



Julie S. Solberg  
President



Jason Moss  
Executive Director

**Building  
Community,  
Enhancing  
Jewish  
Life**

Dear Friends,

We begin our message in this issue of Federation FOCUS with a very special thank you to everyone who attended and/or participated in our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration over the past 12 months. It was wonderful to see so many of you helping us celebrate our Jewish Federation. We are grateful that our Jewish Federation has been able to bring our community together through our programs and services these past thirty years.

We also want to extend our appreciation to those who have supported our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary campaign thus far. The funds we have raised will help support our work and bring new efforts to our community as we begin the next thirty years.

This issue of Federation FOCUS provides a brief look back over the past 12 months. We are highlighting our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration brunch and exciting new and some exciting new and innovative ways our Jewish Federation is planning to enhance what will be offered in our community.

All of what we do is made possible through the generosity and support of community members like you. We truly could not ensure a strong and vibrant voice in our community without you. Together, we continue to strengthen and enhance Jewish life in the greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys.

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# LOOKING BACK OVER

# THE LAST 30 YEARS

In celebration of our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we spoke with our Jewish Federation Presidents and asked them to share with us their memories, thoughts, and experiences as President. Some of their comments were interwoven in our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary retrospective video that is available to be viewed at [www.jewishsgpv.org/30thcelebration](http://www.jewishsgpv.org/30thcelebration)



"It is amazing to me all the things that have sprung out of the Jewish Federation of the Greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys since we established it 30 years ago."  
- Jose Reines  
1993 - 1994



"It has been wonderful to see that, over the past thirty years, there have been so many changes in the community, but the Jewish Federation is still here, doing all it does."  
- Doug Graff  
1997 - 1998



"The beauty of the Jewish Federation is that it brings Jews together, and that makes me smile."  
- Cathy Michaels Krasner  
1999 - 2001



"Our Jewish Federation has really expanded its role, not only in the cultural things that it offers but also in giving people a place to identify. The advocacy work our Jewish Federation does has been instrumental in communicating to the secular population how we feel and making sure our voices are heard."  
- Alan Whitman  
2002 - 2003



"I got involved and have remained involved because I just love the Jewish people. My parents instilled this in me, and that's why I did it and still support it. It is not about me or how much money I give; it's about how much you're keeping this Jewish community going and the love of the people."  
- Mike Stephen  
2006 - 2007



"What has been great about being involved in the Jewish Federation is that you got to know, meet, and work with people throughout our local Jewish community. So you become good friends with people from all over the San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys. It just really opened up my eyes to the much bigger Jewish community that we have that's available."  
- Jim Schaefer  
2008 - 2010



"The Jewish Federation has always had an important role in bringing our community together. I hope that the Jewish Federation continues to go from strength to strength over the next thirty years."  
- Gretchen Edwalds-Gilbert  
2011 - 2012



"Since I became involved, I have seen the Jewish Federation grow and grow in the eyes of the community... grow in programming... grow in fundraising... grow in respect for us. And what we do and what our purpose is. I know that the community at large respects us and views us as the voice of the Jewish community."  
- Stu Miller  
2013 - 2015



"One of the things I appreciate the most is that anytime there's a disaster that involves a Jew, our Jewish Federation is on top of it. And look what they have done, going out to all of the cities around us to fight against antisemitism. Being involved all these years has given me so much that I'm the one that should be thankful. It's given me a community. It's given me activities... it's given me a life."  
- Marcia Alper  
2016 - 2017



"In recent times, it's been increasingly important that our larger community have a voice that is heard. Through its leadership, the Jewish Federation has taken positions on many issues that have confronted our community in recent times. And I think the entire community is stronger and more represented than it ever has been in the past, and that is thanks to our Jewish Federation."  
- John Carlton  
2018 - 2021



"I think that we, as an organization, bring a lot to our community in both of our valleys and we help to bring the Jewish community together as a voice and as a larger community where people can get together. What I have grown to learn is that our Jewish Federation is very much a focal point in our community. We are very active in both our programming and being out there for political issues, for community issues... for anything that we are needed for."  
- Julie Solberg  
2022 - Present

## OUR MISSION

To build community by strengthening and enhancing Jewish life.

## OUR VISION

The Jewish Federation of the Greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys is a resource for everything Jewish in the greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys. We are a safe place for people to find their way into and connect with both their Judaism and the Jewish community. The programs and services we provide celebrate Jewish community and create opportunities for people to engage with the beauty and richness of Jewish culture. And, we are the Jewish voice for our local community, the eyes and ears who serve to locally educate and promote Judaism and Jewish life.

