

DEC 16
KISLEV-TEVET
5777

the VOICE

your source for local and global Jewish news



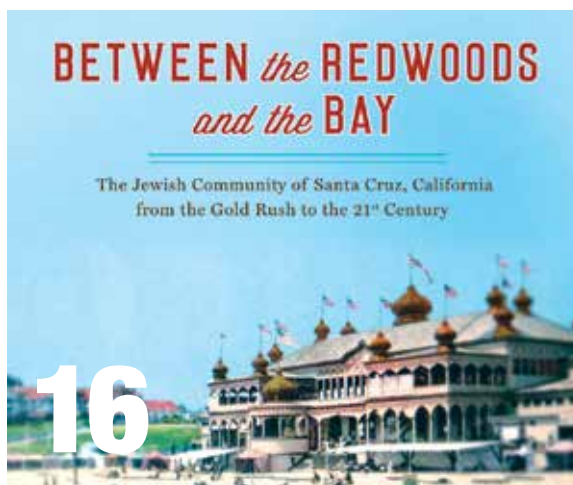
A New Take on An Old Miracle

A publication of The Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...



Unraveling a Family's Secret



Santa Cruz Jewish Community Subject of New Book



Mosaic Law Congregation Member Part of CIM's Running History

PAGE 8

"Build for Unity" Provides Homes and Interfaith Connections

PAGE 18

Shalom School Honors Marvin and Linda Kamras

PAGE 21

Advice: Driving & Seniors

PAGE 22

Calendar



A New Take on An Old Miracle

the VOICE

your source for local and global Jewish news

the VOICE is a publication of The Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region.

The Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region

2130 21st St., | Sacramento, CA 95818

Phone: 916-486-0906 | Fax: 916-441-1662

Email: federation@jewishsac.org

Website: jewishsac.org

Executive Director | William (Willie) J.L. Recht

916-486-0906 | wrecht@jewishsac.org

Managing Editor | Elissa Einhorn

eeinhorn@jewishsac.org

Designer | ImagePoint | ipointdesign@mac.com

Board of Trustees

Executive Committee: Carol Loew, President;

David Poisner, Secretary; Gil Allon, Treasurer;

Jack Mador, Campaign Chair; Deborah Gonzalez,

President Elect; Barry Broad, Past President

Members-At-Large: Cliff Berg, Robert Dresser,

Don Gilbert, Neil Levy, Ralph Lubick, Bruce

Pomer, Sue Sperber

the VOICE is published four times annually by Gold Country Media. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the Jewish Federation. We are not responsible for the kashrut of any advertiser's product or establishment. *the VOICE* reserves the right to refuse advertising or any submissions for publication. The publication of a paid advertisement does not constitute an endorsement of any candidate, political party, or political position by the Jewish Federation.



Relevant or Irrelevant— That is the Question!

Sometime last year, at a luncheon for community movers and shakers, I was having a conversation about the merits of a Jewish Federation in our community. I was sitting next to a very nice young man and began to share my Federation message with him. He looked directly at me and answered with the comment that Federation was "completely irrelevant." Tell that to a dedicated Federation person and you might as well wave a red cape to a bull!

However, when people speak, there is always merit in their message, even when you don't want to hear it. That statement has stayed with me and I have been on a mission since to make sure that this community realizes that we are more than relevant. We must make sure that the message we deliver to our community rings with the wonderful work that is done each and every day by the organization that is both our umbrella and safety net. We must improve the manner in which we communicate our relevance.

And I will begin with what I consider to be the most relevant event happening at our Federation to date. I am proud to introduce our new Executive Director, Willie Recht, who began his position in October.

Willie is a veteran of Federation, starting in his home town of Denver, Colorado. Moving to Sacramento earlier this year, one of his first stops was to visit and volunteer with our Federation. Little did we know at the time, but we had the answer to our Executive Director search right in front of us. We are excited to have a leader with his background, youth, enthusiasm for his work, and commitment to making our Sacramento Federation more than relevant.

Our story is wonderful to tell. Each and every day, our staff and Board have new success stories to share. We need to start sharing them with you. Our work in the community is relevant each and every day.

Our social worker, Rebecca Ray, is fielding a larger volume of calls than we have ever experienced. She is our only social worker and is a 15-hour-a-week staff person. She juggles 20+ calls in any given week, along with monitoring the Food Pantry and transportation for seniors, and closely following our clients. A remarkable woman, she does it with a smile and a

patient ear while running her household of three active Shalom School children.

At the present time, our staff includes a full-time Office Manager, a 20-hour-a-week Program Associate who staffs PJ Library, and a 10-hour-a-week Leisure League staffer. We send free books (not free for Federation, our subsidy is \$50 per child) monthly through PJ Library and plan events for the children. Each month, we hold Leisure League luncheons, with entertainment, at the Einstein Center and Temple Or Rishon. Not too bad for such a small staff!

While we may not have told our story as well as we should have, you will be hearing much from us in the future. It is vitally important that you know what we are doing as each and every family in our community will be touched by one of our outreach programs in their lifetime, oftentimes without even knowing it.

If you noticed, not once have I mentioned our Campaign! I know that when you hear Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region, your first thought is of the solicitation call that you received during the year, usually on a Super Sunday, asking for your gift. That telephone call, while necessary, is not able to translate the many heartbreaking and heartwarming stories that take place every day in our Federation world. Without your kind and generous gifts, our good work throughout the community would be impossible. We gain our power to do good through your generosity.

Along with your gift, we welcome your presence more than anything. We want our Federation home at 2130 21st St. to be your second home. We want you to visit with us, volunteer if you would like, and join us as we bring community together in friendship and service. Just one visit will speak to our relevance to the overall health, connection, and joy of being a part of our Sacramento Jewish community.

See you at 2130 21st St.!

Carol Loew is the President of the Jewish Federation. She may be reached at carolloew1@aol.com.



Continuing the Journey Together

On October 19th, one week before my official start date, I came to the Federation building to meet my team and colleagues on our common turf and to get a lay of the land. Like anyone who is embarking on a new journey, my heart and mind were filled with excitement, purpose and possibility— even before I knew where the bathrooms were, or how to open the magnetic doors. In an attempt to stay focused and present, I brought with me only one item— a framed plaque given to my grandparents on October 17, 2002 from the Milwaukee Jewish Federation’s King David Society for their lifetime of commitment to the Jewish community “locally, nationally, in Israel and throughout the world.”

As I placed this gold frame on my new desk, I was instantaneously overcome with a sense of gratitude and optimism, a flutter in my heart made its way through my body to a smile on my face that if one were to look, or have seen, could have easily stretched from ear to ear.

Let’s take a step back for a moment, to when my husband, Peter, and I arrived to Sacramento in January, leaving behind everything we “knew” in Colorado (jobs, friends, family, community) and found ourselves in a beautiful and strange place— one with no snow on the ground.

Luckily, having worked as a Jewish communal professional for close to a decade I knew that if I wanted to get plugged into the Jewish community here in our new home, the first place I needed to go was the Federation. I called Federation my first week here in Sacramento thinking that my time, my resources, and my efforts would be as a volunteer, never imagining that I would be sitting here, writing to the community as the new Executive Director of this most cherished and important organization. Through this call to the Federation on that cold, sunny January morning, I was welcomed with open arms, connected to new folks who have become some of our closest friends, and was introduced to our new synagogue which has provided a sense of comfort and meaning as we continue to settle in our new home. This is what Federation does for the community: We build. We support. We comfort. We protect, and most importantly, we care for each other.

It is this compassion and care that I hope to highlight as I continue to engage and meet members of this Jewish community, to share the stories of what your support of Federation has meant for me and my family, and how your continued support will enable us to provide this care for generations of Jews to come. Federation needs Sacramento, and Sacramento needs the Federation, and I see it as our job to be the connective tissue of this community, to bind these two communities together. Federation is dedicated to inspiring community members to secure the financial and human resources necessary to achieve the mission of caring for those in need, without discrimination.

Whether it be the various programs through Jewish Family Service— Leisure League, Holiday Outreach, Shabbat Shalom Sacramento, the Committee on Inclusion and Disabilities— which serve hundreds of seniors and others in the Sacramento region who are in need, or PJ Library, which impacts more than 850 families in the community, or our Jewish Community Relations Council, which does the critical work of relationship building with other cultural and religious groups, the Federation, through your continued support, keeps the community engaged and informed, working to ensure that the programs and institutions that enrich Jewish life here, at home, in Israel, and overseas remain vibrant and strong— but it is up to all of us to maintain these efforts. Let us prove to you that by working together, every individual can make a collective difference.

