

# the VOICE

your source for local Jewish news

A publication of The Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region Summer 2018, 5778 Vol. 4

The Jewish Federation  
OF THE SACRAMENTO REGION

**Federation's  
Global  
Jewish  
Impact**

The Jewish Federations®  
OF NORTH AMERICA

# the VOICE

your source for local Jewish news

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

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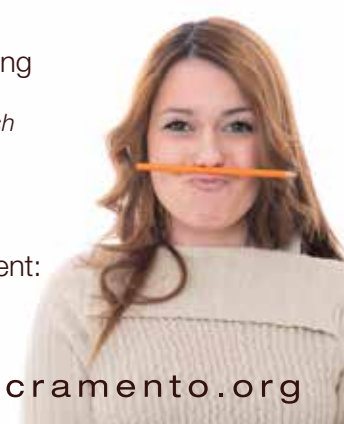
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## **SAY LITTLE AND DO MUCH**

Of course, not being one to say little, I have a lot to say about our Federation, Board, staff, and all of you, our community friends.

Exciting things happen each day at the Jewish Federation. Most of you shared in the wonderful events of the last few months. Indulge me while I humbly thank the dedicated volunteers who helped make it all happen. While I am unable to list all of the volunteers, you know who you are and you have the sincere appreciation for all that you did to guarantee the Federation success. What would we do without you?

If you had the pleasure of sharing the rebirth of the Jewish Film Festival, I would like to present the “Oscar” to Teven Laxer for his leadership, guidance, and amazing team of volunteers. It was a wonderful weekend event for our Jewish community. Months of work, hours of detail taken care of by the small and mighty Federation staff, and a committed hard working Board of Trustees brought it to fruition. Plans are already starting for next year. Save the Date – March 7, 9, and 10, 2019 at the Crest Theater.

What a wonderful global day for world Jewry as we celebrated the 70th birthday of Israel. Our birthday party was filled with food, fun, and friendship, topped off by the appearance of Israel's Consul General of the Pacific Northwest Shlomi Kofman, Mayor Darrell Steinberg, and lots of cake! Thanks to David Poisner, Willie Recht and his dedicated staff, and all of the volunteers. I hope you had a wonderful time.

Now, it is down to business. What makes all this magic work is the support and generosity of all of you. Yes, it is CAMPAIGN TIME. Without your support, we cannot keep our Jewish community vibrant and connected. We are always looking for ways to broaden our work and so far, we have a long list of “if only we could.” Please don't wait for that phone call. If you have shared in our outreach programs or events, or visited our wonderful home on 21st St. for a meeting or tour, turn to the back cover of the VOICE and send in your gift, just because you care. If you aren't sure, call me and ask questions. It is with great pride that I share my deep dedication to the organization that keeps us informed, safe, and connected.

See you at 2130 21st St.

### **Carol Loew**

President

[president@jewishsac.org](mailto:president@jewishsac.org)

# IT ALL STARTS WITH YOU

You make everything we do — possible.



You open a child's eyes to the beauty of our heritage. Revive the Jewish spirit in places where it's been all but crushed. Arrive with whatever is needed, in the wake of natural or financial disaster.

You — together with Federation — are at the heart of all of these, and countless other efforts that invigorate and sustain our community. You have the power to do it. **Give today.**



The Jewish Federation  
OF THE SACRAMENTO REGION



## The Movement In Between Achieving the Goals

While reading a recent Sunday *New York Times* magazine, I came across a piece that described the notion of “movements” – how they happen, what they are, and what their outcomes are. The piece ended with esteemed activist and Yale professor Evan Wolfson describing that “ambitious goals have usually seemed impossible until they are achieved, at which point they become inevitable – and that the movement is what happens in between.” As I thought more about this, especially Mr. Wolfson’s quote, it dawned on me that we are in the midst of a “movement” right here in the Sacramento Region and our larger Jewish community – the movement to build community.