### JEWISH FEDERATION BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Julie Solberg President	David Levy Vice President	John Carlton CFO	Julie Bank Secretary
Mickey Bernath	Avi Bilu	Lawrence Lurvey	
Jeanine Mann	Stuart Miller	Oran Reznik	

### JEWISH FEDERATION STAFF

Jason Moss Executive Director	Rebecca Russell Program & Community Outreach Director	Cantor Judy Sofer Cultural Arts Program Director	Karen Galeana Operations & Communications Manager
Debby Singer PJ Library & PJ Our Way Program Director	Annabella Tornek Camp Gan Shalom Director & Social Media Coordinator	Susan Hain Bookkeeper	



# THANK YOU

To all those who have supported our "30 for 30" anniversary campaign. Your generosity helps ensure that our Jewish Federation will continue to strengthen and enhance Jewish life in our community now and into the future.

Donations listed are as of July 26, 2024.

## \$30,000+

Anonymous  
Neil Brown and  
Karen Hochman Brown  
Harvey and Ellen Knell  
Jerry and Terri Kohl  
Barbara Levinson  
Mickey and Lee Segal  
Gail and David Snyder  
Alan and Sandy Whitman

## \$3,000 - \$29,999

Nikki Ann and  
Howard Applebaum  
Mickey and  
Mary Ann Bernath  
Avi Bilu and Stacie Sulak  
John and Nancy Carlton  
Ruth and Richard Goldstein  
David Levy  
Lori and Bob McKenna  
Samuel and Ferrel Salen  
Julie Solberg and  
Ted Chandler

## \$300-\$2,999

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Rochelle Arsenault  
William and  
Francine Baker  
Julie Bank  
Clint and Merrily Basham  
Ronni and Richard Bergman  
Avi Bilu and Stacie Sulak  
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## \$30-\$299

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Marguerite Abrams  
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Julie Bank  
Gerald and Glenda Berman  
Cantor Ruth Berman Harris  
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Dr. Robert Wolf  
Ruth Wolman  
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Victor and Diana Zlotnicki  
Laura Zuckerman

## LOOKING AHEAD...

During our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in June, our Executive Director, Jason Moss, provided an outlook of what is currently being considered as the organization begins its next 30 years. He shared the following vision:

- **Continue to expand our Jewish Federation's role as the community's Jewish representative**, including increased involvement with the Jewish Public Affairs Committee of California (JPAC) to effectively communicate Jewish interests and issues to the California Legislative Jewish Caucus.
- **Revive our dormant Jewish Community Relations Council** to address the growing anti-Jewish and anti-Israel sentiment in our community as a top short-term priority.
- **Consider bringing One Happy Camper to our community**, a national program that provides first-time campers with \$1,000 scholarships to attend a Jewish overnight summer camp, aiming to strengthen a child's Jewish identity and keep them engaged into adulthood.
- **Find a permanent home for our Jewish Federation to serve as a community center**, large enough to bring our community together. We plan to explore this possibility over the next few years.

We will keep the community informed about these and other new opportunities as we work to impact and strengthen our local Jewish community. We look forward to continuing our work to ensure that the Jewish community of the greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys remains strong and vibrant for the next 30 years.

What we have done...

# APRIL—AUGUST

## FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

In April, our Cultural Arts Program's JFed Players brought the town of Anatevka here to our community with their staging of *Fiddler on the Roof*. It was the most successful show we have done since the program began 13 years ago, with many of the 11 performances playing to a sold-out audience. The cast of 30 loved every minute of being on stage as they acted, danced, and sang all of their favorite songs, starting with "Tradition!" When the audience walked out at the very end, many expressed how they felt that our production was the best *Fiddler on the Roof* they had ever seen because of the wonderful acting and intimacy of the theater.



## PASSOVER RESOURCE GUIDE AND GROCERY STORE OUTREACH

For the last three years, we have worked with local grocery store chains (i.e., Ralph's, Von's, Gelson's, and Stater Bros.) to increase and centralize their Passover food displays. Through this partnership, we have helped make

our community aware of where the largest availability of Passover food is located throughout our community. This information has been shared as part of our annual Passover Resource Guide. This guide included recipes, insights, family activities, and additional resources to help make Passover even more meaningful. It also included when our community partners were holding their community seders.

## SHIR DELIGHTS CONCERT

On June 1<sup>st</sup>, Kol HaEmek, our community choir, held its 15<sup>th</sup> annual Shir Delights concert at Temple Beth David. Since its inception, the choir's goal has been to bring songs written by Jews, not necessarily Jewish music, to our community. This year's concert did that, with a line-up of songs, mostly from American musicals and the American Songbook. One of the attendees' favorite pieces was a wonderful medley by Rodgers and Hammerstein including songs from many of their classical musicals. Audience members enjoyed it so much that many sang along. The choir is always looking for more singers so if you are interested, please contact Cantor Judy Sofer at [jsofer@jewishsgpv.org](mailto:jsofer@jewishsgpv.org).



