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the VOICE

your source for local and global Jewish news



A publication of The Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...



CUBA



COMMEMORATING MIZRAHI JEWRY



HOW TO EAT CHANUKAH SUFGANIYOT WITHOUT GUILT

Communitywide Workshop Focuses on Building Jewish Relationships, Not Just Jewish Institutions

p. 7

Federation Around Town

p. 9

Federation Announces Allocation to Hillel at Chico

p. 13

CVHEN Features "Liberation Remembered: A Conversation"

p. 14

UC Graduate Student Union Sponsors BDS Referendum

p. 15

New Book Looks at Life and Leisure in Israel

p. 17

Federation Board Member Reappointed to Insurance Board

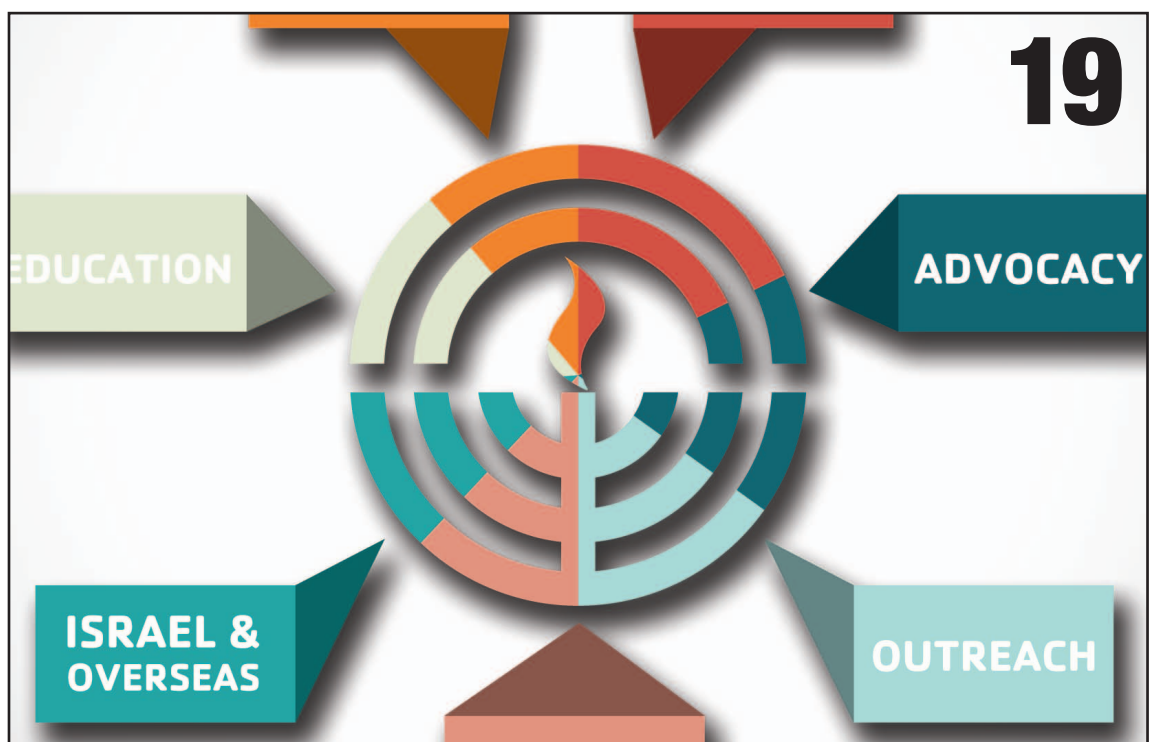
p. 23

Sitting Down with National Jewish Book Award Winner, Maggie Anton

p. 24

The 'Golden Age' of Jewish Genealogy is Celebrated Locally with a Silver Anniversary

p. 25



2014 Annual Report

the VOICE

your source for local and global Jewish news

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

The Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region

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Breathing Life Into Our Jewish Community

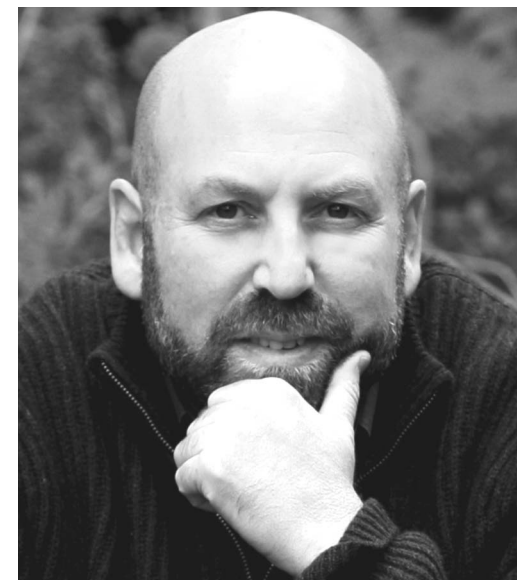
I was recently in Venice, Italy and visited the "Nuovo Ghetto," the quarter where the Jewish community lived, from the Middle Ages until Italian unification in 1861 confined every evening behind locked gates. It was once a teeming place but is now almost deserted, with only a handful of Jewish residents living there— most of them foreigners attending a small Yeshiva and a Chabad house— surrounded by ordinary Italians. In the larger Venice region, the Jewish community numbers about 500 people and there are still religious services performed at two of the Ghetto's five ancient synagogues, where they switch between one in the summer and one in the winter. The other synagogues are relics, part of a museum set, a moment frozen in time. In the Ghetto square, there is a small memorial to Jews of Venice who were rounded up and transported to the death camps in 1943 and a permanent police presence in a bunker-like building that is a constant reminder of today's threats. There's a kosher restaurant and a few shops, all of which are there to serve the tourists, not the Jews of Venice.

Touring the empty synagogues and listening to the non-Jewish tour guide describe dryly how the Jewish community of Venice once lived, left me a little sad. I think the other dozen or so people on the tour— most of whom were Jewish— felt the same way. It was like visiting a beautiful old cemetery, a place where the dead and their memories outnumber the living.

A Jewish community must be a living, breathing organism. It needs its passionate

debates and disputes. It needs to eat and drink, literally and figuratively, from all that life has to give and take. It needs synagogues, schools, and programs for the young and the old and everybody in between. And it needs a central address, the place that knits its essential elements into a cohesive whole. That central address is our Federation.

A Jewish community doesn't thrive by accident. It is nurtured by people who feel an obligation to give of themselves, whether it is financially or of their time. Our Federation cannot meet the needs of Sacramento's Jewish community without your help. Our 2015 Annual Campaign has begun and we will be asking for your help. When that letter arrives in the mail, when that volunteer calls you, please be generous, so that our Jewish community can thrive and grow.



Barry Broad is the President of the Jewish Federation.

LOOKING BACK, *LOOKING FORWARD*

The 2014 Annual Meeting of the Jewish Federation took place on September 4, 2014, a few days after the prior issue of the VOICE arrived at your doorstep. While we run a tight program, we were able to share a year's worth of incredible, hard work with personal stories, accomplishments, facts, and dreams.

In this issue of the VOICE, we are proud to share our 2014 Annual Report. We want it to offer a snapshot of where your dollars go and how they impact real lives. But a framework is important, too, so below is a sampling of the thoughts I shared on September 4th.

Good evening and welcome to the 2014 Annual Meeting of The Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region. Thank you for joining us to reflect on a year of tremendous accomplishments and to thank all of our leaders, volunteers, and donors for allowing us to serve the community.

We are proud to host the first Annual Meeting in our beautiful new home. We enjoyed our time on Capitol Avenue, but having something that all of us can call our own is very different. Since purchasing the building in November, and moving in December, we've been able to host a variety of programs and events for the entire community— JFS support groups; Jewish meditation; monthly meetings of the Sacramento Area Board of Rabbis; Intro to Judaism; training for the JCFW Communitywide Legacy Program; internal and partnership community organization Board meetings; PJ Library Playgroup; a program for college-bound teens; the Shalom School Board Retreat; and a security briefing for community institutions.

We are thankful that our community partners have been so generous in embracing 2130 21st St. as the central address for our community. Each doorway has a beautiful mezuzah donated by our community institutions... from Tahoe to Chico!

In addition to all of this, our 2014 budget saw more than \$100,000 in savings and our 2015 budget is projected to be in the black for the first time in many years, mainly due to this wonderful new building.

The 2014 Annual Campaign, which has already raised more than \$415,000, officially closes on December 31st. While we are still trying to reach \$450,000 for the 2014 campaign, our 2015 Campaign efforts have already begun. Yes, we have the exciting job of trying to run two campaigns at once!

At last year's meeting, we announced the official return of Jewish Family Service as a program of the Federation. In the past year, we have moved from resource and referral to direct service. Thanks to our Federation Assistant Director, Elissa Provance, who oversees JFS; Alicia Mittleman, our 20-hour per week Community Social Worker; a very generous anonymous donor; and a group of incredible volunteers, we have been able to create a strong and wide-ranging portfolio of services from mud, sticks, and stubborn dedication.

We have also seen the community come together through the JCFW Life and Legacy program, which encourages community members to consider endowments, bequests, and other forms of planned giving. This program has enabled all of our institutions to work together while setting up a foundation for a strong Jewish tomorrow. In a few short months, Federation has become the proud recipient of 24 Letters of Intent including a newly-established Jewish Family Service Endowment, indicating the community's renewed faith in the Federation and our services.

We hope our community continues to respond so that next year, we can report on our balanced budget and increased Annual Campaign. Just imagine what we can accomplish with additional funding. On your chairs, you will find a snapshot of all we have done by working together this year. We hope you feel as proud as we do about the wide range of programs and services we are able to offer with an intensely streamlined budget and staff.

It is important to thank our unbelievable Board led by Barry Broad, volunteers, and staff. The work we do isn't easy. We deal with dwindling donations, less engaged generations, an aging

population, and significantly greater needs. We face a new form of anti-Semitism cloaked in anti-Israel rhetoric, Jews fleeing from Europe, and murders in Kansas and Florida. But we all signed up for the job. It is our imperative to ask the difficult questions and often make difficult decisions. The Federation system is here to respond as a collective, unified voice; to empower and protect Jews in need wherever they are; to stand up and ensure justice; to engage and connect the community; and to create a Jewish future. It is our job to fit the puzzle pieces of our community together.



Melissa Chapman is the Executive Director of the Jewish Federation.

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Rededicating Ourselves to Our Community

As a parent, one of my fundamental goals has been to raise responsible, caring, hardworking kids who would learn the skills they needed to move through the world and become responsible, caring, hardworking adults. It was all about creating a solid foundation based on values, principles, and ethics.

Would I change some of the decisions I've made along the way as a parent? Of course I would. I suspect we all would. But I've learned that one bad decision does not a failure make— child or parent. It's about building that strong foundation that will withstand our occasional mishaps.

The same could be said for raising a community. We have an incredible community here in the Sacramento region. Sure, it's easy to look at the glass as if it were half empty— no Jewish Community Center, no fancy van to drive our seniors around, no Jewish group home for those who have disabilities, no network of young Jews who remain here long term, no Jewish deli— but it is just as easy to pay attention to what we do have. And one look at this issue of *the VOICE* shows it.

On December 7th, Dr. Ron Wolfson, author of *Relational Judaism: Using the Power of Relationships to Transform the Jewish Community*, is coming to our community to facilitate a discussion about how to build lasting relationships within our synagogues and Jewish institutions. Weeks before the deadline, nearly 100 community members have registered!

Interested in what our next generation of leaders is doing? You can read about how Jewish students at UC Berkeley and Davis, among other UCs, are fighting a union referendum calling for the boycott, divestment, and sanctions against the State of Israel, or how a small but mighty Hillel at Chico State University is bringing students together for leadership opportunities, learning, and camaraderie.

Looking for educational opportunities? Come and hear George Rooks, who lives part-time in Israel, talk about "Life Under Fire" on December 3rd. In January, Holocaust scholars Drs. Murray Baumgarten and Peter Kenez will lead a dialogue commemorating the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the concentration camps and in

November, National Jewish Book Award winner Maggie Anton visited two area synagogues.

There's even information about travel, including a conversation with a Federation Board member who visited the Jewish

community of Cuba earlier this year and is encouraging others to join Federation's Mission to Cuba in the Spring 2015, or a new book about life and leisure in Israel by Chico State Professors Michael Leitner and Sara Leitner, or information about our Leisure League day trip in February to an El Dorado County winery owned by Turkish Jews.

And what would a Jewish newspaper be without a food section? While we can't claim chef Jamie Geller as our own, we can at least enjoy her different takes on sufganiyot! But if you need instant gratification, consider joining the Jewish Genealogical Society of Sacramento, which is serving cake at its December meeting in celebration of its 25th anniversary.

Speaking of Chanukah, as we celebrate the Festival of Lights, let's rededicate ourselves to making our community all it can be. Let's look at our glass as half full and build upon the strong foundation we have all helped to build and make it even stronger.

Giving Back to our Jewish Community...



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Elissa Provance is the Assistant Director of the Jewish Federation and Managing Editor of the VOICE.

JCRC Serves as Advocate for Vital Jewish Community Issues

by Ryan Pessah

The Sacramento Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) is a division of the Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region. The JCRC is structured to function as a working board comprised of four committees. The Board is represented by members of Jewish organizations around our community and individuals who are passionate about improving the Sacramento Jewish community.

