a short time, I suggested that he join our board and help cement the future for his children. "Can't, busy, filled plate, well, maybe"... Recently, I got the answer I was looking for. He said 'YES.' I am so proud that this outstanding community leader will bring his experience and "know how" as a new Trustee in 2019.

I cannot find words to express my thanks to past and current leadership of the Jewish Federation. I have been able to stand on your shoulders and bring all that I have learned during my Federation years to fruition for the last 2½ years. With great pleasure, I turn over this amazing job to Deborah Gonzalez and express thanks to her for stepping up when I was ill. She has been a great partner. Our committed and brilliant Board of Trustees has been the wind beneath my sails. Thank you, Willie and your amazing super power staff for bringing your skills and support to help me grow our organization and to Bruce Pomer and the JCRC for their commitment to justice.

However, the best gift of all has been the opportunity to work with both our Jewish community and the greater Sacramento Interfaith community. Sacramento sets the standard for excellence in bringing diverse communities together in understanding and support. I have met extraordinary people that will be friends forever. My life has expanded beyond any expectation that I may have had about my role as the Board President of the Federation.

My heart is filled with love and appreciation. Thank you to our community Rabbis, organization leaders, and each and every person who has shared this journey with me. We told our story, we asked, and you responded. It has been the volunteer job of a lifetime and I enjoyed every minute of it, ups and downs! (I think it is a good thing we have term limits.)

Take a chance next time someone asks you to volunteer. Say YES! You will be amazed how your world will expand.

With gratitude,

Carol Loew

President

president@jewishsac.org



Making a better world takes the right ingredients.

This Chanukah, while you're frying up the latkes, serve something that will make it an even happier holiday for the whole family — especially your global family. Everything you need is within reach. And the recipe is simple.

Pour in a heaping mixture of nurturing and strengthening Jewish life. Add helping the vulnerable. Inspiring the young. And safeguarding our people. All these ingredients are automatically folded in together through your gift to Jewish Federation of Anytown. So, please measure generously. Make it a truly happier Chanukah for your entire family. **Give today.**



The Jewish
Federation

OF THE SACRAMENTO REGION
WWW.JEWISHSAC.ORG

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



I am grateful to witness and live the work that Federation does day in and day out.

A few months ago, I had the pleasure of being the guest speaker at the North Tahoe Hebrew Congregation's Shabbat service. It was a delightful experience getting to know our surrounding community members, and spreading the word of the important work Federation does throughout our region. But what struck me most was when I opened up the prayer book and the first thing that I saw was a Prayer of Gratitude — how easily we can forget this.

I am grateful to witness and live the work that Federation does day in and day out. I am here when our Jewish Family Service Kosher Food Pantry clients come into the office to pick up food that will feed them through the week, thanking us profusely that they and their families will not go hungry. I smile on Tuesday mornings while I am sitting at my desk and can hear the laughter of children's voices coming from the babies and toddlers who come to our PJ Library Playdates. These interactions are invaluable reminders of why I do what I do and how grateful I am for everything I have in my life.

However, my gratitude for my work at the Federation comes not only from the generosity of our community, and experiencing the vital programs and services we provide throughout the region, but also for those who make our work possible.

I am talking about people power, and there is no better person to embody this power than my friend and outgoing Federation Co-President, Carol Loew. Carol is a tireless champion of the Federated system, having grown up an active Young Leadership participant in the San Francisco Federation.

Decades later, Carol still carries the same passion and conviction for this work and as a result, has helped lift our Federation to heights we have not seen in years. Whether it is the countless evenings Carol spends out in the community (Jewish and secular) promoting the work of the Federation, or her vision to bring back the Jewish Film Festival as a program of the Federation (we sold out The Crest last year), Carol lives and breathes Federation.

I am beyond grateful for the time and opportunity I have had to work with her, and learn from her. I thank Carol for all she has done, and will likely continue to do (we all know she is hard pressed to stop), to strengthen, support, and build our community.

I also want to thank all of you and wish you, your families, and your loved ones a Happy Chanukah. I encourage you to take a moment to reflect what you are grateful for, and how you can pay your blessings forward. Trust me, it is a delightful experience.

Respectfully,

Willie Recht

Executive Director

wrecht@jewishsac.org

“If we don’t take care of our future, who will?”



**NOW IS THE
TIME FOR
WISDOM**

When you create a Jewish legacy, you take an important step toward strengthening Jewish life for generations to come. Planning your gift now will help ensure your grandchildren can enjoy the same rich traditions and closeness of community that have given your life so much meaning and purpose.

“PJ library books have been an easy way to incorporate Jewish themes and ideals into our busy daily lives. They have helped my children start to form their Jewish identities at a very young age and we all love revisiting the holiday-themed books year after year. Our house is very excited when PJ books arrive in the mail every month!” Stefanie Shore Barber, mom of two PJ Library kids

The future starts with you.

