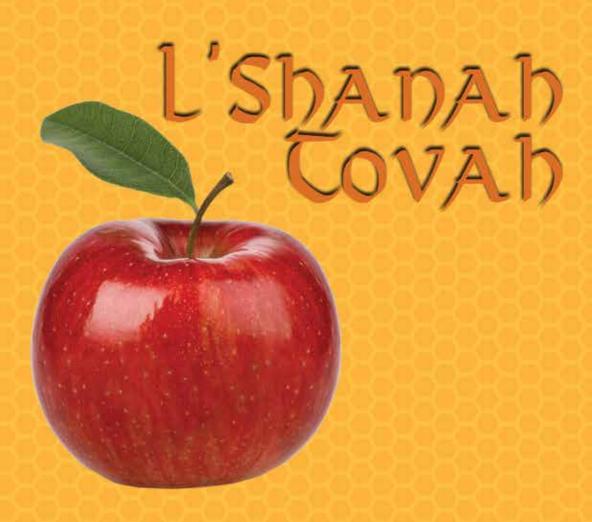
# the VOICE

your source for local Jewish news



5778



### the VOICE

your source for local Jewish news

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

### The Jewish Federation of the **Sacramento Region**

2130 21st Street Sacramento, CA 95818 Phone: 916.486.0906 federation@jewishsac.org www.jewishsac.org

Executive Director Willie Recht

wrecht@jewishsac.org

Managing Editor Melanie Flood

mflood@jewishsac.org

Designer Capital Graphics Inc. www.capgraph.com

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## In Unity There Is Strength

To be precise, I opened my Webster dictionary to read the definition of UNITY. Of course, we know what that means, or do we? The definition read: The state or fact of being one, being united, freedom from diversity, harmony, agreement. Oneness of mind, feeling, as among a number of people. Never has that word been more meaningful to me than in the last few weeks.

It began with an email from Jon Fish, President of the Interfaith Council. Allow me to share: "Our son Gavin and his son AJ have been in Europe this week. In the Munich area, Gavin took AJ to hear the story of Dachau. During the visit, AJ grew physically ill and wept. Gavin explained to him why he needed to know this story. And I could not agree more."



"We love you and care about your history. Jesus was Jewish and he taught us two things - to love our neighbor as ourselves and do unto others as we would have done to us."

"I wanted to share our grandson's feelings. We dried a tear from our eyes after that call."

I was deeply touched to receive Jon's message.

That soon followed with an invitation from The Salaam Center to share an iftar during Ramadan. We enjoyed a night of prayer, heartwarming interfaith talks from teenagers of many faiths and to observe and honor their selection for Person of the Year. To our surprise and delight, the person being honored was Rabbi Mona Alfi of B'nai Israel. We were bursting with pride.

And finally, the heart wrenching ordeal of the sermon delivered in Davis by Imam Ammar Shahin of the Islamic Center of Davis on Friday, July 21.

As Jewish Federation leaders, we were aware of our tremendous responsibility to our community. Our goal was resolution, without violence. We are one. Our goal was to act as one and to make sure that every person from every walk of life remained safe. With skilled negotiation, led by Rabbi Seth Castleman, we were able to find a resolution to the immediate issue, prevent violence and make our promise to remain vigilant.

By the time you read this issue of the VOICE, we hope you will have enjoyed our evening at the California Museum viewing the exhibition organized by the Skirball Cultural Center in association with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, "Light & Noir: Exiles & Émigrés in Hollywood, 1933-1950" and a first visit to their newly opened Unity Center, a true gift to the Sacramento Region. Never was the timing for both exhibits more relevant.

From my family to yours, a wish for a sweet, healthy and peaceful New Year.

See you at 2130 21st Street.

#### **Carol Loew**

President president@jewishsac.org



## **Executive Director's Message**



### The Mitzvah of Giving

As we approach the High Holiday season, it is natural to reflect on the past year. We think about what we have and haven't done, what we've done well, areas for improvement, and our hopes for the coming year. We set goals. Goals that will help us achieve our aims. As my ninth month at Federation draws near, I've been thinking quite a bit about goals.