Let’s break this down and start with the “impossible” as described by Mr. Wolfson. When I started more than a year ago, I would routinely hear that there is an “engagement problem” with the Sacramento Jewish community, that there is no centralized Jewish “neighborhood,” no community center (JCC), and the worry amongst many in the inability to engage unaffiliated Jews in the region. Thus, a cohesive community-at-large was impossible or out of reach.

This all may be, and may still be – but the movement, what is happening “in between,” is promising. I believe, as I did when I first started, that this Jewish community, and Jewish communities around the country, are hungry for opportunities to do and be Jewish – and there is no better organization or agency than the Federation to facilitate this work.

During the past six months, the Federation has engaged, in person, more than 3,500 individuals throughout the region with unique and informative opportunities that promote Jewish values and foster community togetherness. This is achieved through programming such as the Sacramento Jewish Film Festival, Israel’s 70th Birthday Party, 1,300 PJ Library & PJ Our Way families to whom we send monthly books (60% of which are unaffiliated), increased attendance at our Leisure League programs, and the largest Communitywide Yom HaShoah Commemoration in many years.

And the movement is not just local. We are part of a vast network of 148 Federations across North America that you will learn more about in this issue and that raises more than \$1 billion annually. In addition to the millions of dollars that go overseas to support the work of our partner organizations like the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and the JDC (American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), our dollars help fund engagement and leadership opportunities across the country such as National Young Leadership Cabinet (NYLC), which we hope to build in Sacramento in the coming year, and National Women’s Philanthropy (NWP), with which we have been actively partnering as we continue our relaunch of Women’s Philanthropy.

All of this “in between” has led to the success of both engagement and to our Annual Campaign during the past year. I thank you for all you have done to help us during this exciting movement, and we hope you will continue your support to help us make the “impossible,” “inevitable.”

Respectfully,

**Willie Recht**

Executive Director

wrecht@jewishsac.org

## Milestone Achievements for Sacramento



We learn from our sages that the world rests on three things: on Torah; on Worship; and on Deeds of Loving Kindness. As Jewish Federations, we know that we are sustained by these three essentials of Jewish community - transformative and value-based education, devoted service and spiritual life, and caring and doing for others - and that they not only sustain our community but our entire world. But we also have a fourth: you.

We are extremely proud of Sacramento and your engagement in the Federation agenda. We are well aware of your exciting work and the many ways in which you have succeeded in becoming a beacon to our system and to the entire Jewish community:

- ◆ Your campaign leadership led an effort that exceeded your own campaign goals in the past year
- ◆ Your community has had record participation in the cycle of events and programs, including a recent attendance of 800 people at your Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration
- ◆ Members of your community recently spent time in Israel with Members of Knesset, sharing information and ideas together, and representing Diaspora Jewry to the top echelons of government
- ◆ You have a robust Life and Legacy program, placing you among the most forward-looking communities on the continent
- ◆ You have identified your first Kipnis-Wilson/Friedland Award winner from your Women's Philanthropy - and we can't wait to celebrate her this coming January at the fabulous International Lion of Judah Conference (ILOJC).

These are milestone achievements for Sacramento, and they place you in a pivotal position among the 148 Jewish Federations and 300 smaller, independent communities that comprise the Jewish Federations of North America. With our overseas partners, and our vast network of agencies, programs, and services, together we literally touch more Jewish lives - and their neighbors - than any other entity on the planet. Each one of us - every Federation, agency, and program - plays an essential role in our ability to effectuate positive change in the world, and to build caring, vibrant, and meaningful community.

We know that in the coming years, these successful efforts will encourage Sacramento to grow its ability to support local Jewish services, fund meaningful programming, and help Jews overseas and in Israel. Your example will engage more participants and leaders in the Federation agenda. Bring them with you to the General Assembly (GA) in Tel Aviv this October!

I'm looking forward to thanking you in person for all you do when we see you at the GA, the ILOJC, or any of the many programs we share together throughout the year.

**Jerry Silverman**, CEO  
Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA)

## Summer's the Ticket for Building Jewish Community & Identity in Europe, Former Soviet Union

In the coming months, thousands of children from Jewish communities across the U.S. will head off to summer camps, engaging in fun activities, learning, and making friendships lasting a lifetime. But what of Jewish youth in Europe and the former Soviet Union, living in places our ancestors fled, in countries beset by social challenges and concerns over rising anti-Semitism?