A MESSAGE ABOUT LEGACY

There's more than one kind of legacy



According to the Cambridge English Dictionary, the definition of “legacy” is: 1. *Money or property that you receive from someone after they die*; 2. *Something that is a part of your history or that remains from an earlier time.*

In this issue of the VOICE, we learn about five families who have chosen to leave a legacy gift to Federation, all of whom had the vision to do so before they're gone. Through their endowments, they are guaranteeing that Federation can continue to provide core services for seniors, PJ Library, and teen trips to Israel.

There is a second example of “legacy” in this issue. My co-president, Carol Loew, is completing her tenure as leader of Federation's Board of Trustees for the past two years.

Carol will be the first to tell you that she grew up as a “Federation junkie.” She learned from her parents the importance of giving back to the Jewish community, and was mentored by Lou Weintraub (z”l) about the inner workings of Federation both locally and internationally.

Carol IS a legacy! She has been a gift to our organization, albeit while very much alive(!), and she has taught the importance of honoring our history while simultaneously adapting to the current climate of the Jewish community. She believes in Federation being the central address for the Jewish community and through her tireless efforts, has made sure that continues to be the case.

Federation is fortunate to have participated in the Harold Grinspoon Foundation Life and Legacy program, as we now have commitments from more than 60 individuals and families that even when they're gone, they will continue to support Federation, whether through a one-time gift or an endowment or something in between.

As I've mentioned in a previous column (Summer 2017), legacy giving is a “no brainer:” a) There is no impact on one's “daily operating budget;” b) There is no impact on one's retirement plan; and c) The organizations you support could potentially receive funding in perpetuity as a result of a little advanced planning.

This Chanukah season, when we commemorate the rededication of the Temple after it had been renamed for the Greek god Zeus, consider dedicating the future of the Jewish community in Sacramento by creating your own legacy gift. You can name Federation as a beneficiary of a CD, a life insurance policy, or simply a portion of, or a dollar amount, from your estate. You can instruct your survivors to provide a one-time gift, or perhaps an endowment that will support Federation in perpetuity. It's a simple, painless process that will result in your own personal legacy and will ensure your history will not be forgotten.

For more information about legacy gifts, contact Willie Recht at wrecht@jewishsac.org or 916-486-0906.

Sincerely,

Deborah Gonzalez

Federation Co-President and Life & Legacy Chair

The Jewish Federation's Committee on Inclusion and Disabilities (CID) introduces the Resource and Referral Network, a new database of resources to support Jewish individuals, families, and organizations in our region.

Please become a Resource in our community! For more information, contact CID@jewishsac.org or visit jewishsac.org/cid-rrn-form.



AN ELEGANT EVENING OF ILLUSION,
COMEDY, & MORE

MAGIC, JAZZ & RAZZMATAZZ

MOSAIC LAW CONGREGATION GALA

01.26.2019 6:30PM

THE CENTER AT 2300
2300 SIERRA BLVD. SACRAMENTO, CA 95825

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW



Inspire your child's natural desire for learning in our Jewish Montessori Classroom!

Our program merges the philosophy and materials from Montessori education with a Jewish curriculum and welcomes diverse students from all backgrounds. **Teacher Lisa Rappaport Bates** is a 40-year teaching veteran of both public and private Montessori schools.

The **PRESCHOOL-K PROGRAM**, for children ages 3 through 6, runs weekday mornings from 9 AM to 12 noon.

Our **KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM** for children ages 5 through 6; extended day continues until 2:00 PM.

Now enrolling for 2018-2019.



Questions? Contact Teacher
Lisa Rappaport-Bates:
916.220-0849
lisa.bates@att.net

Visit our website for Application & Registration information:
www.kitcsacramento.org/montessori

A MESSAGE ABOUT ACCEPTANCE



...the vast majority of American leadership will continue to vigorously support the Jewish community...

The massacre of 11 Jews in Pittsburg on October 27th — the worst massacre of Jews in US history — rightly raises fears that this horrible type of violence will be recurring in the days and months ahead and will violate the environment of religious freedom and relative tranquility that Jews have enjoyed since the establishment of our great nation and its constitution.

However, it is my belief that the longstanding acceptance of Jews will continue to be promoted by our mainstream political and cultural leadership, an attitude that has a long standing in US history and is exemplified by the following:

- ✦ In 1790, President George Washington wrote to the Jewish congregations of Newport, Rhode Island, that the US government “gives to bigotry no sanction,” adding that his hope for Jewish Americans was, “everyone shall sit in safety” with “none to make him afraid.”
- ✦ Our second president, John Adams, stated, “I will insist that the Hebrews have done more to civilize man than any other nation.”
- ✦ From the Jewish American Library, we find “Jefferson’s advocacy of civic equality for American Jewry began as early as 1776, when he co-sponsored a bill that the Virginia legislature ultimately defeated and which would have allowed the naturalization of Jews, Catholics, and other non-Protestants as Virginia citizens. During the debate, Jefferson quoted John Locke’s argument that “neither Pagan nor Mahamedan nor Jew ought to be excluded from the civil rights of the Commonwealth because of his religion.”
- ✦ From an article by Rabbi J. Sussman, “Why American Jews Revere Abraham Lincoln,” we learn that “Lincoln was the first president to have extensive social contact with Jews in the United States. Abraham Jonas helped place Lincoln in nomination in 1860. Samuel G. Alschuler, a Bavarian Jewish immigrant and photographer, took numerous photographic portraits of Lincoln from his days as a young, rising politician to the president’s funeral procession. Lincoln was regularly attended to by a Jewish foot doctor, Issachar Zacharie, who was a favorite of the whole Lincoln family and served as a trusted emissary and diplomat for the president.”

