



JEWISH FEDERATION
OF THE GREATER SAN GABRIEL AND POMONA VALLEYS

2021 Community Survey Write-up

The Jewish Federation of the Greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valley conducted a 37-question online community-wide survey in February and March. The purpose of the survey was to gain a better understanding who the community “is,” what the respondents are looking for from their local Jewish community, how they currently engage with the Jewish community, and how the Jewish Federation can better meet those needs.

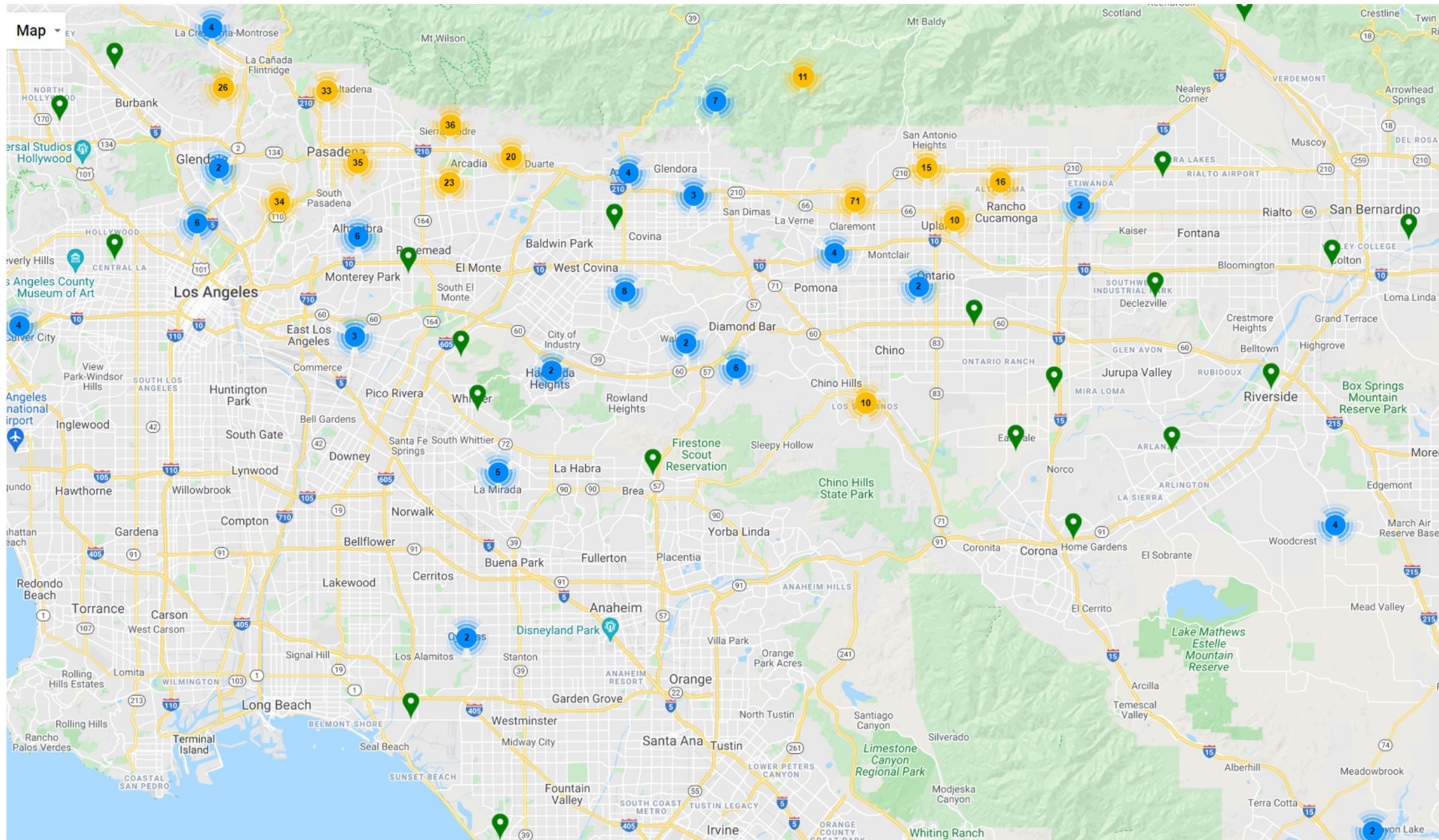
473 respondents took the survey (Survey participants were asked to make sure that only 1 person per household completed the survey.)