Despite these odds, young Jews are eagerly embracing their identity and Jewish life is thriving in countries where the Holocaust and Communism took a tremendous toll. And you in Sacramento have played a role in this miraculous Jewish revival through your support of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), a Federation overseas partner.

For more than 100 years, JDC has been saving Jewish lives and building Jewish life around the world, bucking the winds of history to prove that nothing is impossible. Today, that mission plays out in dozens of Jewish summer activities we run from Hungary to Ukraine. For 25 years, our summer activities – from camping in Eastern Europe to family Shabbat weekends in the former Soviet Union – have included Jewish culture and learning to foster Jewish values and knowledge. Today, the youth who take part in these activities also want to give back.

Indeed, one of the most promising developments among these Jews is their enthusiastic desire to aid the neediest and build Jewish communities through volunteerism. We're proud that our summer experiences for children, young adults, and families harness that passion and integrate it in a way that strengthens Jewish identity and society overall.

Last summer in Ukraine, more than 100 JDC Jewish youth volunteers assisted 3,000 homebound elderly, some of the poorest Jews in the world. The volunteers delivered groceries, led arts and crafts and Jewish activities, and even provided haircuts to the needy seniors, many who live on as little as \$2 a day. In Bulgaria, more than 350 parents and children volunteered at local orphanages, a center for people with disabilities, cleaned local nature preserves, and repainted park benches.

This groundswell of giving back should sound very familiar to Jews in America, whose tradition of philanthropy and volunteerism are well-known and modeled by others looking to make a difference in the world. What's more, there is still much more we can do to help Jewish communities in Eastern Europe and post-Soviet nations as they come into their own.

Having spent time during my travels with the rising Jewish leaders of Warsaw, Budapest, Moscow, and Kiev – young people eager to build the Jewish future in their hometowns – I know full well the return on our investments will last for generations to come.

**David Schizer**, CEO

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC)





## Using Women's Voices to Tell Our Story

Inspired and guided by our tradition of *tzedakah* and *tikkun olam*, the National Women's Philanthropy (NWP) of the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) is dedicated to the continuity, connectivity, and thriving future of our North American communities, Israel, and the Jewish people. NWP represents hundreds of thousands of donors at all levels of giving, all around the world; 17,500 Lions of Judah; and 3,800 Lion of Judah endowments – all of which comprise an annual campaign of \$202 million a year, and pledged endowed assets in excess of \$620 million.

The numbers don't tell the whole story. Through NWP, I am able to speak up for those who don't have a voice, provide a safety net for the most vulnerable, build community, and strengthen Israel – all values that are central to my core beliefs, and are at the heart of who I am.

Our NWP board is comprised of 120 board members, representing 62 communities across North America. NWP board members act as ambassadors for NWP and JFNA, and promote women's giving. We meet annually to hone our skills, learn from experts, discuss trends, and gain inspiration to bring back to our home communities. Our members travel to communities to serve as speakers, trainers, and consultants, and to act as connectors for Women's Philanthropy across the country.

I am thrilled that Sacramento is reviving its Women's Philanthropy and hope you will use me as a resource. To celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Lion of Judah Endowment, we launched our LOJE25 initiative, with a goal to increase endowments by \$100 million. Our Board also provides leadership for the annual Financial Resource Development mission, which will travel to Berlin and Budapest July 13th-19th, sponsors its own women's missions, and plans and hosts the International Lion of Judah conference, which attracts more than 1,000 women biannually. Please join us at our next International Lion of Judah Conference at the Diplomat Hotel in Florida from January 13-15, 2019.

**Wendy Abrams,**  
Chair,  
National Women's  
Philanthropy



**Women Repair the World**

**International Lion of Judah Conference**


JANUARY 13-15, 2019 | FLORIDA

We are the Lions of Judah. The world's most influential female philanthropists. In January 2019, we will come together from around the globe. Harnessing our collective ability to strengthen the Jewish community. Now and for the future.