It is true that attitudes swing back and forth over time. With hate crimes against Jews currently reported on the rise, it can be hard to believe that the long course is inevitably on our side, but I’m convinced the vast majority of American leadership will continue to vigorously support the Jewish community despite recent aberrations.

Kind regards,

Bruce Pomer

Chair, Jewish Community Relations Council



**SACRAMENTO
JEWISH FILM
FESTIVAL 2019**



 **The Jewish
Federation**
OF THE SACRAMENTO REGION

**SAVE THE DATES!
MARCH 7-9-10
2019**



BIG SONIA
SURVIVOR. GRANDMA. DIVA.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1:30PM

INTRODUCTION & POST-FILM DISCUSSION BY SONIA'S SON, MORRIE WARSHAWSKI

The Center at 2300 · 2300 Sierra Blvd · Sacramento

\$8 Friends of the Festival & Students · \$10 Seniors · \$12 General

Free Parking · Refreshments

For more information & tickets: www.jewishsac.org/sjff

SPONSORS: LYNN & MIKE DEAN · JUDY & STEVE LEWIS

CO-SPONSORS: Karen & Dr. Steven Polansky · Sheila Wolfe & Chris Drouin · Linda & Dr. Sidney Yassinger



Women's Philanthropy: A Baby Shower for the Community

On November 4th, Federation's newly energized Women's Philanthropy hosted its first "friendraising" event, open to all women in the Sacramento region. The event, A Baby Shower for the Community, benefited The Sacramento Children's Home Crisis Nursery and Federation's Jewish Family Service Kosher Food Pantry.

With more than 65 women in attendance, it was a delightful afternoon getting to know each other and learning more about the critical work, and services, provided by both the Crisis Nursery and Jewish Family Service.

Thank you to Patrice and Eric Ratinoff for their generous underwriting of the event and to our Co-Host Committee for their hard work in bringing Sacramento Jewish women together.

We look forward to more Women's Philanthropy events in the coming year.



SACRAMENTO
JEWISH FILM
FESTIVAL 2019



The Jewish
Federation

OF THE SACRAMENTO REGION

SAVE THE DATES!
MARCH 7-9-10

2019

RESISTANCE COMES IN MANY FORMS.



WHO WILL
WRITE
OUR HISTORY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27, 1:30PM

Be part of an unprecedented global screening event on International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Across the world, on a single day, movie theaters, churches, mosques, synagogues, universities, museums, and community centers will screen *Who Will Write Our History*. The global screening is in partnership with the World Jewish Congress, USC Shoah Foundation, Jewish Historical Institute, UNESCO, and others.

\$8 Friends of the Festival & Students · \$10 Seniors · \$12 General

Free Parking · Refreshments

For more information & tickets: www.jewishsac.org/sjff

CO-SPONSORS:



Stan Berrin: Helping Teens Repair the World, One Country at a Time



The Jewish values that Stan Berrin learned as a Shalom School student have followed him along the road into adulthood. And that is one long road given that the now 30-year-old has traveled to 28 different countries.

These days, Berrin, who calls the Bay area home, shares his love of travel and opening up the minds of young people to the needs of the global world as a Program Manager with Rustic Pathways. Headquartered in Ohio with an office in San Francisco, the organization arranges service trips for students, ages 14-18.

“I became involved because of my foundation in Jewish education and the importance of tikkun olam, coupled with my love of travel,” Berrin says from his temporary home in Costa Rica. “I get to live and breathe my Jewish identity for repairing the world by bringing students abroad to widen their perspective, help them make connections with communities far different from their own, and instilling them with an understanding and passion for supporting communities in need both globally and at home.”

“I get to live and breathe my Jewish identity for repairing the world...”

The mission of the organization, Berrin says, is “to empower students through innovative and responsible travel experiences to positively impact lives and communities around the world.”

To execute that mission, he adds, “We organize meaningful community service-based trips in 17 countries across the globe for middle- and high school-aged students. Community service projects span the spectrum, including infrastructure development, education, environmental conservation, economic development, indigenous rights, and women’s rights. Our students come from all over the world, and our global teams are made up of a mix of international and local staff.”

Noting that 70 percent of the students are from the US, the travel experience opens up the minds of participants to different foods, cultures, and ways of life.

“Because of our history, there are Jews all over the world,” Berrin says. “One thing Shalom School did was to always foster open idealism. Teachers gave us opportunities to speak and learn as equals, from learning Judaica to X-rated Torah stories. There was an openness and leveling with us. There was an ability to understand that we are all Jewish, even though we come from different backgrounds.”