If you have not heard from me by the time you have read this, I encourage you to reach out to me and say hello. Don’t be shy, I am here to work for you and with you, and I look forward to continuing this journey together.

As my grandfather, of blessed memory, would attest, life has a beautiful way of working out and as I type this column to you, our community, that same smile, the encouragement I have felt, the gratitude I have been given, and purpose that I base this work from is here with me—stronger than ever. I offer my most sincere thank you for allowing me the opportunity to join your community and to be a part of this most righteous work.

William (Willie) J.L. Recht is the Executive Director of The Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region. He may be reached at wrecht@jewishsac.org or 916-486-0906.



Small Legacies

MAKE BIG DIFFERENCES

My maternal grandmother was born in Poland in 1902. She arrived on the shores of America with my great grandparents, Rebecca and Naftali, when she was 2 years old. She lived the kind of life most people did in The Bronx— poor, immigrant, working class people just trying to keep their heads above water.

Bertha Gleischer Forman lived through two World Wars, the Great Depression, and the death of her first child in a fire. She became a widow at age 43 year when her husband died suddenly of a heart attack. In order to support herself and her three remaining children, she took on odd jobs, and ran numbers in Harlem as well as a boarding house in Far Rockaway. This is where I spent the last two weeks of every summer, swimming in the ocean from the time the sun rose and sharing one bed with two of my cousins when nighttime arrived, always too soon.

I have some special mementos of Bertha's. A gray basin and yellow plastic tub that she used for baking—the whites of eggs went in the tub while the yolks went into the basin; a ring that I wear every day that she received when she graduated junior high school (and that turned 100 years old this year); and a photograph of her when she was a teenager.

I made another interesting discovery of my grandmother's while cleaning out my garage. It was a key, but not the kind you use to enter your house. This was a decorative key that doubled as a lapel

pin. It had the words "Hadassah" and "Mt. Scopus" engraved on it. While in Sacramento, I tried researching the pin to see if I could find out its significance but I didn't have much luck. I brought it with me to Israel and had the opportunity to tour Hadassah Hospital. Afterwards, I asked my tour guide about the pin's significance. Although she was not immediately aware of what it represented, she said she would find out for me. I sent her a picture of this special piece of jewelry and within an hour, I had some answers.

It turns out this key was presented to donors who contributed to the renovation of Hadassah's Mt. Scopus campus after the Six-Day War. Originally opening its doors in 1939, the hospital reopened in 1975. As my tour guide pointed out, those who received this key made a significant (in 1970s dollars) pledge toward this effort. It wasn't tens of thousands of dollars but whatever it was, I'm pretty sure Bertha had to skimp and scrape to come up with it.

I was stunned by this news. Not because I didn't think my grandmother was a kind and decent human being who cared deeply about being Jewish and the State of Israel. It was because I never knew of her giving. She didn't boast about it or even mention it. And why would I ever think my grandmother was a philanthropist?

Bertha— really both sides of my family— was from peasant stock. She made her own *luxen* (noodles) and according to my mother, could wield a knife the likes of any

Iron Chef. She ate all of the bruised fruit that her grandchildren had already been conditioned not to eat because the apples weren't a perfect shade of red and the bananas had a brown spot on them, and sucked marrow out of a bone like nobody's business. She knew poverty all too well, yet somehow she managed to produce a lawyer, a chemical engineer, and an independent working woman before that became the norm. I honestly don't know how she did it. I mean this was a woman who wrapped money in a hankie and pinned it to the inside of her dress. She just could not have had that much!

But she found something that was important to her. She found a cause that spoke to her. I wish I knew then what I know now. I would have asked her what inspired her to give when she had so little herself. True, she was recognized with this pin, but it seems she was a quiet giver, never boasting about being part of building a hospital that serves all citizens of Israel, regardless of race or religion.

Many of us probably don't think of ourselves as philanthropists or as philanthropic because we can't give the big gifts— the ones that garner our names on buildings or headlines in the newspapers— but we all can be. All it takes is believing in something and wanting to be part of making it better.

Elissa Einhorn is the Managing Editor of the VOICE.



Your Pledge is Vital to Our Support for Israel

Along with helping to build and sustain a strong local Jewish community, your Federation dollars also help support vital infrastructure to Israel (non-military) and to the diaspora. This is especially true in times of crises. But we can always do more to increase our capacity to help and increase our awareness of the importance of the Jewish State. We need to begin by educating ourselves and our youth about the rise of anti-Semitism in our community, the United States, and the Western World and what we can do to protect ourselves and future generations. Here are some thoughts to consider and ways you can help:

MISSIONS: Federation wants to increase the ability of everyone in our community to visit Israel, whether it's through our Teen Israel program coordinated with the Saltzman Teen Israel Endowment Fund, which provides certificates of \$500 to every bar and bat mitzvah, Birthright for young adults, or community missions for individuals and families. In order to make this happen, we want to establish funding for subsidies to support a first-time trip for singles and young couples. Visiting the land of our ancestors creates a unique connection to the history of our people and what has been accomplished that makes Israel a thriving country. All of us are, hopefully, concerned about teaching the importance of Israel as central to the Jewish people. A trip to Israel is one of the best ways to accomplish this.

SAFETY: Israel is relevant to our history and in our lives. We need to translate that relevancy for younger generations who have never experienced a world without a safe haven for Jews, whether they be Holocaust refugees, Russian immigrants fleeing religious persecution, or French Jews fleeing terrorist attacks. And remember that in times of need and distress or disasters in the world, Israel is the first to respond. Although Israel is strong, we still need to do our part to keep her strong. By making the commitment to contribute to her welfare, we are strengthening our mutual bond.

Correction: In the September 2016 issue, Barry Broad's column, *The ABCs of BDS*, incorrectly indicated that Hatem Bazian has a degree from Tel Aviv University.

ROLE OF OUR FEDERATION: As the "Central Address" of the Jewish community, Federation also is a "first responder." When anti-Semitism and criticism of Jews or Israel rears its head (and it often does), we are there to respond, educate, and create alliances with local interfaith and minority communities through our Jewish Community Relations Council.

As we close our Campaign for 2016, please give and if you find that you can increase your prior gift, please do so. Show that you care and are concerned for our community and our brethren abroad.

Jack Mador is Federation's 2016 Campaign Chair.

Serving Since 1935

Lombard & Company

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Outstanding Reputation within the Jewish Community

In time of need and pre-need arrangements
Phone (916) 483-3297 Fax (916) 483-3063
1550 Fulton Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95825
FD #1037

Lombard's Pledge to the Jewish Community
To Continue to...

- ...Offer the best service
- ...Be affordable for all Jewish families
- ...Give compassion to the families in need
- ...Be reliable in delivering our promises
- ...Offer dignity with respect honoring the Jewish traditions from generation to generation
- ...Provide quality service for the fairest price
- ...Have a convenient location serving the greater Sacramento region

David Varshawsky
Family Service Director

Years of active service in the Sacramento Jewish community – Member of Mosaic Law for 60 years
License #OC57788

Now Jewish Families Have Another Choice

Unraveling a Family's Secret



Roger Rosenberg (left) and his twin brother Bruce Pomer who were reunited nearly five decades after they were separated.

In 1939, Gerda Rader escapes Germany, but not before she is kidnapped and raped by a Nazi. Rader settles in San Francisco, gives birth to a daughter, followed by a set of twin boys. One of the babies disappears under mysterious circumstances. Gerda passes away in 1996 and takes her family's secret to her grave.

So might begin the prologue to a great mystery novel, except this story is true. Welcome to the life of Sacramento resident and Chair of the Jewish Community Relations Council, Bruce Pomer. The plot, were it a novel, would unfold as follows:

After the birth of her daughter, Joyce, and her sons, Roger and Bruce, Gerda is busy raising her family. Everything appears normal until eight days before the twins' 1st birthday, when Roger "disappears."

"When he was born in 1949, Roger apparently looked like the Nazi who raped his mother," explains Bruce's wife, Anne, immediately admitting that this cannot possibly be true since it was a decade after the rape. "Still, (Gerda) decided it wasn't her child."

Two competing stories were revealed. One, explains Bruce, is that his twin died from a weak heart after being sent away to a hospital. Another comes from his sister, Joyce, who said Roger was placed in a San Francisco orphanage for Jewish children who were abandoned and neglected. Wanting to know the truth, Anne made it her mission to find her husband's brother.

Like many leads that would follow, the trail to Roger would grow cold—sometimes because of circumstances, other times to maintain the family secret. For example, Anne describes a visit to Bruce's grandmother, Trudy, who lived in Burlingame and who the couple would visit monthly.