Join us at the International Lion of Judah Conference – the premier gathering of dynamic, philanthropic Jewish women. Together, we will examine the changing face of our world. Hear from leaders, innovators, and entrepreneurs. Be inspired. Inspire new Lions. Give back. And empower one another to do even more.

Why wait? Register now at [LionConference.org](http://LionConference.org)

The Jewish Federations





## Federation's Sherry Raffin Honored with Prestigious Women's Award

Federation's own Sherry Raffin will be honored by the Jewish Federations of North America's National Women's Philanthropy with its prestigious Kipnis-Wilson/Friedland Award. The award will be presented at the 2018 International Lion of Judah Conference (ILOJC), being held in Florida in January.

More than 1,300 Jewish women from the United States, Canada, Israel, Mexico, and the United Kingdom attend the ILOJC to discuss the influence of the individual and the collective. Lions of Judah are philanthropic Jewish women of all ages, uniting as an international sisterhood of global advocates who care deeply about the Jewish future.

"Supporting the Jewish Federation in Sacramento allows my husband, Steve, and me to support multiple charitable causes both locally and beyond, under the umbrella of the Federation - basically 'one-stop giving'" Sherry explains. "I am surprised and honored to be Sacramento's first KWF Award recipient."

The internationally recognized Kipnis-Wilson/Friedland Award is presented to Lions of Judah who have demonstrated the highest ideals of leadership and involvement. Winners are chosen by their communities as "women of valor" with a lifetime of commitment to the Jewish world. Sherry has served on the Board of Directors for the Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region as well as Secretary on its Executive Committee.

A Lion of Judah for more than 15 years, Sherry is one of 75 women to receive this year's award, which was established in recognition of Norma Kipnis-Wilson and Toby Friedland (z"l), co-founders of the Jewish Federation of North America's Lion of Judah program. Since 2004, the Kipnis-Wilson/Friedland Award has honored extraordinary women who have set a high standard for philanthropy and volunteerism.



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**HEALTHY FAMILIES, HEALTHY LIVES**

**Taking Charge & Living Well**

**Speakers:**

**Rajiv Misquitta**, MD, Internist, Kaiser Permanente, will speak about reversing heart disease and increasing healthy life span through lifestyle changes.

**Joan Werblun**, retired RN, UCD and **Liz Helms**, CEO, CA Chronic Care Coalition, will discuss positive patient/MD communication and self advocacy in healthcare.

**Erika Meredith**, DPT, Kaiser Permanente, will focus on movement for wellness, the use of exercise for orthopedic dysfunction.

**Wednesday Sept. 5, 2018**  
**5:30-8:30 p.m. FREE**

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Rancho Cordova

Doors and Exhibitors open at 5:00 p.m.

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# Israel



Happy Birthday Israel, formerly the Jewish Heritage Festival, is the longest running, signature event of the Jewish Federation. On April 29th, all of our community partners gathered together to celebrate Jewish culture, heritage, and the State of Israel entering its seventh decade. The Jewish community enjoyed Israeli dancing, delightful trivia, a dedicated PJ Library room and, of course, lots of traditional, Jewish food. And what would a birthday party be without a birthday cake!

# Turns 70



## Happy Birthday Israel Listed L to R

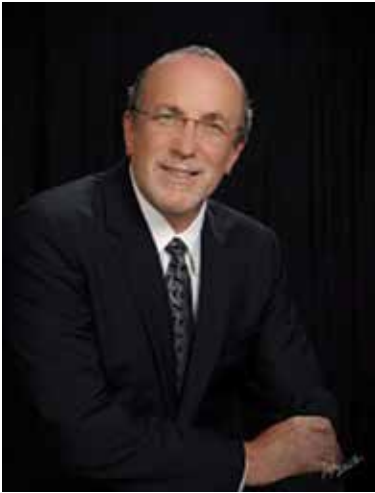
- 1 - Willie Recht
- 2 - Larry & Evie Lieb
- 3 - Shira Gilbert & Julie Lavine
- 4- Frank Gumpert, Louis Gonzalez & Deborah Hoffman Gonzalez

