

A PUBLICATION OF THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF THE SACRAMENTO REGION

THE VOICE

YOUR SOURCE FOR LOCAL & GLOBAL JEWISH NEWS



20 YEARS AFTER
THE SYNAGOGUE FIREBOMBINGS

SUMMER 2019-5779

THE VOICE
a publication of The Jewish Federation
of the Sacramento Region

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OF THE SACRAMENTO REGION

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

IT'S SIMPLE MATH



This past April, my husband and I cycled nearly 300 miles through the Negev, climbing up and down thousands of miles of elevation, through a sandy, windy, barren landscape, until we were rewarded in the final descent into Eilat, with its red rocks and the Red Sea as our background.

We spent five days bent over handlebars, tushies on tiny bike saddles, fueled by hummus and tahini, and an occasional morning rugelach. We rode along the Egyptian border and on the “Peacetrail” border with Jordan. We climbed in and out of Makhtesh Ramon, and also HaMakhtesh HaGadol and HaMakhtesh HaKatan (a Makhtesh is translated as a “crater,” but is in fact a geologic erosion, similar to the Grand Canyon).

It was both tiring and exhilarating. We were surrounded by like-minded people from all over North America, raising much-needed funds for the “Tikvah” program for individuals with special needs in the Ramah camping movement. For me, taking time off from work, arranging coverage for the household, paying my way, raising money, (baking a TON of challah for my donors), shipping my bike, enduring the time in the saddle, and surviving jet lag was a labor of love. I mean, Israel + cycling + Jewish camping + helping people with special needs = NO BRAINER!

“You take the elements you like about an organization, add them together, and voila, a formula for success!”

What does this have to do with Federation? Well, it’s simple math. You take the elements you like about an organization, add them together, and voila, a formula for success! And a reason to GIVE. I told you why I gave heart and soul (and money) to Ramah. Why do I give to Federation? You can see for yourself in the Annual Report presented in this issue.

I care about the future of the Jewish community (PJ Library, Shalom School, Hillel); I care about Jewish poverty (Kosher Food Pantry); I care about how Jews are treated in our community and whether or not our government acts ethically (JCRC); I care about our community gathering together as one (Yom Hashoah, Yom Ha’Atzmaut, Sacramento Jewish Film Festival); I care about our seniors (Leisure League, Shabbat Shalom Sacramento, Holiday Gift Bag deliveries); and, I care about Israel as the homeland of the Jews, as a safe haven for Jews worldwide who are fighting anti-Semitism (Jewish Federations of North America and its international partners, the Jewish Agency for Israel, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, and World ORT).

PJ Library + Jewish Family Service + Supporting Israel + Social Justice + Creating Community = Helping people BE and DO Jewish. Won’t you join me and make your pledge today?

With gratitude,

Deborah Hoffman Gonzalez

President

president@jewishsac.org

ZACHOR. WE SHALL NOT FORGET.

REMEMBRANCE & RESILIENCE

Commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Sacramento Firebombings

Friday June 14
Saturday June 15
Tuesday June 18

6:00pm: Shabbat Services at Congregation Beth Shalom
12:00pm: Shabbat Lunch at Keneset Israel Torah Center
6:30pm: Communitywide Commemoration at Congregation B'nai Israel

Presented by The Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region, Sacramento Board of Rabbis, Jewish Community Relations Council, Congregation B'nai Israel, Congregation Beth Shalom, Keneset Israel Torah Center, and the Unity Center at the California Museum

Please contact the Jewish Federation with any questions:
916-486-0906 | federation@jewishsac.org



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU



A few months ago, long-time community leader and Federation Past President, Roz Levy-Weintraub, came by the Federation to drop off a bag of books that belonged to her late and beloved husband Lou Weintraub (z"l). Roz handed me the bag saying that she thought I would appreciate them. Inside were three books about the history of Federations and the Federated movement. Aside from being one of the most thoughtful gifts I have received, these books — for obvious reasons — are incredibly relevant and practical.

One book, *To Dwell In Unity: The Jewish Federation Movement in America since 1960*, by Philip Bernstein, former CEO of Council of Jewish Federations (before JFNA) talked about how different the Federated system looks today — agencies and partner organizations have taken on their own fundraising responsibilities, and a trend towards program-specific funding amongst donors, especially younger donors, has changed the way that many communities and Federations fundraise for their Annual Campaigns.