"I asked her where she lived when her grandson died and where her daughter lived," Anne recalls. "I asked her if she went to the funeral and if she knew where the baby was buried. She said she didn't."

Anne continued asking questions during her visits until Trudy abruptly told her, "Anne, the baby died!"

The Plot Thickens

Still not convinced of Roger's fate, Anne recommenced her search in the mid-1980s when she was sending away for Bruce's birth certificate. She decided to ask the Department of Vital Records for his twin's birth certificate but received a letter saying the records were sealed.

"Why would a dead baby have a sealed birth certificate?" Anne asked herself. "It didn't make sense."

Through a series of mishaps in trying to retrieve Bruce's birth certificate, Anne was given documents by Gerda showing that the family had changed its name from Pomerantz to Pomer, a fact Bruce knew about but about which he didn't think much. It meant a lot to Anne, however, who again was left with more questions.

"The story about the baby dying didn't fit because the baby was alive when the name change happened," she realized.

Anne picked up the trail after Gerda's death in 1996, when her will disclosed that she disinherited Bruce—perhaps because she feared he knew the truth—and that she had a baby that she gave away. Returning to the Department of Vital Records, Bruce's wife now decided to ask for two additional birth certificates—one for the person whose birth was recorded right before Bruce and one for the person recorded immediately after. Enter Roger Rosenberg, born one minute after Bruce at the same hospital on the same day. Anne called her husband and said, "I have the name of your brother."

After scouring the phone book for "R. Rosenberg" throughout California, Anne was determined to find *the* Roger Rosenberg. When the first

person she dialed in Concord answered, Anne had no idea if he knew he was a twin or even if he was adopted. She said, "I'm looking for Roger Rosenberg who is 47 years old and whose middle name is Alex. He answered, 'Why?' and I knew it was him."

After explaining she was married to his twin brother, Bruce Pomer, Roger's response was, "No wonder why I haven't been able to find him. I've been looking for Pomerantz all over the State."

Bruce was initially unmoved by the discovery, feeling, "I have a great family, a good life, a good career, I'm engaged in the community. What I didn't know, I didn't miss. It would not have happened without Anne."

If finding his brother solved one mystery, Roger's life proved to be another. He served in the special forces but no military record existed; he had access to important people in Congress and military brass at high levels; he ran a private investigation business; he served in Vietnam; he spent six months in an East German jail; and he helped bring Ethiopian Jews to Israel. All of this was revealed while Bruce was enjoying a successful 40+-year career in the government and private sector at the local, state, and national levels.

Recalling their first meeting in a Bay-area restaurant, Bruce says, "I looked up and saw someone walking in. I went up to him, looked him in the face, stuck out my hand, and said, 'Hi Roger. I'm Bruce.'"

Epilogue

Despite the fact that they were raised in different circumstances, the brothers discovered a shared value system.

"Meeting him was really transformative," says Bruce, who, along with Roger, told his story on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" in 1997.

Roger passed away in 2009 from severe liver disease, but not before living with the Pomers while receiving treatment, which gave the family a unique opportunity to reconnect.

"It's all wrapped up in my Jewish identity," Bruce says of being reunited with his twin after nearly 50 years. "I grew up with a mother who feared the Holocaust and barely got out of Germany. When I think about that and then not having my twin brother, it's a highly profound experience."

“Build for Unity”

Provides Homes and Interfaith Connections

This past October, Jason Weiner and Sharon Rogoff removed their hats as a non-profit consultant and retired Hospital Unit Service Coordinator and traded them in for hard hats. As Co-Chairs of Congregation B’nai Israel’s (CBI) Social Action Committee, the pair led a delegation of congregants who participated in the first-ever “Build for Unity” project.

The idea, Weiner explains, began when members of the SALAM Center, a local Islamic worship, recreational, and educational center, decided they wanted to do something proactively in response to what they saw as intolerance and prejudice toward the Muslim community. They contacted Habitat for Humanity and requested to do an interfaith project. A faith-based organization, Habitat for Humanity seeks to eliminate poverty and homelessness and make shelter a priority worldwide.

“The organization and the Muslim community invited other faith communities to participate,” Weiner continues. “When Rabbi (Mona) Alfi approached the Board, they were enthusiastic about it.”

Reaching out to 20 area congregations of different faiths as well as local businesses, Habitat for Humanity raised the \$176,000 needed to build two homes for local Ukrainian refugee families. In addition to fundraising, communities participated in each other’s events to create awareness of the project. These have included a meal during Eid, which marks the end of Ramadan; an Iftar dinner, the traditional evening meal during Ramadan; and a Havdalah program at CBI.

“Of course the building of homes is being part of a larger community and working with other faiths is an important part of being a member of a synagogue,” Rogoff says. “People feel good about working with other communities. It gives them more chances to connect with Muslims, Sikhs, and other Christians. People feel strongly about connecting with other minority and faith communities.”

The CBI building team has 30 volunteers and counting. Additionally, blueprints that will be hung on the exterior of each house were brought to the congregation during the High Holidays, giving people a chance to sign their names and write messages to the families who will dwell in the new homes. Even the youngest CBI members participated by stamping their handprints on the designs. Volunteers will also have the opportunity to meet the new homeowners who provide sweat equity by taking part in the building process as part of Habitat for Humanity’s model. The homes are slated to be finished by February.

“This started as a way for the Muslim community to build and connect and to demonstrate how invested they are in the greater community,” Weiner notes. “It is bringing together so many different faiths that it naturally builds those connections. The proof is in these homes.”

Following the lead of the Sacramento project, five other communities across the country, including Philadelphia and New York, have begun similar projects. For the CBI Social Action Chairs, it was an extension of existing work.



Congregation B’nai Israel members are joined by a Habitat for Humanity site supervisor as they contribute to building homes as part of the “Build for Unity” program.

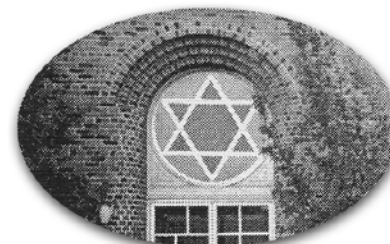
“Since last Yom Kippur, we have been doing programs to help our community understand issues of racism and inherent bias, and to understand our own diversity as a congregation,” Rogoff says.

“Building for Unity” started with the belief that everyone deserves to have a safe place to call home and also a desire to build bridges between faith communities in Sacramento to combat a growing culture of religious intolerance and xenophobia.

By participating, Weiner simply notes, “We are building the interfaith community.”

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

Low Rosenberg, Executive Director

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

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

HELPING OUR COMMUNITY IS EASY!



There are so many ways you can make an impact.

What makes the Jewish Federation unique is our ability to serve the entire Jewish community, regardless of political, religious, or organizational affiliation.

**HELPING THOSE IN
NEED IS OUR NUMBER
ONE PRIORITY. IT CAN
BE YOURS, TOO!**



The Jewish Federation
OF THE SACRAMENTO REGION

916-486-0906

WWW.JEWISHSAC.ORG/DONATE

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

There is no better way to make an immediate impact than through the Federation's Annual Campaign. Through every stage of life, Federation is there to ensure the most urgent needs of our community are met. Through your generosity, we are able to fund the critical programs and services needed to maintain a strong, vibrant, and healthy community!

LIFE AND LEGACY

By establishing a legacy through a bequest or planned gift, you will plant the seeds for future generations, doing your part to make sure the Federation and our Jewish community remain strong for years to come. You can donate to our general endowment, Jewish Family Service Endowment, or Teen Israel Endowment.

CELEBRATIONS AND MEMORIALS

Whether you are celebrating a child's B'nai Mitzvah, rejoicing in the birth of a new family member, or sending love to a friend in need, these certificates are customized for each occasion and feature a moving quote from a classic Jewish source. Starting at just \$18, these certificates not only show friends and family that you are thinking of them, but your donation will enhance the lives of thousands of local community members and millions of Jews worldwide who receive Federation's support each year.

DONATE A VEHICLE

Have an old car you're ready to say goodbye to? You can drive change and donate a vehicle today. Old cars, trucks, boats, trailers, and RVs are accepted. Need more details or want to make arrangements? Contact 800-240-0160.

CLICK AWAY ON AMAZON.COM

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the Federation whenever you shop on AmazonSmile, which is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Start shopping now at smile.amazon.com.

E-WASTE

Help Federation raise a few shekels by donating your e-waste to us. Drop off old computer monitors, cell phones, faxes, printers, and other e-waste at our office. We'll take care of the rest!