Our responsibilities include acting as the public relations, public policy, and advocacy arm of the Federation.

Furthermore, the JCRC maintains strong support for the State of Israel and its right to exist in peace and security. In order to achieve these objectives, the JCRC plans to educate and advocate on issues of vital importance to the Jewish community, based on core American values and a living commitment to Jewish ethics of social justice.

In October, our Public Affairs committee held a voter forum called "Bagels and Ballots." The event hosted representatives who supported and opposed State ballot measures 45 and 46 and Sacramento's Strong Mayor Initiative also known as Measure L.

Other JCRC committees include Campus Affairs, Education, and Israel. Our Campus Affairs Committee has been working on its second annual College Bound program to help high school students locate Jewish resources on college campuses. The Israel Affairs Committee will be hosting "Life



a division of the Jewish Federation

Under Fire" with George Rooks, a part-time resident in Israel and Davis, to give a presentation about life in Israel under the relentless Hamas rocket fire. The event will take place on December 3rd at 6:00pm at the Jewish Federation.

If any of the JCRC Committees are of interest to you, please reach out to me. I encourage members of our community to participate in our committees.

Ryan Pessah is Chair of the JCRC. He may be reached at CapitolKnesset@gmail.com.

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Low Rosenberg, Executive Director

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

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Communitywide Workshop Focuses on Building Jewish Relationships, Not Just Jewish Institutions



Dr. Ron Wolfson

Several years ago, Rabbi Nancy Wechsler-Azen attended a spirituality workshop and was greeted by an outstretched hand offering chocolate. That hand belonged to Dr. Ron Wolfson, author of *Relational Judaism: Using the Power of Relationships to Transform the Jewish Community*.

“He was extending such energy and was so welcoming and compelling,” the Rabbi of Congregation Beth Shalom in Carmichael recalled, describing how Wolfson set the stage for teaching what Wechsler-Azen said was “what it means to make a place ‘goodly.’ He was mirroring his own message.”

Fast forward to December 7, 2014 when the entire Sacramento Region will have the opportunity to hear Wolfson’s message—which, at its core is understanding the difference between “transactional Judaism and relational Judaism”—at a communitywide workshop sponsored by the Sacramento Board of Rabbis, the Union for Reform Judaism, and the Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region.

“Ron Wolfson says, ‘People will come for programs but stay for relationships,’” noted Rabbi Greg Wolfe of Congregation Bet Haverim in Davis who is co-leading the effort with Wechsler-Azen and who asked, “Are we building those relationships or are we a revolving door? Are we enhancing people’s lives and creating a sense of purpose? What would it be like if we could all do something together and build relationships beyond our own synagogues?”

Wolfson, a Fingerhut Professor of Education for the Graduate Center for Education; a faculty member at American Jewish University; a frequent scholar-in-residence; and Co-Founder and Co-President of Synagogue 3000, an institute whose mission is to catalyze excellence in synagogue life, has understood the importance of relationships since his involvement in youth groups in his hometown of Omaha, where he forged deep and decades-long relationships with a group of friends who sang together in the choir, chanted Torah together, and called themselves “The Bunch.”

“The 20th-century model is not working,” he explained, referring to the current model of Jewish communal engagement which is transactional and focuses on programs as a way to create involvement. “We have to talk about other ways of approaching folks, especially those who wouldn’t naturally approach a synagogue. If you have a group of friends, chances are you’ll stick around even if your original reason for engaging was transactional.”

Wolfson’s definition of relational Judaism is “an approach to engaging people that’s built on face-to-face relationships that lead individuals and families to engage with Judaism on a level that offers a sense of meaning, purpose, belonging, and blessing.” This contrasts with transactional Judaism, which may include planning a Bar/Bat Mitzvah, attending to end-of-life issues for yourself or a parent, having a bris or a baby naming, or commemorating any other number of Jewish milestones or traditions that occur during one’s life. Wolfson would argue that once a “transaction” has been completed, a person or family often feels they don’t need the synagogue anymore but that’s not the answer. The answer is creating opportunities for deeper engagement in Judaism itself and creating a value around belonging.

“It’s not hard to quit an institution, but it’s hard to quit friends,” he quipped.

Wolfe and Wechsler-Azen envision the workshop as an opportunity to create core teams to develop concrete and productive ideas, from how office staff greets people to moving toward a language of engagement to creating welcoming environments for everything from adult education to religious services.

“We need to figure out a way to actualize all of that and it must be done in a relational way,” Wechsler-Azen said. “We are all ambassadors for Judaism. Our relationships with one another are the essential core of Judaism flourishing and surviving in the 21st century.”

The Communitywide Workshop on Relational Judaism is December 7, 2014 at Congregation Beth Shalom, 4746 El Camino Ave., Carmichael, from 3:00-6:00pm. Light refreshments served and child care available (donations appreciated). Ron Wolfson’s books will be available for sale. The event is free; however, registration is required by December 1st at www.jewishsac.org/relational.

The Israel Affairs Committee
of the Jewish Community Relations Council
presents

LIFE UNDER FIRE

Guest Speaker, George Rooks

December 3, 2014
6:00pm

Jewish Federation, 2130 21st Street



JCRC
Jewish Community Relations Council
a division of the Jewish Federation

George is the Chair of the Israel Matters Committee at Congregation Bet Haverim. He and his wife, Hila, live six months of the year in Ashdod, Israel and six months in Davis.

To RSVP, please contact jbirch@jewishsac.org or call 916-486-0906.





Deborah Gonzalez (left) and her mother, Taffy Hoffman, during their Spring 2014 trip to Cuba.

Jewish Federation Board member Deborah Gonzalez joined her mother, Taffy Hoffman, for a trip to Cuba with the Jewish Community Center of San Francisco in the spring. Deborah shares parts of her journey with *the VOICE*— both the pleasant surprises and unique challenges— and hopes to encourage Sacramento Jewish community members to join the Jewish Federation’s mission in May 2015.

***the VOICE:* What prompted your visit to Cuba?**

Deborah Gonzalez: Since I married someone of Cuban heritage, I have always wanted to visit the homeland his family talked about. However, like many ex-pats outside of Florida, they didn’t want to “support the regime” by returning, even though they still have family there. My mother learned about the Jewish Community Center of San Francisco (JCCSF) trip and suggested that we travel together. This was my opportunity to visit the island nation legally, and to help the Jewish community as well.

***the VOICE:* How were you greeted in the Jewish community?**

DG: Open arms! Every community we visited welcomed us singing “Heveinu Shalom Aleichem.” They prepared modest meals for us and were eager to show off their knowledge and love of Judaism through Israeli folkdance and song. They shared the history of their community— where the founding families came from, how many members at their largest, and how many have made aliyah— and proudly displayed the ritual objects they’ve collected and used over the years. The communities outside of Havana rarely receive Jewish tour groups, therefore, our group was especially appreciated.

***the VOICE:* How does the Cuban Jewish community differ from American Jewish communities?**

DG: I would say that outside of Havana, the main difference between American Jewish communities and Cuban ones is that the central location for each community is

generally the home of the community leader. The synagogues are converted homes and the entire community gathers for Shabbat, holidays, and Sunday school for adults and children. Almost every family has at least one member who either converted to Judaism or is not Jewish. But in general, there are more similarities between the two countries. The same holidays are observed; there is a focus on the Friday night service and communal meals; there is a heavy focus on educating both children and adults; and people look out for one another.

***the VOICE:* What were Jewish sites that stood out?**

DG: El Patronato (Beth Shalom), the largest synagogue in Havana, is home to a pharmacy that is used by the entire Jewish community across the island nation. While preventative medical care is a focus of the Cuban government, there is poor access to medications. Medicine is one of the most important items that groups visiting can bring. The Sephardic synagogue in Havana is home to an adult day care program. In addition, they have an impressive, extensive Holocaust exhibit that traces the emigration of families from Europe to Cuba. In addition, as is part of our tradition, every community throughout the nation has a dedicated Jewish cemetery. The cemetery we visited that serves the communities of Santiago and Guantanamo, suffered damage from Hurricane Sandy.

***the VOICE:* What surprised you?**

DG: There is no anti-Semitism in Cuba. In the communist era, religion was discouraged. Since the Soviet Union collapsed, there has been a rebirth of religion— unlike many Latin American countries, Cuba is not overwhelmingly Catholic; many Cubans follow the native Afro-Caribbean traditions along with the other world religions. The Cuban people respect one another regardless of religion or race and there is so much intermarriage between races and faiths. The only discernible

discrimination was between city dwellers from Havana versus those from the countryside. But Jews can practice their religion freely, wear Stars of David, and not worry about security for their institutions.

***the VOICE:* What are the challenges in the Cuban Jewish community?**

DG: When asked, they will say their biggest challenge is “losing their young people.” It is actually bittersweet. Due to relaxed restrictions during Raul Castro’s regime, Cuban Jews have been participating in Birthright, March of the Living, and the Maccabi Games, sponsored by Canada. Consequently, some have been allowed to make *aliyah*— generally not the physicians or people “important to the country.” Here, they finally reconnected with their faith in the mid-1990s and now the future generation is leaving.

***the VOICE:* Why would you recommend visiting?**

DG: Visiting small communities— some as small as 25 people— shows them that they have support from their Jewish family. Life continues to be very difficult in Cuba: food is rationed; there is government surveillance permeating every aspect of life; medications are limited; and one cannot choose one’s education or where one lives after receiving a degree. By visiting these communities, we are letting them know they are not alone in their struggle to survive. Here are people who have limited resources and yet they maintain the same traditions we maintain. They value their ancestry as well as their future.

***the VOICE:* Why was the trip valuable?**

DG: I learned the importance of the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), which is what a portion of our Federation dollars support. I never knew what “The Joint” did and that our local dollars supported this work on the ground, but visiting Cuba I saw their efforts in action. It is due to the JDC that there is medication; chicken dinner on Friday nights provided by “Project pollo” (the only meat they can usually get with their ration cards is pork); access to trips to Israel; educational materials; and food for Passover. Without the JDC, the Jewish communities of Cuba would be even more isolated and would not have any of the resources they currently have. I also learned how important it is for the Jewish communities of Cuba to meet Jews from around the world.

The Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region is organizing a mission to Cuba in partnership with the JCCSF from May 28-June 4, 2015. For more information or to reserve your space, contact Federation Executive Director Melissa Chapman at 916-486-0906 ext. 301 or mchapman@jewishsac.org.

FEDERATION AROUND TOWN



NEARLY 200 COMMUNITY MEMBERS CAME OUT TO CHEER ON MACCABI HAIFA DURING A PRE-SEASON GAME AGAINST THE SACRAMENTO KINGS.



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RACHEL HOLLAND (CENTER) TALKS ABOUT LIVING ON HER OWN DURING A SPECIAL TRANSITION PROGRAM ORGANIZED BY FEDERATION'S COMMITTEE ON INCLUSION AND DISABILITIES.

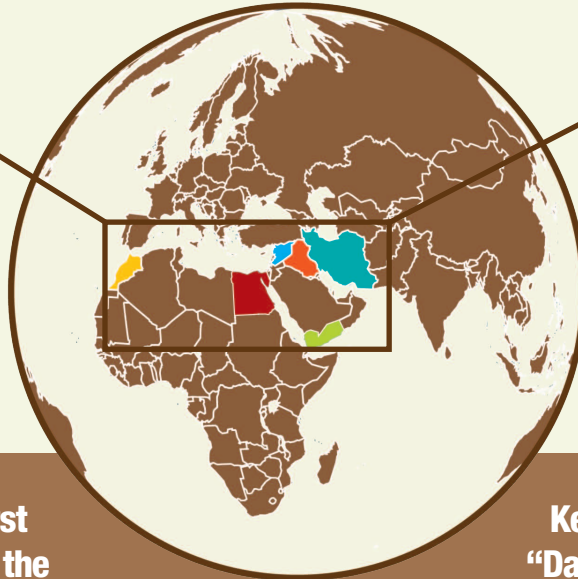
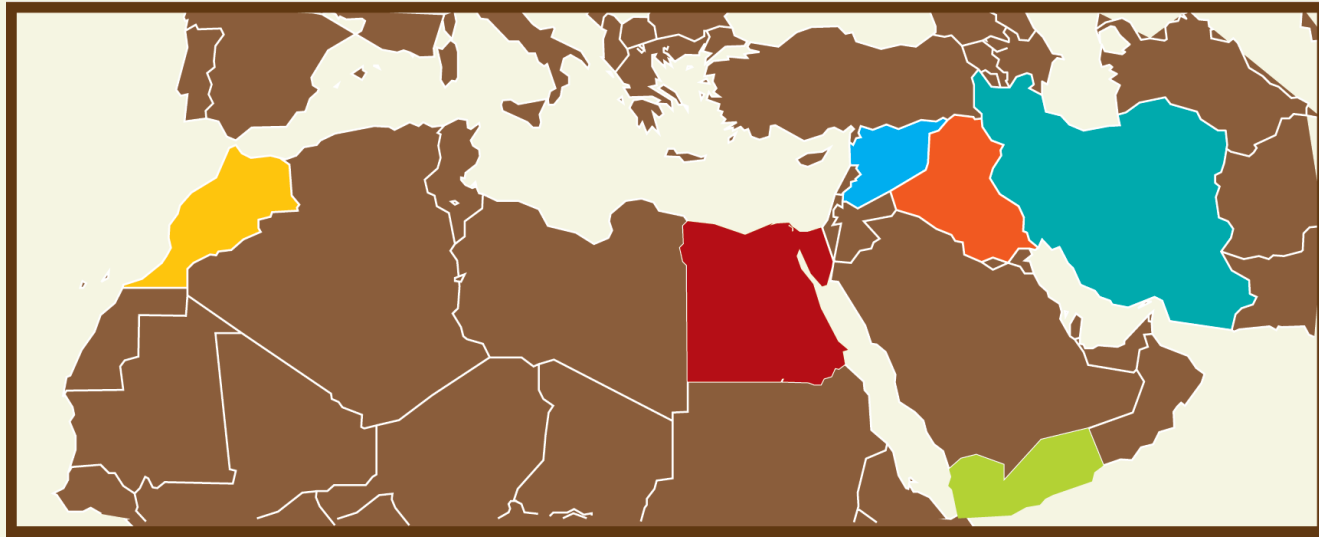


RESIDENTS AT THE ALBERT EINSTEIN RESIDENCE CENTER SHARED THE SUKKAH AND A SUKOT STORY WITH PJ LIBRARY FAMILIES.