Rustic Pathways reawakened Berrin’s sense of tikkun olam by providing genuine experiences that communities can sustain once a group leaves. Currently, students have traveled to 17 countries across the globe, including Laos, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, and Cuba.

“This is not just painting the same school playground,” he says. “This is using meaningful service to change communities and the perspective of students who will have the power in the future. Every student leaves with a long-term investment and a feeling of shared humanity.”

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE: Celebrating Six Years as a Federation Program

In September 2012, Jewish Family Service (JFS) was re-established as a program of the Jewish Federation. With the goal of closing the gap in social services with resources and services, we hired a Community Social Worker for 10 hours weekly to conduct telephone intakes, opened a Kosher Food Pantry, and began oversight of the Committee on Inclusion and Disabilities.

Six short years later, we have doubled the hours of our Community Social Worker to meet the growing needs of the community, and our portfolio of services now includes facilitated support groups, a Therapist Referral Network, senior programming, Wellness Walks, transportation support, Holiday Outreach, and one-on-one support through our intake telephone system.

In 2016, the landscape of Jewish community needs began to change.

In 2016, the landscape of Jewish community needs began to change. Since then, trends include middle-age adult children looking for professional assistance to help guide them through their loved one's aging journey as well as the baby boomer generation, who do not consider themselves to be seniors, looking for programs that meet their needs.

Of course, we continue to receive calls from seniors, who, due to a lack of resources and support, need more than simple referrals. Many of our seniors are living longer in their own home and most of them are doing so without family close by. Many are isolated, homebound, or struggling to pay their rent.

As we move forward, our hope is that JFS continues to grow so we may address the many pressing needs of our community.



IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE, ←
PLEASE CONTACT FEDERATION'S COMMUNITY
SOCIAL WORKER, REBECCA RAY, AT 916-205-0688.



Holiday Outreach Sows Seeds of Friendship

How did you find me?

This was the very first question Bob Ralston asked Sheila Wolfe when she showed up on his doorstep six years ago with a Rosh Hashanah Outreach Basket. These days, the question Ralston asks the woman he's come to address by her nickname, Wolfie, is, "What's for lunch?"

That's because, as a result of Wolfe's visits to Ralston, the two have developed a deep friendship that they celebrate nearly every month over lunch and conversation. "Sometimes he pays, sometimes I pay," jokes Wolfe about the meals she has shared with Ralston over the years.

Federation's Jewish Family Service program delivers baskets with special holiday items to homebound individuals and others who have fallen ill during Rosh Hashanah, Chanukah, and Passover. Wolfe is among the many volunteers who have delivered thousands of baskets over the years. She chose to volunteer because "Holidays are joyous. I wanted to bring more joy and less oy. This was an opportunity to do that. I hope someone does it for me one day."

Seated in Ralston's living room after lunching on Thai food (which was preceded by a *shehecheyanu*, a prayer of thanks), they recall how their friendship took shape. All Wolfe knew about Ralston was that "there was this guy living alone whose wife broke her hip and was in a convalescent home." When the now 92-year-old opened the door, the 5-foot-tall Wolfe was faced with the towering 6-foot-tall Ralston. "I like to get to know people," he says, "so I invited her in. It's my nature. I don't shy away from people. She looked like a *shayna madela* (sweet girl). And I was curious."

That curiosity spread to Wolfe, as she found out more about the nonagenarian's life. Ralston had a career as both a physicist and a psychologist, and now spends much of his time poring over the 300 novels on his reading tablet along with the stack that sits on an end table in his home. He also is involved with the "My Story" project, 45-minute interviews with seniors who are videotaped at his neighborhood community center.

Born in Los Angeles, Ralston's family moved to El Paso where he attended Sunday School and learned Bible stories. His family name changed from Rosenstein to Ralston after his father, who owned a chain of women's clothing stores, decided to open a shop in Visalia when his son was in 3rd grade.

"This was during the Dust Bowl days and my father wasn't sure about anti-Semitism," Ralston recalls, noting the similarities in the names' translations: Ralston means 'rolling stone' and Rosenstein, 'rose colored stone.'

When Ralston used to ask his mother about G-d, she told him he was too young to understand. He also recalls a basic argument between her and his aunt about the proper way to say "amen."

"Was it A-men, OR-main, or AH-men?" he asks.

Ralston says simply of his friendship with "Wolfie," "We like each other."

"It's joyful to be able to elicit Bob's Judaism from him," Wolfe adds. "It's cool to see it's a part of him. We are living proof of what happens when you connect people. L'dor v'dor (from generation to generation)!"

A Snapshot of JFS in 2017*



Four main areas of concern: senior services,

**BEGAN WELLNESS
WALKS FOR 55+**

629

629 calls, growth
of 18% over 2016

120

Delivered 120 Holiday
Outreach bags to
homebound people

**CONTINUED CAREGIVER
SUPPORT GROUP IN DAVIS
FOR THE FOURTH YEAR**

145|252

Support provided to
145 new clients and
252 follow-up clients

**2018 data will be available in February 2019*

mental health, transportation, and housing

48

Convened
48 senior
programs

**THERAPIST REFERRAL
NETWORK ADDED
THREE THERAPISTS**

**Distributed 240 ParaTransit
vouchers and 68 Yellow Taxi
gift cards**

240|68

**Received a \$2,200 Transportation
Support for the Jewish Elderly
grant from the Jewish Community
Foundation of the West for senior
transportation**

\$2,200

“Our grandparents planned so that we were taken care of. Now it’s our turn.”



