

A PUBLICATION OF THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF THE SACRAMENTO REGION

# THE VOICE

YOUR SOURCE FOR LOCAL & GLOBAL JEWISH NEWS



This Rosh Hashanah, let's look beyond our labels.



FALL 2018-5779

**THE VOICE**

a publication of The Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region

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**The Jewish Federation**

OF THE SACRAMENTO REGION

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

“For everything there is a season.”



For everything there is a season. And here we are, preparing for the most meaningful and traditional days of our religious calendar.

A New Year. What does it mean to each of us? This High Holiday season takes us to so many places. So many memories. A time to look back and a time to make plans to move forward.

When we gather in our congregations and greet each other with the traditional greeting, *L'shanah Tova, Tikatevu ve Techatemu*, we celebrate, not with champagne, fireworks or noisemakers like the celebration of the secular New Year, but with the kind and loving message to fellow congregants as we begin our introspective Days of Awe: “May you be inscribed and sealed for a good year.”

Isn't it wonderful that we are allowed to spend 10 days reaching into our soul and our mind to evaluate how we lived since last Rosh Hashanah. What joy came into our life in 5778? How many new experiences and friends did we enjoy during the year? How did we treat each other throughout the year? Did we send our children off to college and become empty nesters? Did we take a very special trip or celebrate a life cycle event? Did we lose dear friends or family? And most importantly, how did we share in the survival of our Jewish world and our beloved homeland, Israel.

We have much to acknowledge and feel proud of in our Sacramento community. Our day school thrives, our congregational Rabbis come together and nurture our population, and Federation truly represented and brought together our entire community, affiliated and unaffiliated. We now have more than 1,200 families receiving PJ Library books, and our seniors meet and enjoy lunch and entertainment together monthly.

During Yom Kippur, we fast to feel the suffering of our people, and hope to make peace with the past and look forward to our plans for the future of our family.

Aren't we so lucky to have such a beautiful tradition? That it has been handed down, *I'dor v 'dor*, and we will continue to encourage our children and grandchildren to see the beauty in this Holy time. We can put away any errors of the past and start a fresh slate. G-d in his miracles allows us to begin again.

With our world in crisis, and so many homeless and hungry, how blessed are we to be able to give to make the world a better place. *Tikkun Olam*, the directive from G-d for the Jewish people. However you choose to give, whatever moves you to want to contribute, in whatever manner you decide to support our people, this is the season to decide. Ponder your choices during your 10 days, give gratitude for all that you receive, and look to the future survival of Jewish life and our homeland.

I wish each and every one of you *L'shana Tovah, Tikatevu ve Techatemu*.

See you at 2130 21st Street,

**Carol Loew**

President

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



# IMPOSSIBLE

As you make your plans and resolutions for the New Year – don't be afraid to think big. Remember, nothing is impossible.

Happy Rosh Hashanah. We wish you a sweet New Year.



The Jewish Federation  
OF THE SACRAMENTO REGION

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



I am going to make an effort to remember the good that I participated in during the past year.

How many of us have sat in high holiday services, reflecting, listening to the prayers or the chanting of the Kol Nidre, when our minds begin to wonder, thinking of everything we need to still accomplish, whether tomorrow, next week, next year, or even 10 years from now. Where are we headed, and how will we get there? Soon, that wondering turns to worrying and we've completely lost grasp of the reason we're there in the first place. I do not doubt I am unique in this experience.

There's a saying I try to channel when this wondering leads to worrying: *Worrying is like a rocking chair. It gives you something to do, but doesn't get you anywhere.* How true this is. I've had my fair share of worrying over the past year, as any Executive Director can attest to. Will we hit our campaign? Will the community see the benefit of our work? What is our (Federation's) role in our current political climate? How can we best support Israel? These and countless other questions have led to many hours in the proverbial rocking chair, but as a new year approaches, and 5779 draws near, one of my goals is to spend more time celebrating the successes we have accomplished — successes made possible through your generous support — and less time worrying, distracting me from all that is going on around me.

One such success I want to share with you is something we have not talked about in our Federation story, and that is a success that will come to fruition years after many of us are gone. It is the sustainability and perpetuity of this Jewish community and the work, services, and programs that Federation will continue to provide.

I am speaking of the rebuilding of the Federation's long-term savings and Endowment. I am proud to share with you that during the past 12 months, Federation has contributed more than \$270,000 into our long-term Fund and Endowment, held at the Jewish Community Foundation of the West, growing our long-term holdings at the Foundation to more than \$330,000.

While we could have chosen to use these funds for current-day needs or more programming, I, along with our trusted Board of Trustees, know the importance that a strong Endowment holds for any organization and we believe that Federation, and the work that we do, are not here just for today, but for tomorrow and generations to come.

Of course, this success will not relieve all of my worries, but as I sit in shul this year, I am going to make an effort to remember the good that I participated in during the past year and reflect on how those successes can add to our continued success in the coming year. I invite you all to do the same. Celebrate with me and the community for the strength and support you have given and feel good about what you have done to get us to where we are.

I wish you and your families a happy, joyous, and healthy new year. L'Shanah Tovah.

Respectfully,

**Willie Recht**

Executive Director

wrecht@jewishsac.org



# The Jewish Federation OF THE SACRAMENTO REGION

AN EVENT WITH **SACRAMENTO REPUBLIC FC**



**Wednesday, October 3rd**  
**KICKOFF 7:30 PM**

## Tickets: \$27

Proceeds from your ticket purchase will  
benefit The Jewish Federation of the  
Sacramento Region.