- 5 - Bruce Pomer & Joan Gorfain
- 6 - Ruth Gottlieb & Bruce Pomer
- 7 - Happy Birthday Israel!
- 8 - Shlomi Kofman, Bruce Pomer & Michael Alcalay

- 9 - Welcome to Israel's Birthday Party
- 10 - Israeli Dancing
- 11- Shalom School students
- 12 - Nancy Leaderman & Deborah Hoffman Gonzalez

- 13- Celebrating with blue and white
- 14- David Poisner and Shlomi Kofman
- 15- Darrell Steinberg, Carol Loew & Shlomi Kofman
- 16- Thank you to our sponsors

# A Message from the Pulpit



*“Jewish history has shown that when divisiveness is not addressed, it may lead to internal strife and become an existential challenge.”*

Our Jewish people are fractured and divided beyond recognition. If we did not know better, we would probably never assume that Jews who affiliate with Orthodox, Reform, Conservative, or Reconstructionist synagogues belong to the same faith, or that secular Jews who are not affiliated with a synagogue share the same origin. Sadly, even relations between Israel and the Diaspora are tense to the point that Israel itself is viewed by many as a dividing element among Diaspora Jews.

Somehow, we have forgotten that we are all descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah whose legacy of *Rachamim* (mercy and compassion) is embodied in the words of Rabbi Akiva: *“V’ahavta L’rayacha Kamocha – love your neighbor as yourself.”* This principle, part of the foundation

of our Jewish faith, is where our strength lies – in unity above and beyond our differences.

And that unity must be grounded in our faith and understanding in order to overcome our ego-driven singular agendas so as to create a viable, sustainable social fabric, a community where we Jews can live side-by-side in peace and harmony among ourselves and with our non-Jewish neighbors.

If one looks at the history of the Jewish people, and Israel itself, one cannot deny the empirical evidence that both have somehow survived obstacles no other singular people in history have survived. The common factor forming the very foundation of this Jewish survival has been and will always be that Jewish unity is a key to our survival. May all of us in our Sacramento Jewish community, regardless of our differences and views, strive to be more accepting of each other and find the way to aspire to that higher level of One People with One Heart.

**Rabbi Reuven H. Taff, Mosaic Law Congregation**



## Achieve Your Financial Goals and Help Support Israel

A Charitable Gift Annuity is a way for you to make a gift to JNF with the promise of earning fixed payments for the rest of your life. Benefits include secured fixed payments for life, charitable deduction and tax savings, partially tax-free income, special capital gains tax treatment on appreciated assets, stocks, bonds, or mutual funds, and recognition in Israel.

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August 26 – September 4, 2018

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JEWISH NATIONAL FUND

Your Voice in Israel



# Annual PJ Library Conference



Hundreds of attendees from all over the USA, Canada, and more than a dozen other countries gathered May 7-9, 2018 in Springfield, Mass. for the annual PJ Library Conference. This year, I was fortunate to attend along with Federation's PJ Library Program Coordinator Rikki Kass.

The three days were filled with valuable workshops, guest speakers, and an opportunity to learn from other PJ Library programs. Harold Grinspoon and the staff of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation were all present, and brought an amazing level of enthusiasm. As a first-time attendee, I was in awe of the creativity and dedication of PJ Library and PJ Our

Way, and the strong positive Jewish impact that they are having on children and their families. To date, PJ Library has distributed more than 28 million books to Jewish children all over the world, and is magnifying that impact through more than 100 community-based programs.

We were honored to be one of approximately 15 PJ Library and PJ Our Way programs invited to present a class in the "Marketplace of Successful Efforts." We shared details with attendees from about 25 other cities about our PJ Our Way "Technology Series." During the past year, we've held a series of sessions at our Jewish Federation office for the 8-11-year-old participants. These sessions related to creative use of technology in Stop Motion Animation, Interactive Fiction, Computer Aided Design, and even building an LED Menorah.