**NOW IS THE
TIME FOR**

LEADERSHIP

Supporting a strong Jewish future has never been more urgent. By planning now, you can leave a gift that will serve as an example to your friends and loved ones, and ensure that what you value about Jewish life remains alive and well for generations to come.

“Not only was my trip a fun adventure which strengthened my sense of connection to Israel, it was a deeply educational experience which broadened my understanding of Israel’s people and politics. The Federation subsidy was instrumental in providing some of the funds that made this experience possible.” Jacob Dean, 16

The future starts with you.

ENDOWMENTS

ACTION+WISDOM+LEADERSHIP
= ENDOWMENTS

Imagine if all of the critical programs and services that Federation provides could continue in perpetuity.

Well, they can. But don't take our word for it. Read about five families who have set up endowments through the Federation to make sure that the continuing needs of children, teens, and seniors are met.

Federation's total endowments to date equal \$243,000 with a nearly \$10,000 return on investments that translates to helping and supporting hundreds of people. Think about your Jewish community and what is meaningful to you. Then, consider joining these families by setting up an endowment that will give back to the community for generations to come.

Jewish Family Service



Anne and Hal Eisenberg were very disturbed when Jewish Family Service (JFS) "went out of business" in Sacramento, believing that every Jewish community needs a JFS to provide much needed social services, so they decided to create the "JFS Endowment" that is overseen by Federation so that there would always be a source of funds to provide critical services to the community.

"Our hope is that others will contribute to help grow the fund so that a substantial amount of money will be available every year to add to the annual JFS Federation allocation," they shared. "We did not put our name on it to encourage other people who believe in the need for JFS to support the fund. We hope that the fund will grow, enabling JFS to thrive and expand, providing increasing levels of services to those in need. We feel privileged to be able to contribute and help fill an unmet need in the community."

"The essence of a Jewish community is compassion and taking care of those who cannot care for themselves."

ANNE AND HAL EISENBERG

Endowment Amount: \$35,000

Annual Return on Endowment: \$1,700

What It Provides: 1,200 Holiday Gift Bags to homebound seniors

ACTION+WISDOM+ LEADERSHIP = ENDOWMENTS

Teen Israel



“We want these trips to strengthen Jewish identity and to let teens know they don’t have to be afraid to be Jewish and take part in events that happen in this crazy world of ours.”

SHARON AND DR. LARRY SALTZMAN

Sharon and Larry Saltzman were inspired to create a community endowment fund following a pair of intersecting experiences that began in 1989, when they founded a health IT company.

“The night the idea popped into our heads happened to be Simchas Torah,” they note. “We made a commitment that should we financially benefit from this endeavor, we would pay it forward to benefit Jewish education for the community.”

The second influence came from Sharon serving for many years on the Federation Board. Federation had a long-standing program of providing subsidies to teens who travel to Israel as a part of an organized program; however, the leadership never knew from year-to-year how many teens would take advantage of these grants, creating an unfunded mandate. Sharon felt strongly that the Federation would benefit from a stable source of funding to keep these teen trips to Israel on track.

The Saltzmans did sell their IT company and, with a portion of the proceeds, created the “Teen Israel Endowment” because they wanted the funds to be available in perpetuity and because of the impact a teen trip to Israel had on their own children.

“We saw firsthand the connection that was made with Judaism,” they explain. “We believe that these experiences can be transformational in cementing a link to Jewish heritage and tradition. We hope our investment will create a stronger foundation allowing Jewish teens to bring this experience into adulthood.”

Endowment Amount: \$73,000

Annual Return on Endowment: \$2,500

What It Provides: 5 subsidies to teens for a Teen Israel trip*

**Since 2006, the Teen Israel Endowment has provided 167 teens with an immersive Israel experience*

ENDOWMENTS

ACTION+WISDOM+ LEADERSHIP
= ENDOWMENTS

Transportation Support for Jewish Elderly



“Our hope is that this Transportation Fund for Jewish Elderly will grow over time and can support various grant requests.”

DRS. MARION AND STAN LEFF

As family physicians, Drs. Marion and Stan Leff regularly came across patients, particularly the elderly, who struggled to keep appointments because of transportation difficulties. Relying on a family member; using public transportation if you use a cane, wheelchair or walker; paying for taxis and Uber if you are on a fixed income — these are all real challenges many seniors face.

“If one has these struggles to see the doctor, it is even less likely that one would get to a social activity or to synagogue. Lack of transportation leads to social isolation which leads to myriad other health concerns,” the Leffs say, adding, “We could not conceive of creating this endowment without the support of the Federation. Who better to reach out to our diverse Jewish community with diverse needs?”

The Leffs also share that they are “delighted” that the Jewish Family Service agency received a grant from their fund to distribute vouchers for special transportation needs. But, they add, so much more is possible.