One chapter has stuck with me since: “Inclusive — not exclusive: Carrying the responsibilities of the entire community for actions that affect all Jews, Federations have sought to include and involve all elements of the community — Conservative, Orthodox and Reform; capital and labor, young and old; men and women. In the Federation, they have found a common meeting ground, the only such one in Jewish life.”

“We are here for the whole community.”

I was reminded that while much has and will continue to change, our overriding principles of why we are here and what we do remain steadfast and stronger than ever. We are here for the whole community. There is no other organization locally that carries this responsibility and serves the greater population that way that the Federation can and does.

Whether we are providing bags of groceries from our Kosher food pantry to a JFS client or scholarships to Israel for synagogue teenagers, we are here for you. Whether we are opening the building for a series of courses taught by Chabad or for a TICVA Board Retreat, we are here for you. Whether you attended our Israel Action Network presentation or the JCRC's co-sponsored J Street program, we are here for you. And whether we gathered to celebrate our rich culture at the Sacramento Jewish Film Festival or to mourn our collective losses at our communitywide Yom Hashoah Commemoration, we are here for you. And G-d forbid, when there is an emergency, and this community needs to mobilize quickly, we are here for you and we are honored to carry this responsibility.

Thank you for what you do so that we can continue to be here for our community. We could not do this without you.

Respectfully,

Willie Recht

Executive Director

wrecht@jewishshsac.org

The Jewish Federation

OF THE SACRAMENTO REGION

and

Women's Philanthropy

present



(Yes, it's back!)

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday Evening

November 14, 2019

Keynote Speaker

Sheryl Olitzky,

Executive Director & Co-Founder
of the Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom

BOARD MEMBER'S MESSAGE

THE NEED FOR A STRONG JFS



Hidden Jews and hidden poverty — they often go together. These are the folks utilizing Federation's Kosher Food Pantry (more than 100 bags distributed last year), or calling Jewish Family Service (JFS) (60 calls on average per month) with needs, lacking the means to solve problems themselves. Let me tell you two stories.

Sol* was homeless. He was both physically and mentally impaired and he had been my patient on and off for decades. Our shared Jewish background was an important bond to him. He might disappear for years only to show up again as he did two years ago when I was still in practice. The emergency room called to contact me — his only identified doctor — that he was being discharged and needed follow-up. He had no family and had burned bridges with several facilities.

When this old man hobbled over to my office shivering and hungry, staff turned an exam room over to him to sleep and brought him some food. Among the immediate calls made that morning, JFS was at the top of my list. Sadly, this story does not have a happy ending. Without a robust JFS that includes case management, there was only so much they could do to assist. Sol was sent out with band-aid housing coverage. I knew it would not be long before he was either in another emergency room or a casualty to life on the streets.

And a very personal story, one of an aging parent — my own. When I moved my mother at age 96 from Florida to Sacramento to be close to family and in a safe assisted care facility, the first words out of her mouth were, "Where are all the Jews?" A very good question in a region like ours where the Jewish community is spread out. Finding the answers led to JFS where I discovered senior programming twice a month (Leisure League), got her on the mailing list to receive the VOICE, and signed her up to receive a Chanukah outreach basket from kind volunteers.

I share these two stories because they are not atypical of the problems identified by our dedicated Community Social Worker, Rebecca Ray. Between 2016 and 2018 the highest number of calls were centered on senior services. Mental health issues were number two. The volume of calls has increased, and I suspect that trend will continue. The Jewish community is not exempt from the shifting economic and demographic changes witnessed in our region. Increased support for activities that can be conducted by a robust JFS that would include geriatric case management, more diverse programming, and outreach to combat isolation should be a priority for this Jewish community.

Honor thy father and thy mother, the fifth commandment. Much is done now on a shoestring budget and with dedicated volunteers. We are fortunate to have several small endowment funds residing at the Jewish Community Foundation of the West to support JFS, but they need to grow. Sacramento deserves much more.

Kind regards,

Dr. Marion Leff

Jewish Federation Board Member

**Name has been changed to protect confidentiality.*

REMEMBERING

June 18,



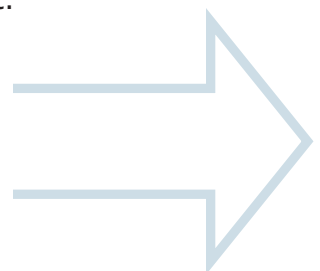
It was one of those “where were you” moments, like when Kennedy was shot or when the Challenger exploded or 9/11. Friday, June 18, 1999. Sacramento made headlines in the *LA Times*, the *New York Times*, and *The Washington Post*. Our city and our Jewish community would have much preferred to stay out of that kind of limelight.