At the conference and afterwards, we've received many follow-up requests from PJ Our Way coordinators in other cities and are helping them to replicate our classes for their own PJ Our Way programs. Several of the PJ Our Way coordinators also were interested in setting up Skype calls so that local kids could meet PJ Our Way participants in far-away cities.

For me, the highlight of the conference was having dinner with Harold Grinspoon and having a long conversation with his wife Diane. They are truly inspiring philanthropists. While their financial donations have been incredible, I'm even more impressed with the time and energy they have put into the various programs within their Foundation. I actually met Diane because she was sitting next to me at a session that covered specific learnings from one community.

We're definitely looking forward to implementing many of the learnings and program ideas from the Conference here in the Sacramento Region.



## **Congratulations to Shalom School Graduates**

*Back row: Judah Ortego, Seth Reiser, Josiah Ortego, Eliana Robinson, Ella Khaykin, Samantha Larkin, Julia Bluth, and Shira Spector. Front Row: Benjamin Rubin, Ava Fahn, Madeline Fahn, and Zoe Osorio. Shalom School is a beneficiary agency of the Jewish Federation.*

# JPAC Lobby Day



Our JCRC and Federation participated in the Jewish Public Affairs Committee (JPAC) Lobby Day from May 14-15, 2018. The two-day event included a legislator's reception; dinner with the Jewish Legislative Caucus; advocacy training; and "California Post-Jerry Brown: Looking Ahead" that featured a panel of the Capital's top journalists, and political and public relations experts. The keynote

*From left, Cliff Berg, Carol Loew, Bob Dresser, Jenny Berg, and Bruce Pomer*

speech was given by Assemblymember Laura Friedman with a presentation by Senator Holly Mitchell, Chair of the Senate Budget Committee.

JPAC members met with legislators to promote key policy objectives. The advocacy agenda was directed toward uplifting the lives of California's less fortunate citizens and included the following bills:

- ◆ AB 3200 would increase grants for individuals who are aged, blind, and disabled by \$100 a month to reach nearly 100% of the Federal poverty level and restore the annual COLA.
- ◆ SB 982 endeavors to eliminate deep poverty by requiring a minimum grant level of 50% of the federal poverty level in the CalWORKs program.
- ◆ AB 3171 creates the Local Homelessness Solutions Program that would provide \$1.5 million in matching funds to cities with programs to combat homelessness.

In addition, we advocated for a \$1.25 million program to deal with combating hate and safeguarding free speech on California's college campuses as well as a \$3.6 million program for California Holocaust Survivor Assistance.

Special thanks to Federation President Carol Loew; JCRC members Hellan Dowden, Karen Keys, and Sharon Rogoff; and Federation Executive Director Willie Recht for participating. Recognition also goes to Federation board member and JPAC lobbyist Cliff Berg and JPAC Executive Director Julie Zeisler.

**Bruce Pomer**, JCRC Chair



*Back from left, Jack Mador, Bob Dresser, Willie Recht, Cliff Berg, and Bruce Pomer.  
Front from left, Sharon Rogoff, Carol Loew, and Karen Keys*

# The Power of One



*Jon Fisch and Carol Loew*

Federation President Carol Loew has joined past honorees from the Jewish community, including Federation Board member Bob Dresser and past JCRC Chair Jonathan Lightman, as a “Power of One” honoree. Presented by the Interfaith Council of Greater Sacramento (ICGS), the award recognizes leaders in various faith communities who work toward change.

“Everyone is here together with our differences, but also to break bread together,” noted Jon Fisch, ICGS President and emcee for the May 17<sup>th</sup> event.



*Carol Loew*

A lifetime volunteer, Loew grew up in the Bay area as a second-generation Jewish family. Her dad, a pharmacist, ran a business across the street from the Jewish Community Center. Her mother, she said, was president of every organization. It is from her parents that she learned about philanthropy and volunteering.

Loew thanked Fisch for his work with ICGS, and said, “My role with the Jewish Federation has been the best job of my volunteer career. Little did I know that when I accepted the opportunity to oversee and support the Jewish community, that it would open my life to the entire interfaith world where I have made such wonderful friends.”

