



Dear Friends,

We are excited to share that on July 23, the Jewish Federation of the Greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys officially began its 30th year. Inside this issue of *Federation FOCUS* are details about how we have grown and what we have planned this year to celebrate this milestone.

One of the reasons we created this newsletter was to keep our community informed and updated about the work our Jewish Federation does each day.

Our Jewish Federation has been very busy during the last several months. Not only did we have an incredible run of performances of *The Drowsy Chaperone* (our Cultural Arts' Spring musical) and eight weeks of Camp Gan Shalom, but plans are already underway for our 25th Annual Jewish Book Festival and our inaugural Ladies of Laughter: Jewish Women of Comedy Festival that will take place in March 2024.

In addition, as we hope you have seen, our campaign to combat antisemitism locally by working with the 48 cities we cover has been going very well. As of this newsletter's printing, a third of the cities have passed resolutions denouncing antisemitism and all forms of hatred. Our Jewish Federation has done this as the voice of our local Jewish community. We have included information about this effort inside this issue.

What you will read about in this issue, and so much more, is made possible through the generosity and support of our community. We could only do what we do with you. Thank you for helping us continue to have the kind of impact we have been able to make for the last 30 years. Together we are strengthening and enhancing Jewish life...right here in the greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys.



Julie S. Solberg
President



Jason Moss
Executive Director



Julie S. Solberg
President



Jason Moss
Executive Director

**Building
Community,
Enhancing
Jewish
Life**

OUR IMPACT IN OUR COMMUNITY



What do you like most about our Jewish Federation and what value does it add to our community?

JOSETTE BELLAN

I appreciate the Jewish Federation enabling our family, friends, the PJTC congregation, and all Jews in the greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys to lead a Jewish life according to our traditions. Negotiating with supermarkets to ensure that we have locally the wherewithal for all Jewish holidays is important to me, especially around Passover. Standing against antisemitism and racism is another important action of our Jewish Federation, as is its support of Israel (but not necessarily of its government when it does not abide by Jewish ethics and principles).



Enhanced Passover food display at Vons



Very happy campers | Camp Gan Shalom

ANNA BRUCK

What I like most about our local Jewish Federation is that they bring the Jews of the San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys together and offer a broad range of activities and events for all ages. The big one for my family is Camp Gan Shalom. My kids have not missed a summer as long as I can remember. I also appreciate how supportive they are of all of the different Jewish organizations in the area. And although our local Jewish community is rather small, our Jewish Federation definitely has a strong presence and offers many opportunities for people to get involved, whether it's the Gan Katan program (Mommy and me), the Jewish Book Festival, or the Jewish Food Festival.



Jason Moss, Jewish Federation's Executive Director & Rabbi Shalom Stiefel, Chabad of Arcadia/Temple City | Jewish Food Festival



Gan Katan group at the Jewish Federation

BETH SHEBY

For my family, our Jewish Federation has created a sense of home for us. I think that a big part of our Jewish Federation's value is that they're creating a sense of inclusivity and warmth within the local Jewish community of all denominations and those interested in being a part of it. My two kids' experience at Camp Gan Shalom, our Jewish Federation's summer camp, has been a highlight for the past six summers. It has enabled them to maintain friendships for many years, some even as far back as our Jewish Federation's Gan Katan (Mommy and Me) program. We have also been a PJ Library family. Each of these programs helps reinforce what we learn at home and in the community and helps deepen our understanding and love of our Jewish identity.

One of the other benefits of our Jewish Federation is knowing that it's a resource for just about anything. Knowing that the ability exists to call the Jewish Federation and speak with someone who can help with connections or answer questions creates peace of mind.



Simon Saul and Yvonne Cheyney | Women's Forum

SIMON SAUL

The fact that our community has a local Jewish Federation and it is there to be the voice for our community is incredible. I value that it is here, providing all sorts of programs, events and activities that bring our community together. It is for these reasons and more that I continue to support it each year.



Susan Ivory and other Women's Forum Honorees

PETER AND SUSAN IVORY

We support our local Jewish Federation for its essential mission to be an overarching voice of "things Jewish" in our region. We see our Jewish Federation as an essential central voice/symbol of "Jewish," and, in this regard, especially appreciate its advocacy efforts, antisemitism community policy efforts, and its coordination of public/community events that both favorably advance public policy measures as well as public education.

As congregants of a local temple, we also appreciate their continued partnership in working with our community's synagogues to bring Jewish Book Festival events into our buildings.