Before I share these goals with you, I feel it necessary to first share something that is by no means a secret, but something we haven't talked about much. Last November, two weeks before I took on the role of Executive Director, The Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region was relisted by JFNA (The Jewish Federations of North America) from an "Intermediate" sized Federation to a "Small" Federation. While the "size" of this community remains within the "Intermediate" guidelines, the reclassification to a "Small" Federation came from our campaign numbers, which have remained under \$500,000 for the past 8 years.

To be fair, I did not know much about Sacramento when we moved here, but I do know Federation. I knew that Sacramento was not Seattle, Cincinnati, St. Louis or even my hometown of Denver. However, Sacramento is the capital of California - one of the largest economies in the world - and there is a thriving, active Jewish community here, and has been for nearly two centuries. I bring up the above not to criticize our community which I have grown to love, but to use it as a catalyst to start anew - to connect and to retell the Federation story. We have spent a tremendous amount of time recently, reconnecting with our donors and our community at large. You have made clear you believe in the work the Federation does, the services we currently provide to our Jewish community, and the services and programming you would like us to provide. You have shared with us your goals - and we greatly appreciate that.

So, what are we going to do with this information? What is our goal? Yes, you guessed it - to increase our Annual Campaign. Perhaps easier said than done, but I believe in our community and our potential. While I would love to share my goal for a three-million-dollar unrestricted campaign, that is just not realistic - at this time. What I do believe to be realistic is a calculated, steady growth for this year and the years to follow. How will we do this? We must raise more money. We must create a strong pipeline of engaged community members, as well as new donors.

Last December, the Federation board approved a 2017 Annual Budget which included \$522,000 in Annual Campaign gifts. This, we believe, is the first step towards steady growth. As you read this, we will have crossed the \$350,000 mark - but we need your help. Sacramento is by no means "Small". As the *only* Jewish agency and social service organization in this community, Federation has a unique opportunity and responsibility to serve as the central address for the Jewish community. If you care about the strength, continuity and security of the *entire* Jewish community, then your support of Federation is critical.

I thank you, in advance, for your efforts to help us reach this collective goal and for the opportunity to partake in the mitzvah of asking others to join me in giving. May this be a year of peace, safety and health for our community.

L'Shanah Tovah,

## Willie Recht Executive Director wrecht@jewishsac.org

## In Memoriam: Danny Weiss z"l

The Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region would like to honor the memory of our past President, Danny Weiss, who passed away on June 4, 2017 in Sacramento, CA at the age of 71.

Danny Weiss's dedication to the Sacramento Jewish community was evident through his many roles within the community which included training hundreds of boys and girls for their Bar and Bat Mitzvahs at Mosaic Law Congregation. His many achievements included a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and a J.D. from Wayne State University in Detroit. Enjoying an accomplished career in private practice, he specialized in business and bankruptcy law, as well as malpractice cases.

Past President Roz Levy-Weintraub shared her warm thoughts of him with us, "Danny was so proud of his Jewish heritage and his intensive Jewish background. Danny loved the Jewish community and his synagogue. He was so honored to be President of the Sacramento Jewish Federation".



Rabbi Reuven Taff beautifully eulogized Danny at Home of Peace Cemetery on June 7 by saying, "Let us remember that goodness and kindness seemed to flow from Danny as a fountain of cool, cool water on a stifling day. Deeply committed to making the world a better place and as profoundly dedicated to G-d in his personal life as he was in public, this special *neshama* had an unshakeable faith in the existence of G-d and in the immortality of the Jewish people. As he drifted from us these last weeks, his gentleness and humanity burned bright as if from a fading star."

Danny is survived by his wife Elena Friedman-Weiss, sons Matthew Weiss and Steven Weiss, daughter Shelby Weiss, step-daughter Kendall Tobe, step-son Stuart Ford and grandchildren Darius Weiss and Ayla Weiss.

Zichrono livracha

May His Memory Be For A Blessing.