About the honorees, which along with Loew, were Anne Kjemtrup (Sacramento Area League of Associated Muslims); Balbir Singh Dhillon (Gurdwara Sahib Sikh Temple West Sacramento); and Bishop Myron Cotta (Roman Catholic Diocese of Stockton), Fisch said, “When you get to work and associate with these people, you see they are not just interested in religion, they are interested in friendship. Let’s remind ourselves that we are here as institutions of faith, not as individuals. Our existence is vital in the lives of the poor and vulnerable in the greater Sacramento area and beyond.”

In addition to individuals, the “Power of One” provides charitable gifts to selected organizations. This year, Wind Youth Services and Family Promise received donations of \$2,500 each. The former organization works to end youth homelessness and the latter works with 32 congregations of all faiths to provide overnight housing for homeless families.

Addressing her fellow honorees, Loew said, “It is humbling to be sharing this evening with you. It gives me such pride to know that we work together to make Sacramento a very special place to live.”



*From left, Cliff Berg, Deborah Hoffman Gonzalez, Carol Loew, Fran Bremson, Gil Allon, Bruce Pomer, Jack Mador, Barry Broad, Ruth Gottlieb, and Willie Recht.*

# High School Student Talks Federation

When Sarah Blincoe was in elementary school, she attended programs that her mother, Peggy, helped to organize as Co-Chair of the Committee on Inclusion and Disabilities (CID), a program of the Federation. Now 17, Blincoe is well-versed in all Federation activities thanks to spending a day shadowing staff.

Finishing her junior year at the Met Sacramento, Blincoe visited Federation as a potential non-profit to intern with next year. The Met, a charter school in the Sacramento City Unified School District, requires students to intern two days a week. The teen already had interned as a teacher's assistant in various classrooms, however, she wanted a change.

"I wanted to do work in the Jewish community and learn more about what Federation does as a non-profit and in general," she said about choosing Federation as an option to fulfill her requirement. "I wanted a different perspective."

Although Blincoe knew about various Federation programming because of CID and as a PJ Library recipient, she wanted to dig deeper into Federation activities. Following her day-long visit, which included spending time with Executive Director Willie Recht and PJ Library Program Coordinator Rikki Kass, the high school student learned about Federation's Kasher Food Pantry, behind-the-scenes planning of events, senior programs, database management, and other cogs in the Federation wheel.

"The Federation plans events for people in the Jewish community and programs for people of all ages and abilities, like the Jewish Film Festival and senior events," Blincoe observed.

She also learned how the Sacramento Federation is part of a bigger system of 148 Federations.

"Federation is important because Federation serves a lot of people in the greater Sacramento region and the larger region - a lot of Northern California," Blincoe said. "Programs and resources for people are important. Having it there for people benefits the community as a whole."

Blincoe's short-term plans are to work at Camp Shelanu at Congregation B'nai Israel, where she and her family are members. Her long-term goal is to become a special education teacher and to begin a non-profit for people with disabilities in the Jewish community.

Spending the day at Federation clearly made an impression on the Met student.

"I can definitely see myself doing a lot of programming work here," she said, already coming up with ideas like having a food eating contest where attendees would be asked to donate food to the Kasher Food Pantry. "The ideas are endless."



*From left, Medina Majanovic, Rikki Kass, Sarah Blincoe, Willie Recht, Adelita Dizdarevic, and Daisy.*



# PJ Travels

In the beginning of 2018, Federation received an email from Nicole, a PJ mom in Truckee. Nicole loved seeing all of the events for the PJ community in Sacramento, but she wished there was PJ programming near her. We thought, “Why not?” and PJ Travels was born.

With more than 1,300 PJ Library and PJ Our Way subscriptions in the Sacramento region, the territory of Northern California covered by our Federation is expansive – as far north as Redding and as south as Merced. In addition to Sacramento, we wanted communities in our outlying areas to also have positive, Jewish experiences. Nicole generously offered her home for our first PJ Travels event. It was so exciting to meet members of the Truckee community and hear how PJ Library has positively impacted their lives.