**Use the link below to purchase tickets:**  
**<https://fevo.me/jewishheritage>**

CONTACT Alex Burt:  
(916) 379-7519 or [aburt@sacrepublikfc.com](mailto:aburt@sacrepublikfc.com)

## A MESSAGE FROM JCRC

...look up two words:  
“Civility” and “Humaneness.”



This New Year, the word around town is “Civility.” With that in mind, pick up your phone or seasoned dictionary and look up two words: “Civility” and “Humaneness.”

While wrestling with the current, uncomfortable tenor of flailing hands and spews in public spaces — and likely intergenerational family dinners — I was challenged by a mentor of mine to do just that. After reading the definitions, I immediately understood what he was implying.

Interestingly, the implication was that if we had a different societal standard of compassion, civility might be a more worthy goal. Considering the vast differences of met needs in our society, perhaps we should instead focus on the word, “Humaneness.”

If we are to preserve our identity, we might ask ourselves how we as Jews respond when others feel threatened by us. Do we act to diminish their pain? Are we compassionate and supportive, or do we alienate? Are we dismissive? Is our civility toward others perceived as dispassionate apathy? Are we perceived as the community who stands up for others?

While thinking about civility and humaneness, our Jewish Community Relations Council’s potential for positive impact is to underscore and grow our community’s relationship-building projects. When we stand up for others, or shine a light on others’ pain, or make amends in areas where our good intentions prove hurtful, we entrench our value as Jews in the greater, non-Jewish community. When we listen and respond to cues of any type of discrimination or pain, no matter how small, and no matter the identity, we too are seen.

It’s exciting to see our community participate in projects that cultivate sustainable, inter-community relationships. This transcends civility. The Latino-Jewish Forum, Salaam-Shalom Sisterhood, Martin Luther King Jr. March for the Dream, Freedom and Justice Seder, Interfaith-Interracial Dinners, and consistent volunteerism in social needs spaces, validate our commitment to non-Jewish friends that seeing our humanity through theirs is essential. Our actions model our beliefs. These projects foster opportunities to bridge build and live up to our value of Tikkun Olam.

Ultimately, in this new year, I hope to challenge myself to no longer think of the word “Civility” as a goal. Instead, I’ll pursue “Humaneness.”

L’shana Tovah!

**Lynn Berkley-Baskin**

JCRC Community Outreach Chair

## The Lobbyist and the Speechwriter: A Novel Sci-Fi Collaboration

When a Teamster's lobbyist and a speechwriter for the California Housing and Community Development agency get together to write a novel, the result is — well, out of this world.

*Dark Sea Rising*, which debuted in May, is the science fiction brainchild of Barry Broad (the lobbyist) and Drew Mendelson (the speechwriter). Set in the ocean's underworld, the book takes readers on a journey into the discovery of intelligent life below the deepest sea floor where a functioning and intelligent civilization has evolved.

The plot was inspired by two events: The 2010 BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico and an NPR interview featuring the head of NASA's interspace program who talked about unexplained parts of the planet.

"He said something that blew up in my brain," Broad, who is also Past President of Federation, recalls, and that was, "The biomass in and around the deep-sea ocean vents is equal to the entire mass of the rest of the planet, meaning there is a lot alive at the bottom of the ocean that we don't know much about."

**"If you're writing close encounters with species on earth, you want it to be realistic. It's easier to suspend disbelief in another planet."**

That led the lobbyist to the question, "What if we were drilling and went down into the habitat of the deep sea creatures that have evolved to become a form of intelligent life?"

To expand on his premise that humans living above the ocean wouldn't know of life below the ocean floor, and wondering how a clash of cultures between humans and sea life would develop, Broad turned to his friend and fellow author, Mendelson, who served as President of the Albert Einstein Residence Center for 9 years.

Capitalizing on each of their strengths — Broad has written two espionage-thriller novels and Mendelson, two science fiction novels as well as another book about the Vietnam War — *Dark Sea Rising* is presented in two literary voices. Broad penned the human character and Mendelson, the sea creature, which is (spoiler alert) an octopus.

"Human beings we know," notes Mendelson, "but we wanted another culture that could develop six miles deep in the ocean and become intelligent life and have a culture of its own."

Adds Broad, "If you're writing close encounters with species on earth, you want it to be realistic. It's easier to suspend disbelief in another planet."

Using the differences between humans and octopuses to develop their main characters, the authors share how octopuses have no bones, bleed blue, and are semelparous, meaning they reproduce once and then die. Another difference is that humans have vocal cords. Mendelson explains that a type of



telepathy between the characters was created in order for them to be interconnected. This means that the sea life can save knowledge and become a real civilization.

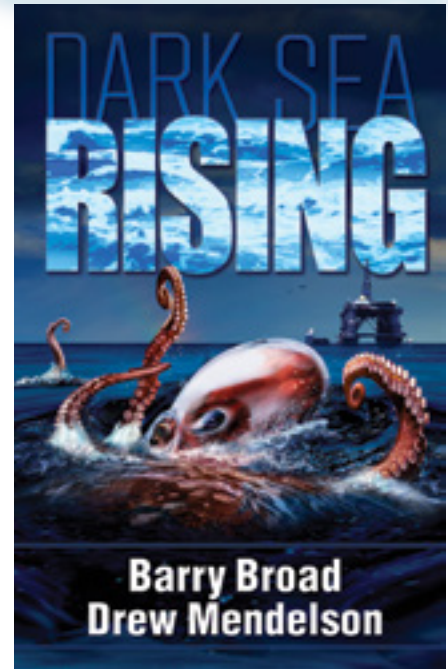
“What we wanted,” he explains, “was two different and powerful intelligence sources that want to live on their own and control their environments. Humans, because they are on the surface, have more power. Under the ocean, they don’t have control. If you read a lot of sci fi (which Mendelson has since he was a child growing up in Kansas City), 99 percent of first contact-type stories are where the alien is evil and you have to defend yourself. Here, the aliens are not evil and may be nicer than the people above.”