Here we are 20 years later, remembering, perhaps, in a different way, but remembering still. Lou Anapolsky, Steven Haberfeld, and Jana Uslan were Presidents of Congregation B’nai Israel, Keneset Israel Torah Center, and Congregation Beth Shalom, respectively, the three synagogues that were firebombed by brothers Benjamin and Tyler Williams. Following are their reflections of that fateful experience that shook our community, but far from destroyed it.



Photos courtesy of Congregation B’nai Israel, Congregation Beth Shalom, and Keneset Israel Torah Center



1999

LOU ANAPOLSKY, Congregation B'nai Israel

Editor's Note: The following Victim Impact Statement was presented by Louis J. Anapolsky, President of Congregation B'nai Israel in 1999, to the court on November 30, 2001 in the case of United States v. Benjamin Matthew Williams and James Tyler Williams. It has been edited for brevity.

At 3:30am, during the early morning hours of June 18, 1999, I was awakened by a telephone call from our Temple Administrator informing me that our synagogue, Congregation B'nai Israel, was on fire.

By 4:00am, my wife and I were at B'nai Israel, watching the Sacramento Fire Department extinguish the flames that had engulfed and destroyed our Library and Administration Building.

At 4:30am, while the Library and Administration Building was still smoldering, I was taking the Fire Department through the charred remains and answering questions about the facility.

“Not in our house. Your blind hatred and bigotry will not be tolerated. Not in our house. Not now or ever.”

At 5:00am, upon entering the Sanctuary, I was met with thick, black smoke and flames that were destroying the interior of our House of Worship. At first, it was difficult to comprehend what I was seeing. Through the smoke, the flames cast an eerie orange glow, almost surreal, as they destroyed our Bimah where services have been conducted by our clergy for almost 50 years.

By 5:30am, all of the fires that you had set were extinguished...

We lost approximately 6,000 books in the fire. Please understand that what you destroyed was only the information contained in the books. The religion, culture, and heritage of the Jewish people live on in the minds and the hearts of its people.

A Synagogue begins in the hearts of those who come to pray and is ultimately defined by the character of those who comprise its spiritual community. Throughout history, our synagogues have been destroyed, yet the resolve of the Jewish people has never wavered.

You attacked basic freedoms that are constitutionally guaranteed to every American. The freedom of religion; to pray in our houses of worship; and the freedom to be who we are, even if we are different from you. These freedoms are so basic that they are intricately woven into the fabric of our American life.

Your attack on Congregation B'nai Israel and the other two synagogues was not just an attack on the Jewish community; this was an attack on the entire Sacramento community. We came together as a community in a manner that has been seldom witnessed before June 18, 1999. We stood shoulder-to-shoulder, regardless of race or religion, in unified defiance of your hate crimes and sent a singular message to you and those that espouse your brand of hatred:

Not in our house. Your blind hatred and bigotry will not be tolerated. Not in our house. Not now or ever.



STEVEN HABERFELD, Keneset Israel Torah Center

Sacramento's response to the attack on our synagogues was special. Several days afterwards, every member of the local clergy, plus more than 4,000 people from a cross-section of the community, gathered in a public hall to express their outrage.

Neighbors came out to the street to apologize and to express their embarrassment as we passed their homes on our way to services Shabbat morning. People throughout the city posted signs in their windows declaring, "United We Stand."

We decided to build our new synagogue several blocks down the street. At first, funds from all over the country flowed in. But once this slowed to a trickle, we enlisted our members to help with the actual construction. They were joined by an ever-larger group of community volunteers and non-Jewish friends from as far as the Bay Area. People from the building trades came to guide the work of our volunteers. Many established sub-contractors discounted their rates or donated their time and expertise.

“My memory of these men’s generosity and respect brings tears to my eyes to this day.”

During a three-year period, we conducted more than 30 Sunday “work days” when as many as 50 volunteers would show up to work. These events resembled the old barn raising events on the western frontier — people sharing the work, good food, and a sense of brotherhood.

What few people realize is that we received substantial help from the fundamentalist Christian community. Most of the subcontractors, the roofers, electricians, the stone masons, the plumbers, etc. were Christians who were genuinely pleased to join us in building a new Orthodox Jewish synagogue.