Julia Grinblat | PJ Library 2nd Birthday Celebration

JULIA GRINBLAT

I like that there is a unified Jewish representation in our community that also is a centralized resource where Jews can go for help with anything they need. Our Jewish Federation's oversight of local schools, governments, and businesses helps prevent antisemitism and makes me feel safer living here. My family has enjoyed many of the Jewish Federation's programs, such as Camp Gan Shalom (which my kids love and look forward to every summer), Gan Katan, Jewish Food Festival, and PJ Library. We have met some of our closest friends at these events. The opportunities have helped my family feel connected with the greater Jewish community.

OUR MISSION

To build community by strengthening and enhancing Jewish life.

OUR VISION

The Jewish Federation 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 the 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 that serve to locally educate and promote Judaism and Jewish life.

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OUR ADVOCACY WORK

The Jewish Federation of the Greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys serves as the Jewish voice in our community. When issues arise locally, and a Jewish response is needed, your Jewish Federation jumps into action.

Antisemitism, considered the oldest form of hatred, is often referred to as the “canary in the coal mine.” And, as we have seen, when antisemitism is prevalent, it is only a matter of time before more hatred is espoused, targeting others.

We have witnessed an unprecedented rise in antisemitism over the last several years. The numbers are staggering. Since 2016, there has been a 300% increase in reported antisemitic incidents here in the US, from 1,267 in 2016 to 3,697 in 2022. In fact, between 2021 and 2022, California has seen a 41% increase in antisemitic activity. These have included targeted attacks on Jews walking out of synagogues, swastikas and other forms of vandalism hitting schools, banners being placed on a 405 Freeway overpass saying “Kanye was right” following West’s rant against Jews, and a series of flyers spewing hate and accusations about Jews thrown on neighborhood drive-ways. This escalation of antisemitic incidents and vitriol in society has caused anxiety, concern, and anger, which, as a result, has forced the Jewish community to focus more attention on security out of fear.

Our Jewish Federation continues to work closely with local law enforcement and organizations like the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) to discuss ways to handle the situation. In December 2022, Jason Moss, our Executive Director, wrote an Op-ed, drawing attention to the issue and calling for community members to stand as allies with the Jewish community to combat this hatred. However, we knew that more needed to be done.

In March 2023, our Jewish Federation implemented a plan to combat antisemitism locally by sending letters to the city council members of the 48 cities we cover, imploring that their respective cities take the following action steps:

1. Sign the American Jewish Committee (AJC) and U.S. Conference of Mayors’ statement to combat antisemitism and join the over 700 mayors who have already done so. (Only 4 of our local mayors (Brea, Chino Hills, El Monte, and South El Monte) had signed onto the statement before the letter was sent.)
2. Adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism.
3. Adopt a resolution denouncing antisemitism and all forms of hatred.
4. Establish a task force of representatives from various targeted ethnic and racial groups to work with city officials to develop a plan to confront hatred.

And to ensure they had received and read these letters, we followed up a few weeks later and again in May, following the White House’s launch of the U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism.

Since then, Jason wrote another Op-ed that outlined these efforts so the entire community could be aware of it and to publicly thank the sixteen cities that have adopted resolutions thus far: Claremont, Upland, Monrovia, Alhambra, Sierra Madre, Temple City, San Gabriel, Walnut, Diamond Bar, Pasadena, Whittier, South Pasadena, Ontario, Glendale, Arcadia, and Rosemead. Plus, an article was published in the *Pasadena Star-News*, *San Gabriel Valley Tribune*, and the *Whittier Daily News* (to name a few), highlighting the work we have been doing across our geographic area.



Before each respective city council votes to adopt their resolution, Jason addresses the city council members to reiterate the importance of the resolution and the impact it can have. He encourages them to use their voices to stand with the Jewish community against antisemitism and all forms of hatred.

We know our work is not done and we are committed to continuing the fight. We need the remaining cities to add their names to our growing list. And since we cannot legislate away hate, more needs to be done. We plan to work with our cities to bring together leaders from other targeted groups to develop plans and strategies to respond to incidents of hate in our community and educate how antisemitism and other forms of hate tear at the fabric of our society.

Please let us know if you are interested in supporting our efforts, as community members can help in many different ways, and we can always use your help.

If you have any questions or suggestions, or want to learn more about the work our Jewish Federation does on behalf of the local Jewish community, please contact our Executive Director, Jason Moss by sending an email to jmoss@jewishsgpv.org or calling 626.445.0810.