The three-year collaboration (much of which took place over Thai food) has been featured on Capital Public Radio’s Insight, Good Day Sacramento, and Facebook live events as well as at area book signings. Broad and Mendelson are considering a sequel and also hope someone will purchase the movie rights, tapping Matt Damon or George Clooney to play the lead.

And while the plot is not inherently Jewish, it is riddled with Jewish themes such as repairing the world and welcoming the stranger.

“There is a piece of dialogue that sounds like Moses and the burning bush,” Broad points out. No spoiler alert here. Read it for yourselves.

*Dark Sea Rising* is available at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) and upon order at local bookstores.



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**PJ LIBRARY WEEKLY PLAYGROUP IS BACK!**  
**Come bring the little ones and meet other PJ parents and PJ youngsters.**  
**We will enjoy crafts and story time. While the kids run around,**  
**enjoy the opportunity for parent-to-parent connections.**

October 9, 2018

9:30am-Noon

Jewish Federation · 2130 21st St., Sacramento

For more information, contact Rikki Kass at [rkass@jewishsac.org](mailto:rkass@jewishsac.org).





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March 31-April 9, 2019  
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AGE	RATE
65	5.3%
70	5.8%
75	6.5%
80	7.5%
85	8.4%
90 and over	9.8%

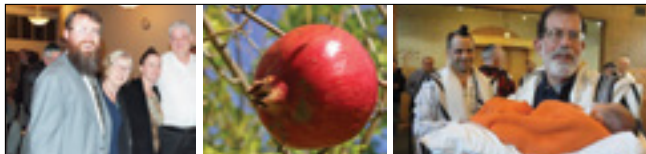
\*Two life rates will vary. Rates are subject to change.



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## Kenesset Israel Torah Center High Holidays

**JOIN US for spirited, authentic  
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Day September 10-11  
Evening September 18  
Day September 19

**Free childcare**  
**No one will be turned away  
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**Also join us for Sukkot & Simchat Torah  
Services and Celebrations!**

For more information and to purchase your ticket:  
[kitsacramento.org](http://kitsacramento.org)



## 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.

## Making High Holiday Services Accessible to Everyone

As part of High Holiday preparation, Federation's Committee on Inclusion and Disabilities (CID) hopes congregations throughout our region will take a few steps to create accessible, welcoming, and spiritual spaces for people of all abilities and their families. Here are a few ideas to try.

**Ask congregants and the community what's needed.** Reach out and find out what will make it easier for people with disabilities, and their families, to more fully participate in services and related activities. Such things as assistive listening devices, accessible parking, large print siddurs, sign language interpreters, accessible seating (not just in the back), accessible restrooms, and some assistance from volunteers, are just a few examples of what may be helpful.

**Invite feedback** through emails, calls, membership forms, bulletins, and handouts at services. Follow-up on what you learn — look for resources to assist!

**Promote and publicize accessibility and accommodations.** Establish and mention available accommodations during the High Holidays (and throughout the year) in emails, websites, and bulletins on tickets. List a contact person for follow-up and publicize that information internally and in the mainstream media.

**Include people with disabilities, and their families, in your services.** Offer honors and roles during worship to people with disabilities and their families. If needed, allow time for participants to practice and become familiar with the space and accommodations to make things go smoothly.

**Offer inclusive children's services and childcare/babysitting options.** Identify people with special training/experience to advise and help during children's and family worship services. Ask parents and other family members to share what their child/family member might need to be at ease and able to participate.

**Train ushers and staff to confidently and tactfully facilitate the participation of people with disabilities.** Ask what assistance might be needed rather than automatically just "helping" or assuming there's nothing you can do. Just saying hello and offering to connect will go a long way. Face and speak directly to people with disabilities, rather than only to their family members, aides, or sign language interpreters.

**Be a mensch — we all can appreciate that!**

*Adapted from the work of Rabbi Edythe Held Mencher, LCSW, Coordinator of the URJ-Ruderman Family Foundation Partnership for Inclusion of People with Disabilities.  
For more information about CID, contact [inclusion@jewishsac.org](mailto:inclusion@jewishsac.org).*

## The Jewish Doctor Who Performs Life-Changing Surgeries — In Flying Operating Room

A decade ago, Dr. James Brandt embarked on a plane from Northern California to Vietnam. When he arrived, he boarded another plane, but this one never left the ground.

That's because this second aircraft was a mobile teaching hospital complete with an operating room, recovery room, and classroom. The 'Flying Eye Hospital' is the brainchild of Orbis, an organization focused on the treatment and prevention of childhood blindness, cataracts, corneal disease, and other eye-related conditions in developing countries.

"Totally hooked" after his 2008 experience, Brandt's first trip turned into a second, then a third, eventually leading to more than 20 missions and counting, including in Peru, Ghana, South America, Indonesia, China, Nepal, Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, and Africa.

"There is something about getting back to the basics of medicine and taking care of patients," says the pediatric glaucoma specialist, comparing it to the grind of serving patients in the US.

The 'Flying Eye Hospital' began 30 years ago with a DC 8; today, it is a McDonnell Douglas 10. According to Orbis, 285 million people in the world are blind or visually impaired simply because of where they live. Working to change that statistic, the organization has trained more than 10,000 doctors, conducted 11.6 million eye exams, and performed more than 340,000 surgeries.