The special care and sensitivity they brought was demonstrated one Sunday when a local firm came with eight men to tear down an old house on the property for free. A big hole remained after a concrete cellar was removed. This seemed to be a good burial spot (*genizah*) for the holy books that had been damaged by the fire. The men carefully carried the boxes of books to the bottom of the pit. When they climbed back up, I saw them take off their hats and stand silently in reverence as the books were buried. My memory of these men's generosity and respect brings tears to my eyes to this day.

The beautiful new building that sits on the site today is a tribute to the Sacramento community. It represents a much-welcomed moral clarity and an uncomplicated rejection of anti-Semitism and acts of domestic terrorism. We shall be forever grateful.

JUNE



JANA USLAN, Congregation Beth Shalom

I remember like it was yesterday. The call at 4:00am from Jeff Levy asking us to go check out the Temple. He had received an alarm call that the fire department was on site. Unlike our many “field trips” to Congregation Beth Shalom in the middle of the night, when the alarm went off this time, it was completely different. We only lived a mile from the Temple.

As my husband, Brian, and I approached the Temple, we could see the fire truck lights, so very bright in the dead of night. As I raced into the building, I was met with heavy smoke, the blaring alarm, and bright exit lights. A fire fighter approached me immediately and told me we had been violated by arson.

I was shocked. Having never dealt with fire before, I felt like I was in a dream with all the smoke. I immediately asked about the Torahs and was told they were not harmed. Thank G-d.

“When it comes to hate crimes, I pray we have already had our turn.”

These memories will never leave my mind, even though these activities occurred 20 years ago. I couldn't imagine who would want to harm us. I was naïve enough to think an iron-rod fence would protect us.

As incoming President, I didn't realize what I was in for — the media, FBI, ATF (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives), calls from around the world to help, the hundreds of donations and good wishes for us. Suddenly, we were thrust into the local and national media, not because we were attacked by a hate crime and arson, but because we were one of three synagogues in Sacramento that became part of a crime spree of hate and murder by two white supremacist brothers. Thank goodness that our local crime fighters found these brothers and that they were arrested and convicted.

So, what has happened in the last 20 years to prevent these hate crimes? It seems like nothing and the hate has heightened from arson to murder. As we look back at the Pittsburgh synagogue shooting, just last October where 11 Jews lost their lives; in Texas at the First Baptist Church where 26 members lost their lives; and in South Carolina, where 9 people studying the Bible were shot.

Two decades later, we continue to upgrade our security plan. We have armed guards protecting us during Services; we have cameras inside and out to make sure we can look back if necessary. Security talk is on our minds all the time. As I pray during a Friday night service, my eyes are always on who is walking in the door. Do we know them, do they know us? When it comes to hate crimes, I pray we have already had our turn.

REMEMBERING

PROGRAM FEATURE: JEWS AND POVERTY

HIGHLIGHTING JEWISH POVERTY

by Rebecca Ray, MSW, Community Social Worker

In every community — including Jewish communities — there is poverty, even when we cannot see it. Individuals and families cannot pay synagogue dues, Jewish Day School and/or Religious School tuition, or Jewish camp fees. This is also extended to include those who struggle with food insecurity, as well as those who are unable to pay for rent or utilities.

The topic of Jewish poverty is coming out from behind the shadows. In March, the “National Convening on Jewish Poverty,” a four-hour symposium sponsored by the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, was convened in San Francisco. Under the theme of “moral urgency,” more than 200 people from across North America and Israel were in attendance, including direct service professionals, funders, community leaders, researchers, and clergy.

Jewish community needs can be best viewed through a macro approach that provides a big picture perspective. Through this perspective, one is able to see the stigma that all Jews have financial success and security. It is perpetuated in the media through political discourse and public attitudes. Changing this discourse means recognizing that not all Jews are privileged.

“I turned to the Food Pantry 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 searching. Thank You.” 68-YEAR-OLD MALE

Few national figures are available to paint an accurate picture of poverty in the Jewish community, a reality that some say is a reflection of Jewish values. While measurements of anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism across college campuses is readily available, research on the poor among us is less evident. This lack of data impacts funding for programs that address poverty and related issues.

According to a 2018 Avi Chai Foundation report on Jewish philanthropy, “big donors tend not to regard [programs for the Jewish aged, poor, immigrant resettlement, aid for Holocaust survivors, and family and child services] as high priority items.”

As the complexities of Jewish poverty continue to be revealed and studied further, Jewish Family Service, a program of the Jewish Federation, is here to provide assistance through the Kosher Food Pantry, grocery gift cards donated by caring community members, companionship through volunteers who visit homebound seniors during major Jewish holidays, access to therapists through our Therapist Referral Network, and transportation support to seniors.