VOLUNTEER

See the impact you can have first-hand through several Jewish Family Service volunteer opportunities including telephone check-ins with seniors, food delivery, home visits, holiday outreach, and making Shabbat in senior living facilities around the community. We also need volunteers for our annual Jewish Heritage Festival Celebrating Israel, the largest event our community has all year!

Join Us for Federation's Big Event

SAVE-THE-DATE

"An Evening at Home"

January 14, 2017

Details and Invitation to Follow



The Jewish Federation
OF THE SACRAMENTO REGION



A New Take on An Old Miracle

As Jews around the world prepare to celebrate Chanukah, they might be found polishing their menorahs, searching for their favorite latke or sufganiyot recipes, or brushing up on their skills with dreidels that bear the acronym for *Nes Gadol Haya Sham*, “A Great Miracle Happened There” (or in Israel, *Nes Gadol Haya Poh*, “A Great Miracle Happened Here”).

Four of us who are now based in the Sacramento region have our own miracles to share in honor of the “Festival of Lights.”

Following are our stories...

The Miracles

I am
the oldest
among us.

My family descends from Yemen, where I am told Jews have lived since the destruction of the Second Temple. Yemenite Jews are traditional people, people of the Torah. Although we lived among Muslims for centuries, our lives remained centered around Judaism and keeping the Torah alive.

My family survived the Ottoman invasion of Yemen, where we hid in our family's basement in order to evade the pogroms of the mid-1800s. My great, great, great grandfather passed down family stories about life in what I would describe as a primitive country and still, the poorest in the Middle East. Unlike much of European Jewry, in Yemen, no records were kept, no archives preserved, no documents registered. Life's events were simply recorded on the back of a Siddur. If a child was born— a male child, that is— a sentence might be written that states, "On this beautiful day, a star came into our lives" with the boy's name and date.

In 1949, word of Israel's re-establishment reached our tiny village. *Shlichim* ("Emissaries") from the newly-formed Jewish State travelled all over the region— Morocco, Iraq, Tunisia, Iran, Yemen, and elsewhere— and announced, "We finally have the country we have been longing for for thousands of years. It is time to come home!"

Having been treated as second class citizens and persecuted by local Arabs, many Yemenite Jews, including my family, decided to heed the call and leave everything behind to begin the trek to Eretz Yisrael. We travelled by foot and atop donkeys for many miles over many weeks, finally arriving in Aden, the British-controlled port city where we were airlifted to Israel. We all left— my grandparents, parents, uncles, aunts, and cousins— closing the book on our clan's history in Yemen but opening up a new chapter that would eventually lead me to Mosaic Law Congregation. Although I am 9,000 miles from my original homeland, new generations of my family, and others, keep my ancient traditions alive.

My history
begins in
Czechoslovakia

more than 100 years before I was even rescued by the Prague Jewish community in 1942. It all started in 1830 in Breznice, located in what is now the center of the Czech Republic, population 3,700. Like many, I was hidden during World War II. Thanks to my rescuers, I, along with more than 100,000 artifacts from deserted Jewish communities and destroyed synagogues— including 1,800 Torahs, gold and silver ornaments, and ceremonial objects— reached safety.

We all hoped that one day, we would return to our original homes. Curators from Prague's Central Jewish Museum, which currently houses one of the largest collections of Judaica in the world, worked tirelessly and under appalling conditions to preserve treasures from Jewish communities, including my own, that had been mercilessly vandalized. In the end, all of the guardians of these riches were transported to Terezin and Auschwitz. Only two survived, not nearly enough to continue safeguarding the Jewish community's long history in the area.

All was not lost, however. Nearly 20 years after the War, I, and many of my brethren arrived in London, ready to begin a new life. In an ironic twist, I survived the Holocaust, yet was now assigned a different type of number— 467 out of the 1,500 of us that survived. Still, I had the chance to live on while so many others didn't.

I reached Keneset Israel Torah Center (KITC) in 1987, but faced danger once again in 1999 when three Sacramento-area synagogues, including KITC, were firebombed. To protect me from further trauma, I lived in the home of congregants, finally ready to return to the synagogue a decade later. Once again, I managed to escape harm. Although I am too old to participate in weekly Shabbat services, I enjoy the attention I receive on special holidays and occasions. Thousands of congregants have honored me over the years with blessings and by holding me close. I know I am a source of pride as well as a link to the Holocaust and our ancestors. My history has become part of KITC's history.

Among Us

I am a descendant of six generations of rabbis.

Like many others from Leipzig, Germany, I had to leave under a shroud of secrecy in order to survive. My eventual guardian fled to the United States, fearing imprisonment by the English for being an enemy alien, which is exactly what happened to one of his brothers. Instead, he, along with other unlikely soldiers who escaped Nazi persecution as teenagers, trained in intelligence, counterintelligence, and interrogation work, and returned to Europe to fight in the War. They were predominantly Jews who were recruited because they spoke German and knew the culture. They called themselves "The Ritchie Boys," after Camp Ritchie in Maryland, known as the birthplace of psychological warfare.

When he reunited with his London-based mother in 1974, this unlikely soldier saw me and asked if I could return with him to California. I was affectionately embraced and have held much meaning for my family and Congregation B'nai Israel (CBI). Although small in stature, I have stood tall and proud during decades of Kol Nidre services, providing fond memories to generations of congregants. It has even been said that to be associated with me is akin to wearing a badge of honor.

Having once escaped danger, I have willingly accepted a new undertaking that puts me in a more modern-day kind of jeopardy. Rather than Nazi-occupied Germany, this mission brought me to Jerusalem, where I have been welcomed by Women of the Wall (WOW) and have assisted them to give women a voice at the Kotel. With the blessing of my family of origin who has fiercely supported equality for women for decades and are proud of the difference I am making to empower Jewish women, I arrived on International Women's Day on a plane flown by a woman pilot and co-pilot. This was bashert, I'm sure!

My role is to appear at the Kotel every Rosh Chodesh and help women read Torah. This action is steeped in political and ideological controversy but I remain committed with the unwavering support of my congregational family. In fact, I was attacked just a few weeks ago and earlier in the year, when I and WOW Director, Lesley Sachs, were detained by the police, CBI Rabbi Mona Alf indicated that I had done my job by "playing an important role in advancing the cause of pluralism in our beloved Jewish State."

My legacy began in 1961,

when a group of individuals opened the doors to Congregation Bet Haverim, a spiritual home for Jews in Davis. I entered the scene 50 years later, during CBH's jubilee celebration. Although a complete newcomer, I was greeted with arms spread wide and treated as a sort of blank canvass on which congregants could make their mark. I became a symbol of CBH's past and hope for its future.

Young and old revered me, carefully approaching me as I became more and more familiar to them.

Everyone saw my potential but they were still in awe at the power I seemed to possess. I presented a defining moment for many and have become an integral part of the congregation's celebrations over the past five years—many B'nai Mitzvah teens who had no idea who I was when I arrived, have had powerful experiences with me leading them around the congregation. I have become an intimate and memorable part of their history and that of their family's.

Although I am not old, I am delicate. That's why my congregational family created a special coat especially for me. Fabrics from wedding dresses, sweatshirts, baby blankets, and other personal items were lovingly sewn together to protect me. I am honored that congregants are able to see themselves reflected in me each time I am embraced by them.

My story will continue to be told so it can become a central part of CBH's history. In that way, I can continue to fulfill my purpose, which is to be the light of the Jewish people.



Yemenite Torah belonging to Moti Darf's family for generations.



Congregation B'nai Israel's "Rudy's Torah."

Now you know our stories but do you know who we are? While it's true that we do not possess a body, it could be said that we each possess a soul that we share with everyone who comes into contact with us.

Who Are We?

We are miracle Torahs that have not only survived, but thrived.

For some of us, the journey has been long and arduous; for others joyous; and for still others, a motivation to be an agent of change. One thing we have in common, however, is that we have triumphed over evil and uniquely reinvented ourselves in order to preserve and celebrate Jewish continuity.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Thank you to Keneset Israel Torah Center Co-President Simone-Monnier Clay; Moti Darf, whose family's Yemenite Torah is on loan to Mosaic Law Congregation; Congregation B'nai Israel member and Vice Chair, North American Board of the Union for Reform Judaism, Jennifer Kaufman; Peter Michaels, son of Rudy Michaels, one of the "Ritchie Boys;" and Congregation Bet Haverim Rabbi, Greg Wolfe, for sharing the stories of their congregations' miracle Torahs.