**"This is not just teaching surgery," Brandt emphasizes, noting how the plane's classroom allows real time teaching during surgeries. "It's about all aspects, from anesthesiology to biomedical engineering to technicians who deal with the equipment. It takes a village to deliver eye care. Orbis trains the village."**

Classifying the mobile hospital as a "technological tour de force," Brandt, a Professor of Ophthalmology and Vision Science at the University of California, Davis, Eye Center, Vice-Chair for International Programs and New Technology, and Director of the Glaucoma Service, is quick to point out that Orbis does not merely fly in as the "great white hope." Instead, its mission is about sustainability and skills transfer to local doctors, nurses, and other health care personnel in places where the mortality rate for children undergoing surgery is 1 in 200 (in the US, the rate is 1 in 250,000).

"This is not just teaching surgery," Brandt emphasizes, noting how the plane's classroom allows real time teaching during surgeries. "It's about all aspects, from anesthesiology to biomedical engineering to technicians who deal with the equipment. It takes a village to deliver eye care. Orbis trains the village."



LEFT: From left, Drs. Steve Mannis, James Brandt, Mark Mannis, and Sophia Fang inside the Orbis Flying Eye Hospital.  
RIGHT: Surgery taking place inside a McDonnell Douglas 10 airplane that has been transformed into a mobile hospital.

Brandt has created a village of his own, inviting colleagues to join him on these medical treks that last three to four weeks and result in between 6 to 15 surgeries weekly on patients of all ages, many of whom live in remote villages without access to proper nutrition and who walk up to three days for the opportunity just to be screened.

Dr. Mark Mannis, who specializes in corneal transplantation at UC Davis, has accompanied Brandt to Peru three times as well as to El Salvador and Vietnam. He looks toward Jewish tradition to describe his work, generally, and specifically with Orbis.

“The eye in Judaism is sacred,” Mannis explains. “This is a wonderful opportunity to live that cultural legacy of the centrality of vision to life.”

Newcomer and anesthesiologist Dr. Steve Mannis accompanied Brandt and Dr. Mark Mannis (his first cousin once removed) during his inaugural mission to Peru in April.

“It was dazzling to walk on to the plane,” he recalls. “It was an immediate immersion into another world, a feeling of combining high tech and modern state-of-the-art equipment in contrast with being in a third-world setting. We are accustomed in the US to a hierarchal setting. This was a great equalizer.”

Adding that because no available eye tissue is available in Peru, he and his cousin carried a box containing 13 corneas on their outbound flight.

## “Being Jewish and giving to the world helps humanity.”

“There is a subtheme of family working together and bonding together as Jews in our community,” he says. “Being Jewish and giving to the world helps humanity.”

The three specialists underline the importance of building local capacity. That’s why, in addition to surgeries and teaching on the aircraft, they work in local eye care centers using the tools and equipment available to local doctors.

“As important as the plane is, it’s about time spent with local nurses and physicians,” Dr. Mark Mannis points out. “When the plane flies away, what they have is their tools and instruments. We leave a legacy of education for local doctors. We teach them and leave our skills behind. This experience infuses you with what being a doctor is all about.”

*Editor’s Note: The doctors featured here — Dr. James Brandt, Dr. Mark Mannis, and Dr. Steve Mannis — are members of the Sacramento Jewish community.*

*“The Jewish Eye Doctor Who Performs Life-Changing Surgeries — In Flying Operating Room.” This article originally appeared at [forward.com](http://forward.com), July 5, 2018, and is reproduced with permission.*



The Jewish Federation  
OF THE SACRAMENTO REGION

# 2018-2019 Winter/Spring Save The Dates

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**DEC.6 : THURSDAY**  
Federation Annual Meeting

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**FEB.2 : SATURDAY**  
Federation's Big Event

---

**MAR.7 : THURSDAY + MAR.9 : SATURDAY + MAR.10 : SUNDAY**  
Jewish Film Festival at Crest Theatre

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**MAR.19 : TUESDAY**  
Women's Philanthropy Luncheon

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**APR.28 : SUNDAY**  
Communitywide Yom HaShoah Commemoration

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**MAY.5 : SUNDAY**  
Celebrate Israel (Yom HaAtzmaut)

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Questions: [federation@jewishsac.org](mailto:federation@jewishsac.org) or 916-486-0906

# THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF THE SACRAMENTO REGION 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

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

## 2017 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Barry Broad, *Immediate Past President*

### MEMBERS AT LARGE

Cliff Berg

Fran Bremson

Robert Dresser

Don Gilbert

Ruth Gottlieb

Sue Sperber

## Welcome to the Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region's 2017 Annual Report.

What a year it was! A year of connections, rebuilding, and retelling the Federation story. Our number one goal was to listen to you and to better understand the unique role that this Federation plays in our community. Together, we had well over 400 individual meetings with donors, past donors, rabbis, and community leaders.

What did we learn? We learned that you believe in the work that the Federation does and the services we provide. You see value in the support and assistance that Jewish Family Service is able to provide. You see the value in the Jewish books we send monthly to families throughout the region through PJ Library. And you believe in the value of our senior programs.

We also heard that you want more opportunities to “do” and to “be” Jewish, together. Whether you are affiliated with a synagogue, multiple synagogues, or no synagogues, many of you are looking to the Federation to provide communitywide opportunities to engage with one another. Believing in our role as a community builder, we set out to provide such opportunities, including the relaunch of Women’s Philanthropy, our partnership with the Sacramento Theatre Company, and our community night at the California Museum, which attracted more than 500 attendees.

Federation takes seriously its most critical responsibility — and opportunity — to be available and to serve as the central address for our Jewish community.

Thank you again for all you did, and do, to accomplish these collective goals and for participating with us in the mitzvah of Tzedakah. We could not have done this work without you.