## NOW ENROLLING our multi-age Montessori Classroom for the 2017-18 school year!

Our **Preschool-K Program**, for children age 3 - 6, integrates a Jewish curriculum with Dr. Maria Montessori's vision that, "Children learn by doing." Weekday mornings from 9 to 12 noon.

Satisfying the inquisitive mind and natural desire for learning while fostering the fulfillment of every child's potential is **Our Mission**.

**Teacher Lisa Rappaport Bates** is a 40-year teaching veteran of both public and private Montessori schools and founder of Har Tzeon Montessori, in Silver Spring, MD.



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

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

## **New Year's Message from Mayor Steinberg**



Dear Friends and Members of the Jewish Federation,

On behalf of the City of Sacramento, my family and I send our best to the entire Sacramento Jewish community as we celebrate the New Year of 5778. This sacred time is one for reflection and introspection as we prepare ourselves for the year to come.



Our last year together was filled with tremendous joy and success for many in our region. Sacramento has continued to grow, attracting new people, businesses and opportunities to our community. Our arts and culture scene is blossoming, our

innovation economy is taking off, and our chances to truly impact the toughest issues facing Sacramento are better than ever.

But while our local region thrives, we must be aware that many of our friends, neighbors and fellow Americans have not enjoyed the same prosperity. Thousands of people are suffering from homelessness throughout our region and the national political conversation continues to threaten the security of hard working immigrant families across the country.

So, as we cast off our sins and ask G-d to inscribe our names in the Book of Life, I ask that our community constantly strive to make positive changes in our lives and the lives of people around us. We are a people of shared values, common traditions, and a mutual determination to improve the world. May the shofar welcome a sweet new year that brings peace, prosperity and generosity to everyone. L' Shanah Tovah.

Sincerely,

Darrell Steinberg Mayor, City of Sacramento

### Young Families Thrive at Bet Haverim in Davis!

### Whether your family is:

- Observant
- Interfaith
- **Exploring**
- **Multi-Racial**
- **Single Parent**
- **LGBTQ**
- **Special Needs**



We welcome you to our House of Friends



Ages 2-5 ● Full-time or Part-time Two, three, four and five-day per week options

**Enrollment details:** ganhaverim@bethaverim.org or 530.758.0842 x105

For children under 6 • Monthly "Shabbat Safari" Holiday and special programs

No pre-enrollment, more info: children@bethaverim.org or 530.758.0842







### Join Congregation B'nai Israel for HIGH HOLY DAYS 5778

SELICHOT, Saturday, Sept 16 - 7:30pm Dessert, Wine & Coffee 8pm Havdalah • 8:15pm Study Session - Vision, Rage & Rhetoric: Bringing the Prophets into the Public Square • 10pm Selichot Service

EREV ROSH HASHANAH, Wednesday, Sept 20 • 7:30pm Service

ROSH HASHANAH, Thursday, Sept 21 - 9am Family Service -10am Rosh Hashanah Service • 10am Apples & Honey Program for ages 3-10 • 10:15am Teen Service • 1:30pm Rosh Hashanah Reception 3pm Tashlich at Duck Pond in Land Park

SHABBAT SHUVAH, Friday, Sept 22 • 7:30pm Shabbat Service

EREV YOM KIPPUR, Kol Nidre, Friday, Sept 29 - 7:30pm Service

YOM KIPPUR, Saturday, Sept 30 - 9am Family Service 10am Yom Kippur Morning Service • 10am Apples & Honey Program for ages 3-10 • 10:15am Teen Service • 1pm Panel Discussion or Meditation Session • 2:30pm Yom Kippur Afternoon Service • 5pm Yizkor Service • 5:30pm Neilah Service • 6:30pm Break-the-Fast

### EREV SUKKOT, Wednesday, October 4

5:30pm Festival Blessings & Potluck Dinner in the Sukkah 7pm Program: Harvest Festival for all ages!