## CAMP GAN SHALOM

It was another incredible summer at Camp Gan Shalom. Every day was a new opportunity for our community's youth to engage in new, exciting, and fun activities, all through the lens of Judaism, developed and implemented by our camp staff to enrich their Jewishness and camp experience. When campers arrived, they were treated to such activities as a grand gaga battle in the yard, creating a beautiful painting, getting a chance to finally pass their swim test at the pool, or going to a local theater for a private movie screening. And let's not forget our Manheegim (middle school) campers who developed their leadership skills while going on special outings like hikes at Eaton Canyon, beach and museum visits, the arcade, or their epic camping trip!



## 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Over 160 people joined us as we celebrated our Jewish Federation's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Sunday, June 23. The event featured a 30-year retrospective video that was narrated by comments from our organization's past Presidents, as well as a special ceremony to honor them for their leadership. Jason Moss' remarks highlighted our past 30 years and shared what is planned for the beginning of our next 30 years. Mostly Kosher, the acclaimed Klezmer/Rock band that got its start in our community, was the headline performer.

The warmth and appreciation of all our Jewish Federation has been able to do over the past 30 years were evident and brought our community together



## 8-YEAR CALENDAR AND 2024 HIGH HOLY DAY DATES SENT TO LOCAL PUBLIC SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

As we have done for over ten years, our Executive Director sent a letter to all of our community's Public School District Superintendents to provide them with the dates of the 2024 High Holy Days, as well as an 8-year calendar of the Jewish holidays. In addition, the letter also included a reminder that he and our Jewish Federation were available as a Jewish resource to all of the district staff. This proactive approach of sharing the High Holy Day dates has lowered the frequency of schools scheduling "major" events that conflict. We have heard from districts how much they appreciate having this information that they can share with their respective school site staff.

FALL SESSION BEGINS ON SEPTEMBER 13

## GAN KATAN

PJ LIBRARY'S LITTLE GARDEN

Join Gan Katan, PJ Library's playgroup for babies, toddlers, and their grown-ups. We will sing a little, read stories, do age-appropriate art projects, celebrate Jewish holidays, learn a little Hebrew, share, listen, and support one another.

To learn more, and to register, visit: [www.jewishsgpv.org/pjlibrary](http://www.jewishsgpv.org/pjlibrary)

**PJ Library** **JEWISH FEDERATION**

## Culinary Trip to ISRAEL

WITH CANTOR JUDY SOFER

DATES: MAY 4 - 13, 2025

\$5,150 per person, includes airfare from Los Angeles. \$500 Deposit. Tips are extra.

For questions contact Cantor Judy Sofer: [jsofer@jewishsgpv.org](mailto:jsofer@jewishsgpv.org)

**JEWISH FEDERATION**  
OF THE GREATER SAN GABRIEL AND POMONA VALLEYS

THE JEWISH FEDERATION'S JFED PLAYERS COMMUNITY THEATER ENSEMBLE IS PROUD TO PRESENT:

## THE WISDOM OF Eve

by Mary Orr

Based on the same short story as the film, ALL ABOUT EVE, *The Wisdom of Eve* is a gripping tale of ambition, jealousy, and fame in New York's theater world. It follows the story of Eve Harrington, an unscrupulous ingenue determined to rise to Broadway stardom. As secrets are revealed and loyalties tested, the lines between admiration and obsession blur, leading to a shocking climax.

**PERFORMANCES**  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 AT 7:30 P.M.  
AND SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 AT 3:30 P.M. (ONLY MATINEE)

**VENUE**  
PASADENA JEWISH TEMPLE AND CENTER  
1434 N. ALTADENA DR., PASADENA, CA 91107

**TICKETS**  
PRIORITY \$30 | GENERAL \$25  
GROUP (10+)/STUDENT/CHILD \$20

TO PURCHASE TICKETS, VISIT: [WWW.JEWISHSGPV.ORG](http://WWW.JEWISHSGPV.ORG)

**JFED PLAYERS**  
COMMUNITY THEATER ENSEMBLE

**JEWISH FEDERATION**  
OF THE GREATER SAN GABRIEL AND POMONA VALLEYS



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We are happy to announce our

# 26TH ANNUAL JEWISH BOOK FESTIVAL

October 27 - December 15

To view our 2024 author line-up and  
to RSVP, visit:

[www.jewishsgpv.org/JBF](http://www.jewishsgpv.org/JBF)