Czechoslovakian Torah saved during the Holocaust and now housed at Keneset Israel Torah Center.



Congregation Bet Haverim Torah, written from scratch to celebrate its Jubilee Year.



dillerr
TIKKUN
OLAM
AWARDS

Nominate a Teen

\$36,000 TIKKUN OLAM LEADERSHIP AWARDS

The 2017 Diller Teen Tikkun Olam Awards will recognize up to five Jewish teens from California and ten from across the United States for exceptional community service and leadership repairing the world.



Help us identify and celebrate great Jewish teens in our community.



Nominations are now open.
Deadline: December 18, 2016
www.dillerteenawards.org

The Diller Teen Tikkun Olam Awards are funded by the Helen Diller Family Foundation, a supporting foundation of the Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund.

Helen
DILLER
FAMILY FOUNDATION



Santa Cruz Jewish Community Subject of New Book

A chance encounter between two historians closed the book on one mystery but opened the door to another.

Folsom resident Victoria Fisch, a professional genealogist and family historian, first met author George Fogelson while searching for her mother's long lost brother, 1 of nearly 3,000 American volunteers who fought in Abraham Lincoln's Brigade during the Spanish Civil War.

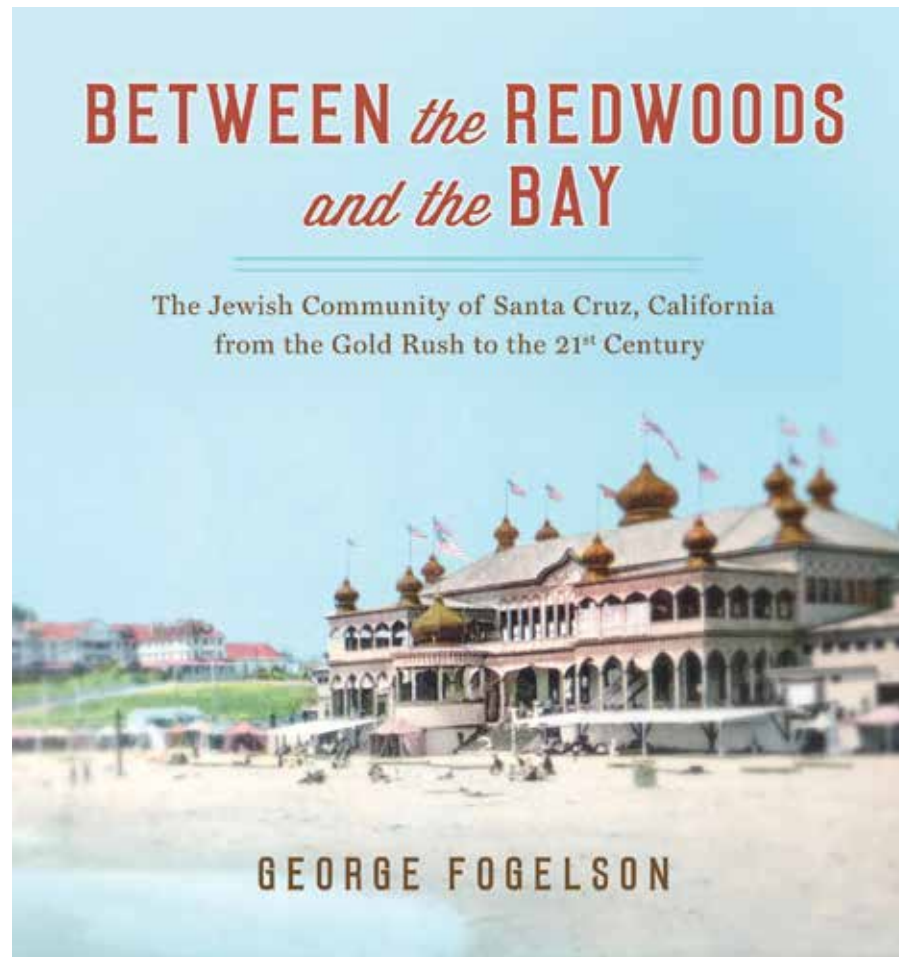
"He went to fight and the family never heard from him again," Fisch says of her great uncle.

Using her genealogical prowess, the historian followed promising leads and ended up at the Hall of Records in San Francisco. Her hopes of retrieving her great uncle's death certificate were realized when it was delivered by none other than Fogelson, who began his academic career at the University of California, Santa Cruz, (UCSC) Cowell College in 1975. He transferred to UC Berkeley, graduating with a degree in American Jewish History with honors. The two corresponded over the years but it wasn't until Fisch was visiting the Western Jewish History Center, once part of the Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life (formerly the Judah L. Magnes Museum), that the pair reconnected.

"I was rummaging around and stumbled across a monograph in an orange folder with clips," Fisch recalls. "It was about the Jews in Santa Cruz and it was written by George."

Within a week, the pair was working together. The result of their collaboration is the recently published, *Between the Redwoods and the Bay, The Jewish Community of Santa Cruz, California from the Gold Rush to the 21st Century*.

For Fisch, who also serves as the Northern California Editor of *Western States Jewish History Journal*, where several of her articles about



Jews and the Gold Rush were published, the partnership with Fogelson was a natural fit.

"When I was a student at UCSC in 1975," Fogelson begins, "a fellow classmate asked if I knew of the Jewish cemetery at the base of campus and if I wanted to visit. I said yes and was surprised to see graves dating back to the 1870s and also to learn that there was a vibrant community in the late 1800s, more so than the rest of the next century up until the advent of the university."

Enrolled in a Modern Jewish History class at the time, Fogelson chose to write a paper about the pioneer Jews of Santa Cruz. When he transferred to UC Berkeley, he continued his research as part of an honors thesis class in History. This formed the basis for the book, which credits Fisch as the editor.

Among the many notable historical finds was a woman whose family had lived in Santa Cruz County since 1870. Her family preserved photographs and records about what life was like.

"Knowing somebody and following a particular story is revealing," Fisch explains, "because it reflects a pattern of Jewish immigration to the western states. People who came for the Gold Rush like this family, started out as peddlers, moving from mining camp to mining camp in the Sierra-Nevada. Some went to San Francisco; others left the area and headed to the mountains."

Those who settled in Santa Cruz arrived mainly because of the railroads. At the time, the area was shifting to an agricultural community and also was the only port in the region. A cluster of approximately 50 families gave birth to the Jewish community. People celebrated High Holidays and other life cycle events, and a rabbi was enlisted from San Francisco to officiate at different functions.

The county's profile changed when three generations later, children began leaving the area for employment opportunities. World War II brought an influx of Jewish refugees, while the arrival of many Jewish professors after the 1965 opening of the University also changed the community's demographics.

"This is still a very vibrant community with diverse observance," says Fisch of the Jewish community. "Today's Santa Cruz reflects its origins."

Fogelson, whose mother was on a Kindertransport from Berlin in 1939 and whose family stressed the importance of remembering the past so others will remember, says this project "is a way to remember and honor those Jewish residents who came before us, so their stories will not be lost and forgotten."

Mosaic Law Congregation Member Part of CIM's Running History



Dr. Steve Polansky crosses the finish line at the California International Marathon (CIM). He is 1 of only 12 runners who have participated in the CIM since it began in 1983.

“When you have a streak going, it’s not about the finish line, but about getting to the starting line,” Polansky jokes.

Steve Polansky began running marathons in 1980 and has never looked back. Well, actually, during the annual California International Marathon (CIM), he looks back from a particular vantage point.

“I like to line up near the starting line and look back at the field,” Polansky says. “The course begins uphill and I can see 10,000 runners behind me. It’s awe inspiring and takes my breath away.”

For those looking down at Polansky, it’s equally awe inspiring. This 70-year-old ob-gyn is 1 of only 12 runners who has participated in every CIM since it began in 1983.

A native New Yorker, Polansky ran in high school but began taking the sport seriously in 1975 after finishing his 4-year residency in Rochester, New York, and joining the Air Force. A graduate of the State University of New York, Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn, he was serving at Mather Air Force Base and running was simply a way of doing something after “sitting on our duffs all day.”

His first race was the Camellia Marathon in West Sacramento. Three years later, he joined 1,600 other runners for the then-new CIM, a 26.2-mile downhill course that has remained unchanged for 33 years. Beginning at Folsom Dam at an elevation of 366 feet, and ending at the State Capital, an elevation of 26 feet, the course leads its devotees through Folsom, Citrus Heights, Fair Oaks, Carmichael, and Sacramento. Polansky loved the race so much, he asked to be on the Board and has served ever since.