### SIMCHAT TORAH CELEBRATION, Wednesday, October 11

5pm Dinner (RSVP reg'd, catered by the 2018 Confirmation Class) 6pm Game Night: To Tell The Truth, Torah Edition (childcare from 6-7pm) 7pm Simchat Torah Festival Service and dancing with the Torah

### Shanah Tovah Tikatevu v'Tikateimu!

CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL 3600 Riverside Blvd., Sacramento - 916.446.4861 - bnais.com

## **Show Up and Open Your Heart**



For many of us, the High Holiday liturgy is difficult to comprehend. All the talk of judgment can feel somber, full of guilt and reproach. In fact, the holy days are an opportunity for healing and forgiveness, for quiet introspection and release. A story from the Baal Shem Tov reminds us what the High Holidays are truly about. Here is my version of that story.

The High Holidays are approaching, and a young woman decides she wants to participate in a big way. She practices all summer to blow the shofar. She learns the notes, practices the proper way to stand, even studies what thoughts to hold in mind.

When the rabbi asks for interested shofar blowers she eagerly shows up to demonstrate her new skill, along with many others trying out for the big role. When her turn arrives she focuses on everything she has practiced. The rabbi calls out "Tikkia!", she fills her

lungs with air, and blows. Nothing! She blows with all her might, but no sound comes out.

She is so focused on all the rules and requirements, that she is unable to produce a single note. After all that work! And with such good posture too. She stands there feeling like an utter failure. As she takes the shofar from her trembling lips her heart breaks. Tears pour down her face. She cries and cries, until she is flopped over in exhaustion.

The rabbi smiles kindly at her. "Perfect. Yes, you will be perfect for the job!"

So what does this mean? On Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, it is not what you know or what you have accomplished that are important. All that matters is a willingness to show up, a willingness to open your heart. When the young woman let go, a true cry to heaven emerged. The rabbi knew she could blow the shofar with equal sincerity, once she let go of everything she had learned.

> Only this G-d asks from each of us. Rabbi Seth Castleman. President of Sacramento Area Board of Rabbis

## **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 E-m: homeofpeace@comcast.net

Ph: (916) 446-1409 The Home of Peace Cemetery is a non-profit Jewish Community organization.

### Hillel at Davis & Sacramento Wishes You

### Shanah Toyah u'Metukah!

May the New Year Bring you Hope, Peace, & Joy



With your support our students will have a sweet 5778!

**TO VISIT &/OR DONATE:** 

328 A St., Davis, CA 95616

hillelhouse.org 530-756-3708







### SACRAMENTO THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS



SACTHEATRE.ORG 916-443-6722

## a night at the CALIFORNIAM

























On Sunday, August 27 the Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region hosted "A Night at the California Museum". Guests enjoyed perusing the newly opened Unity Center, dedicated to promoting diversity and inclusion. They also enjoyed the fantastic traveling exhibition, "Light & Noir: Exiles & Émigrés in Hollywood, 1933 - 1950" organized by the Skirball Cultural Center in association with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences. Without the support of the following generous donors, this event would not have been possible. Our sincere thanks go out to The Zlotlow Family (Kenesset Israel Torah Center), The Gumpert Family (Mosaic Law Congregation), Arnold and Mari Golub (Congregation Beth Shalom), Estelle Opper (Congregation B'nai Israel), Lynn and Mike Dean (Temple Or Rishon), Joy and Steve Cohan (Congregation Bet Haverim) and Valentina and Mark Joske (Congregation Bet Haverim).

CA Museum Photo Credit Sheet Listed L to R

- 1 Estelle Opper, Rabbi Mona Alfi & Ezra Hammel
- 2 Donor reception in the Darrell Steinberg Unity Classroom
- 3 Adelita Dizdarevic, Karen Soskin, Lorraine Katz & Rikki Kass