CALIFORNIA VOTERS FILLED THE ROOM DURING "BAGELS AND BALLOTS" TO LEARN ABOUT PROPOSITIONS AND MEASURES.

COMMEMORATING MIZRAHI JEWRY



November 30, 2014 marks Israel's first official "Day of Commemoration" for the 850,000 Mizrahi refugees— Jews who were displaced from Arab countries and Iran in the 20th century, bringing an abrupt and damaging near-end to their 2,500-year presence in the Arab world. The date was officially recognized in June 2014, when the Israeli

Kenesset passed a bill designating the "Day of Commemoration." The bill entails commemoration events and the inclusion of Mizrahi history into Israeli schools' curriculum.* *the VOICE* wanted to recognize the presence of Mizrahi Jewry in our community.

*Source: Jews Indigenous to the Middle East and Africa, www.jimena.org.

Mona Alfi, Iran, Iraq

Family member(s): Shafick Alfi, my father. All of my father's brothers and their children moved to the United States in the 1960s and 1970s; my last cousin left Iran in the 1990s. My father's two sisters left Iran in the 1950s and moved to Israel.

Year you or your family left: My father left in 1949, most of the family left Iran in the 1970s.

Country you or your family emigrated to: United States

Family member(s): Ezra & Dina Alfi (my grandparents), Eliyahu & Rachel Alfi (my great-grandparents).

Year you or your family left: They left Baghdad around WWI, and went to Iran.

Country you or your family emigrated to: Iran

Ezra Amir, Iraq

Family member(s): Parents, Kadoory and Masuda; and brothers, Amnon, Sh'lomo, Yosef, and Hanania.

Year you or your family left: 1946, 1949, and 1950.

Country you or your family emigrated to: Palestine/Israel

Melissa Chapman, Egypt

Family member(s): Great grandmother Jermela Mizrahi with children Ahuva, Avramino, Chaim, and Sima (in utero).

Year you or your family left: 1927.

Country you or your family emigrated to: Israel

Avraham Danan, Morocco

Family member(s): Avraham, all of his siblings, and his parents.

Year you or your family left: 1963.

Country you or your family emigrated to: Israel

Mordechai Darf, Yemen

Family member(s): Entire extended Darf and Saadi families including my parents Sholomo and Sarah Darf; my grandparents, Zachariah and Saada Darf; and Zacharia and Roumia Saadi.

Year you or your family left: 1949.

Country you or your family emigrated to: Israel

Mehrnaz Halimi, Iran

Family member(s): Mehnaz Halimi.

Year you or your family left: 1973.

Country you or your family emigrated to: USA

Susan Marcus Halperin, Aleppo (Syria)

Family member(s): Our grandfather, Abraham Issac Marcus and his parents, Issac Marcus and Rena Salem.

Year you or your family left: Circa 1919.

Country you or your family emigrated to: USA via the port of Alexandria, Egypt

Daniel Khazzoom, Iran

Family member(s): Parents, self, and sister.

Year you or your family left: 1951.

Country you or your family emigrated to: Israel

Joseph Melamed, Iraq

Family member(s): Ruchama, Joseph, Eli, Dina, and Simcha Menashe. Nissim, Clara, Joseph, and Vera Moalem (Melamed). Moshe, wife (name unknown), Joseph, and four more children (names unknown) Moalem (Melamed). Ovadiah, wife, (name unknown), Joseph, Moshe, and four more children (names unknown) Moalem, (Melamed). At least 12 additional family members.

Year you or your family left: 1950.

Country you or your family emigrated to: Israel

Martin & Sylvia Abel Mourad, Egypt

Family member(s): Moussa, Elie, Regina, Elene, Aziz, Harry, Alfred, and Hafez Mourad; Rachel, Esther, Eyvette, Victoria, Elie, and Moussa Cohen; Mary, Fortune, Denise, and David Abel; and Elie, Sabet, Farag, Barackat, Leoni, and Joseph Ovadia.

Year you or your family left: 1964.

Country you or your family emigrated to: USA

Ryan Pessah, Egypt

Family member(s): Mira, Mazel, Shoshana, Elana, Moshe, Esther, Vered, Shookie, Sarah, Avi, Bennie, and Amenon Marzuk. Benjamin, Joe, Jack, Jackie, Sheila, Roger, and Henri Pessah.

Year you or your family left: Mira's family left around 1958; Benjamin's family left in 1968 and 1970.

Country you or your family emigrated to: Mira's family emigrated to Israel; Benjamin's family emigrated to France and then San Francisco.

Hilda Sadigh & Jack Harouni, Iran

Family member(s): 25 family members.

Year you or your family left: 1986 (Hilda); 1977 (Jack).

Country you or your family emigrated to: USA

Monica Melamed Spilkin, Iraq

Family member(s): Yehuda, Regina, Berta, Joseph, and Berta Moalem; Naomi, Jacob, Ezra, Mordecai, and Ovadiah Kalif. Hannah, Yehuda, Rachel, Mordecai, and Tzion Tzion. T'fachah, Shlomo, Clara, and two other daughters whose names we do not know at the time, Marizada.

Year you or your family left: 1942.

Country you or your family emigrated to: Israel

LEGEND



EGYPT



IRAQ



IRAN



MOROCCO



SYRIA



YEMEN

See How Far Your Gelt Goes

While you and your family are at home lighting the menorah, the gelt you give to Federation is brightening lives locally and around the world.

Your gelt helps the most vulnerable, such as those who access our Kosher Food Pantry, counseling services, or senior programs.

Your gelt helps us create a strong Jewish identity by supporting Jewish education, literacy, young leaders, and Jewish life on campus.

Your gelt helps us advocate for Israel by mobilizing in her time of need and combating delegitimazation efforts.

Your gelt helps us celebrate our heritage and peoplehood.

So this Chanukah, give what gelt you can to Federation. It will brighten your holiday to see how far it goes.



The Jewish Federation
OF THE SACRAMENTO REGION

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Federation Announces Allocation to Hillel at Chico



Chico State Hillel students at a weekend retreat in Lassen National Park.

At its September Board meeting, The Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region approved an annual allocation to support the California State University (CSU), Chico, Hillel. For the Hillel at Chico, this is one in a long line of firsts during the 2014-15 academic year.

In addition to her mission to “Create fun and interesting Jewish programs that students are eager to attend,” plus write grants, prepare financial reports, supervise interns, and oversee general operations— all in 15 hours per week— Hillel at Chico Executive Director Kristy Bresette Bergson said this year she has had a unique opportunity to compete for funds from a Long Beach Hillel donor who is interested in assisting small Jewish organizations with operational funds; watch the creation of Alpha Epsilon Pi, a Jewish fraternity, by a few Chico State students; hold a weekend retreat for 19 students at Lassen National Park thanks to the generosity of a Hillel Board member; attend an Israel Advocacy Conference in Los Angeles; and host a welcome brunch during Chico’s Parent Weekend.

“We are small and have a smaller Jewish population in a rural area with limited resources,” Bergson said, noting that her funding does not cover program costs equaling

about \$2,500 annually, “but we are active and have a family atmosphere for students. That’s why it’s important for Hillel at Chico to exist. That’s what I talk about when I attend conferences. I talk about our story. Students are meeting peer-to-peer and developing lifelong relationships.”

Having a presence on campus since 1986, following a grant written by Chico State Professors Michael and Sara Leitner, Hillel at Chico currently reaches approximately 600 students indirectly each year through tabling, weekly emails, and other outreach activities, and 40 students directly 3-40 times through regular Thursday evening meetings and dinner; monthly guest speakers including Jewish faculty from Chico State; and other ongoing activities. Leitner has served as the Faculty Advisor since its inception.

“I mainly advise Kristy and her students,” he said, acknowledging how the Jewish Federation’s allocation will ultimately benefit the students. “Kristy is really in charge and does more than I even know about.”

Of the Federation allocation, Bergson said, “It helps create a foundation as I’m doing outreach and it will help me greatly in meeting the needs of students.”

One of Bergson’s goals is to have a space large enough to host Shabbat dinners, including food preparation and challah baking. Currently, food is prepared at private homes and then brought to a rented 600-square-foot apartment that serves as the Hillel House.

Federation President Barry Broad explained the importance of supporting Jewish campus organizations at a time when anti-Israel rhetoric on college campuses and, oftentimes in the classroom, is common nationwide.

“Jewish students are on the front lines against the movement to delegitimize Israel and they need all of the support that we can offer,” he said.

Hillel at Chico also partners with pro-Israel organizations such as StandWithUs and the Israel Campus Coalition for advocacy training. A new rule that Bergson said, “has taken our breath away,” is one that allows community non-profits to enter campus and table, meaning having a designated area where student organizations can distribute literature

and recruit members. One such non-profit has been Chico Peace and Justice, which created anti-Israel billboards that lined the Chico skyline earlier this fall.

“I’ve never heard of other campuses allowing community non-profits to enter campus,” she remarked. “Usually, only recognized student organizations are allowed. Our Hillel Board will be discussing how to address this at our next meeting. Students have not reported any activity but we want to be prepared. Hillel at Chico is very visible. We have Israeli flags all over our table and large promotional flags with Jewish figures.”

Hillel at Chico is also involved with Congregation Beth Israel (CBI), which has a full-time Rabbi (Julie Danan); a Chevra Kadisha; and visiting scholars among other programs and services. Many of Bergson’s Hillel colleagues and Board members are also involved in CBI and she serves as CBI’s Sisterhood President.

“For being such a small Jewish community,” she said, “we are highly active.”

For more information about Hillel at Chico, contact Bergson at chicohilleldir@gmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE

In honor of Founder’s Day, please join the Sacramento Section of NCJW for a one-time only production of

SEVEN

A groundbreaking work of documentary theater written by a collaboration of seven award-winning playwrights and performed by award-winning regional actors and activists, SEVEN provides a portal through which audiences experience a diversity of cultures while bearing witness to seven individual women who have overcome seemingly insurmountable hurdles to promote justice, freedom and equality for women in their countries.

The play will be followed by a panel discussion.

February 22, 2015 | 2:00pm
Congregation B’nai Israel

For more information, go to: ncjwsac.org
Advance purchase recommended, limited seating

The belief that progressive ideals put into action can improve the world is what motivates us at NCJW. Our advocacy and volunteer efforts impact our community addressing the needs of women, children and families.

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National Council of Jewish Women | Sacramento Section

CVHEN Features Liberation Remembered: A Conversation



Dr. Murray Baumgarten



Dr. Peter Kenez

Two Holocaust scholars will lead a community discussion commemorating the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the concentration camps. Dr. Murray Baumgarten, a Distinguished Professor of English & Comparative Literature and Co-Director of Jewish Studies at the University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC), and Dr. Peter Kenez, a historian specializing in Russian and Eastern European History and Professor Emeritus of History at UCSC, have nearly a century of teaching between them. Both colleagues and comrades, the pair has been teaching the Holocaust for more than 30 years, including a 10-module online course.

“They are able to use personal perspectives and literature as well as historical context to help see multifaceted perspectives,” said Liz Igra, President of the Central Valley Holocaust Educators’ Network (CVHEN), which is sponsoring the event. “There are many ways of looking at history— universal to personal and intellectual to almost subliminal. They really can highlight the complexity of history and importance of seeing it from many

perspectives. It’s not flat and longitudinal. It’s what a productive discussion can be.”

Using their combined expertise in history and literature as well as their personal perspectives— Kenez grew up under Nazism and Communism in Hungary and Baumgarten was conceived in Vienna and born en route to Panama after his family fled— the conversation will include, among other things, a discussion of *Fatelessness* by the Nobel Prize-winning author Imre Kertesz and the recently published diary of Rywka Pipszyc, a Jewish teenage girl who wrote a personal diary while in the Lodz Ghetto.