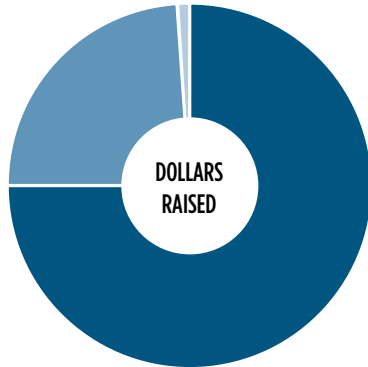
**Willie Recht**  
Executive Director



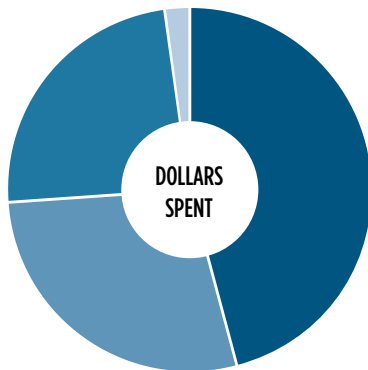
**Carol Loew**  
President



\*Federation underwent its first audit in more than 10 years with perfect results.



Campaign.....	\$571,312	■
Revenue.....	\$181,830	■
Emergency Relief.....	\$10,658	■
<b>TOTAL RAISED</b> .....	<b>\$763,800</b>	



Signature Programming.....	\$171,085	■
· Events & Outreach		
· Jewish Community Relations Council		
· Jewish Family Service		
· PJ Library		
Allocations.....	\$108,840	■
· Association of Jewish Family & Children's Services		
· Chico Hillel/Jewish Student Union		
· Hillel at Davis & Sacramento		
· Jewish Community Foundation of the West		
· Jewish Federations of North America		
· Shalom School		
· Teen Israel Scholarships		
Long-term Investments made to JCFW .....	\$91,750	■
Emergency Relief.....	\$10,658	■
<b>TOTAL SPENT</b> .....	<b>\$382,333</b>	

# 2017 ANNUAL REPORT | SERVICES & PROGRAMS

<b>1,205</b> children received PJ Library books	<b>400</b> Holiday Outreach Bags distributed	<b>158</b> Schwab-Rosenhouse scholarships awarded	<b>145</b> new clients for Jewish Family Service	<b>224</b> twens received PJ Our Way books	<b>100</b> Kosher Food Pantry bags distributed
<b>240</b> ParaTransit vouchers distributed	<b>14,000</b> connections made in 13 countries	<b>48</b> senior community programs supported	<b>300</b> young people engaged through YAD Adult Dept.	<b>68</b> taxi gift cards disseminated	

**COMMUNICATIONS** Through our quarterly magazine, community calendar, eblasts, Community Directory, and Jewish job postings, we keep you in touch with community happenings and critical local and global news alerts.

**ISRAEL** With our overseas partners, we monitor the well-being of Jewish communities in Israel and around the world and annually organize Yom HaAtzmaut, Israel's Independence Day Celebration.

**JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL** JCRC educates about and advocates on behalf of issues of vital importance to the Jewish community.

**JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE** Federation's social service portfolio addresses the needs of the vulnerable in our community through a Community Social Worker, Kosher Food Pantry, Therapist Referral Network, the Committee on Inclusion and Disabilities, senior programs, and Holiday Outreach.

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

**SIGNATURE PROGRAMS** Federation offers a variety of unique programs and opportunities to engage members of our community as well as to support those in the secular community.

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



The Jewish Federation  
OF THE SACRAMENTO REGION

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

## Water Issues: MOU Between Israel and California

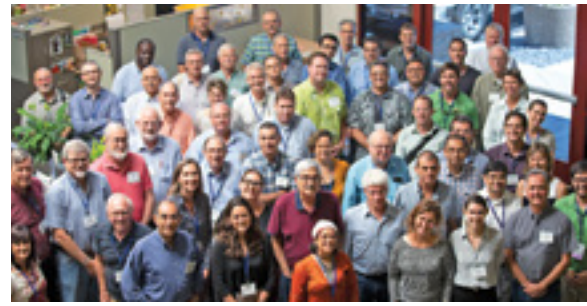


Photo: University of California Regents

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in July continues a longstanding partnership between the Jewish State and the Golden State to address the shared issue of water.

The MOU signing was part of a three-day workshop entitled “The Future of Water for Irrigation in California and Israel,” organized by the University of California (UC), Davis; UC Agriculture and Natural Resources; and ARO (Agricultural Research Organization) Israel. The program was funded, in part, by a BARD (Binational Agriculture Research and Development) grant. The goal for invited scientists from California and Israel was to learn, share, network, and look toward the future of water.

“Three common issues between Israel and California are spatially, where is water and where do you want it to be,” explains Doug Parker, director of the California Institute for Water Resource Institute, who moderated the opening session. “In California, it is in the Sierras and we want to move it all over the State. In Israel, it is in the north and is moved through canals. Second is adapting to seasonality. In California, it rains from November through March and we want to use water all year long so we build dams and reservoirs. Israel has the same issue. Third is long-term issues. California just got out of a drought. We had three or four years of low water. We have to have storage. We have a lot to learn from each other.”

### “Israel is a world leader in drip irrigation technology...”

Opening the workshop was Karen Ross, secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, who was joined by Shlomi Kofman, Consul General of Israel to the Pacific Northwest.

“It is so important for us to find ways and forums to work together because water is the issue in this century and will continue to be,” Ross shared with participants.

Sacramento resident Dr. Michael Singer, Professor Emeritus of Soil Science and Soil Resource Scientist, moderated one of several sessions presented at the workshop.