## USEUM\*

























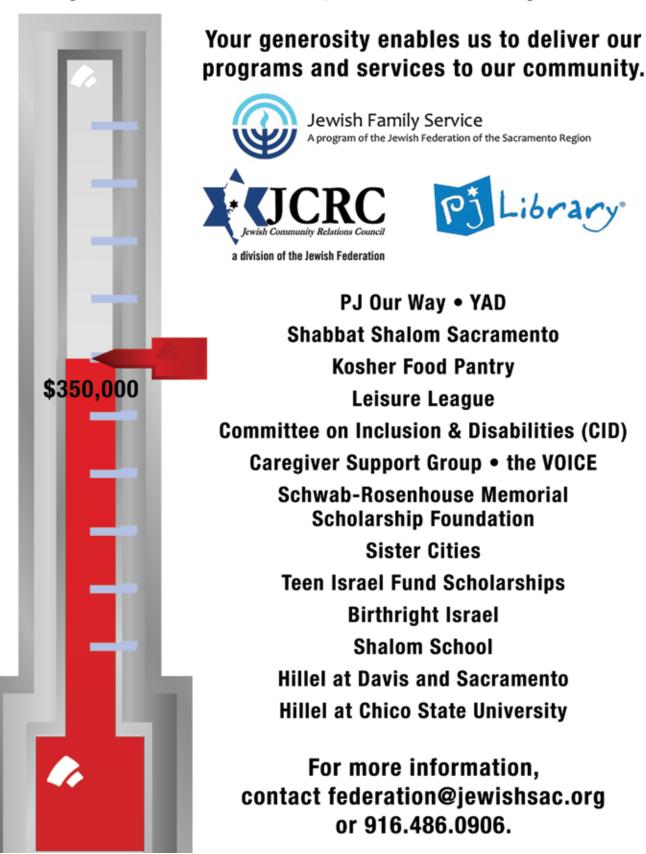
- 4 Lu Ann & Eric Weiss, Shira & Don Gilbert, Gil & Karen Allon
- 5 Alan Brodovsky, Carol Loew, Nancy Brodovsky & Rabbi Greg Wolfe
- 6 Carol Loew & Willie Recht
- 7 Bill Thomas
- & Pat Thaler

- 8 Rikki Kass & Ruth Gottlieb
- 9 Sue & Harry Sperber, Alan & Nancy Brodovsky
- 10 Unity Center at the California Museum
- 11 Adelita Dizdarevic & Bernie Marks
- 12 Chris Drouin & Sheila Wolfe

- 13 Anne & Hal Eisenberg
- 14 Aidan, Joy & Steve Cohan
- 15 Yael Fahn, Doris Pittell, Nancy Bernheimer, Claire Merksamer, Lynne Galin
- 16 Beryl Michaels & John Bach

- 17 Jenny Berg & Jamie Arenson
- 18 Jana Uslan, Debbie & John Lewis, Brian Uslan
- 19 Karen & Steven Polansky, Carol Loew, Linda & Marvin Kamras
- 20 Michael & Rebecca Ray

## Have You Made Your 2017 Annual Campaign Gift? Help Us Make Our Goal, We Are Halfway There!



### **JCRC: We Stand Together**



On Friday, August 4 at a press conference in Davis, Imam Ammar Shahin stated to the Jewish community, "I am deeply sorry for the pain that I have caused. The last thing I would do is intentionally hurt anyone, Muslim, Jewish or otherwise. It is not in my heart, nor does my religion allow it".



A week earlier this Imam delivered a strongly worded anti-Semitic sermon at the Islamic Center of Davis, calling for Allah to "annihilate" the Jews "down to the very last one".

In the days following, I spent five hours inside the Davis Mosque, working with Rabbi Seth Castleman to obtain an apology. The journey to this apology was a life changing experience for me as an American Jew.

In response to the Imam's statement, The Council of Sacramento Valley Islamic Organizations (COSVIO) stated in part, "We are troubled and feel the pain of the Jewish community. Whether it was intended or not, the idea of destroying any religious group, Jewish or otherwise, is abhorrent and antithetical to our understanding of Islam".

That statement represents the true spirit of cooperation that has existed for many years between Jews, Muslims and the entire interfaith community. The successful negotiations that led to Imam Ammar Shahin's apology proves that the tradition of understanding between our communities lives on, as we stand together against the forces of hatred and disunity that exist in our country today.

JCRC stands ready, at all times, to keep peace within our community.

Happy New Year, from our family to yours.