PJ Travels then headed to Chico. Congregation Beth Israel (CBI) hosted a PJ Our Way Havdalah and ice cream social to welcome in Shavuot. On Sunday morning, we had a PJ Menchkins program with the younger children. Menchkins is CBI’s monthly programming for children 5 and younger.

We want children to love their Jewish identity and we want to continue to offer memorable, Jewish experiences for them. If you have a great idea for a PJ program or want PJ to come to you, contact Rikki Kass at [rkass@jewishsac.org](mailto:rkass@jewishsac.org).

## Albert Einstein Residence Center + Catering



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Albert Einstein Residence Center is an affordable independent senior living rental housing community for elderly and disabled living. It has 1 bedroom apartment units, laundry, central air, dining and more.

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**Please contact us for rates and more information:**

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916-972-9555

Email: [Xolvera94@gmail.com](mailto:Xolvera94@gmail.com)

1935 Wright Street, Sacramento, CA 95825

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# 19th Annual Sacramento Jewish Film Festival

The Jewish community of Sacramento enjoyed the return of its beloved Sacramento Jewish Film Festival! The Festival, which ran from Thursday, April 19th through Sunday, April 22nd, featured a diverse selection of films, beginning with the light-hearted short, *Gefilte Fish*, and ending with the emotional *1945*. A very special thank you to Festival Director Teven Laxer whose hard work made this all possible.



SACRAMENTO  
JEWISH FILM  
FESTIVAL 2018

Anonymous \*8  
 Debra and Cliff Berg  
 Jessica and Joel Birch  
 Alison and Phil Braverman  
 Barry Broad  
 Alice Cartwright  
 Melissa Chapman  
 Peter Colussy and Willie Recht  
 Lynn and Michael Dean  
 Robert Dresser  
 Barbara Dubnick  
 Davina Dubnick  
 Anne and Hal Eisenberg  
 David Felderstein and Daniel Hoody  
 Sandra and Steve Felderstein  
 Shira and Don Gilbert  
 Deborah and Louis Gonzalez  
 Gerald Digby Gordon Trust  
 Allen Green  
 Janie and Frank Gumpert  
 Joan Gusinow and Jerry Pollack  
 Pam Herman  
 Lydia Ingram  
 Linda and Marvin Kamras  
 Lisa Kaplan  
 J. Daniel Khazzoom  
 Marc Koenigsberg and Robb Layne



Marion and Stan Leff  
 Susanne Leitner and Rob Berrin  
 Fanny and Neil Levy  
 Debbie and John Lewis  
 Judy Lewis  
 Steve Lewis  
 Martha Limberg z"l  
 Carol Loew  
 Jack Mador  
 Margaret Kent Newton and Bill Slaton  
 Lorraine and Michael Oppen  
 Linda and David Poisner  
 Anne and Bruce Pomer  
 Sharon and Michael Rogoff  
 Sid Rosenberg  
 Shirley and Skip Rosenbloom  
 Jean Rubin  
 Michael Schermer MD  
 Andrea Segal  
 Michael J. Singer  
 Sue and Harry Sperber  
 Gretchen and Alan Steinberg  
 Rabbi Reuven Taff  
 Wendy Wilson  
 Sheila Wolfe  
 Beverly z"l and Art Zimmerman  
 Louise and Joel Zimmerman

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

## 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](mailto:homeofpeace@comcast.net)

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



**B'NAI ISRAEL'S DAY CAMP!**  
**JULY 2-AUG. 3 - FIVE SESSIONS!**



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**CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL 3600 RIVERSIDE BLVD.**  
**SACRAMENTO, CA 95818 916-446-4861, EXT. 13**

**DATES FOR 2018**  
 S#1: July 2-6  
 S#2: July 9-13  
 S#3: July 16-20  
 S#4: July 23-27  
 S#5: July 30-Aug. 3  
 Tayarim (Grades 6-8):  
 1 week, July 9-13  
 CIT opportunity for  
 Grades 9-10  
 Staff opportunity for  
 Grades 11+



# The Jewish Federation OF THE SACRAMENTO REGION

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