“I’m interested in how the Holocaust has changed modern literature,” Baumgarten said. “It changed the forms and conventions of fiction and how we look at the world through fiction. There is a notion of a people’s story rather than an individual’s story. It’s about how memory functions and becomes a public experience, not just an individual’s experience. One reason (Peter and I) teach together is to raise questions about how

literature helps us understand history and vice versa.”

Sharing the podium also allows for the presentation of diverse perspectives to participants of different backgrounds, thus making the class infinitely more interesting.

“Because of the continued conversation, people who are listening have to explore problems and issues,” Kenez said. “We don’t give them answers. We ask them questions.”

While reticent to talk about his personal story, even noting how he becomes “strangely wordless” when asked, the Harvard-educated Kenez explained, “Extraordinary circumstances produce extraordinary behavior and that becomes relevant for understanding humanity and what humans are capable of doing. It’s a universal story. You don’t have to be Jewish.”

Igra hopes the program will remind the community that we are still post-liberation and that the impact of liberation is as evident now as it was in 1945.

“The Holocaust did not end with liberation,” she said. “We need to know the true nature of liberation and its effect on history now. We need a deeper understanding of the Holocaust, liberation, and what’s happened since, not as spectators but as seeing ourselves along the continuum. By saying, ‘Enough already,’ we are missing an opportunity for understanding ourselves and our current history.”

Liberation Remembered: A Conversation is January 17, 2015 at the KOH Library and Cultural Center, 2300 Sierra Blvd., Sacramento at 7:00pm. For more information or to RSVP, contact Igra at liz@cvhen.com.

UC Graduate Student Union Sponsors BDS Referendum



A referendum calling for an end to U.S. military aid and divestment from Israel is up for a vote on December 4, 2014.

UAW local 2865, which represents 13,000 Teachers Assistants (TAs), Readers, and Tutors at the University of California, is sponsoring the referendum related to boycotting, divesting, and sanctioning (BDS) the State of Israel. The ballot also calls for its members to sign a “pledge” committing themselves to a personal academic boycott.

Mobilizing opposition is Informed Grads, a grassroots organization created this past summer following the UAW’s announcement that its Joint Council was endorsing BDS, a worldwide movement designed to isolate and delegitimize the Jewish State through cultural and academic boycotts and promote divestment from companies that do business with Israel.

“The immediate announcement was inappropriate— a local labor union should be working on important workplace conditions and not international politics,” said Jonathan Kummerfeld, a graduate student and Research Assistant at UC Berkeley who has taken on the role of media spokesperson for the newly-formed group. “The way that unions work is through collective action. We work together. This divides us.”

Kummerfeld contacted the Union with his concerns, which included the one-sided perspective emailed to UAW members and the dissemination of political ideology, such as referring to Israel as an apartheid state, as well as a request for prior meeting minutes.

An initial lukewarm response was followed by a lack of response.

Using telephone, email, Facebook, and Twitter, Informed Grads reached out to likeminded students who believe that the referendum is problematic because, among other potential outcomes, it weakens academic freedom by not allowing TAs to present Israeli research or work with any Israeli who is a representative of the government or a government institution.

UC Davis graduate student Brent Ghan was one of those students.

“I’m afraid that even if this doesn’t pass, signing the pledge to join the academic boycott means we are not providing students the world class education that we deserve,” he said. “This would give TAs more freedom to push the BDS agenda in the classroom.”

Now studying for his Master’s in Accounting, Ghan is all too familiar with BDS and its tactics. As a UC Davis undergraduate who was active in the pro-Israel campus group Aggies for Israel and Alpha Epsilon Pi (AEPi, an international Jewish fraternity), he was acutely aware of organizations such as Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), which, for example, hosted Omar Barghouti, founding member of the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel known as BDS, and worked tirelessly to oppose resolutions that were brought before the Student Senate calling for the University to divest from the Jewish State— two in as many years.

“BDS has really ramped up on campus in the past two years,” the San Jose native said, citing “Anti-Apartheid Week” and the increased number of anti-Israel speakers as evidence of SJP’s increasing presence and influence. He hopes to bring speakers to campus who expose the truth about BDS, noting, “It’s not a neutral position or a path to peace.”

The California Teamsters Public Affairs Council agreed. In a letter addressed to Michelle Gowla, President of UAW Local 2685, and its Executive Board, International Vice Presidents Randy Cammack and Rome A. Aloise stated, “Whatever your motives, we cannot conceive of an action more hostile to the interests of our members and more

antithetical to the most basic principles of the labor movement than for a union to call for actions which are intended to do harm to the economic security of other union members. We would find it difficult to ask our members to support your union in a labor dispute with the University of California so long as you are engaged in activities that are fundamentally hostile to their interests.”

Kummerfeld, who has witnessed a number of protests and a pro-Palestinian “die-in” as well as heard chants of “long live the intifada” on the Berkeley campus, added that, in addition to weakening academic freedom, the movement is counterproductive to the Middle East peace process.

“While (BDS) is careful to come across as all about rights, if you look carefully, the goal is a one-state solution,” he explained. “Being opposed to a two-state solution is not constructive. We must teach our students about this issue. We have a contract with the University. We decide what we want to teach and how we teach it. The Union should not be saying what we teach.”

The Ph.D. candidate in Computer Science admitted that the vast majority of Union members are not invested in Israel-Palestinian relations or what the University should do, making it that much more important for the Union to provide balanced information. Kummerfeld said Informed Grads has been hearing from students who are concerned about expressing pro-Israel positions in the classroom.

“Can they speak freely or will a TA penalize them?” he asked.

Ghan expressed fallout from his own Israel advocacy efforts, becoming known on UC Davis’ campus as pro-Israel and anti-BDS. And his experience is the rule, not the exception.

“I have friends at almost every other UC campus and AEPi brothers who are experiencing things like this,” he noted. “I am one of the only people in the Union at Davis that’s against the BDS resolution. It’s an uphill battle.”

For more information about Informed Grads and the outcome of the December vote, visit www.informedgrads.org.

Chabad of Greater Sacramento

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6:30-8:30 pm

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Tuesday, December 16th

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Music and Light!*

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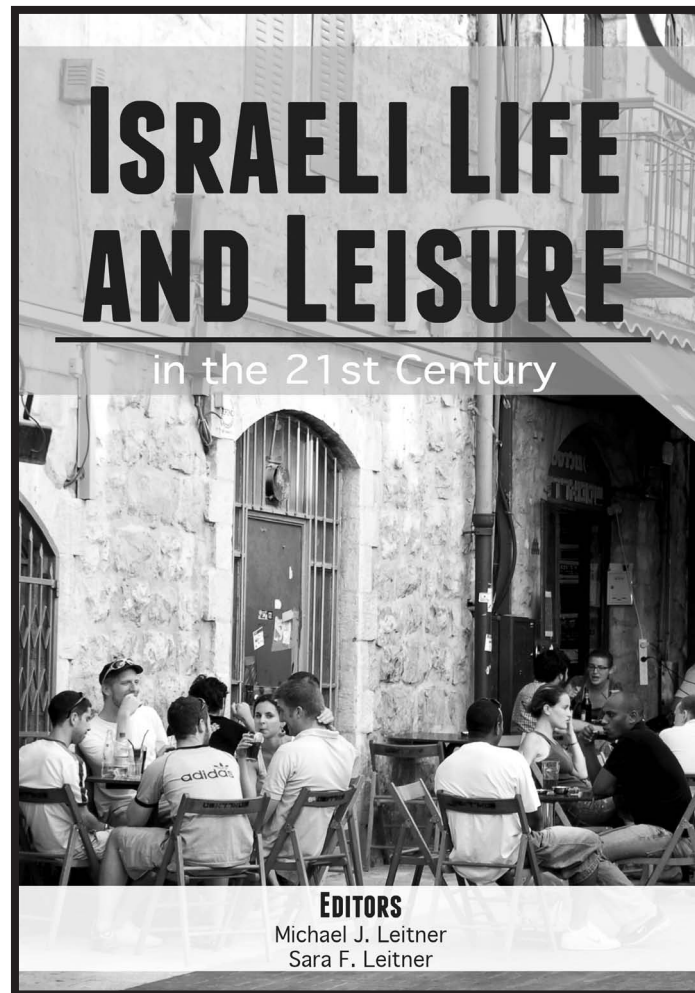
New Book Looks at Life and Leisure in Israel

Pick up any book about Israel in the past 20 years and you can pretty much guarantee it will be about war, terrorism, or politics. Not so with *Israeli Life and Leisure in the 21st Century*, a new book by California State University, Chico, Professors Michael Leitner and Sara Leitner.

“There has been nothing in-depth about Israeli life and society and nothing to portray Israel in a positive light,” Leitner explained. “I want to change the direction of the conversation about Israel. Not just combat the current messages but to create our own messages.”

Leitner is referring to the onslaught of anti-Israel and anti-Zionism rhetoric by the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement, especially on college campuses and especially in the aftermath of this summer’s Operation Protective Edge. According to the Anti-Defamation League’s report, *Anti-Israel Activity on Campus After Operation Protective Edge: A Preview of the 2014-2015 Academic Year*, published in October, “So far in this academic year, there have been more than 90 anti-Israel events scheduled to take place on U.S. campuses, double the 45 events scheduled during the same period last year.”

Leitner is no stranger to the subject of leisure, having earned a Master’s and Ph.D. in Recreation from the University of Maryland. Nor is he a stranger to the land of Israel. In addition to being a professor in the Modern Jewish and Israel Studies Program and the Department of Recreation, Hospitality, and Parks Management at Chico State, he teaches a course in the Conflict Management Department of Ben Gurion University entitled, “Evaluation of Peace Education Sports Programs” and also directs Israel’s Mifalot program’s “United Soccer for Peace,” which trains Arab and Jewish soccer coaches who eventually will conduct



integrated soccer programs with more than 40,000 Jewish and Arab Israeli children.

Israeli Life and Leisure has 50 Israeli contributing authors and an endorsement by Shimon Peres, which says, “Michael and Sara Leitner’s in-depth research about leisure in Israel is notable in its scope and reach.” The book is organized into six parts that examine various aspects of Israeli leisure from how Israelis spend their free or “unobligated” time to their quality of life; unique aspects of life and leisure in the Jewish State to promoting peace through leisure activities to diversity in leisure such as among the Ultra-Orthodox or special needs community; service provision, for example, the national park system and sustainable tourism to research into happiness, sports, vacation, and multicultural perspectives.

“There are things that exist in Israel that don’t exist in other countries such as Kibbutzim or life in the desert or life and leisure under rocket fire such as in Sderot,” said Leitner. “Israel also has unique programs such as the National Tennis Center, walking programs, and a vast network of dog parks. Israel is also the only country with a Jewish majority, where the holidays that are celebrated nationally are Jewish holidays. The fabric and structure of life is different.”

Several chapters cover Israeli sports programs that promote peace and improved relations between Arabs and Jews such as an Ultimate Frisbee program or Ice Hockey for Peace. The research chapters investigate extreme sports, women and sports, how leisure is presented in Israeli films, and how Israelis use leisure to cope with stress such as when they are faced with rocket fire.

“This was one of the most meaningful chapters,” noted Leitner, who happened to be in Israel during the summer war between Israel and Hamas.

Leitner envisions this book as not only one for the popular market but one that can be presented to Birthright or study abroad participants prior to their trip or to teens and confirmation classes to learn about the Jewish State.

Referring back to BDS, he said, “We are not fighting BDS directly, but as a way to educate the 80 percent that know little or nothing about Israel in a non-confrontational way. Israel is a real country with real people. If you see it for what it is, there is no way you can support BDS.”

Israeli Life and Leisure in the 21st Century is available at www.sagamorepublishing.com.