### **Bruce Pomer**

Chair, JCRC JCRC@jewishsac.org



## **New Educational Program - Kehillah!**

The Beth Shalom and Mosaic Law Communities are proud to announce the initiation of an Educational Partnership of their two religious schools. The new name of the pre-K through seventh grade educational program is called "Kehillah." The name which comes from the Hebrew word "Kahal" which means "community," will begin this coming Fall.



The arrangement to combine religious schools was the idea of both rabbis who wanted to address ways to allow the children from both congregations to be able to have opportunities to study the Jewish heritage together. For this first year, classes will be held on Wednesdays at Beth Shalom and on Sunday mornings at Mosaic Law.

Under the direction of Kehillah's Educational Director, Irit Winston, the class sizes will be larger and teachers from both congregations will serve on the Kehillah faculty. The Education Committee of this new endeavor is inclusive of members of both congregations.

Rabbi Wechsler and Rabbi Taff both affirm that the two congregations already have a partnership for eighth through twelfth grade students called "Midrasha." The Kehillah program is a natural feeder and extension to the high school program. For families with children who do not belong to any synagogue or congregation in the Sacramento area, there are spaces available in the Kehillah Religious School. For further information feel free to contact Irit Winston at kehillahrs@gmail.com

### Rabbi Nancy Wechsler and Rabbi Reuven Taff

6 Anonymous Donors

Debra and Cliff Berg

Jessica Braverman Birch and Joel Birch

Barry Broad

Alice Cartwright

Melissa Chapman

Lynn and Michael Dean

Robert Dresser

Barbara Dubnick

Davina Dubnick

Anne and Hal Eisenberg

David Felderstein and Daniel Hoody

Shira and Don Gilbert

Deborah and Louis Gonzalez

Allen Green

Janie and Frank Gumpert

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Linda and Marvin Kamras

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Marc Koenigsberg and Robert Layne

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Steve Lewis

## Life & Legacy: Feeding the Community

Tillie Schiff (z"I), understood the value of communal meals. While living, she supported the weekly Shabbat dinners at Hillel, a place where more than 100 students gather every Friday to break bread, share a free meal, converse, and feel at home. In addition to supporting Shabbat at Hillel, she also supported the weekly kiddush lunches held at Mosaic Law Congregation (MLC). These kiddush lunches, regardless how simple the food, provide a connection for congregants. They were not only a reason to come to services, but a reason to stay afterwards and visit with others, while sharing a communal meal.

Despite Tillie's passing, these meals continue. She was wise enough to participate in the Life & Legacy Program, and therefore designated annual gifts to both Hillel and MLC through the Tillie Schiff Endowment at The Jewish Community Foundation of the West (JCFW). It was as simple as stating in her estate plan that she wanted to support those two programs. As part of Life & Legacy, she designated Hillel and MLC as beneficiaries, and made sure her trustees were aware of her wishes.



The Life & Legacy program means that you can leave a lasting impact on your Jewish community by including Federation as a beneficiary. You can designate a specific program, such as the Kosher Food Pantry, rides for seniors, or PJ Library. Or you could consider an unrestricted gift to Federation; a one-time bequest, or an annual gift to ensure your donation is given in perpetuity. What a beautiful way to begin the New Year by solidifying your commitment to the community.

L'Shanah Tovah.

#### **Deborah Hoffman Gonzalez**

President Elect and Chair, Life & Legacy





## SHALOM SCHOOL

Programs for Infants, Toddlers, Preschool, Pre-K, K-6 For information, please call 916.485.4151 . www.shalomschool.org



Beneficiary of the Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region

The General Assembly is coming to California! Join 2,000 Federation Members for this annual event.



### **VENTURE FURTHER**

NOV 12 - 14 GENERALASSEMBLY.ORG

For more information, email federation@jewishsac.org or call 916.486.0906

To register, visit generalassembly.org today!







# join the great Jewish conversation

For information, and to register for classes go to: www.meltonsacramento.org

Melton Sacramento is one of 50 cohorts of The Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning and all Melton Sacramento Curriculum is developed at the Melton Centre for Jewish Education of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Sara Kahn Shapiro, Melton Sacramento Director (916) 488-6397









### **KENESSET ISRAEL TORAH CENTER**

JOIN US for spirited, authentic Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Shemeni Atzeret, & Simchat Torah Services led by Rabbi Silberstein!
Plus...