Somewhat of a running historian, the Mosaic Law Congregation member explains the CIM’s humble beginnings in the 1980s as a way to bring attention to the then-growing city of Folsom. He gets visibly excited as he talks about the early days of the sport which was dominated by men until women like Sally Edwards and Kathy Switzer helped to break the gender barrier—Switzer doing so by running under K. Switzer in the 1967 Boston Marathon until she was literally dragged off the course when her identity was revealed. Edwards, an elite long-distance runner, is a

pioneer of the Olympic triathlon and inductee into the Triathlon Hall of Fame.

“It’s interesting how things have changed,” Polansky reflects. “It used to be that women were overwhelmed by men in long distance races. Today, it’s a 50/50 split.”

The Chief of Staff at Mercy San Juan Hospital is reflective of his own accomplishments as well, including qualifying for the prestigious Boston Marathon in 2014. Admitting to wanting to stop running the CIM after the 25th race, then the 30th race, and now thinking about doing so after the 35th race, he quickly retracts his own prediction, saying, “I probably won’t.”

Polansky’s regimen includes morning runs which turn into an average of 25 miles each week along the American River Bike Trail and 40 in the three months leading up to the race, this year, December 4, 2016.

“When you have a streak going, it’s not about the finish line, but about getting to the starting line,” Polansky jokes. “My first goal is not to get injured, which is a challenge the older I get.”

And although he has no visions of being the last man standing—he is after all the second oldest of the 12 “streakers” (the oldest is 74)—Polansky is proud to represent what has grown into the 14th largest marathon in the country and one with a worldwide reputation. Invested in the community, the group visits Shriners’ Hospital and sets up a course for the children, some of whom are in a wheelchair, after which they are awarded medals. Other charitable work has included donating equipment to Shriners’ and the University of California, Davis, and sponsoring kids’ athletics programs. The race also has been a platform for raising hundreds of thousands of dollars to support other charities.

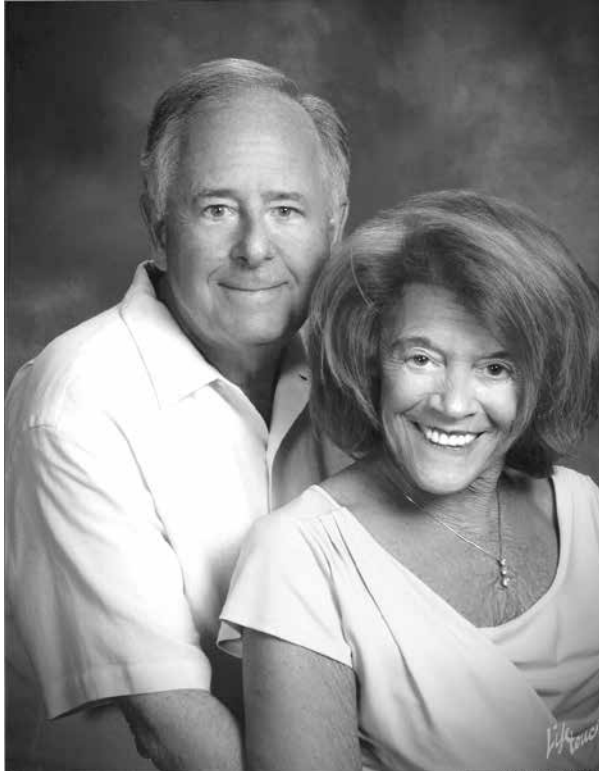
“I am really proud of CIM’s origins and how it’s grown and become successful,” Polansky says. “I am incredibly grateful and blessed.”

For more information about the CIM, visit runsra.org/california-international-marathon.

SHALOM SCHOOL HONORS

Marvin and Linda Kamras

by Shalom School Board & Staff



Linda and Marvin Kamras

Thornbush! Thornbush! It is not because you are loftier than all trees that the Holy Blessing one rested the divine presence on you. Rather because you are humbler than all trees that the holy blessed one rested the Divine Presence on you.

— The Talmud

In February, Shalom School honors two of its founders, Linda and Marvin Kamras. They said they were both honored and humbled by this event. Honored to know that their volunteer efforts warranted this recognition and humbled because of the inherent responsibility implied to continue their efforts on behalf of Shalom School.

Marvin and Linda teach the community in the best way possible, by example. Jewish tradition teaches about tzedakah, education, and humility, and they embody these qualities and so much more. Since the founding of Shalom School 37 years ago, along with other visionary leaders, they have watched it grow, thrive, and overcome some difficult times. With each milestone, Marvin and Linda celebrate with ever increasing passion the imprint the school has made in this community and the necessity for supporting Jewish education.

The Kamrases believe that L'Dor v'Dor cannot be transmitted through Jewish foods, a Jewish heart, or family gatherings for Rosh Hashanah and Pesach alone. It requires true knowledge through day school education as the best hope for a strong, vibrant, and committed next generation. It is for this reason that Marvin and Linda arranged for the permanent loan of a precious Legacy Czech Holocaust Torah and donated a uniquely designed ark in which to house it in the Shalom School library. This way, generations of students can visually see and study from a partially burnt Torah that survived the Shoah. Additionally, the Kamrases provided a new updated version of the Shalom School Siddur, so that each and every student can have a personal copy.

Above all, their leadership has set the standard for giving at Shalom School. Linda is a Past President who continues to attend board meetings and offer her invaluable wisdom. Marvin is the Treasurer and ensures the financial integrity of the school. Yet again, they give so deeply of their time and experience.

Their devotion to a meaningful Jewish life for the next generation extends beyond the walls of Shalom School to the larger Jewish community. They have established the Keshet Fund at Mosaic Law Congregation to provide financial scholarships to youth in need in Sacramento, ages 12 to 18, to

attend Kadima and USY events. It is a great Jewish networking program that maintains friendships through college and beyond and is an integral part of the teenage experience.

Tzedakah seems to be such a natural and unsolicited value for the Kamrases. It is their love and appreciation for their heritage that motivates their actions without any expectation of notoriety. They only hope that they motivate others to act in kind. "They see educating the next generation and leaving a legacy in Sacramento as a sacred task," says Gayle Govenar, President of Shalom School.

Rabbi Taff, spiritual leader of Mosaic Law Congregation, where the Kamrases have long been members says of them, "Marvin and Linda have influenced generations of children in our community. I truly believe that their work in creating and maintaining Shalom School is sacred and our society will reap the benefits for years to come."

Nancy Leaderman, Head of School, adds, "Linda and Marvin exemplify the importance of tzedakah and our tradition. They see their ability to support worthy causes as a gift and a sacred obligation which they are most grateful they can fulfill. We are so fortunate that they have helped build Shalom School and done so much for our community."

As philanthropist Andrew Carnegie has stated, "No man can become truly rich without enriching others. The man who dies rich only in valuables dies in disgrace." Marvin and Linda have lived by this quote and said that in order to provide our children with a love and appreciation for their heritage, "we would have to make a long-term commitment to meet this challenge. We knew that we would have to measure our own sense of performance and accountability by the way in which our children mature into adulthood, the values they would embrace, and the choices they would make."

The Talmud teaches us, "The reward of charity depends entirely upon the extent of kindness in it." Marvin and Linda will indeed be well rewarded.

Shalom School honors the Kamrases and celebrates Tu B'Shvat on February 11, 2017 at The Center at Twenty-Three Hundred from 7:00-11:00pm. For more information, contact 916-485-4151 or jjeffrey@shalomschool.org.



Jewish Family Service
A program of the Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region



Interested in volunteering with Jewish Family Service? We are looking for people who would like to visit with lonely and homebound seniors in the region.

For more information, contact Federation's Community Social Worker, Rebecca Ray, at 916-205-0688.

Celebrate

Chanukah 5777

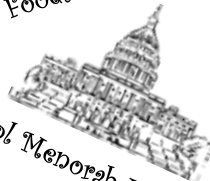
with Chabad of Sacramento



Chanukah Festival at Whole Foods!



Kings Game and HALF TIME Menorah lighting!



Capitol Menorah Lighting



Rosh Chodesh Society!

...and more!