If you are in need of support, contact 916-205-0688.

JEWISH POVERTY BY THE NUMBERS:*

16-20% of Jewish households earn less than \$30,000.

7% of Jewish households earn less than \$15,000.

Jewish poverty is concentrated among older adults, Hasidic Jews, individuals with lower levels of educational attainment, individuals who are employed part-time, individuals with disabilities, single women, immigrants, and those who identify as “Just Jewish,” secular, or have no Jewish denomination.

Between 1% and 8% of Jewish households say that they “can’t make ends meet.”

More than 20% of Jewish households are “just managing” or “just getting along.”

Locally, in 2018, 115 appointments were made for the Kosher Food Pantry.

* Source: “Jewish Poverty in the United States: A Summary of Recent Research,” the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation

Jewish Public Affairs Committee Addresses Poverty for All

An “Anti-Poverty” bill package was one of three topical packages presented to legislative staffers by 160 citizen advocates during JPAC’s (Jewish Public Affairs Committee of California) annual Advocacy Day, held May 7, 2019.

According to JPAC, the first and largest statewide Jewish lobbying organization in the nation, California has one of the highest levels of poverty. And despite safety net programs, approximately 450,000 children live in deep poverty.

Professionals and lay leaders from Jewish Federations, Jewish Community Relations Councils, Jewish Family Service agencies, the ADL, the American Jewish Committee, and several other Jewish organizations visited Chiefs of Staff or Legislative Directors at the Capitol asking for support of the following three efforts that seek to alleviate poverty in California:

- **AB 24 (Burke):** Supports families and children living in deep poverty by establishing a Targeted Child Tax Credit
- **Governor Gavin Newsom’s 2019-20 Budget proposal** that doubles the existing California Earned Income Tax Credit by investing \$1 billion in a new Working Families Tax Credit
- **AB 898 (Wicks):** Improves the way California meets the behavioral health needs of children

According to the Public Policy Institute of California, 19.5% of Californians — or 7.5 million — lacked enough resources to meet their basic needs in 2015. The rate of poverty was highest among children — 21.6% compared to 19% for adults, ages 18-64, and 18.1% for those 65 and older.

“Aging with Dignity” and “Hate Crimes” packages were also part of JPAC’s 2019 lobbying efforts.

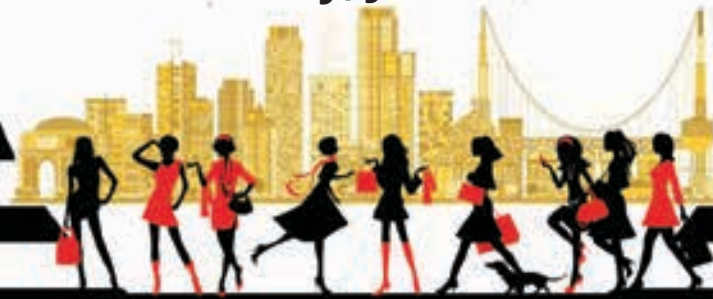
For more information about JPAC, visit jpac-cal.org.



The Jewish Federation & Women's Philanthropy
present

Lions & Poms in the City

Tuesday, June 11th



Join Co-Chairs Nancy Brodovsky and Madeline Rubenstein, and fellow Lions of Judah and Pomegranates for a day trip to beautiful San Francisco, including a docent led tour of the Contemporary Jewish Museum & a private lunch at Neiman Marcus (shopping time too!)

Attendance Cost: \$72 per person
Lunch, museum admission and transportation included.

Transportation will leave Shalom School parking lot at 8:30 a.m.

This event is available to women with an Annual Campaign gift of \$1800 or more

Kindly RSVP to
Events@jewishsac.org

JULY 2-AUGUST 3-FIVE SESSIONS!
AT CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL



DAY CAMP FOR KIDS
ENTERING KINDER-5TH

- Session #1 July 1-5
- Session #2 July 8-12
- Session #3 July 15-19
- Session #4 July 22-26
- Session #5 July 29-August 2

PLUS! Tayarim (Entering 6-8th grades)
CITs (Entering 9-10th grades)
Staff opportunity (Entering 11th grade +)

Registration & Questions:
CBISACRAMENTO.ORG/CAMP

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.

THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF THE SACRAMENTO REGION

2018

ANNUAL REPORT



OUR MISSION: The Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region is a philanthropic organization that provides educational, cultural, and social services and programs within the Jewish community locally and around the world. The Federation movement, collectively among the top 10 charities on the continent, protects and enhances the well-being of Jews worldwide through the values of tikkun olam (repairing the world) and tzedakah (charity and social justice). **We serve to empower and give a voice to the community and to the centrality of Israel to the Jewish people.**



2018 DEAR FRIENDS...

2018 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Deborah Hoffman Gonzalez, *Co-President*

Carol Loew, *Co-President*

Gil Allon, *Treasurer*

Bruce Pomer, *JCRC Chair*

Barry Broad, *Immediate Past President*

David Poisner, *Secretary*

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Cliff Berg

Fran Bremson

Robert Dresser

Don Gilbert

Ruth Gottlieb

Sue Sperber

With the passing of another year, we are pleased to present our 2018 Annual Report that focuses on our critical work.

Highlights of the past year include the return of the Sacramento Jewish Film Festival, increased engagement with Women's Philanthropy, responding to the needs of Camp Fire victims, the ability to answer a rise in calls to Jewish Family Service, and an increase in the Annual Campaign that helps us achieve all of this and more.

As we looked back on the year, we asked ourselves a simple question: "What does it mean to have impact?"

The answer, it turns out, is not so simple.

We discovered that impact is measured in very different ways. Impact for one person — say, a young child who receives a PJ Library book each month — might have no bearing on another person — say, a senior who is visited by a volunteer with a holiday gift bag during Jewish holidays throughout the year. Is the impact of a book about a Jewish hero on a child more important than the impact of having human interaction by a homebound senior?

Who is to say?

That is why a strong Federation is so crucial to our community. As a multi-issue organization, we tackle many needs and address a variety of topics — from Jewish literacy and continuity, to adult education, to inclusion of individuals with disabilities, to anti-Semitism, to an array of social services that address vulnerable populations, to Israel, to Jewish and interfaith community-building events.

This means that at some point in time, all of us have the potential to be impacted by the presence and work of the Federation. We may not know when that will be because life is unpredictable. But whenever that time comes, and for whatever reason it has come, we are here.

With gratitude for your support of our community,

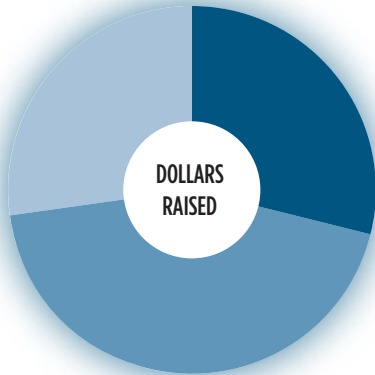


Carol Loew
Co-President

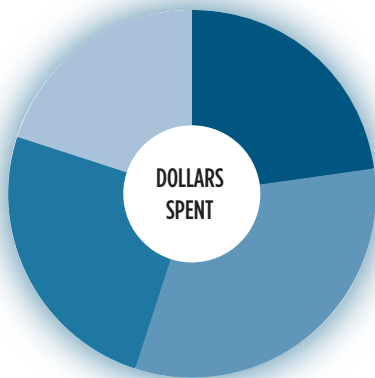
Deborah Hoffman Gonzalez
Co-President

Willie Recht
Executive Director

2018 FINANCIALS



Campaign.....	\$436,737	■
Designated Gifts.....	\$668,708	■
Camp Fire Relief Fund.....	\$412,089	■
TOTAL RAISED	\$1,517,534	



Signature Programming.....	\$198,853	■
· Events & Outreach		
· Jewish Community Relations Council		
· Jewish Family Service		
· PJ Library		
Allocations.....	\$274,625	■
· Association of Jewish Family & Children's Services		
· Chico Hillel/Jewish Student Union		
· Hillel at Davis & Sacramento		
· Jewish Community Foundation of the West		
· Jewish Federations of North America		
· Shalom School		
· Teen Israel Scholarships		
Long-term Investments made to JCFW	\$215,625	■
Emergency Relief.....	\$177,049*	■
TOTAL SPENT ON ALLOCATIONS AND SIGNATURE PROGRAMS	\$866,152	

* Allocations made through December 31, 2018.
Additional allocations have been made in 2019.

2018 SERVICES & PROGRAMS

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE Addresses the needs of the vulnerable in our community through a Community Social Worker, Kosher Food Pantry, Therapist Referral Network, senior programs, and Holiday Outreach.

JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL Engages in critical outreach with interfaith and ethnic communities toward the betterment of our mutual communities.

COMMITTEE ON INCLUSION AND DISABILITIES Launched the Resource & Referral Network to promote information, resource-sharing, support, and connections among Jewish individuals, families, and organizations in our region interested in disability-related issues and inclusive Jewish practices.

COMMUNICATIONS Through our quarterly newsletter, online community calendar, e-communications, Community Directory, and Jewish job postings, we keep you in touch with community happenings and critical local and global news alerts.

WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY Celebrated the region's 1st National Wilson-Kipnis Friedland Award

PJ LIBRARY/PJ OUR WAY This national Jewish literacy program provides free Jewish-themed books monthly to children from 6 months to 8 years old. PJ Our Way provides programs for youth, ages 9-11.

ISRAEL With our overseas partners, we monitor the well-being of Jewish communities in Israel and around the world.

SIGNATURE PROGRAMS Include the Sacramento Jewish Film Festival, the Jewish Heritage Festival, Date with the State, Freedom & Justice Seder, and the Schwab-Rosenhouse Memorial Scholarship Fund.

EMERGENCY PROGRAMS/RELIEF Organized a Memorial Solidarity following the Pittsburgh massacre and raised funds for Camp Fire and Santa Rosa Fire victims.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS As the community's umbrella organization, Federation seeks partnerships with organizations throughout the Sacramento region with the goal of building connections and bringing people together.

1,050 PJ Library subscriptions with 274 new enrollees	252 Holiday Outreach Baskets distributed	1,500 Supporters at Pittsburgh Solidarity Gathering	785 Calls to Jewish Family Service	187 PJ Our Way subscriptions with 60 new enrollees	230 Kosher Food Pantry bags distributed
800 Attended Communitywide Yom HaShoah Commemoration	\$30,000 New and increased gifts from Women's Philanthropy	2,500 Attended the Sacramento Jewish Film Festival	\$412,089 Emergency Relief raised for Camp Fire victims	472 Transportation vouchers and taxi cards disseminated	



The Jewish
Federation

OF THE SACRAMENTO REGION

2130 21st Street · Sacramento CA 95818 · 916-486-0906 · federation@jewishsac.org

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Building Community One Book at a Time

by Harold Grinspoon



Years ago, I was in the car listening to public radio and I heard that Dolly Parton was giving away free books to families.

I was intrigued and almost immediately began supporting the program in my home area of Springfield, Massachusetts, recognizing the important role books play in the lives of children and families.

That same spring, during a Passover seder at my son's house, I watched with delight as my daughter-in-law gave picture books with Jewish themes to each guest. I didn't even know such books existed.

I gave her \$500 and asked her to buy a crate of her favorite books. They were wonderful. And they gave me an idea: starting a similar program for Jewish families.

Through PJ Library and its sister program in Israel, *Sifriyat Pijama*, we send more than 630,000 books each month to Jewish children and families in 21 countries around the world. At any given moment, a child could be reading the same PJ Library book, such as my favorite *Bagels for Benny*, in English, while others read the same book in Spanish, Russian, or Hebrew. We've also expanded to include books for children ages 9 through 11 through PJ Our Way, empowering kids to choose their own books and shape the program for themselves.

“Through PJ Library and its sister program in Israel, *Sifriyat Pijama*, we send more than 630,000 books each month to Jewish children and families in 21 countries around the world.”

Together with our partner communities, we've also equipped parents to feel more confident in raising Jewish children, fostered more opportunities to create community, and forged more partnerships to support different ways of living Jewishly.

PJ Library has always been about more than the book in the now recognizable blue and white envelope that arrives every month — a fact that the Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region has recognized since the Federation first started sending PJ Library books to families 10 years ago.

Growing up in the shadow of the Great Depression and the anti-Semitism of the 1930s and 1940s, I knew I was Jewish — something neighborhood children felt compelled to cruelly “remind” me of — but I didn't always feel connected to Jewish tradition.

Now, as an adult, I believe that my wealth doesn't belong to me, but that my success is the result of the work of the generations who had gone before me. So, I have made it my mission to help preserve the vibrancy of Jewish life and strengthen connections within the Jewish community unconstrained by geographical boundaries. It's a mission that is not possible without the leaders and families supporting PJ Library like everyone in Sacramento.

Harold Grinspoon is the founder of the PJ Library and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

Federation Honored with FBI Community Leadership Award

The Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region was 1 of 57 recipients of the FBI's 2018 Director's Community Leadership Award (DCLA).