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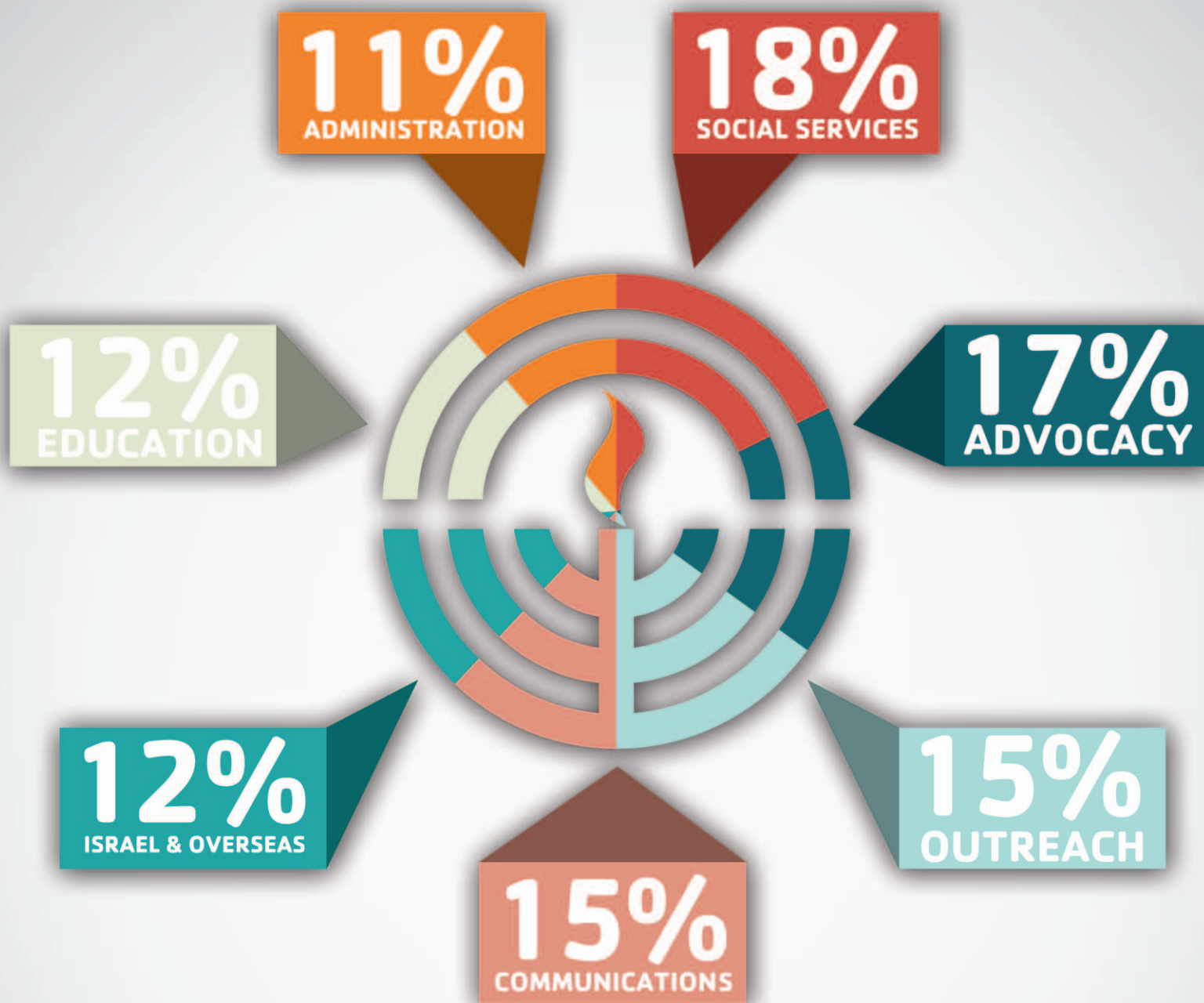
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JULY 01, 2013 - JUNE 30, 2014

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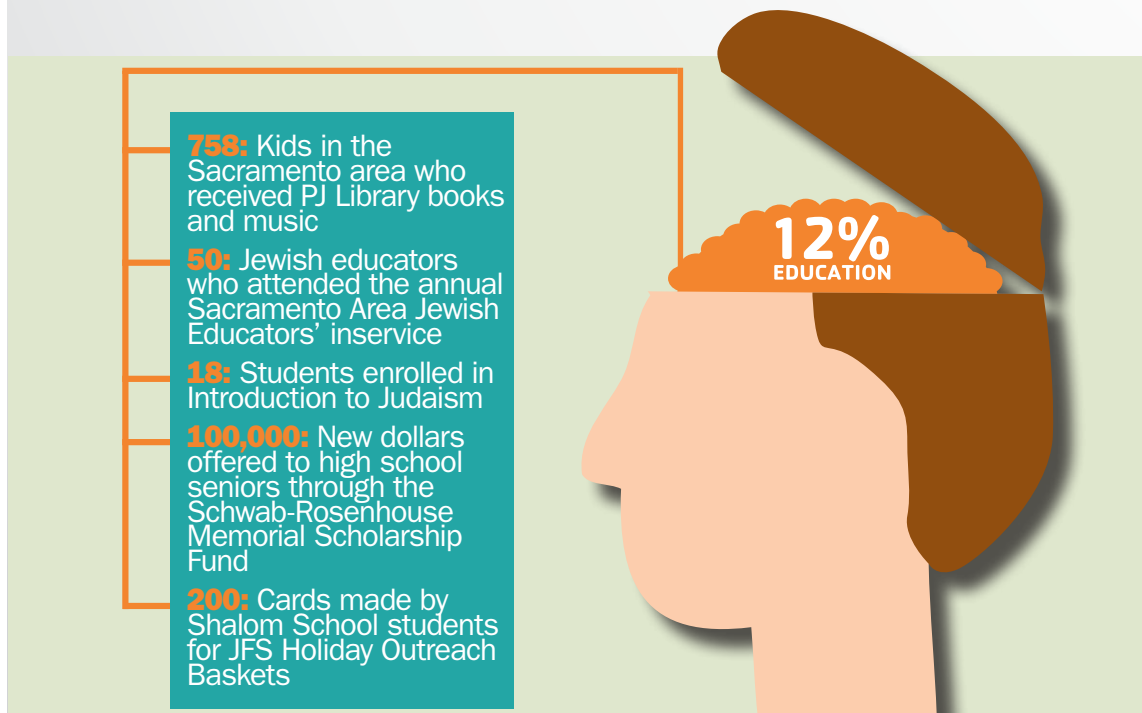
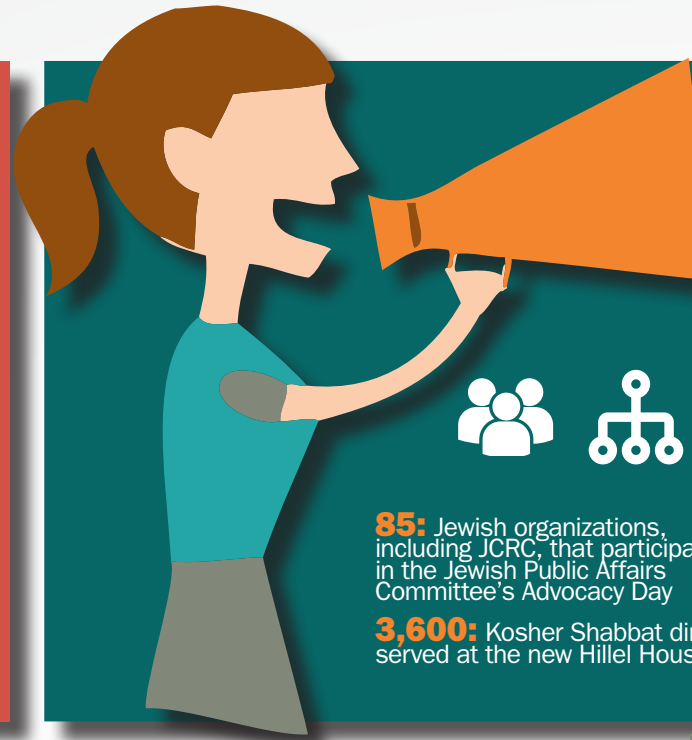
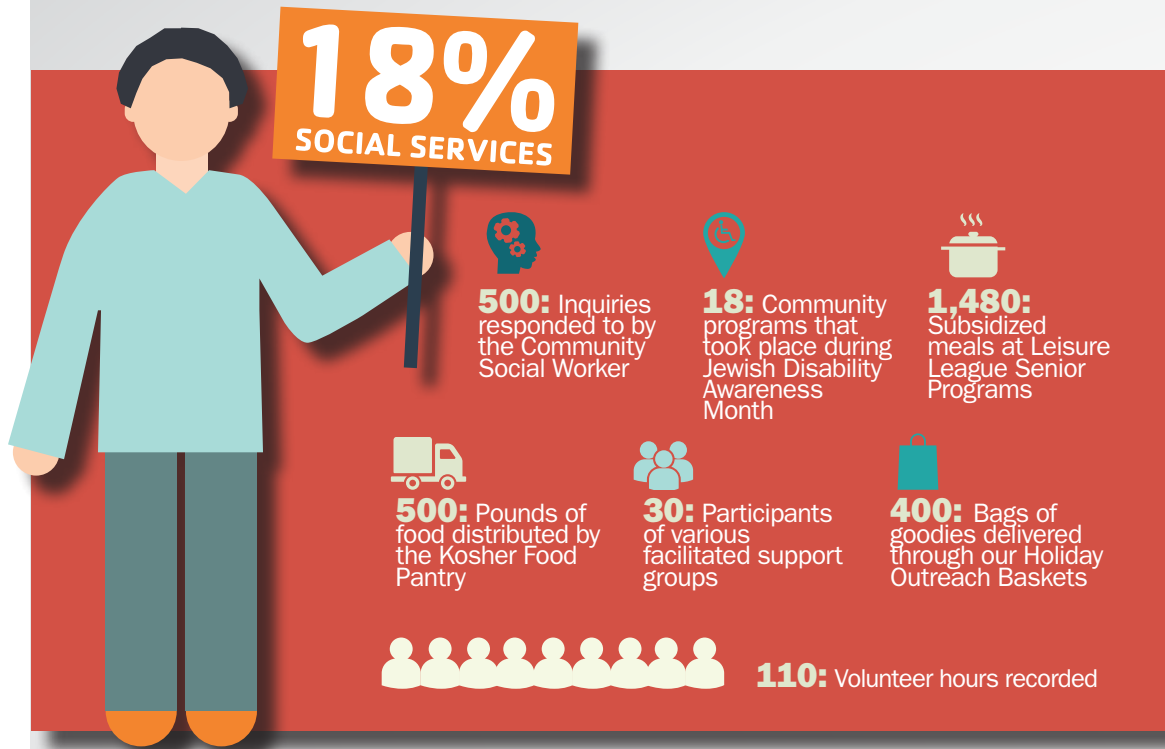
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2014 ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 01, 2013 -



ANNUAL REPORT

JUNE 30, 2014

17%
ADVOCACY



800: People touched by the annual Yom HaShoah Communitywide Commemoration

18: Jewish institutions trained and updated about security protocol



24: Letters of Intent received through the Jewish Community Foundation of the West's Life and Legacy Program

15%
OUTREACH

2,000:

Participants in the annual Jewish Heritage Festival: Celebrating Israel

1,200:

People reached at various community programs

150:

Emerging Jewish Leaders who connected through Facebook

15%
COMMUNICATIONS

99 Community leaders who receive monthly Federation updates

5,700 Households connected to the greater community via the VOICE

4,000 Weekly subscribers who kept current on community programs



11%
ADMINISTRATION

City Friendship Garden after planting 1 tree to represent Ashkelon, Israel

s who received a Teen Israel award a peer trip to Israel

ollars for a college student in our er Region in Israel

rations that make up Jewish th America

the Joint Distribution Committee nd relief

gency for Israel has supported aliyah osorption

YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE

"The Hillel House at Davis is truly the center for Jewish life on campus. Many of my most meaningful relationships on this campus were formed under its roof. The facility is beautiful, and the professional staff welcomes students with open arms and lots of food. Thank you to the Jewish Federation for all of its support over the years."

— DANNY ELIAHU,
UC DAVIS STUDENT

"I didn't make a decision to join the group easily. At those times when I could move beyond experiencing my sorrow and actually think about how to deal with it, I imagined I could work my way through it on my own— that time, as so many people say, would 'heal.' But everything I did was no more than a distraction and nothing changed, no matter how much love and affection I was blessed with from my children and other family and friends. So as the months went by, I began thinking I might need professional help and perhaps it was fortuitous, maybe some other 'magical' coincidence, that almost 18 months after [my husband's death], I read the Federation's notices that a Jewish Family Service bereavement group was forming and signed up."

— BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT
GROUP PARTICIPANT

"To pursue higher education has always been my dream, and because of the Schwab-Rosenhouse Memorial Scholarship Fund, I was able to complete my undergraduate degree with double majors at UC Berkeley. I am strengthened by the opportunities you have given me, and am driven to give back so that I may continue the generosity I received a few years ago."

— JOFIL BORJA,
UC BERKELEY CLASS OF 2012

"I had an amazing time on the USY Pilgrimage trip. It was an unforgettable experience. It is wonderful that the Federation makes these donations to help teenagers travel to Israel."

— ADAM GILBERT,
AGE 16

"The Jewish Heritage Festival is a very fun and exciting gathering."

— SASHA STEINBERG,
AGE 10

"the VOICE puts the New York Times, the Chicago Tribune, and the Sacramento Bee to shame. It is gorgeous, enticing, exciting, engaging! WOW!"

— SUE SPERBER,
FEDERATION
BOARD MEMBER



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Federation Board Member Reappointed to Insurance Board



Bob Dresser

Jewish Federation Board Member, Bob Dresser, has been reappointed as a member and Chair of the California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board (CUIAB). Created by the Legislature in 1943, the CUIAB is an independent administrative court system for workers and employers who challenge decisions made by the Employment Development Department (EDD).

“We rule on appeals by EDD, which grants either insurance or disability benefits to claimants,” Dresser explained. “If EDD says a claimant is entitled but an employer disagrees, they can appeal.”

Until recently, 240 judges heard appeal cases, however, that cadre recently was cut to about 180 due to diminished caseloads, an indication of a recovering economy. If parties want to appeal further, cases are sent to a CUIAB five-member Board for a second level of review.

Dresser is one of three on this Board who was appointed by the governor; the other two members were appointed by the Senate pro Tem and the House Speaker, respectively. If a claimant disagrees with the final decision of the CUIAB, he or she may appeal to the California Superior Court.