“Israel is a world leader in drip irrigation technology, in the use of recycled wastewater in agriculture, and in the production and use of desalinated water,” he notes. “California can learn from Israel in these areas. At the same time, new problems arise with use of these technologies and alternative water sources. California has one of the best research and extension systems in the world and can help Israel — and the world — solve problems.”

Parker is quick to note that strategies to address the issues have everything to do with location.

“You can’t just take technology from Israel, plunk it down in California, and think it will work,” he points out. “Management and use of technology is as important as the technology itself.”

The next step, Parker adds, is to maintain the momentum created at the workshop. Kofman agrees.

“The important thing,” the Consul General told the audience, “is to continue working together and develop additional frameworks that can bring the people of California and Israel together as researchers, but also to work together to make the world a better place.”

# Thank you for making Summer 2018 so meaningful



# ... We look forward to seeing you in the fall ...

## L'Shanah Tovah!



## **SCHWAB-ROSENHOUSE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND: Two Decades of Granting Wishes to College-Bound Students**

Jeannette Schwab-Rosenhouse and Leo Rosenhouse lived a quiet life in Land Park while amassing more than \$10 million in investments. Through their will, they created an opportunity for Sacramento-area high school seniors to pursue their educational dreams with the assistance of meaningful cash scholarships.

Through the generosity of the Rosenhouses, the Federation created the Schwab-Rosenhouse Memorial Scholarship Fund. The Fund provides scholarships for post-secondary study at colleges, universities and vocation/technical institutions within 100 miles of the Sacramento County Courthouse. All eligible high school seniors living in the greater Sacramento region may apply for these scholarships.

In 1997, the Jewish Federation appointed an Advisory Committee to create and administer this program and to carry out the wishes of Mr. and Mrs. Rosenhouse. On July 1, 2018, more than two decades later, the wishes of the Rosenhouses to provide young people living in the greater Sacramento region the ability to pursue higher education, are still being granted.

### **Heard at the Schwab-Rosenhouse Annual Reception**

*"The imperative you have inherited is to make the world a better place. You are the future of California, you are the future of the United States, you are the future of the worlds. Leo and Jeannette's charge to you is to get the best education you can and use it to foster what is good in the world."*

Dr. Marvin Kamras, Chair, Schwab-Rosenhouse Advisory Committee

*"I would like to wish all of our recipients here tonight the best of luck as you head to, or back to, college and know that the Federation is honored to carry out the wishes of Mr. and Mrs. Rosenhouse, providing you all, young people living in the greater Sacramento region, the ability to pursue higher education, an essential key to a successful future."*

Deborah Gonzalez, Co-President, Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region

**\$12.5**  
**MILLION**  
DISBURSED TO DATE



**1,772**  
**STUDENTS**  
HAVE RECEIVED  
SCHOLARSHIPS

**2018 Schwab-Rosenhouse  
Memorial Scholars will attend the  
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- American River College
- California College of the Arts
- California Maritime Academy
- California State University, Chico
- California State University, Sacramento
- California State University, Stanislaus
- Cosumnes River College
- Folsom Lake College
- Sacramento City College
- San Francisco State University
- San Jose State University
- Santa Clara University
- Sierra College
- Sonoma State University
- Stanford University
- University of California, Berkeley
- University of California, Davis
- University of California, Santa Cruz
- University of San Francisco
- University of the Pacific

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**43**

**REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOLS  
FROM WHICH  
APPLICANTS APPLIED**



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## Camp Nefesh: A Jewish-Run Day Camp for Refugee Children

Youngsters Farkhonda Ibrahim and Ahmad Jan Niaz Mohammad spent last summer in their native Afghanistan reading, writing and preparing for the new school year.

Some 7,000 miles away, 16-year-old Lucy Beckett spent last summer in Seattle taking part in the Union of Reform Judaism Mitzvah Corps.

This year, all three of them came together in Sacramento at Camp Nefesh, a Jewish-run day camp for refugee children. It was founded in partnership with Opening Doors (a nonprofit that helps underserved members of the Sacramento area) and Congregation B'nai Israel of Sacramento.

The camp, from July 30 through Aug. 10, was the brainchild of Beckett and a few of her peers after they were inspired by their experience last summer at Mitzvah Corps, which empowers Jewish teens to play an active role in pursuing justice. The theme of the Seattle gathering was immigrant and refugee rights, which led the Sacramento area teens to develop Camp Nefesh for 2018.

“They [teens] have been taught since they were young children about tikkun olam (repairing the world). This is a tangible way to engage in that.”

“Our synagogue is very passionate about immigrant and refugee rights,” Beckett said. “I also am passionate about helping children.”

Realizing that B'nai Israel already had good infrastructure with its long-running Camp Shelanu for Jewish kids, Beckett talked to Rabbi Mona Alfi and education director Denise Crevin about starting a day camp for refugee kids. Beckett also came up with the camp's name, which means “soul” in Hebrew.

“This has all been teen-led,” Alfi said of the free, two-week program, which is funded by donations. “The confirmation class came back from their Mitzvah Corps trip and felt passionate and completely enthused. They are aware of how we are assisting refugees and immigrants, and that it's a priority that comes from a religious imperative. They came to me and said, ‘This is how we want to act.’”

After months of preparation, the camp began on the final Monday of July with 48 children (all of Afghan heritage, as it turned out) who now live in the Sacramento area. As they exited the bus that would bring them to B'nai Israel every day, the 5- to 13-year-olds in many ways looked like all-American kids with “Cars” backpacks, baseball caps and T-shirts emblazoned with designer names. Even the girls wearing colorful hijabs and long skirts looked right at home.