Data tables included below show the question choices, the # of responses and % of total responses. In addition, a handful of comments were shared for selected survey questions.

NOTE: The Pew Research Center recently reported on their **Jewish Americans in 2020** study. The following are important findings to keep in mind in relation to the Jewish Federation’s 2021 Community Survey.

- People are finding “different”/non-traditional ways to engage with the Jewish community.
 - o Religious observance is less important to American Jews today... so while that is on the decline, connecting with Jewish culture and people is on the rise. This includes eating/cooking Jewish foods, reading Jewish literature, watching a Jewish/Israeli TV show, or reading Jewish news.
- Jewish identity is being formed/exercised in a different fashion than previously. It is being defined by both external forces (i.e. Israel, antisemitism, etc.) and internal forces (i.e. Jewish ethnic experiences through food, music, family, etc.).
 - o The mere definition of what it means to be a Jew or how someone expresses their Judaism is changing.
- The American Jewish community is becoming more ethnically and racially diverse
 - o Jewish community leaders (and lay leaders) need to redouble efforts to make ALL JEWS feel welcome and make our communities as inclusive as possible.

Where 2021 Community Survey's 473 respondents live



Individual respondent



or



of respondents "clustered" in same geographic area

Basic demographics of survey respondents

Age of respondents

20-29	6	1.27%
30-39	37	7.86%
40-49	53	11.25%
50-59	74	15.71%
60-69	125	26.54%
70-79	136	28.87%
80+	40	8.49%

Total of 471 people responded to this question.

What is your marital status?

Single/never married	38	8.14%
Living with partner	15	3.21%
Married	328	70.24%
Divorced/Separated	39	8.35%
Widowed	47	10.06%

Total of 467 people responded to this question.

Do you have children living at home?

Yes	173	37.2%
No	292	62.8%

Total of 465 people responded to this question.

Are you raising your child(ren) to identify as Jewish?

Yes	160	95.81%
No	7	4.19%

Total of 167 people responded to this question.

Do they/have they attended Sunday (or Religious) School/Hebrew School?

Yes	129	80.12%
No	32	19.88%

Total of 161 people responded to this question.

Will they/Did they become a Bar/Bat Mitzvah?

Yes	137	85.63%
No	23	14.37%

Total of 160 people responded to this question.

Do they/have they attended a Jewish Summer Camp?

Yes	85	53.13%
No	75	46.88%

Total of 160 people responded to this question.

Identity

Does anyone in your household as LGBTQ+?

Yes	38	8.24%
No	413	89.59%
Prefer not to state	10	2.17%

Total of 461 people responded to this question.

Does anyone in your household identify as an ethnically and/or racially diverse Jew?

Yes	60	13.04%
No	378	82.17%
Prefer not to state	22	4.78%

Total of 460 people responded to this question. Those identifying as ethnically and/or racially diverse identify primarily as Black, Asian, Latino, or Native American.

What denomination/movements/branches of Judaism do you identify with most closely?

Reform	236	53.64%
Conservative	132	30.00%
No particular denomination (Just Jewish)	26	5.91%
Reconstructionist	8	1.82%
Chabad	7	1.59%
Secular (no religion)	6	1.36%
Renewal	4	0.91%
Modern Orthodox	3	0.68%
Sephardi	3	0.68%
Humanist	3	0.68%

Total of 440 people responded to this question.

Israel

How important to Israel to you?

Very important	234	53.06%
Somewhat important	147	33.33%
Not very important	25	5.67%
Not at all important	4	0.91%
N/A or no opinion	19	4.31%

Total of 429 people responded to this question.

304 survey respondents (69%) have traveled to Israel at least once/have lived in Israel

Comments:

- Important but its rightward swing in recent decades is eroding support and alienating secular support.
- It's very important to me that Israel exists but I do not agree or support what its current government is doing.
- The idea of Israel is very important to me, but supporting Israel today is difficult given their treatment of Palestinians.
- It is important to me that Israel to be more open to peace with Palestinians.
- I believe that we should be comfortable with diaspora. I am not against a Jewish homeland per se, but I am uncomfortable with how Israel was formed. I see Israel's construction as an extension of British and American colonialism and a reflection of their antisemitism. Moreover, I see the modern Israeli state, and its treatment of Palestine and Palestinians in particular, as not very different from the way many of the worst European regimes have historically treated Jews. In other words, as a Jew, I view the state of Israel and its oppressive policies against Arabs and Muslims, as a perpetual source of shame.
- All the political drek just puts me off, especially the ultraorthodox. Not thrilled with the way many Israeli Jews support/ed Trump. Embarrassing, ignorant.
- I am upset about how the Israeli's are treating the Palestinian's
- Hasidim won't allow the country to be more acceptable to converts. Netanyahu is a crook and gives a very bad appearance for Israel.
- I would like to see Israel as a fair and caring nation in the world. Unfortunately, it is far too right wing and uncaring right now from my viewpoint.
- depends on the issue
- Important that Israel not just exists but confronts its nationalistic overreaching and discriminatory impact
- I am more concerned about the US right now