30 YEARS OF SERVICE

We are excited to celebrate our Jewish Federation of the Greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys’ 30th anniversary this year. We are celebrating our community and the impact we have been able to make in our widespread Jewish community.

Many people and factors helped us reach this milestone. Before we became the Jewish Federation of the Greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys, we were one of a few regional offices of the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles. While we had a regional advisory board of local community members, much of our work was governed by our parent organization. This arrangement allowed our community to benefit from such organization’s programs and services as Jewish Family Service, Jewish Community Center, Jewish Vocational Services, and more. However, as the years went on, the regional board members felt that our community’s needs were not being addressed. As such, after holding several conversations, they approached the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles about their desire to establish a Jewish Federation in the greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys.

After a lot of hard work and dedication by committed local community members, the Jewish Federation of the Greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys was officially founded on July 23, 1993. For thirty years, the Board, staff, and volunteers have worked tirelessly to create opportunities for local Jewish community members to connect and feel a part of the larger Jewish community. Since our beginning, all of this was made possible through the commitment and generosity of local community members who have continued to donate annually to help sustain and support the organization.

To mark this milestone, our Jewish Federation has planned a year full of special programs and activities.

- In the fall, we will hold our 25th Annual Jewish Book Festival. This year’s festival will again have an incredible line-up of authors covering various topics and genres. Watch your mailboxes for the festival brochure sent out in September.
- For the 6th year in a row, we will be holding *Every Person Has a Name*, our community’s 25-hour Holocaust commemoration and vigil, in honor of United Nations (UN) International Holocaust Remembrance Day, beginning on Saturday, January 27 at 7:00 p.m. and running through Sunday, January 28 at 8:00 p.m. This year’s Holocaust exhibition will feature *30 Righteous Gentiles, who risked their lives to save others*.
- In recognition of National Women’s Month, our Jewish Federation will host its inaugural Ladies of Laughter: Jewish Women of Comedy Festival from March 7-10 at the world-famous Ice House Comedy Club in Pasadena. The festival will feature an evening of sketch and improv, an evening of stand-up, a series of workshops, and a special event to honor a Jewish female comedy legend.
- Our Jewish Federation’s Cultural Arts Program’s JFed Players will be taking us back to Anatevka at the beginning of April for its production of *Fiddler on the Roof*.

Our celebration will culminate with a special 30th Anniversary Celebration brunch on Sunday, June 23, at Le Méridien Hotel in Arcadia, where as a community, we will celebrate our Jewish Federation’s 30 years of service in the greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys, honor our Past Presidents who helped guide us to this moment, and share our plans for the next 30 years.

Help us celebrate our community and the impact you have helped our Jewish Federation make over the last 30 years in the greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys. Together, hundreds of children’s Jewish identity has been strengthened through the experiences and connections they made through Camp Gan Shalom, Shabbaton, PJ Library, and more. Together, we have been able to celebrate the richness and beauty Judaism has to offer, creating opportunities for all of us to connect through programs like the Jewish Book Festival, Cultural Arts, Festival in the Park, Jewish Food Festival, and more. Together, we have ensured that there is a strong and vibrant Jewish presence, able to respond to the challenges our community has faced over the years.

We hope to see you at many of our special events this year and help us to celebrate our 30th anniversary! Join us as we celebrate all that we have accomplished... together... knowing that none of it could have occurred without you.



What we have done...

MARCH — JULY 2023

PJ LIBRARY'S PURIM STORY WALK-IN-THE-PARK

Although this program had to be moved from the park into our office due to rain, families got to experience a Purim family program based on the book, *Is It Purim Yet?* Families were encouraged to come in costume; they did not disappoint. Each family followed a path to each of the book's 14 pages, and at each stop was an activity for them to complete as a family. Our goal to create an engaging experience where families could build relationships while celebrating the holiday of Purim was accomplished. The program's design was one of the most detailed and labor-intensive in our variety of offerings.



THE DROWSY CHAPERONE

Our JFed Players returned to the stage once again in March for our spring musical *"The Drowsy Chaperone."* The production of this Tony-award-winning show was brought to life through the hard work of more than 30 very talented and dedicated community members, including many fresh new faces – both on-and-off stage. The show featured incredible tap dancing, singing, and an airplane landing on stage!



Many of our performances sold out, and we had more than 400 people attend, with some people coming back twice because they enjoyed the show so much. We were even asked to bring our show to the Thousand Oaks Performing Art Center.