“Our seed dollars started this endowment,” they note, “but it belongs to the Jewish community and we hope others may agree it is deserving of charitable donations.”

Endowment Amount: \$60,000

Annual Return on Endowment: \$2,200*

What It Provides: ParaTransit and Taxi Gift Cards for 308 elderly

**2017 grant*

ACTION+WISDOM+ LEADERSHIP = ENDOWMENTS

Leisure League Endowment



“We hope that Leisure League will be a dynamic, thriving program forever as a result of the fund we established.”

SANDI AND TERRI GOLDSTEIN,
DAUGHTERS OF DANNY AND CISSIE
GOLDSTEIN (PICTURED ABOVE)

Sandi and Terri Goldstein have always been inspired by their parents' dedication to others. All through their childhood, Cissie and Danny Goldstein opened their Land Park home to their entire Temple community for many events, including the High Holy Days, and always welcomed and followed through with newcomers they would actively seek each year at Temple.

“When our mom passed in 2016, we wanted to sustain the Leisure League program that she worked so hard to develop,” the sisters share. “She was rocket smart with organizing people, and incredibly artistic, talented, and engaging. She, together with Judge Leonard Friedman, created an approach where Leisure League monthly lunches would rotate among the local area synagogues. This was her brain child.”

Cissie's daughters felt one of the best ways to honor their mother's memory was to establish a fund that would provide resources to continue to stimulate, educate, and entertain seniors because she worked so hard to establish Leisure League, and also to find transportation for seniors who could not drive to attend. And because their parents were so loved, Sandi and Terri wanted the community to remember the creativity and dedication of both their mom and dad.

“We hope that Leisure League will be a dynamic, thriving program forever as a result of this fund that spins off annual income to underwrite costs. This way, luncheon fees can be kept low and not deter seniors from participating.”

The sisters hope that their extended family, future generations of their offspring, and friends and community members who loved their mother will contribute to the Cissie Goldstein Leisure League Fund.

Endowment Amount: \$25,000

Annual Return on Endowment: \$1,000

What It Provides: 6 monthly Leisure League programs for seniors

ENDOWMENTS

ACTION+WISDOM+ LEADERSHIP
= ENDOWMENTS

PJ Library



“We were instantly attracted to the PJ Library program because of our love for books and our strong interest in ensuring the next generation has a strong identity with Judaism.” MARJORIE SWARTZ
AND RICHARD ROBINSON

Richard Robinson and Marjorie Swartz had been concerned for some time about the long-term sustainability of PJ Library in the Sacramento region. This became a more urgent concern when they learned about the demand and that some children might have to be placed on a new wait list.

“Fortuitously, Willie spoke to us about his dream for a foundation to ensure the future of PJ Library,” they say. “This idea meshed with our interest in finding a way to secure the future of PJ Library in Sacramento. We are so pleased with the program and wanted to do everything possible to assure its existence after we are no longer able to contribute in our lifetime.”

PJ Library, they add, is so important to the Sacramento community: It is a bridge to unaffiliated families and a creative way to assist parents and grandparents who are working to instill Jewish values and traditions in the future generation.

“We also see the materials as a tool for educating people in the community or in interfaith marriages about Judaism,” the couple notes, adding, “We are very pleased with the leadership of the Federation staff in developing and expanding the program and feel strongly that the Federation should also administer the endowment.”

Endowment Amount: \$50,000

Annual Return on Endowment: \$2,000*

What It Provides: 48 annual subscriptions to PJ Library

**Estimated, as this is the newest Endowment*

Scholarships Continue Educational and Community Service Traditions

Three students from throughout the Sacramento region were the beneficiaries of educational scholarships from funds held at the Jewish Community Foundation of the West (JCFW).

Lilia Diaz and Talya Kalman received awards from the Madeline Rosenthal Goodwin Memorial Scholarship fund and Leah Winter was a scholarship recipient from the Carry Cohn Jewish Education Fund.

Winter, a junior at Rio Americano High School is the first to benefit from the Cohn Fund which was established “as a tribute to Carry Cohn whose commitment to Jewish Education and values has been a driving force and inspiration in the Sacramento community for generations.” The long-time educator continues to tutor b’nai mitzvah students and also teaches Hebrew to adults. She was Winter’s 6th-grade Hebrew teacher and also helped the 16-year-old prepare for her bat mitzvah.

“Israel meant so much to her and receiving this opportunity helps me to carry on the knowledge I learned from Carry and Israel combined.” *Leah Winter*

“I am very proud, appreciative, and happy to be the first recipient of this award,” says Winter of the scholarship that helped her study at Heller High School in Israel for a semester. “It is also special because I admire Carry so much. Israel meant so much to her and receiving this opportunity helps me to carry on the knowledge I learned from Carry and Israel combined.”

The Madeline Rosenthal Goodwin Memorial Scholarship fund, established by her son, Theodore, and his wife, Susan, honors a woman who was “a life-long community activist as well as a strong believer in education and community service.” Scholarships are awarded to students who have demonstrated a commitment to tikkun olam (repairing the world).