Jewish Identity and Jewish Community

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Opinion
Judaism is an important part of who I am	67.64% (301)	27.87% (124)	1.12% (5)	0.45% (2)	2.92% (13)
Being part of a Jewish community is important to me	59.78% (266)	35.96% (160)	1.80% (8)	0.22% (1)	2.25% (10)
It is important that future generations of my family consider themselves Jewish	55.51% (247)	33.26% (148)	2.70% (12)	0.22% (1)	8.31% (37)
Being a member of a synagogue is part of my Jewish identity	47.64% (212)	32.13% (143)	9.44% (42)	1.57% (7)	9.21% (41)
Supporting Jewish organizations is important to me	41.35% (184)	49.44% (220)	2.92% (13)	0.45% (2)	5.84% (26)
It is affordable for me to belong to, or participate with, Jewish organizations in the greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys	26.07% (116)	48.31% (215)	10.79% (48)	4.27% (19)	10.56% (47)
Jewish organizations in the greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys successfully address the important issues/needs facing the community	18.20% (81)	49.21% (219)	11.24% (50)	1.80% (8)	19.55% (87)

Total of 445 people responded to this question.

Which of the following Jewish values mean the most to you? (Select up to 3)

Family	323	73.24%
Tradition	253	57.37%
Community	216	48.98%
Spirituality	167	37.87%
Social Action/Tikkun Olam	152	34.47%
Performing/Giving Tzedakah	115	26.08%
Supporting fellow Jews in my community	93	21.09%
Supporting Israel	89	20.18%
Religious Observance	82	18.59%
Supporting fellow Jews around the world	52	11.79%
Keeping Kosher	8	1.81%

Total of 441 people responded to this question.

How deeply connected do you feel to our local Jewish community?

Very connected	132	30.14%
Somewhat connected	208	47.49%
Not very connected	64	14.61%
Not at all	23	5.25%

Total of 438 people responded to this question.

Are you interested in increasing your connections to the local Jewish community?

Very interested	105	23.97%
Somewhat interested	242	55.25%
Not very interested	59	13.47%
Not at all interested	6	1.37%

Total of 438 people responded to this question.

Comments:

- I'd be more interested if I felt I could find a place to belong, true community connection with the Jews who belong to congregations, including mine. I belong in order so there is a temple for others, not because my rabbi or congregation speak to my spirit. When I can afford it, I plan to also join IKAR, which is my true spiritual home, even though it is too far to attend in person.
- Not interested in connecting with progressive liberal Jews who mock Republicans and freedom of speech or support BDS.
- I am elderly and unable to get around very much. I am interested in what is going on but not too eager to join any groups. I enjoy reading items in my mail.
- Would like to learn Yiddish together maybe online but no politics.

- Only if they had a Republican agenda also, which the Jewish Federation obviously doesn't seem to have
- I'm more or less "house" bound, at 91 years old/ transportation problems
- Due to lack of funds am unable to participate in the community monetarily.
- sort of between somewhat/not very; it's hard to know what life post-pandemic will look like. Hoping our chavurah will become active again
- I am very engaged in the community and serve on local, district, and national boards. Would be impossible for me to increase my "connections" at this time.
- My connection is to people of all beliefs
- I'm older and a lot more tired.
- I'm interested that my son connects
- Limited eyesight, hearing, and mobility.
- it depends on the type/category of connection
- feel I am connected enough
- I am already very connected to the community.
- After I retire, I would like to get more involved.

Do you currently belong to a synagogue?

Yes	357	80.95%
No	84	19.05%

Total of 441 people responded to this question.

If yes, what synagogue do you belong to?