“Sacramento is an incredibly welcoming community of many faiths,” said Deborah Ortiz, executive director of Opening Doors, adding that B'nai Israel “is a leader among them all. This rises above religious beliefs and is about the common experience of being a refugee.”





LEFT AND CENTER: Afghan immigrant children enjoying Camp Nefesh, a Jewish-run day camp in Sacramento.  
RIGHT: Face-painting at Camp Nefesh. Photos: Joan Cusik

According to We Are All America, a Chicago-based organization that seeks to build inclusive communities across religious and cultural lines, Sacramento was the largest resettlement location in 2017, receiving more than 5,000 immigrants and refugees. Moreover, because the Sacramento area has emerged as a leading destination for Afghan refugees (upwards of 2,000 since 2010), all of the Nefesh campers are children of Afghans who received special immigrant visas after working as interpreters for the U.S. military or the government.

Thirteen-year-old Farkhonda, whose father works at Opening Doors, and Ahmad Jan, 11, said that their summers in Kabul were nothing like Camp Nefesh, where they enjoyed an array of activities such as art, drama, dance and ga-ga (a dodgeball-type game from Israel that has become a mainstay in North American Jewish camps).

“I like it,” Ahmad Jan said about camp. “My favorite thing is swimming. I also like making slime.”

Farkhonda said she enjoyed water balloons and the opening and closing circle. “We sing songs and translate the words,” she said, referring to singing “The Rainbow Song” and saying the names of colors in different languages, among them Pashto, her native tongue.

Singing the song was among the shared activities between Camp Nefesh and Camp Shelanu, as was making challah and playing “Pin the kippah on the rabbi.” Just being at B’nai Israel was an eye-opener for many of the campers.

“I [had] learned about Jews in history, but [had] never met one,” Farkhonda said. “Now I see where they pray and how they wear those hats [kipot].”

But this wasn’t a Jewish-themed camp, of course. In fact, to make the kids feel welcome, B’nai Israel provided a space for Farkhonda, Ahmad Jan and their fellow Muslim campers to pray during the day.

The synagogue professionals and teen camp organizers are keenly aware of current events regarding immigrants and refugees. In June, an estimated 1,000 protesters blocked downtown Sacramento streets during a rally against the government’s immigration policies.

“Teens can feel overwhelmed in the world we live in,” Alfi said. “They want to do something to make the world a better place. They have been taught since they were young children about tikkun olam (repairing the world). This is a tangible way to engage in that.”

Added Beckett: “I really hope teens get inspired to help out in the community and put a different light on immigration and refugee issues.”

Will the camp return next summer? As of last week, synagogue officials said they are hoping to bring it back, but couldn’t say for sure. No matter. Alfi was still basking in the glow of this year’s camp.

“The wall of our building says, ‘Love thy neighbor as thyself,’ Alfi said. “Every single Jewish family has an immigrant story. We are wandering Jews from Abraham to today. Immigration and refugees are part of the fabric of being Jewish, [and] we want to help others because we know what it’s like to be an immigrant.”

*This article was reprinted from J. The Jewish News of Northern California, [jweekly.com](http://jweekly.com).*

## **ISAAC HERZOG Elected Chairman of The Jewish Agency Executive**

The Board of Governors of The Jewish Agency for Israel has unanimously elected Member of Knesset Isaac Herzog to succeed Natan Sharansky as Chairman of The Jewish Agency Executive. The vote by Jewish leaders from around the world took place at the opening plenary of the Board's June meetings in Jerusalem.

In electing MK Herzog, the Board accepted the recommendation of the Leadership Nominating Committee, composed of the leaders of The Jewish Agency's constituent organizations — the Jewish Federations of North America, Keren Hayesod-UIA, and the World Zionist Organization. Chairman-elect Herzog addressed the gathering shortly after his election and was congratulated by outgoing Chairman of the Executive Natan Sharansky and Chairman of the Board of Governors Michael Siegal. Chairman Sharansky will conclude his tenure at the organization's helm during the course of this week's Board meetings. Chairman-elect Herzog will step down from the Knesset in the coming weeks and will enter office on August 1.

**“A Jew is a Jew is a Jew, no matter his denomination or the type of kippah he chooses to wear or not wear on his head. I promise to work hard to promote Jewish unity...”**

“I'd like to thank Natan for his nine years of outstanding leadership and direction and hope and am confident that Isaac Herzog will lead The Jewish Agency in the same honorable and compassionate fashion as Natan Sharansky,” Chairman of the Board of Governors Michael Siegal said.

MK Isaac Herzog, son of former Israeli President, Chaim Herzog and grandson of Israel's first Chief Rabbi, Yizhak Isaac Halevi Herzog, was born in Israel in 1960. When his father served as Israel's Ambassador to the UN from 1975-1978, Herzog studied and graduated from The Ramaz Jewish High School in New York and attended Jewish youth camps, Ramah and Massad. He continued his education in the U.S., studying International Relations, English Literature and Arabic at Cornell and NYU Universities.

Herzog has worked with world Jewry all his life. From 2007-2009, he was the Minister of the Jewish Diaspora, Society and the Fight Against Anti-Semitism, taking a major part in anti-BDS activities following the Second Lebanon War, leading the international Forum against Anti-Semitism and chairing Taglit-Birthright.

“We are the only organization whose leadership includes representatives of both the coalition and the opposition, of Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform Jewry, and of Jewish communities around the world. We are the independent voice of the Jewish people and, at the same time, our main partner is the government of Israel. It is essential that we preserve both our independence and our partnership, and I wish you much success in that crucial endeavor,” outgoing Chairman of the Executive Natan Sharansky said.