Catered Lunch Under the Sukkah Saturday, October 7 following Shabbat Services

Malaveh Malka in the Sukkah Saturday Evening, October 7 Motzei Shabbat

> Simchat Torah Celebration Thursday Evening, October 12

Join us at 7 pm for Cocktails, Mocktails and Hors d'oeuvres, Free flags and children's parade, No cost to attend

Check KITCsacramento.org, for a schedule and RSVP information!

### **FREE CHILDCARE**

Rosh Hashanah: Thurs, Sept 21 10 am to 2 pm

**Erev Yom Kippur:** Fri Sept 29, 6:15 to 8:30 pm

Yom Kippur Day: Sat, Sept 30 10 am to 3 pm & 5:00 to 7:30 pm

### **HIGH HOLY DAY SEATS**

Purchase your ticket for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur seats at KITCsacramento.org. Info at events@kitcsacramento.org.

No one will be turned away due inability to pay.

## **CA Legislative Jewish Caucus**



This fall, while Jewish communities around the world prepare for Rosh Hashanah, the California State Legislature will wrap up the first year of a two-year session and start preparing for the upcoming year. Similar to Yom Kippur, we reflect on what we can do to become better legislators and improve the lives of all Californians.

As I complete my first year as Chair of the California Legislative Jewish Caucus, I have the opportunity to focus on how the caucus can more effectively advocate for the Jewish community. I am proud of the Jewish Caucus's achievements. In the 2016 election, our

5778/2017



## TRANSFORMATION IS POSSIBLE THIS NEW YEAR

JOIN TEMPLE OR RISHON FOR FRIENDLY COMMUNITY
AND INSPIRING AND UPLIFTING SERVICES.

ROSH HASHANAH BEGINS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH

For ticket information for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, please contact the Temple office at (916) 988-4100 or office@orrishon.org

Visit our website for a full High Holy Day Schedule www.orrishon.org



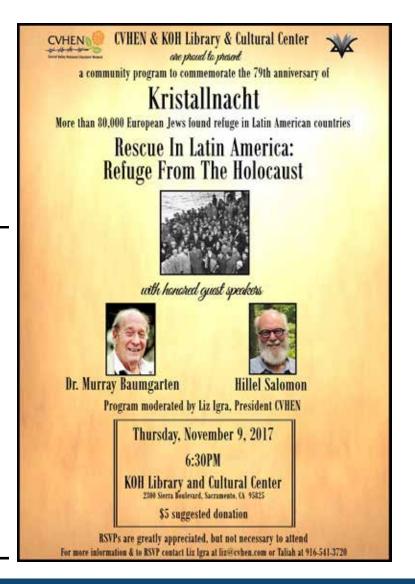
Temple Or Rishon • 7755 Hazel Avenue • Orangevale, CA • 95662

numbers grew exponentially. Our sixteen members consist of a diverse group of legislators with unique goals and policy agendas. This past legislative year, we have successfully secured \$2 million for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program in the California Office of Emergency Services to protect organizations like the Jewish Federation, worked with California's public universities to make sure Jewish students feel welcome on campus, and honored survivors at the annual Holocaust Remembrance ceremony.

We have built a strong relationship with the other five ethnic caucuses, which include the Asian and Pacific Islander, Latino, Black, LGBT, and Women's Caucuses. As the New Year approaches, I know the Jewish community will continue to face challenges and hardships. The Jewish Caucus will continue to support the needs of our community and work toward achieving Tikkun Olam.

#### Assemblymember Marc Levine

Chair, CA Legislative Jewish Caucus



## YAD: A Home, Network and Community

For a long time, Sacramento has been missing a thriving Jewish center for young adults. However, with the growth of the Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region's Young Adult Division (YAD), this will all change. YAD will provide a home, network and community for young Jewish adults in Sacramento.