Check out the full schedule online:

www.SacJewishLife.org/Chanukah



Central Valley Holocaust Educators' Network

**CVHEN HOLOCAUST LIBRARY
AND
RESOURCE CENTER
HOURS**

SUNDAY: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

WEDNESDAY: 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM

THURSDAY: 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Or by appointment,
email liz@cvhen.com

*A Benefit Honoring
Sandy & Al Sokolow
for Decades of Devotion*



Sunday, March 5, 2017

2:00 - 5:00 pm

For Sponsorships & Tickets
530-756-3708
hillelhouse.org

RSVP by
February 17, 2017

*Israeli - inspired
Hors d'Oeuvres,
Desserts & Wine
by
Simply Delicious of Los Angeles*

Davis | Sacramento
Hillel
Welcome Home
328 A St., Davis

Celebrate

Mosaic Law's 21 living Past Presidents
and their Predecessors at this year's
Gala, *Time and Time Again!*
January 21, 2017 at 6:30 pm



Dine

on farm to fork produce
at our international,
kosher, gourmet event

Groove

with the Cheeseballs! Motown,
funk, hip-hop rock and new wave



The Center at 2300 Sierra Blvd.

Tickets \$150 per person available at www.mosaiclaw.org

HAPPY CHANUKAH

Ensuring a Jewish Community,
Today, Tomorrow and Forever.



Sunday, December 11, 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.
The ONLY Sacramento Area Screening



An Israeli Woman's
Three Year Fight to
Divorce Her Husband
Including Discussion with
May Pundak of the
New Israel Fund
Sponsored by
Israel Peace Alternatives
FREE; No RSVP



1715 Anderson Road, Davis • Learn more at
www.bethaverim.org/about-us/committees-groups/IPA

ADVICE: Seniors and Driving

by Rebecca Ray, MSW



Rebecca Ray

As the Community Social Worker at the Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region, I am asked many questions. One question that keeps popping up is whether or not an elderly loved one can continue to drive.

Here is a scenario that sounds all too familiar: An elderly person has been discharged from the hospital to his or her home and is recovering from an illness. The son or daughter that lives far away comes to stay with the elderly parent to help him or her get back on their feet. During this time, the elderly person is evaluated by the primary care physician and is told he or she can resume normal activity, including driving. The son or

daughter does not want the elderly parent to drive as he or she is concerned about the parent's advanced age. What do you do?

I gently remind concerned clients that an elderly loved one's driving is not based on age but on ability. Many elderly people can safely drive into their 90's. It is estimated that by 2030 one in five drivers in the United States will be 65 or older. Elderly people equate their driving with independence. In fact, the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) wants "all drivers to maintain their driving independence for as long as they can safely do so."

There are natural opportunities to assess an elderly loved one's ability to drive. As your elderly parent or loved one is driving with you, be sure to look for changes in vision, hearing, movement of the head and neck as well as the extremities, and cognition. Cognitive decline may start out slowly but it is important to note that it will increase over time. Elderly drivers with dementia or other cognitive impairments are not safe to drive.

The discussion about a parent's ability or lack of ability to drive is not an easy one. The AARP has an online seminar titled "We Need to Talk." It is grouped into three modules with the last module about "Planning Discussions" and can be viewed in 30 minutes.

During the course of the discussion, it may be discovered that the elderly person has been imposing restrictions on their driving such as not driving on the highway and at night. The elderly person has recognized a decline in their ability to drive and has self-imposed restrictions. The California DMV provides a test for a Restricted Driver License. After the test and a discussion, a decision may be made to place restrictions on an elderly person's license to help ensure that the elderly person can still drive safely.

It is also important to make sure the elderly person's car fits them properly. CarFit is an educational program that evaluates how well elderly people's

vehicles "fit" them. A 20-minute check can be performed to assess how well the vehicle fits the client and what modifications need to be made to ensure the driver's safety.

If it is determined that your elderly loved one is no longer able to safely drive, there are many options for senior transportation. There are senior mobility vans, Paratransit, Medstar, Sac-Med, and Yolobus Special. Through the generosity of community members who have a grant fund with the Jewish Community Foundation of the West, the Jewish Federation is able to provide Taxi, Paratransit, or Regional Transit vouchers to Jewish seniors that are either homebound or no longer able to drive.

Rebecca Ray is the Community Social Worker under Jewish Family Service, a program of the Jewish Federation. She may be reached at 916-205-0688.



Sad?
Worried?
Frightened?



FAMILY SHALOM

Responds to Domestic Abuse
in the Jewish Family • Confidential
Help for Adults & Teens

Educates the Jewish Community
about: Healthy Teen Relationships,
Elder Abuse, Human Trafficking

916 204-8777
www.familyshalom.org

A Program of National Council of Jewish
Women, Sacramento Section

CALENDAR

GENERAL EVENTS

December 4, 2016. Magen David Adom: Israel's Amazing Life Savers. The Israel Matters Committee of CBH in Davis will host Brooke Spencer, Development Coordinator of American Friends of Magen David Adom. Ms. Spencer will give an overview of the work that Magen David Adom performs in Israel in dealing with the aftermath of terror events, natural disasters, and other medical emergencies. 3:00-4:30pm. Free. 1715 Anderson Rd., Davis. *For more information, contact gmrooks3@gmail.com.*

December 8, 2016. Girls Night Out. Sponsored by the Women of B'nai Israel, we will be meeting for dinner at a local restaurant. 6:00-7:30pm. Congregation B'nai Israel, 3600 Riverside Blvd., Sacramento. *For more information, contact Esther Gaines or esthermg@gmail.com or www.facebook.com/CBIWBI.*

December 10, 2016. Pasta & Paint. Join us for a unique evening of painting, dinner, and fun with friends as we raise funds for our incredible school programs. Enjoy Havdallah, Pasta Dinner, Wine, Painting, Raffles. \$40 for 10 & older; \$25 for 9 & under; \$15 dinner only. 5:00-8:00pm. Temple Or Rishon, 7755 Hazel Ave., Orangevale. *For more information, contact 916-988-4100 or office@orrishon.org, or visit www.OrRishon.org.*

December 10, 2016. Michael Shalev Inequality and the Politics of Inequality in Israel. Discusses the main lines of economic inequality (national, ethnic, class) and how they intersect, and two of the puzzles that Israel poses: why there has been no unified counter-movement of the disadvantaged, and what drove an exceptional case — the 2011 mass protests in which hundreds of thousands of Israelis demanded a more interventionist and redistributive state. Shalev is a professor of Sociology and Political Science at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a visiting faculty member this year at the Institute for Jewish Law and Israel Studies at the UC Berkeley Boalt Hall Law School. Free. 7:00-8:30pm. Congregation B'nai Israel, 3600 Riverside Blvd., Sacramento. *For more information, contact jirabinovitz@gmail.com.*

December 11, 2016. "Gett: The Trial of Viviane Amsalem," film screening and discussion. Join Bet Haverim's Israel Peace Alternatives for a screening of this film, which tells the story of one woman's pursuit of a gett (the document that releases a wife from marriage), followed by a presentation and conversation with the New Israel Fund's May Pundak, an Israeli civil rights attorney and activist. Pundak will offer insights into the state of marriage and divorce in Israel, as well as a new campaign by NIF's New Generations (young adult group) calling on Israel to enact legislation guaranteeing marriage equality in Israel. 2:00-5:00pm. Congregation Bet Haverim Social Hall, 1715 Anderson Rd., Davis. *For more information, contact sfpattison@gmail.com.*

December 14, 2016. Leisure League at Temple Or Rishon. Ciprian Mihutz began his musical career in Romania, and his performances as a member of the Romanian Philharmonic Orchestra and solo violinist have enraptured audiences throughout Europe and the U.S for decades since. Ciprian will add a generous helping of Eastern European Jewish favorites to his moving renditions, and you are warmly welcomed to join with him in song, dance, and celebration during this year's holiday season. Leisure League is funded by The Trust Fund for the Jewish Elderly and the Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region. \$5 includes lunch and entertainment. Noon-2:00pm. 7755 Hazel Ave., Orangevale. *For more information or to RSVP, contact federation@jewishshac.org.*

December 18, 2016. Join the Jewish Genealogical Society of Sacramento to learn more about the group. Open to those beginning their family research or just thinking about it, as well as those who have devoted many years to their family tree. The group will see a video and welcomes guests and genealogy veterans alike. 10:00am. Albert Einstein Residence Center, 1935 Wright St., Sacramento. *For more information, contact mortrumberg1@earthlink.net.*

December 18, 2016. Sacramento Senior Residence Hosts December Holiday Faire. Eclectic mix of antiques, collectables, and handmade crafts. Wide variety of goods also includes jewelry, hand-knit scarves, baby items, original paintings, chocolates, cookies, vintage clothing and accessories. Collectable items available. Mediterranean bazaar and baked goods. Cash only. 10:00am-4:00pm. Albert Einstein Residence Center, 1935 Wright St., Sacramento. *For more information, contact Gerry Ross at 916-484-1724.*