Nominated by Community Outreach Specialist Katie Burnett from the FBI office in Sacramento, the DCLA has been the principal means for the FBI to publicly recognize achievements of individuals and organizations that make extraordinary contributions to education and the prevention of crime and violence in their communities. Each field office nominates an individual or organization for the award. Once selected, the recipients are invited to a May ceremony and reception at FBI Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

"The Sacramento FBI is so excited to award the 2018 DCLA to the Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region," Burnett said. "I chose, nominated, and wrote proposals on some top organizations within the community and the Federation was my first choice. I was so happy to hear that you were chosen based on all of your wonderful work within the community!"

"Thank you for helping us protect your communities. We're proud to stand with partners and leaders like you."

Representing and receiving the award in the nation's capital on behalf of Federation was Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) Chair Bruce Pomer. He said the most exciting moment was entering the completely full auditorium at FBI headquarters and watching everyone stand and applaud as the recipients were ushered inside. Pomer also appreciated the presentation by FBI Director Christopher Wray as he spoke about each individual and organization that was honored.

"He spoke about community service, serving the community, and developing relationships with the FBI," Pomer said of Wray's remarks. "This is so important to the success of them doing their job and to deal with discrimination and hate crimes. To serve the community effectively, you have to have the trust of the community. Organizations create that harmony with law enforcement agencies like the FBI that helps them do their job."

About the community and organizational activities, Wray noted, "You're out in our neighborhoods. You see what's happening in our communities every day. And you're taking action to make it better."

The awards were formally created in 1990 to honor the work of community leaders supporting the FBI's mission.

"We believe that at the FBI, there's nothing more important than the work we do, the people we do the work for, and the people we do the work with," Wray continued. "Thank you for helping us protect your communities. We're proud to stand with partners and leaders like you."



TOP: FBI Director Christopher Wray with Sacramento JCRC Chair Bruce Pomer.

BOTTOM: The 57 recipients of the FBI's 2018 Director's Community Leadership Award with FBI Director Christopher Wray.

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TEACHER LISA RAPPAPORT BATES is a 40-year teaching veteran of both public and private schools. Lisa has degrees from the Washington Montessori Institute, Loyola University, and the Advanced Institute for Montessori Studies. She founded the public Montessori program in Folsom Cordova School District and Har Tzeon Montessori in Silver Spring, MD.

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RABBI MENDY COHEN: Moments of Silence



I'm writing this after hearing about the shooting in Poway, California. The question on everyone's mind is how to fix our world. How do we shape our youth into moral, healthy, happy human beings? Human beings that contribute to society.

In 1981, the president of the United States, President Ronald Reagan, was shot. At the time, my mentor, the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Schneerson, spoke about an opportunity that can be an ounce of prevention, which is worth more than a pound of a cure. We have to educate our youth to believe in G-d, the creator of heaven and earth. He has an all-seeing eye, and an all-hearing ear.

Education is not just about knowledge. It's about morals and values that will develop our children into good citizens. If a child knows upon coming to school, that there is a minute of silence during which they contemplate about a higher power, it will enhance our children's internal compass.

Since no one can direct them as to what to think about, it is not an issue of church and state. Their religion or background doesn't matter; it is the focus and awareness that counts.

When all that stops crime is fear of the police, a child can think that they can outsmart the police officer. But when they know that there is an all-seeing eye and all-hearing ear, they are confident that they're in good hands. They know that you can't outsmart G-d.

“If a child knows upon coming to school, that there is a minute of silence during which they contemplate about a higher power, it will enhance our children's internal compass.”

As Jews, we have the custom every morning, upon rising, to utter the words *Modeh Ani Lifanecha*. Thank you, G-d, for giving me life, for trusting me with making good decisions today. What a powerful prayer!

If we really meditate about these words, we will surely have a great day! My dear friend, Rabbi Lang of Camarillo, is working with the local government on drug prevention programs in public schools. He is using this method, and he reports that this moment of silence is changing kids' lives. Kids with behavioral problems are seeing a rise in grades and are overall feeling and doing better.

One moment of silence can transform 24 hours. There is a G-d, and we will all be successful in our unique mission on earth.

Rabbi Cohen is the rabbi of Chabad of Sacramento.



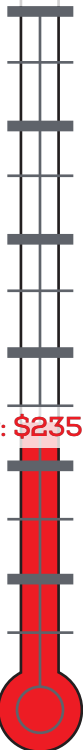
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