PASSOVER

Once again, our Jewish Federation worked with our local grocery chains to ensure that store shelves had ample stock and variety of Passover-related foods. In fact, two Vons locations even had kosher chicken available for Passover this year. This year's partnership expanded to include State Bros. Markets, Gelson's Market, along with Vons and Ralphs. Many in our community commented how appreciative they were of our Jewish Federation's effort and made a point to thank the store staff they shopped at for working with us.



FBI PRESENTATION

Our Executive Director, Jason Moss, was invited to make a presentation in commemoration of Yom HaShoah to the FBI-Los Angeles Field Office about the Holocaust. This opportunity was made possible through the partnership our organization



developed with the FBI following our Jewish Federation's work implementing last year's Comprehensive Community-wide Security Plan. In his remarks, Jason discussed why the Holocaust is still relevant today, antisemitism, and how the power of hate was not only one of the causes of the Holocaust but also how its prevalence in society today is of great concern.

JPAC – CAPITOL SUMMIT

Our Jewish Federation officially joined Jewish Public Affairs Committee (JPAC) in November 2022. Our Executive Director, Jason Moss, attended JPAC's Capitol Summit on May 9-10, representing our Jewish Federation (and our local Jewish community) in Sacramento, along with 300+ attendees.



The two-day summit featured keynote speakers (including Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon), educational panels, and networking events that included dinner with members of the Jewish Caucus. It concluded with a series of lobbying meetings with over 100 of the 120 state legislators on issues such as funding and expanding the state's Nonprofit Security Grant Program and supporting vulnerable communities, including building affordable housing, providing services to refugees, enhancing food benefits for low-income Californians, and preventing domestic and sexual violence.

TOWN HALL WITH CONSUL GENERAL OF ISRAEL

In May, our Jewish Federation hosted the Consul General of Israel, Dr. Hillel Newman, for a special Town Hall they covered a wide range of topics, including the controversy regarding the proposed Judicial reforms, the rise of antisemitism, how Israel is depicted in the media, the situation with Iran, and more. This special opportunity allowed our community to hear from the highest-ranking Israeli official in Southern California and provided insight and perspective to understand better what is taking place in Israel today.



CAMP GAN SHALOM

Camp Gan Shalom is off to another incredible summer with the most campers enrolled in over ten years. Our Kehilla (entering K -5th grader) campers have baked challah, made friendship bracelets, played a live version of Hungry, Hungry Hippos, made pottery, played ultimate frisbee and Ga-Ga, and so much more. Our Manheegim (6th – 8th grade) campers have gone kayaking, traveled to Golf N' Stuff, went bowling, and to the beach! And, of course, our campers have enjoyed our exciting Friday theme-days, such as: Video Game Day, Israel Day, and Maccabiah, to name just a few. Thanks to all the families for sharing their children with us and to all our generous supporters for making our programs possible!



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

JFED PLAYERS
COMMUNITY THEATER ENSEMBLE
PRESENTS:

Leading Ladies
BY KEN LUDWIG

"A SCREWBALL COMEDY FILLED WITH BAD BEHAVIOR, HIGH HEELS AND A WORLD OF COMEDY."

PERFORMANCES
SATURDAYS
October 14 & 21 | 8 p.m.
SUNDAYS
October 15 & 22 | 3 p.m.
THURSDAY
October 19 | 7:30 p.m.

LOCATION
Porticos Art Space
2033 E Washington Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91104

TO PURCHASE TICKETS, VISIT:
WWW.JEWISHSGPV.ORG

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

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

JFED PLAYERS
COMMUNITY THEATER ENSEMBLE

PROUDLY PRESENT:

Fiddler on the Roof

OPENING
APRIL 6, 2024
PASADENA, CA



The **Chesed Society** brings together visionary leaders and supporters who are dedicated to help the Jewish Federation build and strengthen the Jewish community here in the greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys.

Consider joining fellow supporters by becoming part of the **Chesed Society**.

To learn more and join, contact Jason Moss:
Email: jmoss@jewishsgpv.org
Phone: 626-445-0810 x 305

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

SAVE THE DATE
JOIN US TO CELEBRATE

30 Years

SERVING THE GREATER SAN GABRIEL AND POMONA VALLEYS' JEWISH COMMUNITY

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

JUNE 23, 2024 | BRUNCH CELEBRATION
LE MÉRIDIEN HOTEL



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Our Jewish Federation is sustained by community members like you.

Help us continue to be here for our community and ensure there is a strong Jewish presence in the greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys.

Donate today and know that your gift enriches the lives of so many in our community.

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