A year and a half ago, I moved from Los Angeles to Sacramento to take a job as the consultant for the California Legislative Jewish Caucus. LA is renowned for having a unique and vibrant Jewish community. Young adults have many opportunities to participate in a wide range of social, religious, and educational events and activities. My belief is Sacramento should and could offer similar opportunities.

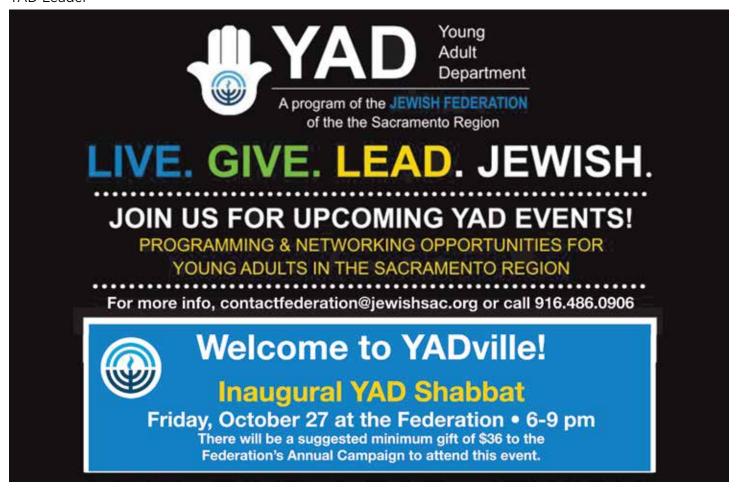
Sacramento is not lacking a young Jewish population, as many may think. As the cost of living continues to rise in the Bay Area and Los Angeles, even more young Jewish adults in their 20s and 30s will eventually relocate to Sacramento. Everywhere I go, I meet young



adults looking to get involved in the Jewish community and meet likeminded Jewish peers. The problem is, they don't know where to go to meet and network, to get together and form a community.

In May, the Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region kicked off YAD with a welcome event at their Sacramento HQ. Last month, we attended a River Cats game at Raley Field, and on September 10 we'll be wine tasting at the Old Sugar Mill. I'm excited to see YAD grow to become a welcoming group for all Jewish Sacramentans in their 20s and 30s.

**Jenny Berg** YAD Leader



## **Honoring Carol Velarde**

On Tuesday, August 23, 2017 The California Legislature commended and recognized Carol Velarde "on the occasion of her retirement from the Jewish Community Relations Council of Sacramento, for her outstanding contributions to the Council's goals of interfaith and ethnic collaboration; her support for the State of Israel; and for the direct service she has provided over decades to the Jewish community in Sacramento and beyond".

Several of Carol's JCRC colleagues joined Assemblymember Jim Cooper (D-Elk Grove) to celebrate with her on Tuesday. JCRC Chair, Bruce Pomer shared, "Carol is a real pro. Her



Carol Velarde with Assemblymember Jim Cooper (D-Elk Grove)

knowledge of the history of JCRC & its purpose are unique. She also brought an unmatched ability to communicate about the complex issues that we face during this difficult time in our history."

Bob Dresser concurred, "Carol is a fearless and effective champion of Israel, Jewish security and the U.S. Constitution.

If you're ever in a tough spot, you can count on Carol. In addition, she is the maven of bylaws! She has been the heart and soul of JCRC."

JCRC is a program of the Federation and we are proud to honor Carol Velarde for her twenty years of service. Diana Rudé offered, "During the 20 years that Carol Velarde served on the Jewish Community Relations Council of Sacramento she tirelessly embodied the Jewish concept of Tikkun Olam (repair the world). Carol is known as a bridge builder and a great champion of Jewish justice and human rights."



L to R Dan Gorfain, Dan Weitzman, Joan Gorfain, Lydia Inghram, Carol Velarde, Bruce Pomer, Diana Rudé, Choco Leandro-Dresser, Bob Dresser

Join us in thanking Carol for her twenty years of service to JCRC. We are deeply grateful for her tireless advocacy and dedication, and wish her well in her future endeavors.





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