The scale of CUIAB’s work is illustrated by the following:*

- In December 2013, California far exceeded the nation with 1,532,000 Californians out of work.
- In December 2013, California’s 8.3% unemployment rate was 5th highest in the nation behind only Rhode Island (9.1%), Nevada (8.8%), Illinois (8.6 %), and Michigan (8.4 %).
- EDD paid out about \$10.5 billion in unemployment insurance benefits in Calendar Year 2013. The U.S. Department of Labor estimates the economic multiplier is \$2 for every

dollar paid in benefits, making California’s economic impact estimated at about \$21 billion.

- In 2013, 2.9 million initial unemployment insurance claims were filed, of which 362,047 were appealed, yielding a rate of one appeal for every eight initial claims processed in California.

As the CUIAB Chair, Dresser oversees the operations of the Chief Judge and Appellate Office, including monitoring staffing needs and caseloads. He noted that California’s unemployment rate has fallen from 10% to 7% and with that, the CUIAB’s caseloads have dropped from 420,000 in 2013 to fewer than 350,000 in 2014.

“That is huge... It means the difference between being able to pay rent or buying clothing for a child.”

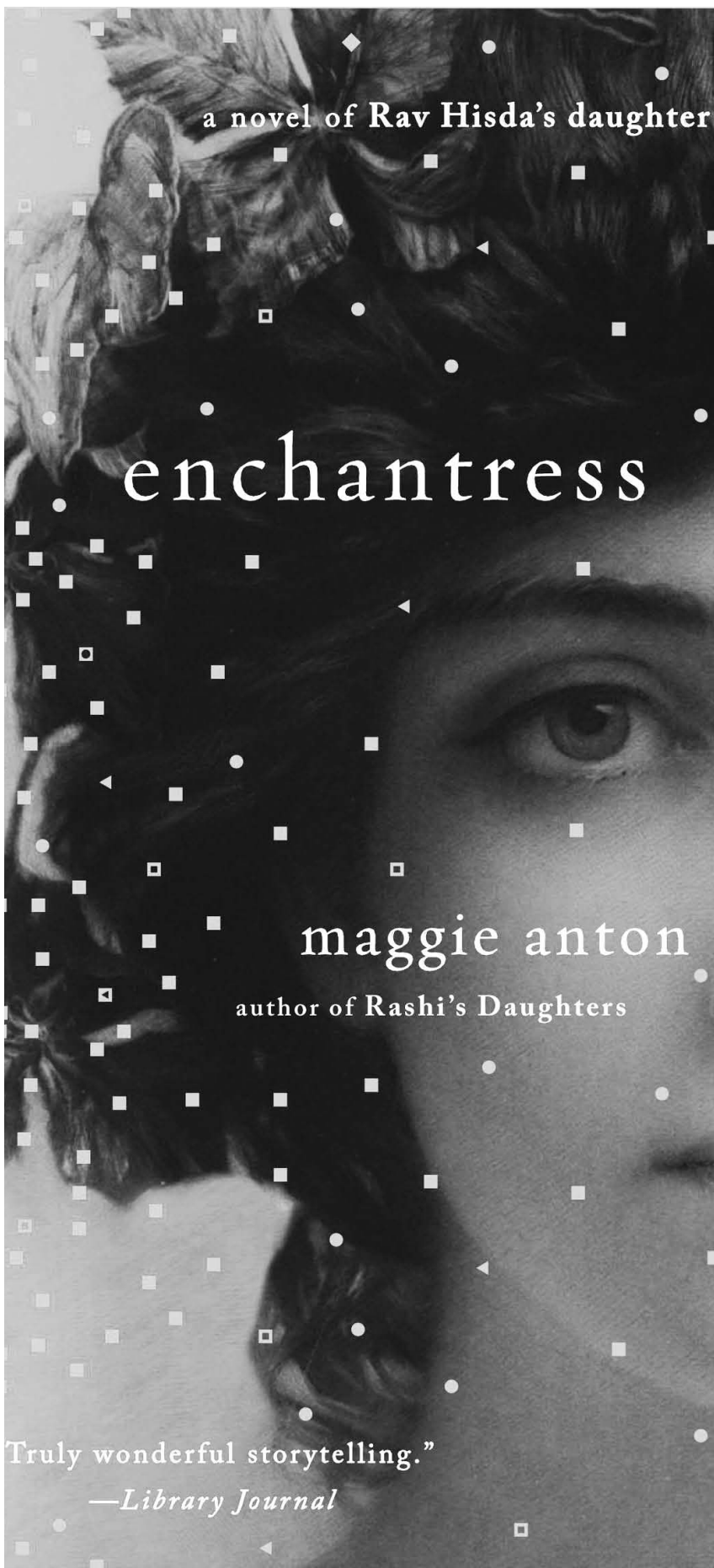
“Fewer appeals means people are not filing for unemployment,” he explained, adding that after more than 12 years, the CUIAB has been released from corrective action from the Department of Labor, meaning caseloads are being addressed on time. “This is a significant achievement.”

This upward trend also translates into approximately \$50 billion being pumped into the State economy.

“That is huge,” Dresser said. “It means the difference between being able to pay rent or buying clothing for a child. Whenever the Board operates efficiently, we are serving the people well.”

For more information about the CUIAB, visit www.cuiab.gov.

*Source: www.cuiab.gov.



Sitting Down with National Jewish Book Award Winner, **Maggie Anton**

Maggie Anton, the award-winning author of the historical fiction series *Rashi's Daughters* and *Rav Hisda's Daughter*, as well as a Talmudic scholar with expertise in Jewish women's history, spoke at Mosaic Law Congregation on November 16th and Congregation B'nai Israel on November 18th. Born Margaret Antonofsky in Los Angeles, where she still resides, Anton was raised in a secular household and reached adulthood with little knowledge of her Jewish religion. All that changed when David Parkhurst, who was to become her husband, entered her life, and they both discovered Judaism as adults. She sat down with *the VOICE* to discuss her latest book, *Enchantress: A Novel of Rav Hisda's Daughter*.

***the VOICE:* What was the inspiration for this new book?**

Maggie Anton: The inspiration was a piece of Talmud about Rav Hisda's daughter, a child in 3rd-century Babylonia who is sitting in his classroom. He calls up his two best students and asks her who she wants to marry. She rises to the occasion and replies, "Both of them." What a girl! What a woman! What audacity! I really wanted to know her story so I researched her and this time period.

***the VOICE:* You researched what the Talmud says about sorcery. What did you find?**

MA: I found out that magic was ubiquitous. There were genies; the term, "open sesame;" flying carpets; even the word "magic" originated here from the word "magi." Jews had self-rule and "magi" was well-known to rabbis. Ancient Jewish magic is one of the hottest topics in Judaism. There is a vast amount of magic and sorcery that is the province of the woman, for example, healing and protection from the evil eye. Women are considered healers. Additionally,

archeologists have uncovered amulets and incantation bowls with Hebrew script and quotes from the Torah clearly written on them. Women were empowered—they wore *tzitzit* and were doing ritual circumcision. They were an important part of the community. These women were sorceresses, not old ladies like witches with pointy hats living in gingerbread houses. These were educated and literate women.

***the VOICE:* Why don't more people know about the role of magic in the Talmud?**

MA: Until recently, Talmud study was limited to those few scholars who were fluent in Aramaic and attended yeshiva. They concentrated on the sections debating Jewish law, and paid less attention to the others. Still, scholars aware of the passages on magic preferred to ignore them, embarrassed to admit that the great sages engaged in such "nonsense."

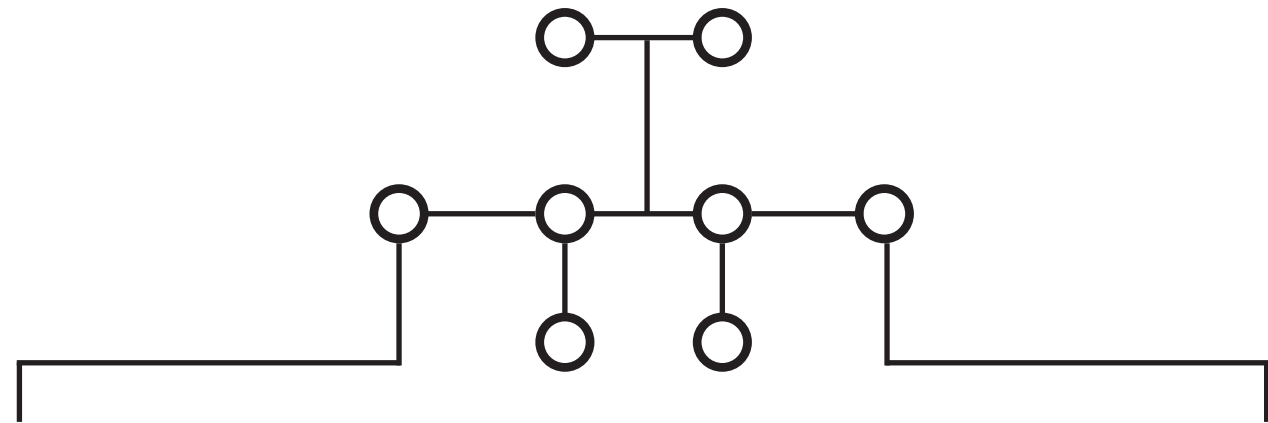
***the VOICE:* You spoke to two Sacramento synagogues in November. What was the takeaway for these audiences?**

MA: Ever since *Rashi's Daughters*, I've wanted women and liberal Jews to study the Torah. For 1,500 years, the text has been forbidden to women. My point is to be knowledgeable and know what's behind Jewish law. When we get to the source of Jewish tradition, we get to see how Judaism happens.

***the VOICE:* The Enchantress series has ended. What is your next project?**

MA: I'm not exactly sure but there are characters from another time rattling around in my head!

Enchantress is available at amazon.com and Barnes and Noble.



The ‘Golden Age’ of Jewish Genealogy is Celebrated Locally with a Silver Anniversary

The family stories of Judy Persin, Victoria Fisch, and Mort Rumberg couldn’t be more different but they all led to the same thing— the discovery of people and places heretofore unknown to them. The founder, President, and Past President of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Sacramento (JGSS), respectively, shared different family treasures they found as a result of their genealogical research. Persin traced her family tree to the pre-Revolutionary War; Fisch to documentation that a missing uncle fought in Spain; and Rumberg to the knowledge that he had 22 cousins. These are just a few of the genealogical gems that have been uncovered since the JGSS was created 25 years ago.

“As someone who started the group from nothing, it’s been amazing to watch it grow,” Persin said of the devotees who meet monthly to hear a variety of presentations, from research strategies to how to digitize information to discoveries of family heirlooms. “It’s like watching your child grow.”

Persin, who is now JGSS’s interim Treasurer, was researching her own family history and that of her husband’s when she realized Sacramento did not offer anything in the way of Jewish genealogy or ethnic research. She proceeded on her own and began giving presentations about her findings to, for example, Mosaic Law Congregation’s Sisterhood, Hadassah, and the National

Council of Jewish Women. A cadre of 6-7 interested people grew into the current attendance of 20-25 people each month.

Among those long-term attendees are Fisch and Rumberg.

“Genealogy has been becoming more and more popular,” said Rumberg. “Not only does it teach you about history, but about how people lived and what they did and how that influenced the individual family. It’s not just about dates. It’s about background, who the person knew, other historical events. That’s what makes genealogy come alive. You can be born in one country, grow up in a second country, live life in a third country, and die in a fourth country, having never left your house because of changing borders.”

For Rumberg, the flood gates of information opened when he discovered handwritten documents penned by his mother and the discovery that her parents divorced in 1921— a “no, no” for the time said the JGSS Past President. Soon he was able to piece together information about her seven siblings, who he didn’t know existed, and 22 cousins, five of whom he has since met.

“Genealogy hasn’t changed how I am or how I approach things but I have a greater understanding of humanity and how we overcame difficulties,” he said. “That’s opened my eyes. It’s a full scope of people

and events and memories that make us who we are.”

Both Rumberg and Fisch, who turned her hobby into a 20-year profession as a genealogical researcher, described the current times as the ‘golden age’ of genealogy due to the influx of online searchable databases and people scrambling to document their family histories before it’s too late.

“People who may have had direct memories of the family or of the old country are dying,” Fisch said. “Who can recapture those oral histories?”

Toward that end, the JGSS President is interested in encouraging and recruiting others— specifically people in their 30s-40s— to document their family histories, especially because of privacy concerns being raised about online resources, which are at risk of being shut down.

“At some point in life, people start wondering, ‘Where do I come from?’ or ‘What makes me who I am?’” Persin explained. “Genealogy helps answer those questions.”

The JGSS meets monthly at the Albert Einstein Residence Center, 1935 Wright St., Sacramento at 10:00am. The next meeting is December 14, 2014, when the JGSS presents “Genealogy Jeopardy.” Cake will be served to celebrate the group’s 25th anniversary. For more information, contact mortrumberg1@earthlink.net.

THANK YOU

TO OUR LEGACY FAMILY MEMBERS!

The Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region connects individuals, organizations, and generations to better care for those in need; to create and nurture Jewish identity; and to ensure no one gets left behind. We help ensure a solid future for every step of Jewish life, from PJ Library to vital services for seniors. We ensure the community's philanthropic donations are directed to those who need it most, when they need it most.

Our Legacy Family is a group of dedicated and committed individuals who want to guarantee that the Federation continues to provide its programs and services for many years to come. By establishing a legacy through a bequest or planned gift, you will plant the seed for future generations, doing your part to make sure the Federation and our Jewish community remain strong and vibrant for years to come.