December 18, 2016. Christians United For Israel: The Largest Israel Advocacy Group in the World. The Israel Matters Committee of CBH in Davis will host Randy Neal, the Western Director of Christians United for Israel. Mr. Neal will discuss the amazing growth of CUFI and all of the wonderful work that the organization does in support of Israel. Free. 3:00-4:30pm. 1715 Anderson Rd., Davis. *For more information, contact gmrooks3@gmail.com.*

December 22, 2016. Leisure League at the Albert Einstein Residence Center. Long-time favorite John Doolittle returns with professional singer Cy Young to present a cornucopia of wonderful jazz standards, from "Days of Wine and Roses" to "Blue Skies" to "Shadow of Your Smile" and so many more. They may surprise you with a few holiday-themed selections as well! John's virtuosity on piano and sax and Cy's outstanding vocalizations will hit just the right notes to brighten up a winter afternoon at Einstein. Leisure League is funded by The Trust Fund for the Jewish Elderly and the Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region. \$5 includes lunch and entertainment. Noon-2:00pm. 1935 Wright St., Sacramento. *For more information or to RSVP, contact federation@jewishshac.org.*

December 25, 2016. Serving Dinner at St. John's. The Women of B'nai Israel help serve a holiday dinner onsite at St. John's. 6:00-8:00pm. *For more information, including location, contact Helen Nusbaum at helen.nusbaum@gmail.com.*

RECURRING EVENTS

■ Sundays

Temple Or Rishon Writer's Group. Like to write? Come join us at our monthly meeting— Sunday dates vary each month. Writers at all levels welcome. Our members write short stories, poetry, biography, plays, children's lit, you name it. Our first anthology of member-written work, *Sunday Stories*, is available on Amazon. Meeting dates vary. Free. 10:00-11:30am. 7755 Hazel Ave., Orangevale. *For more information, contact carolcatinari@gmail.com.*

Men's Tefillin Club. Every second Sunday to lay Tefillin, learn Torah, and enjoy breakfast. 9:00-10:00am. Chabad Jewish Community Center, 302 B South Lexington Dr., Folsom. *For more information, contact 916-608-9811 or visit www.JewishFolsom.org.*

■ Mondays

Monthly discussion group led by Rabbi Melamed on the second Monday of every month. KOH Library and Cultural Center, 2300 Sierra Blvd., Sacramento. 1:30-3:00pm. Free. *For more information, contact 916-484-7333 or jacks.dad@att.net.*

Jewish Book Club at Temple Or Rishon. Every fourth Monday at 7:00pm. 7755 Hazel Ave., Orangevale. All are welcome. For our reading list, visit www.orrishon.org, select Programs for All Ages, then Book Club. *For more information, contact Alison Braverman at 916-988-7110 or alcinp1@aol.com.*

Loaves and Fishes. The third Monday of each month, the Jewish community serves lunch to the homeless at Loaves and Fishes. 1321 North C St., Sacramento. Volunteer at 7:30am to help prepare food or at 10:45am to help serve. *For more information, contact mary@mosaiclaw.org.*

■ Tuesdays

Israeli Dancing. *For more information about dates and venue, join Israelidancesac-subscribe@yahoogroups.com or contact Jeanette at 916-799-7213.*

■ Wednesdays

September 7, 2016. Sacramento Hadassah Jessie Yoshpe Study Group. Join us for lively discussions of contemporary and historical Jewish subjects. 9:45am-11:30am. KOH Library, 2300 Sierra Blvd., Sacramento. *For more information, contact Soni Meyer at 916-383-5743.*

■ Thursdays

Derech L'Chaim JACS (Jewish Alcoholics, Chemically Dependent Persons, and Significant Others). 10:30-11:30am. JACS is based on the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous with a Jewish focus. Confidential and anonymous. *Please contact 916-591-8608 for the meeting location before attending for the first time.*

David Lubin Lodge, B'nai B'rith. Third Thursday of each month, 8:00pm. Albert Einstein Residence Center Eatery, 1935 Wright St., Sacramento. *For more information, contact Bernie Marks at 916-363-0122.*

■ Fridays

Gan K'ton. For young children 18 months-5 years. Sing, play, create, listen to, and taste all the wonders of being Jewish, along with preparing for Shabbat. 10:00am. \$10/class. Enrollment and fees required. Scholarships available. Temple Or Rishon, 7755 Hazel Ave., Orangevale. *For more information, contact 916-988-4100.*

Tot Shabbat. Services, Singing, Storytelling, and Oneg for all children, including all who are young at heart. 6:00pm. Temple Or Rishon, 7755 Hazel Ave., Orangevale. *For more information, contact 916-988-4100.*

JDAIM

February 2017

Jewish Disability Awareness & Inclusion Month

February 2017 is Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month, a unified effort among Jewish organizations worldwide to raise awareness and foster inclusion of people with disabilities and those who love them.

The Committee on Inclusion and Disabilities (CID), a committee of the Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region, looks forward to connecting with local individuals, families, synagogues, and Jewish organizations regarding activities that help celebrate Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month and make Jewish life more accessible and welcoming in our area.

For more information about CID, or to share your plans to celebrate JDAIM, contact inclusion@jewishsac.org.



JEWISH BEDTIME STORIES and SONGS



PJ LIBRARY CHANUKAH CELEBRATION WITH VERGE CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Sunday, December 11, 3:30-5:00pm
625 S St., Sacramento

Get your creative Chanukah spirit flowing with PJ Library! Enjoy music, face-painting, Chanukah treats, and a PJ Library story by Sacramento Youth Librarian Nate Halsan. Artists from Verge will lead art projects for all ages, including printmaking and Chanukah cookie decorating! RSVP to Ruthie Caparas at rcaparas@jewishsac.org.



Sign up for PJ OUR WAY, the newest chapter of PJ Library for 9-11-year-olds!

PJ Our Way takes PJ Library one step further, providing the monthly gift of one Jewish-themed chapter book of your child's choice. Learn more and sign up at www.jewishsac.org/pjourway!

For more information about PJ Library or PJ Our Way, contact Ruthie Caparas at rcaparas@jewishsac.org or 916-486-0906 ext. 311. Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/PJLibrarySacramento.

HAROLD GRINSPOON FOUNDATION

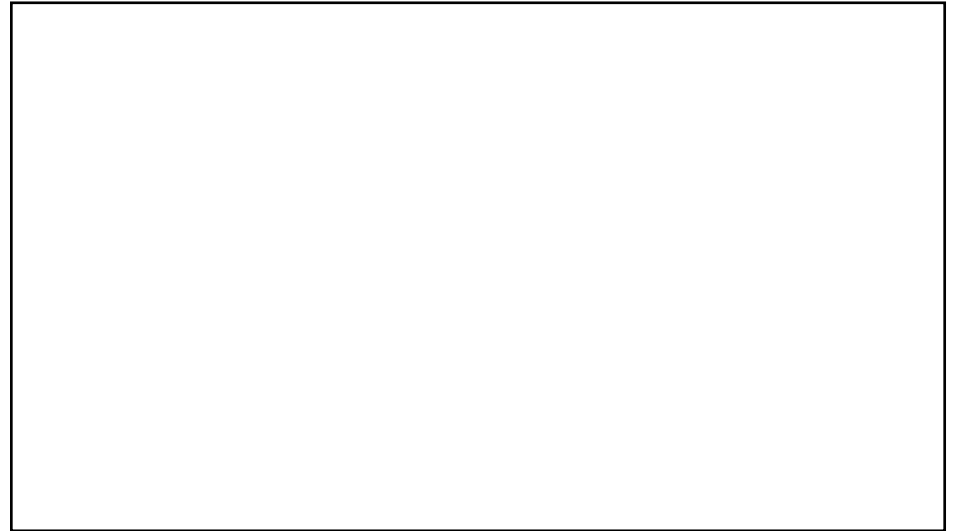




The Jewish Federation
OF THE SACRAMENTO REGION

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SACRAMENTO, CA
PERMIT NO. 342

WE'RE WITH YOU EVERY STEP OF THE WAY!



The 2016 Jewish Federation Annual Campaign

I/We hereby pledge \$ _____ to the 2016 Jewish Federation Annual Campaign

Name(s) of Contributor(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Congregation Affiliation: _____

Profession: _____

Visa MasterCard American Express Discover

Card#: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Name on credit card: _____ Billing Zip: _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE JEWISH FEDERATION

2130 21st Street, Sacramento, CA 95818 | Phone: 916-486-0906 | www.jewishsac.org