As Government Secretary, Herzog laid the foundation for the historic compromise on egalitarian prayer at the Kotel that was adopted for all religious streams. Over the last 20 years, he has been a regular speaker and participant at The Jewish Federations of North America's General Assembly.

An attorney by profession, Herzog was elected Chairman of the Labor Party in November 2013, making him Leader of the Opposition. In 2014, Herzog led the alliance between the Labor Party and MK Tzipi Livni's Hatnua Party creating the Zionist Union, Israel's largest central-left political party.

In addition to his Ministry of the Jewish Diaspora, Herzog was the Minister of Housing and Construction (2005), Minister of Tourism (2006-2007) and Minister of Welfare & Social Services (2007-2011). Prior to that he served as Government Secretary (1999-2001). He also served as the Israel Government Coordinator for the provision of humanitarian aid to the population of Gaza in 2008-2009.

"A Jew is a Jew is a Jew, no matter his denomination or the type of kippah he chooses to wear or not to wear on his head. I promise to work hard to promote Jewish unity and to partner with the Prime Minister and the government to achieve this crucial goal," Chairman-Elect of the Executive Isaac Herzog said.

He lives in Tel Aviv with his wife, Michal, and they have three sons.

*Source: [jewishagency.org](http://jewishagency.org)*



Outgoing Jewish Agency Chairman Natan Sharansky and Chairman-elect MK Isaac Herzog, share a moment following Herzog's election at the Jewish Agency Board of Governors' meeting in Jerusalem, June 24, 2018.

Photo: Nir Kafri for The Jewish Agency for Israel



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PULPIT

### Rabbi Garth Silberstein



One piece of the liturgy of the High Holidays has always struck me as strange, ever since I was a child attending services at Congregation Bet Haverim in Davis. On Yom Kippur, we recite a Vidui (confession): “Ashamnu, bagadnu, gazalnu, dibarnu dofi... we have incurred guilt, we have trespassed, we have betrayed, we have stolen, we have spoken slander...”

In this A-Z list, we not only acknowledge things we personally have done, but everything that some Jew somewhere might have done. By reciting these words out loud together, we acknowledge collective responsibility. The Talmud teaches that *kol Yisrael areivim zeh bazeh* — all Jews are responsible for one another. As members of the Jewish people, we are responsible, not only for one another’s physical welfare, but for one another’s actions as well.

**“This High Holiday season, let us not only seek to do better as individuals, but let us also renew our commitment to one another, to doing better as a community.”**

This is one of the defining traits of being Jewish. In the book of Genesis, our ancestor Yehudah, from whose name we derive the word Jew, merited to become the leader of his brothers, the original Children of Israel, because he was willing to take responsibility for the welfare and even for the misdeeds of his siblings.

When one of us acts wrongly, we all bear some measure of collective responsibility.

This High Holiday season, let us not only seek to do better as individuals, but let us also renew our commitment to one another, to doing better as a community. None of us can claim to have fulfilled our responsibilities until the day when all of us, together, are fulfilling our responsibilities to one another, to G-d, and to our fellow human beings.

If we can, like Yehudah, take responsibility, not only for our own actions but for our entire community, then this will certainly be a Shanah Tovah Umetukah (a good and sweet year).

## THANK YOU MARJORIE SWARTZ & RICHARD ROBINSON

The Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region would like to acknowledge and thank Marjorie Swartz & Richard Robinson, and the Robinson-Swartz Philanthropic Fund, for their generous gift to create the “Jewish Federation PJ Library Endowment.”

The Federation provides PJ Library books to more than 1,100 families throughout the Sacramento region. Now, thanks to the generosity of this gift, Federation will be able to continue this vital program for years to come.

### THANK YOU FOR HELPING US BUILD COMMUNITY.



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

Anonymous (8)  
 Debra and Cliff Berg  
 Jessica and Joel Birch  
 Alison and Phil Braverman  
 Barry Broad  
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 Lynn and Michael Dean  
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 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

## Sharing My Internship Experience



My name is Orly Fahn and I served as a summer intern at the Jewish Federation. I just completed my freshman year at UC Berkeley, where I'm studying business, and recently headed back to school where I'm active in the Berkeley Jewish community. I worked as a freshman fellow at Hillel to engage other Jewish students on campus.

I was born and raised in Sacramento. I attended Shalom School and served in a variety of positions in USY (United Synagogue Youth), including as President of our local chapter. The Sacramento Jewish community has given me so much, which inspired me to return here to work this summer. I was particularly excited to work with a non-profit organization and explore what that work means.

**“I was able to work hands-on with the community, and have seen first-hand how this work impacts people and makes a difference.”**

I had the opportunity to work alongside the other amazing members of the Federation team. I attended weekly staff meetings, where I learned how the team works together to provide all of the services and programming Federation provides. I spent most of my time working with Rikki Kass, helping with both PJ library and Leisure League, which I attended at Temple Or Rishon.

PJ Library has been a part of my life since I was a kid, receiving monthly children's books and growing my Jewish library. I've greatly enjoyed learning more about this fabulous program and appreciate the hard work that it takes to ensure that it runs smoothly.

I learned a lot from my time both in and out of the office. Working for a non-profit has its challenges, but the rewards are great. I was able to work hands-on with the community, and have seen first-hand how this work impacts people and makes a difference.

The Jewish Federation is very important to me and to our community. I'm grateful to have had the chance to work here. I was sad to leave, but feel confident that I will bring all that I've learned at the Federation into my future work.



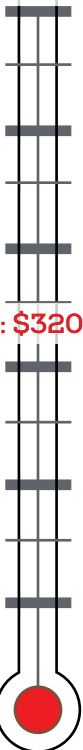
# The Jewish Federation

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