“We did panels about the school environment and how hate crimes affect our identity.” *Talya Kalman*

Kalman, currently a freshman at Arizona State University, did just that by starting a Student Solidarity Task Force at her Davis high school after discovering swastikas in the bathroom. Joined initially by African Americans, who, like Jewish students, have been most affected by hate crimes, the Task Force has grown to include students from several backgrounds. Task Force members visited different schools within the district and presented the impact of hate crimes on students to district leaders.

“We did panels about the school environment and how hate crimes affect our identity,” the 18-year-old explains. “We talked about the different things that made us feel like we belonged and fit in with the community.”



Leah Winter with Carry Cohn



Talya Kalman



Lilia Diaz

Staff, she adds, didn't realize how small things can impact minorities. One outcome of the discussions was raising awareness and adding more religious holidays to the academic calendar so students didn't risk missing critical exams.

Chico native Diaz based her scholarship application essay on her experience at Camp Tawonga, a Jewish summer camp, where her bunk was responsible for cutting shrubs in the forest in order to prevent fires.

“This was my introduction to tikkun olam, the concept of giving back what we take from the world.” *Lilia Diaz*

“This was my introduction to tikkun olam,” the University of California, Santa Cruz, student says. “The concept of giving back what we take from the world.”

Like her scholarship's namesake, the 18-year-old is interested in human behavior and passionate about prison reform, specifically about how trauma impacts the brain. Her interest in the subject began with a high school English assignment to read “Burning Down the House,” a book about juvenile incarceration.

All three young women appreciate the scholarships that helped with books, housing, and tuition.

As Diaz says, “Every little bit helps.”

For more information about starting an endowment, contact JCFW Executive Director Pam Herman at pam.herman@jcfwest.org.



The Jewish Federation

OF THE SACRAMENTO REGION

2018 ANNUAL MEETING

2019 JFSR BOARD OF TRUSTEES PROPOSED SLATE

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Outgoing JFSR Board Members

Gil Allon
Barry Broad
Bob Dresser
Sue Sperber



Honoring outgoing President Carol Loew and David Poisner, Volunteer of the Year, for their dedication and service

December 6, 2018 · 7:00–8:30pm

2130 21st Street · Sacramento

Light refreshments will be served

Please RSVP to events@jewishsac.org

Vote on recent amendments to our Bylaws. For more information, please contact Federation Co-President, Deborah Gonzalez, at gonzalez@surewest.net.

Organic Yeshiva: Integrating Jewish Practice with Sustainable Agriculture

Organic Yeshiva, Sacramento's new Farm-to-Mitzvah initiative, kicked off on October 7th with an etrog tree planting, produce swap, seed-starter giveaways and a pomegranate gleaned donated to support local people in need.

Started by Keneset Israel Torah Center's Rabbi Garth Silberstein back in 2014 as a full-time immersive summer learning program hosted at the Pushing the Envelope Farm in Geneva, Ill., the Rabbi has been hoping to start an effort to integrate Jewish practice and learning with sustainable agriculture.

“The goal of Organic Yeshiva is to connect and build a community of Jews of all backgrounds to discover what Jewish tradition has to say about agriculture and environmental stewardship.”

His hopes have become much more. Organic Yeshiva has been accepted into the Jewish Intentional Communities Incubator, the goal of which is to help strengthen and develop new models for “community” in the Jewish world. By connecting Organic Yeshiva with similar efforts in both Israel and in the U.S., the Incubator program hopes to bring together Jews in Sacramento who may not otherwise have the chance to meet and collaborate.

During the October event, etrogim seeds and hadassim seeds (the specific variety of myrtle required for Sukkot) were planted and given away to be grown and cultivated. Organic Yeshiva wants to help local Sacramentans grow their own lulav and etrog instead of importing them from across the world.

The goal of Organic Yeshiva is to connect and build a community of Jews of all backgrounds to discover what Jewish tradition has to say about agriculture and environmental stewardship. The idea that the practice of growing one's own food is both a way to enjoy better tasting produce and to positively impact the environment is deepened when food-growing is connected to Jewish traditions. Working in a garden gives people the unique vantage point to connect to both Jewish rituals and texts with the spiritual experience of being out in nature.

For more information, visit organicyeshiva.org.



TOP FROM LEFT: Scott Neft, Elisa and Zeke Gollub
BOTTOM: Vanessa Huckleby

Save the Date



The Jewish Federation
OF THE SACRAMENTO REGION

BIG EVENT

Honoring Dr. Steven & Sherry Raffin
Sherry is Sacramento's 1st Kipnis-Wilson/Friedland Award Recipient

Saturday, February 2, 2019

COME CHECK OUT 'PJ & ME'

Sacramento's Only Weekly Playgroup for Jewish Families!