All of us, regardless of age, wealth, or affiliation, have the ability to make a difference for future Jewish generations. Join our family today!

www.jewishsac.org/legacyprogram or 916-486-0906



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WELCOME NEW FEDERATION BOARD MEMBERS!

The Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region is pleased to welcome the following community members to our Board.

Cliff Berg: A member of Congregation Beth Shalom, Cliff has served previously on the Federation Board as well as the Jewish Community Relations Council. He is the President of Governmental Advocates, working as a lobbyist for the Jewish Public Affairs Committee and The Simon Wiesenthal Center.

Don Gilbert: Don is returning to the Federation Board after 20 years and currently serves on AIPAC's Northern California Board. He served on the Shalom Community Day School Board for 15 years, including 3 years as Board President. Don also served on the Board of the Jewish Community Foundation of the West. He is Managing Partner in the legislative advocacy firm of Edelstein Gilbert Robson & Smith, LLC.

Deborah Gonzalez: Deborah has served as Co-Chair of Federation's Committee on Inclusion and Disabilities since 2011. She currently serves as a member of the Camp Ramah of Northern California Board of Trustees and Chair of the Mosaic Law Congregation (MLC) Youth Commission. She previously served on MLC's Board for eight years, two as President.

Ryan Pessah: Ryan currently serves as Chair of the Jewish Community Relations Council, a division of the Jewish Federation. He is a Consultant with the Legislative Jewish Caucus and co-founded Capital Knesset, a networking meeting of Jewish legislators and staffers as well as interested community members.

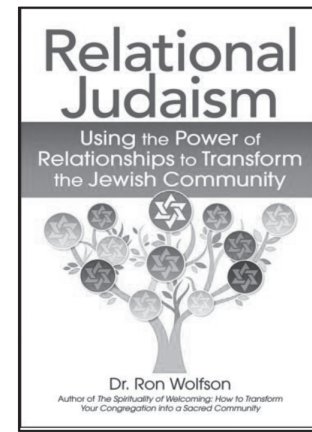
COMMUNITYWIDE WORKSHOP ON RELATIONAL JUDAISM

Guest Scholar: Ron Wolfson

Sunday, December 7th, 3:00-6:00pm

Congregation Beth Shalom

4746 El Camino Ave., Carmichael



Ron Wolfson, Ph.D. is a Fingerhut Professor of Education for the Graduate Center for Education. He joined the American Jewish University faculty in 1975 as an Acting Professor. During his 35-plus year career at AJU, he has served as Director of the Education Department, founding Director of the Whizin Center for the Jewish Future, Director of the Ramah Academy, Dean of the Fingerhut School of Education, Special Assistant to the President, and Vice President of the University. Dr. Wolfson is a frequent scholar-in-residence for communities, speaking on a wide range of topics in Jewish life. He is Co-Founder and Co-President of Synagogue 3000, an institute whose mission is to catalyze excellence in synagogue life. A pioneer in the field of Jewish family education, Dr. Wolfson is a member of the Consortium for the Jewish Family.

Relationships are at the heart of vibrant communities. With special gratitude to the Union for Reform Judaism for making this event possible, we invite all of our Jewish community to join in an interactive workshop with Dr. Ron Wolfson, author of *Relational Judaism*, the Sacramento Board of Rabbis, the Jewish Federation and area synagogues to share strategies for building strong communities that prioritize our interpersonal connections with one another.

This program is free of charge with required advance registration.

Light refreshments served and childcare available.

Ron Wolfson's books will be for sale at the event.

Visit www.jewishsac.org/relational to register until December 1st.



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SAVE THE DATE!

*Communitywide Yom Hashoah
Commemoration*

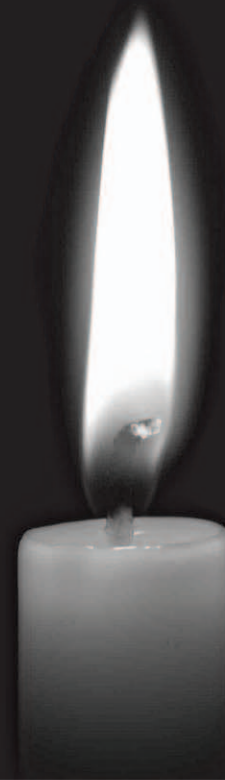
April 19, 2015 | 7:00pm



Congregation B'nai Israel | 3600 Riverside Blvd., Sacramento

Sponsored by the Jewish Community Relations Council

If you would like to honor the memory of loved ones by placing their names in the Yom Hashoah Book of Remembrance, contact Sharon Sugerman and ssugerma@comcast.net.



2015 JEWISH HERITAGE FESTIVAL



SAVE THE DATE!
SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2015
RALEY FIELD, 1-5PM
FEATURING THE MACCABEATS!

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EVER THOUGHT ABOUT GOING TO CUBA?

Join the Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region,
in partnership with the Jewish Community Center of San Francisco,
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Experience the vibrant and warm Jewish community → Enjoy the rich history, arts, culture,
music and food of Cuba → Support the local community with a hands-on project
Learn why this island holds mystery and allure

Space is limited to 30 participants. Deadline to apply is January 2, 2015.

For more information, including and itinerary, please contact
Melissa Chapman, 916-486-0906 or mchapman@jewishsac.org.

How to Eat Chanukah Sufganiyot *Without Guilt*



by Jaime Geller/JNS.org

The average Chanukah sufganiya (jelly donut) has between 300 and 400 calories of nearly pure oil and fat. In honor of the miracle G-d bestowed on the Maccabees, making oil meant for just a day last eight days, the delicious donut and other traditionally oily Chanukah foods become annual killers for your diet. For those who are health conscious but do not want to be deprived of the annual treat, here are three healthier recipes selected from Joyofkosher.com. Consider substituting or reducing ingredients further as needed for your diet.



Baked Whole Wheat Cranberry Orange Donuts

Contributed by: Tamar Genger MA, RD

These baked donuts taste more like cake since they are not fried, but they are still very tasty. In addition, they use the healthier option of whole-wheat flour.

Prep Time: 15 minutes
Cook Time: 15 minutes
Ready Time: 30 minutes
Servings: 12 mini donuts

Ingredients:

1 cup white whole wheat flour
3 tablespoons corn meal
1 teaspoon orange zest
1/4 cup + 3 tablespoons sugar
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
3 tablespoons liquid coconut oil
6 tablespoons coconut milk mixed with 1 teaspoon lemon or vinegar
1 egg white
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/2 cups chopped fresh cranberries

For the Glaze:

1/4 cup fresh cranberries
1 tablespoon fresh squeezed orange juice
1/4 teaspoon vanilla
3/4 cup powdered sugar

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Grease a nonstick mini donut pan with cooking spray and set aside.
2. In a large bowl, whisk the flour, cornmeal, orange zest, sugar, baking powder, and salt together.
3. In a small bowl whisk the coconut oil, the coconut milk mixture, egg white, and vanilla together. Add the wet and dry ingredients and fold in until just mixed, and add chopped cranberries. Stir until just mixed. Spoon into donut pan.
4. Bake for 12-14 minutes.
5. Make glaze. While donuts cool, in a small saucepan heat the cranberries and orange juice until they burst about 5 minutes. Remove from heat, mash berries with fork, add powdered sugar and vanilla stir well. Dip donut into glaze and serve.



Baked "Sufganiyot" Jelly Donuts

Another recipe that forgoes frying in oil.

Prep Time: approximately 2 hours
Cook Time: 10-12 minutes
Ready Time: approximately 2-3 hours
Servings: 24 donuts

Ingredients:

1 (1/4 ounce) package rapid rise dry yeast
1 tablespoon sugar
1/4 cup warm water
1 egg yolk
1 egg
1/4 cup sugar
1 cup 1% milk, warmed
3 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
Pinch of salt
3 tablespoons margarine or butter, cut into 9 pieces
Cooking spray
3/4-1 cup strawberry jam
Confectioners' sugar for dusting

Directions:

1. Dissolve the yeast with the 1 tablespoon of the sugar in 1/4 cup warm water.
2. In a standing mixer with a paddle, beat egg yolk, egg, yeast mixture, 1/4 cup of sugar, and milk.
3. With paddle going, add flour and salt.
4. Add margarine one piece at a time. Dough should be sticky but elastic.
5. Turn out dough onto floured surface. Knead once or twice. Shape into ball. Place in an oiled bowl, cover, and place in a warm area for at least an hour or until dough is doubled.
6. Lightly grease 2 baking sheets.
7. Divide dough in half. With lightly oiled

hands, take approximately 2 tablespoons of dough and roll into ball. Place on greased baking sheet.

8. Repeat with remaining dough placing balls 2 inches apart (about 12 balls per baking sheet). Cover with a kitchen or tea towel and let rise 30 minutes. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F.
9. Bake at 375 degrees F for 10-12 minutes or until golden. Remove from oven and let cool.
10. Place jam in a pastry bag fitted with a medium pastry tip or use a small ziplock type of bag fitted with a medium pastry tip. Pastry tips are available at most craft stores.
11. Press tip into donut and squeeze at least 1 teaspoon of jam into donut, or more if desired.
12. Dust with confectioners' sugar and serve.

Tips:

If you don't have a standing mixer, use a hand mixer for step 2 and beat the egg yolk, egg, yeast mixture, sugar, and milk for about 1 minute. Knead the rest of the ingredients together by hand: first the flour, then the salt and margarine, one piece at a time, then proceed with step 5.



Apple Zeppole with Jelly Dipping Sauce

Try these apple zeppole as a change over for doughnuts. The recipe itself is not low-fat, but the portions are bite-sized.

Prep Time: 8 minutes
Cook Time: 20 minutes
Ready Time: 28 minutes
Servings: 12

Ingredients:

1/2 cup unsalted butter
1/2 cup water
1/4 cup granulated sugar
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon kosher salt
1 cup all purpose flour
4 large eggs
1 granny smith apple (about 1 cup), peeled and diced
Vegetable oil for frying

1/2 cup confectioner's sugar
1/2 cup seedless raspberry jam
1 tablespoon orange juice

Directions:

1. In a medium saucepan, heat butter, water, sugar, cinnamon, and salt, and bring to a boil. Remove from the heat and add flour. Return to low heat and stir with a wooden spoon until the dough comes together and forms a ball. Continue to cook for 1 minute.
2. Transfer dough to the bowl of a stand mixer. Beat on low speed with a paddle attachment for 1 minute or until cooled slightly. Add eggs one at a time. Add apple and mix until just combined.
3. In a heavy medium sized pan, heat oil to 350 degrees F on a candy or deep-fry thermometer. Using a 1-teaspoon scoop, carefully drop batter into hot oil and fry until golden brown, about 5 minutes. Remove with a slotted spoon and drain on paper towels. Repeat with remaining dough and dust with powdered sugar.
4. In a small bowl, whisk together jam and orange juice and serve with zeppole.

Jamie Geller is a bestselling cookbook author who lives in Israel with her husband and their five kids. Her new book is Joy of Kosher: Fast, Fresh Family Recipes. Photo Credits: Joy of Cooking with Jamie Geller.

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The Jewish Federation
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Liberation Remembered: A Conversation



A Communitywide Event Featuring:

- **Murray Baumgarten**, Distinguished Professor of English & Comparative Literature and Co-director of Jewish Studies at UCSC.
- **Peter Kenez**, Professor Emeritus of History affiliated with Jewish Studies at UCSC.

Professors Baumgarten and Kenez will have a literary and historical conversation about the Holocaust to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the concentration camps. The conversation will include a discussion of the book *Fatelessness*, by Nobel Prize winning author Imre Kertész. They will also discuss the recently published *The Diary of Rywka Lipszyc*.

Saturday, January 17th
7:00-8:30 pm
KOH Library and Cultural Center
2300 Sierra Blvd., Sacramento

No Charge.
Refreshments will be served.

Please RSVP to
Liz Igra at Liz@cvhen.com

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The Jewish Federation
OF THE SACRAMENTO REGION

For more information, contact mtaylor@jewishsac.org
PJ Library is funded by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation
and the Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region

LEISURE LEAGUE HEADS TO WINE COUNTRY!

In celebration of Tu B'shvat, Leisure League is heading to Mount Aukum to visit C.G. Di Arie Vineyard & Winery, belonging to Turkish Jews, Chaim and Elisheva Gur-Aireh. As a Food Developer, Chaim created technology that produced well-known foods including Cap'n Crunch Cereal, Del Monte Pudding Cups, Power Bars, wine coolers, and Hidden Valley Ranch salad dressing. Join us as Chaim and Elisheva share stories about their lives as inventors, Jews, and winemakers on their 209-acre estate, well-known for its grapes planted for French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish wines.

February 3, 2015

9:00am-4:00pm

**\$40 per person includes winery tour,
dairy lunch, and transportation.**

Multiple pick-up locations from Orangevale to Davis.

RSVP required by January 27, 2015.

To RSVP, contact federation@jewishsac.org or 916-486-0906.