Beth Shalom of Whittier	6	1.69%
Chabad of Arcadia/Temple City	0	0.00%
Chabad of Pasadena	1	0.28%
Hugat Haverim	0	0.00%
Pasadena Jewish Temple & Center	100	28.25%
Temple Ami Shalom	9	2.54%
Temple Beth David	32	9.04%
Temple Beth Israel of Highland Park & Eagle Rock	5	1.41%
Temple Beth Israel of Pomona	119	33.62%
Temple B'nai Emet	2	0.56%
Temple Sholom of Ontario	9	2.54%
Temple Sinai of Glendale	26	7.34%
A synagogue outside our community	10	2.82%
Prefer not to answer	4	1.31%
Other	30	8.47%

Total of 354 people responded to this question.

Why do you currently not belong to a synagogue?

Costs too much	32	38.55%
Still trying to find right synagogue	20	24.10%
Not relevant to me	14	16.87%
No interest in formal religion	9	10.84%
I have no friends at synagogue	7	8.43%
I am not very spiritual	6	7.23%
Other	32	38.55%

Total of 83 people responded to this question.

Other than a synagogue, do you belong or participate with other Jewish organization(s)?

Yes	244	55.58%
No	193	43.96%

Total of 440 people responded to this question.

What organization(s) do you belong, participate, or support? (Top 18 selected)

Jewish Federation	142	59.66%
Hadassah	66	27.73%
MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger	49	20.59%
Anti-Defamation League (ADL)	47	19.75%
Hillel	46	19.33%
Simon Wiesenthal Center/Museum of Tolerance	38	15.97%
Skirball Cultural Center	37	15.55%
American Jewish World Service	27	11.34%
Jewish National Fund (JNF)	27	11.34%
ORT	26	10.92%
AIPAC	24	10.08%
Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS)	23	9.66%
American Jewish University	21	8.82%
Holocaust Museum LA (formerly LA Museum of the Holocaust)	21	8.82%
J Street	21	8.82%
Magen David Adom	21	8.82%
Stand With Us	20	8.40%
Other (not listed)	76	31.93%

Of the 244 people who selected yes to the question above, a total of 238 survey respondents selected at least one organization or Other

Jewish Federation

Which Jewish Federation programs/services are you aware of? (Top 10 listed)

Jewish Book Festival	369	85.02%
Camp Gan Shalom	328	75.58%
JLife SGPV	288	66.36%
Jewish Food Festival	276	63.59%
PJ Library/PJ Our Way	273	62.90%
Festival of Jewish Music	265	61.06%
Cultural Arts Program	257	59.22%
Every Person Has a Name	253	58.29%
Super Sunday	216	49.77%
Weekly emails	202	46.54%

Total of 434 people responded to this question

What could the Jewish Federation do to help people become more involved/engaged in the local Jewish community?

Offer more adult programs/activities	161	45.87%
Develop programs/activities where people can discuss and hear from experts on various issues	142	40.46%
Develop a facility that could function like a community center	140	39.89%
Provide broader and more accessible information about Jewish organizations and events in our area	136	38.75%
Develop programs/activities to do social action/ <i>tikkun olam</i>	134	38.18%
Offer more Israel focused programs	61	17.38%
Offer more youth-oriented programs	59	16.81%
Offer more young adult-oriented programs	40	11.40%
Other	81	23.08%

Total of 351 people responded to this question and were able to select all that applied

How can the Jewish Federation better support our local Jewish community?

Host large-scale community gatherings that offer Jews opportunities to connect to each other and Jewish life	170	40.09%
Inspire/influence community members to become more active in our community	143	33.73%
Foster collaboration between Jewish organizations to avoid duplicate efforts and ensure more impactful allocations of resources	133	31.37%
Foster collaboration between all local Jewish organizations	122	28.77%
Foster enhanced opportunities for formal and informal Jewish learning	117	27.59%
Cultivate broader & deeper Jewish engagement	103	24.29%
Identify and work to address our community's top priorities	95	22.41%
Create an open forum where diverse perspectives can be shared respectfully	72	16.98%
Provide opportunities for Israel education and connection	61	14.39%
Other (not listed)	44	10.38%
None of the above	26	6.13%

Total of 424 people responded to this question and selected up to three choices

What Jewish-focused programs and services, not currently offered by the Jewish Federation, do you believe are needed in our community?

Support for community's seniors	238	56.94%
Speaker's Series	177	42.34%
Emergency Fund to support community members in need	166	39.71%
Support Jewish youth in foster care	149	35.65%
Scholarship program	105	25.12%
College Fair	56	13.40%
Other suggestions	49	11.72%

Total of 418 people responded and were able to select multiple responses