EVERY TUESDAY

9:30am-Noon

Jewish Federation · 2130 21st St., Sacramento

For more information, contact Rikki Kass at rkass@jewishsac.org

or 916-486-0906 ext. 308



A MESSAGE FROM THE PULPIT

RABBI GREG WOLFE: The Light of Thanksgiving



As Jewish families gathered across the country this year on the last Thursday in November, you might very well have heard: “Carve the Turkey and pass the Latkes.” What a strange feeling it is when these two holidays fall only a week and a half apart. The celebrations seem so different: Thanksgiving, with its distinctly autumnal images of pilgrims offering thanks for the harvest, and Chanukah, with a decidedly wintry feel of miraculous lights shining in the darkness. Yet the origins of Chanukah are more closely tied to Thanksgiving than we might think.

The Book of Maccabees describes the first celebration of Chanukah and recounts the victorious struggle of Judah and his Maccabees to rededicate the Temple in Jerusalem after its desecration by the Greek-Syrians. Strangely, however, the story tells how the Maccabees cleaned up the Temple and reconsecrated it, not by spinning dreidels or even with a miracle of oil, but by celebrating “The Feast of Tabernacles” or Sukkot for eight days.

“This year, as we transition from Thanksgiving to Chanukah, may we hold on tightly to our blessings of joy and light.”

Why Sukkot you might ask? Sukkot was the most important holiday for the Jews of that time (165 BCE) because it was an opportunity to give thanks for the harvest and pray for the rains necessary for the upcoming season.

Sukkot, of course, is the very epitome of a Thanksgiving festival. (In fact, the Pilgrims based their celebration on the biblical holiday of Sukkot!) The Maccabees were unable to celebrate Sukkot in its proper time because they were in the midst of a battle to regain the Temple. So, in fact, the very first Chanukah was “Thanksgiving in December!” following the ancient dictum: “Better late than never.” So, once again, these two festivals are reunited.

This year, as we transition from Thanksgiving to Chanukah, may we hold on tightly to our blessings of joy and light. Let us give thanks for the miracles that fill our days. Darkness looms all around us to be sure, but Chanukah calls upon us to be courageous in our beliefs, to be strong in defense of our values.

Now more than ever we need to add our light to the world. As we give thanks for the freedom with which we are blessed, and as we enjoy the bounties of this earth, let us join with others to share our good fortune. If we can help one person who lives in darkness, if we can share our food with those who are hungry, if we can work for freedom for the oppressed of this world, and if we can strive for freedom in just one corner of this earth, then we will be creating miracles in our own way. Then we will also have that much more for which to be thankful.

Rabbi Wolfe is the rabbi of Congregation Bet Haverim in Davis.



The Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region would like to thank our Life & Legacy family. Planting the seeds for future generations, the Life & Legacy Program enables us to continue our work for the community and ensures our community remains vibrant and resilient for years to come.

Anonymous (8)
 Debra and Cliff Berg
 Jessica and Joel Birch
 Alison and Phil Braverman
 Barry Broad
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 Melissa Chapman
 Peter Colussy and Willie Recht
 Lynn and Michael Dean
 Robert Dresser
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 Davina Dubnick
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 Sheila Wolfe
 Beverly z"l and Art Zimmerman
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Communitywide Commemoration

Yom HaShoah 5779 Book of Remembrance

Submissions due by March 15, 2019
jewishsac.org/yom-hashoah-remembrance

The Book of Remembrance is one way to remember and honor family, loved ones, and friends of Sacramento area residents who perished in the Holocaust, as well as those who survived and are now deceased. The book is updated annually.

Follow the link above to submit the names of your loved ones who directly experienced the Holocaust and to update or change listings from earlier books.

The books and a candlelight procession will be part of the Yom HaShoah Commemoration on April 28, 2019.



Home of Peace Cemetery

THE CEMETERY OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF THE GREATER SACRAMENTO REGION
 Established 1850



Home of Peace is our non-profit Jewish Community cemetery and mausoleum serving all Jewish people in the greater Sacramento area. Cared for perpetually with the sensitivity, sacredness, and dignity befitting consecrated ground enshrining the mortal remains of our loved ones, Home of Peace offers a variety of interment options.

Individual and double gravesites are available in many different sections of the Cemetery. Sections of the Cemetery have also been set aside for people desiring strict adherence to halachic standards, for interfaith married families, and for cremains. Crypts and double crypts are available in the mausoleum.

Pre-need arrangements are encouraged to ensure that desired final wishes will be carried out, and to ease the burden on surviving family members.

For further information, or for pre-need, please contact

Lew Rosenberg, Executive Director

Ph: (916) 446-1409 E-m: homeofpeace@comcast.net

The Home of Peace Cemetery is a non-profit Jewish Community organization.

**“A strong Jewish future isn’t a given.
That’s why we created a legacy gift.”**



**NOW IS THE
TIME FOR
ACTION**

Keeping Jewish tradition alive takes people who are passionate about Jewish life and committed to its future. By planning your legacy gift now, you’ll join other leaders who are taking a stand to ensure the work they believe in continues — and that our community remains strong and resilient for generations to come.

“I turned to the Food Pantry at Jewish Family Service after being laid off from work and money was tight. It literally saved my life until I found a new job after a year of job search.” 68-year-old JFS client

The future starts with you.



The Jewish Federation

OF THE SACRAMENTO REGION

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