Join Hillel at Davis & Sacramento in Celebrating
50 Years of Providing a Home Away from Home
for Jewish Students

Save the Date

50th Anniversary Celebration

Sunday, May 3, 2015

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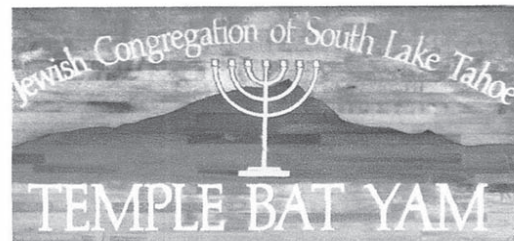
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www.Facebook.com/ChanukahWonderland



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Save The Date

**Saturday Night,
January 31, 2015**



"A CUT ABOVE"

CASINO NIGHT

Eat • Drink • Dance • Let It Ride!
The Center at 2300

CALENDAR

RECURRING EVENTS

Sundays

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

Mondays

Monthly discussion group led by Rabbi Melamed on the second Monday of every month. KOH Library and Cultural Center, 2300 Sierra Blvd., Sacramento. 1:30-2:30pm. Free. *For more information, contact 916-484-7333 or jacks.dad@att.net.*

Derech L'Chaim JACS (Jewish Alcoholics, Chemically Dependent Persons, and Significant Others). 10:30-11:30am. 2nd Floor Card Room, Albert Einstein Residence Center, 1935 Wright St., Sacramento. JACS is based on the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous with a Jewish focus. Confidential and anonymous. *Please contact 916-591-8608 before attending for the first time.*

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

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

Tuesdays

Baby and Me. Program for families with children birth to 2 years. Art, singing, movement, and fun! 10:30am. Temple Or Rishon, 7755 Hazel Ave., Orangevale. *For more information, contact Marcia at 916-988-4100 or educator@orrishon.org.*

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

Wednesdays

Shalom Gan K'ton. For children 18 months-5 years. 10:00am. Temple Or Rishon, 7755 Hazel Ave., Orangevale. \$50/10 sessions with scholarships available. *For more information, contact educator@orrishon.org.*

Jessie Yoshpe Hadassah Study Group. "G-d's To-Do-List" by Dr. Ron Wolfson. First and Third Wednesday. 9:45-11:30am. KOH Library and Cultural Center, 2300 Sierra Blvd., Sacramento. *For more information, contact Soni Meyer at 916-383-5743.*

Thursdays

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

Jewish Women's Support Group. Led by Zalia Lipson. Chabad of Roseville, 3175 Sunset Blvd., Suite 104A, Roseville. 6:45pm. \$40 per session. *For more information or to register, contact 916-624-8626 or ZaliaL@aol.com.*

Fridays

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

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

Saturdays

Taste of Torah. Second Saturday. Learn, laugh, sing, and "taste" the Torah. Free program for families with young children and children of all abilities. 10:30am. Temple Or Rishon, 7755 Hazel Ave., Orangevale. *For more information, contact Marcia at 916-988-4100 or educator@orrishon.org.*

GENERAL EVENTS

December 2 & 23, 2014; January 13 & 27, 2015; and February 10 & 24, 2015. Jewish Meditation and Mindfulness— Building Your Spiritual Practice with Deni Deutsch Marshall, LCSW. Group explores Jewish mindful meditation practices, both ancient and modern, designed to help you have a more personal relationship with G-d. Guided sitting meditations, chanting meditations, and silent meditations, as well as a number of mindfulness techniques to practice at home. Long-time meditators and newcomers welcome. \$5/session for drop-ins; \$50 for 11 sessions. 6:30-7:30pm. Congregation B'nai Israel, 3600 Riverside Blvd., Sacramento. *For more information, contact Deni Deutsch Marshall at 916-684-5161 or denimarshall@gmail.com.*

December 3, 2014. The Israel Affairs Committee of the Jewish Community Relations Council invites you to "Life

Under Fire" presented by George Rooks. George is the Chair of the Israel Matters Committee at Congregation Bet Haverim. He and his wife, Hila, live six months of the year in Ashdod, Israel and six months in Davis. Free. Jewish Federation, 2130 21st St., Sacramento. *To RSVP, contact jbirch@jewishsac.org or 916-486-0906.*

December 5, 2014. PJ Library Playgroup. Get ready for Chanukah! Join your friends at PJ Library as we welcome Rabbi Nancy from Congregation Beth Shalom to lead a Chanukah sing-along! 10:00-11:30am. Jewish Federation, 2130 21st St., Sacramento. *For more information, contact mtaylor@jewishsac.org.*

December 7, 2014. Communitywide Workshop on Relational Judaism with Guest Scholar Dr. Ron Wolfson. Relationships are at the heart of vibrant communities. Dr. Wolfson, author of *Relational Judaism*, shares strategies for building strong communities that prioritize interpersonal connections over transactional interactions. Sponsored by the Sacramento Area Board of Rabbis and The Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region. Light refreshments served. Child care available (donations appreciated). Registration through December 1, 2014 at www.jewishsac.org/relational. Free (advance registration required). 3:00-6:00pm. Congregation Beth Shalom, 4746 El Camino Ave., Carmichael. *For more information, visit www.jewishsac.org/federationevents.*

December 7-8, 2014. *The Red Tent*, a two-night miniseries event on Lifetime. A sweeping tale that takes place during the times of the Old Testament, told through the eyes of Dinah, the daughter of Leah and Jacob. All-star cast includes Minnie Driver, Morena Baccarin, Rebecca Ferguson, Iain Glen, Will Tudor, and Debra Winger. 9:00pm. *For more information, visit www.mylifetime.com/movies/the-red-tent.*

December 10, 2014. Leisure League at Temple Or Rishon. The Mike & Genny Musical Variety Show. Sing-and play-alongs; name that tune and comedian; and music trivia. From swing to rock to musicals, including American standards. Carol Gunnerrson will lead Chanukah songs. \$5 includes lunch and entertainment. Funded by The Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region and The Trust Fund for the Jewish Elderly. Federation is partnering with the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), Sacramento Section, for this special Chanukah programs. Be one of the first 50 people to RSVP and NCJW will pay for your lunch! Noon-2:00pm. 7755 Hazel Ave., Orangevale. *For more information about Leisure League or to RSVP, contact 916-486-0906 or federation@jewishsac.org.*

December 11, 2014. Jewish History in Late Antiquity: Religious Transformation: How Ancient Jews Became Christians with UC Davis Professor Catherine Chin.

This lecture will discuss how Jews and Christians in the ancient world started to distinguish between their communities, as well as the ways in which they continued to act as members of the same religious group. Free. 7:00-8:30pm. Congregation B'nai Israel, 3600 Riverside Blvd., Sacramento. *For more information, contact Melissa Grand at 916-446-4861 or mgrand@bnais.com.*

December 14, 2014. The Jewish Genealogical Society of Sacramento (JGSS) presents "Genealogy Jeopardy." JGSS members will play a genealogy version of the famous game. Topics will focus on general genealogy questions as well as some related to Jewish genealogy research. Three JGSS members will serve as contestants, and the game will feature buzzers and the well-known music. The occasion also marks the group's 25th anniversary. Cake will be served! 10:00am. The Albert Einstein Residence Center, 1935 Wright St., Sacramento. *For more information, contact mortrumberg1@earthlink.net.*

December 16, 2014. PJ Library Playgroup. Come celebrate the first night of Chanukah with PJ Library! Hear the story of how the Maccabees defeated the Syrian army! Play dreidel with your friends and light the first candle with us. We'll have games, art, and snack! 10:00-11:30am. Jewish Federation, 2130 21st St., Sacramento. *For more information, contact mtaylor@jewishsac.org.*

December 18, 2014. Leisure League at the Albert Einstein Residence Center. Tony Castle's One-Man Show. A blend of songs, stories, humor, memories and good clean fun with its roots in the Golden Age of radio and television. Cantor Ben Rosner will lead Chanukah songs. \$5 includes lunch and entertainment. Funded by The Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region and The Trust Fund for the Jewish Elderly. Federation is partnering with the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), Sacramento Section, for this special Chanukah programs. Be one of the first 50 people to RSVP and NCJW will pay for your lunch! Noon-2:00pm. 1935 Wright St., Sacramento. *For more information about Leisure League or to RSVP, contact 916-486-0906 or federation@jewishsac.org.*

December 31, 2014. Noon Year's Eve. Join PJ Library at Crocker Art Museum to learn about New Year's festivities from around the world through music, dance, and activities from local cultural groups. Stop by the PJ Library table as we share information about Rosh Hashanah. 10:00am-2:00pm. 216 O St., Sacramento. *For more information, contact mtaylor@jewishsac.org.*

January 11, 2015. Palestinian Incitement As An Obstacle to Peace: Sam Levine, Executive Director of the Zionist Organization of America-West Division. How will peace ever be achieved when generation after generation of Palestinians are taught to hate Israel? Mr. Levine will offer his insights into the problem with numerous examples ranging from items taken from Palestinian textbooks to pronouncements by the Palestinian leadership. Presented by the Israel Matters Committee. Free. 3:00-5:00pm. Congregation Bet Haverim Social Hall, 1715 Anderson Rd., Davis. *For more information, contact gmrooks3@gmail.com.*

January 17, 2014. Jewish Soul Food: Music, Eating, and Identity in the Global Diaspora with Francesco Spagnolo from UC Berkeley. Focuses on the connections between music and food, and examines a wide variety of food-themed Jewish songs from different times and places, including a 17th-century Italian poem for Purim, a Sephardic song listing seven recipes to cook eggplant, a Yiddish ode to gefilte fish, and Israeli Hebrew songs about tomatoes and, of course, falafel. Francesco Spagnolo is the Curator of The Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life and a Lecturer in the Department of Music at the UC Berkeley. Free. 7:00-8:30pm. Congregation B'nai Israel, 3600 Riverside Blvd., Sacramento. *For more information, contact Melissa Grand at 916-446-4861 or mgrand@bnais.com.*

January 22 & 29 and February 5, 2015. Jewish History in the Middle Ages: "An Eruv of the Mind: Conflict and Coexistence with Susan Aguilar. Three-part series exploring the often contradictory nature of medieval Jewish life. We'll talk about the famous and the virtually unknown ordinary men and women who created vibrant Jewish communities in Sepharad and Ashkenaz. Susan Aguilar is a doctoral candidate in Jewish History and Culture at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. Lecture on January 22nd is free; class on January 29th and February 5th is \$15 for members of B'nai Israel, \$20 for non-members. 7:00-8:30pm. Congregation B'nai Israel, 3600 Riverside Blvd., Sacramento. *For more information, contact Melissa Grand at 916-446-4861 or mgrand@bnais.com.*

January 23-25, 2015. Let's Discover World Union for Progressive Judaism with WUPJ Vice President Rabbi Gary Bretton-Granatoor. Opportunities to increase awareness of and encourage involvement in the work of WUPJ throughout the world reaching out to and supporting congregations; providing programming for youth, families, and individuals; partnering in Israel; developing lay, rabbinic and professional Jewish

leaders; and advocating social justice and interfaith understanding in the context of Jewish values. 7:30pm Congregation B'nai Israel, 3600 Riverside Blvd., Sacramento, Service, Oneg Shabbat and presentation/discussion; 10:00am Torah Study Saturday, Congregation Beth Shalom, 4746 El Camino Ave., Carmichael; Havdallah Congregation Bet Haverim, 1715 Anderson Rd., Davis, time TBD; Temple Or Rishon, 7755 Hazel Ave., Orangevale 10:00am-Noon Sunday. Food provided. Free. Members of the community may attend as many events as they choose. *For more information, contact Lindie Henderson or llhenderson1@gmail.com or visit website at www.wupj.org.*

January 25 and February 1, 2015. Tallit Workshop with Jana Stewart. Design and decorate your own personal tallit! Materials include a finished tallit base, stencils, clip art, blessing patterns, fabric dye paints, pens, and wool tzitzit. Bring fabrics and heirlooms. Workshop is for adults and Religious School students who have already received their Bar/Bat Mitzvah date. No artistic experience necessary. Advance registration required by January 1st. Class size limited to 30. \$40. 1:00-3:00pm. Congregation B'nai Israel, 3600 Riverside Blvd., Sacramento. *For more information, contact Melissa Grand at 916-446-4861 or mgrand@bnais.com.*

January 25, 2015. Christians United for Israel: Randy Neal. (Date subject to change.) As the Western Director of the largest pro-Israel organization in the U.S., Randy will discuss his recent trips to Israel and offer his perspective on events taking place there. Presented by the Israel Matters Committee. Free. 3:00-4:30pm. Congregation Bet Haverim Social Hall, 1715 Anderson Rd., Davis. *For more information, contact gmrooks3@gmail.com.*

January 26, 2015. Change Your Life, Change Your World (Mussar workshop) with Dr. Alan Morinis, founder of the Mussar Institute. Nationally known Mussar scholar Alan Morinis, presents two dynamic programs for deepening one's spiritual practice with Mussar, a treasury of Jewish teachings and practices that have evolved over the past thousand years. 4:00-6:00pm Deepening Your Spiritual Practice; 6:00-7:00pm Dinner; 7:30-9:00pm With Heart in Mind: Mussar Teachings to Transform Your Life. Program co-sponsored by Congregations B'nai Israel, Bet Haverim, and Beth Shalom. *For more information, including cost and to RSVP, contact jaranatty@gmail.com or 916-395-7675.*

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