



Jeanine Borland Mann  
President



Jason Moss  
Executive Director

**Building  
Community,  
Enhancing  
Jewish  
Life**

Dear Friends,

Our Jewish community finds itself in a much different place than when we launched our Jewish Federation over 30 years ago. From the need for increased security at our local Jewish institutions due to the rise of antisemitism and anti-Jewish hate over the last number of years to the changing demographics of the Jewish community, including how people now choose to affiliate and engage, our local Jewish Federation has led our community's response.

We extend our appreciation to those who have supported our effort to support community members affected by the Eaton Fire. The funds we have raised have directly supported them as they look to rebuild their lives following the loss of their home.

Inside this issue of Federation FOCUS is our 2024/2025 Annual Report, an in-depth look at some of the ways we are positively impacting the lives of our community, and ways you can help us in our work. We are also highlighting programs and events that occurred between March and August.

This is an historic moment for our community. When we look back 20 years, what will you say you did to help our Jewish Federation? Now is the time to commit to increase your participation, to volunteer, and to donate. Together, our Jewish Federation is able to continue offering our programs and services, working to strengthen and enhance Jewish life in the greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys through this partnership. Thank you.

It is an honor to get to do what we do.



Jeanine Borland Mann  
President



Jason Moss  
Executive Director

# STRENGTHENING

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

Our Jewish Federation excels at creating welcoming, meaningful experiences for families who are new to the area. Camp Gan Shalom, in particular, offers a warm, values-driven environment that helps children feel instantly at home. For my son, camp is the cornerstone of his Jewish identity, thanks to the counselors who make him feel safe, confident, and excited about Jewish life. Beyond camp, our Jewish Federation stitches our diverse Jewish community together. It provides shared touch-points that strengthen Jewish identity, foster lifelong connections, and ensure that every family can find its place.

- Ariela Kaspi-Kaneti



What I like most is that our Jewish Federation brings people together from all corners of the area, for moments of joy and moments of grief. I'm deeply grateful for programs like the Ladies of Laughter Comedy Festival, the Jewish Book Festival, and, in particular, Every Person Has a Name. For the last seven years, reading the names of those murdered in the Holocaust in such a public space, feels so emotional and profound that it's almost hard to put into words. And, especially during this time of surging anti-Jewish bigotry, it is essential that our Jewish community has the Jewish Federation.

- Solvej Schou



I appreciate how responsive and empathetic our Jewish Federation is to the needs and concerns of our local Jewish community. They provide a secure, safe, grounded Jewish base for our area. When there's an antisemitic incident, they immediately respond. When situations in Israel arise, they make us aware, keep us informed, and share how we can help. And, when a catastrophe like the Eaton Fire affects our Jewish community, our Jewish Federation was among the first to reach out to assist. They remain a bedrock for our local Jewish community.

- Ed Meyers



Our Jewish Federation is the central hub for the entire Jewish community in the greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys – those who belong to a synagogue or those who don't. Its greatest value, to me, is simply knowing I have somewhere to go to and where to turn to in times of need. I feel a sense of belonging and purpose when I volunteer at events such as the Cultural Arts plays or the Replacing Judaica event they held for fire victims, or attend the annual Jewish Book Festival. By participating, they help me connect to our heritage.

- Arlene Bailey



# OUR COMMUNITY

I greatly appreciate the Jewish Federation for having a consistent and positive Jewish presence here in the San Gabriel Valley and Pomona Valleys. Jewish communal service is a fundamental value for my family, thus necessitating active engagement and support for our Jewish Federation. At a time when antisemitism is on the rise, the Jewish Federation's role becomes ever more critical, and we are proud to support. As the Jewish voice, our Jewish Federation is able to successfully represent our Jewish community by engaging across political and ethnic barriers and improving the welfare of Jews and non-Jews in our community.

- Jesse Ducker



What I appreciate most about our Jewish Federation is the compassion and tangible support it provides during times of crisis. After the devastation of the Eaton Fire, our Jewish Federation stepped in to help families, like my daughter's who lost their homes and school, offering both emotional and practical assistance. Their kindness extended beyond immediate relief, delivering meaningful items like mezuzot and a brand new collection of PJ Library books that help families rebuild not only their lives but also their Jewish identity and connection. Our Jewish Federation brings lasting value to our community by offering care, respect, and a deep sense of responsibility for one another.

- A very grateful PJ Library grandma



## 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

|                                   |                              |                     |                         |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Jeanine Borland Mann<br>President | David Levy<br>Vice President | John Carlton<br>CFO | Julie Bank<br>Secretary |
| Mickey Bernath                    | Avi Bilu                     | Lawrence Lurvey     |                         |
| Stuart Miller                     | Oran Reznik                  | Julie S. Solberg    |                         |

### JEWISH FEDERATION STAFF

|                                                           |                                                                         |                                                     |                                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Jason Moss<br>Executive Director                          | Rebecca Russell<br>Program & Community Outreach Director                | Cantor Judy Sofer<br>Cultural Arts Program Director | Karen Galeana<br>Operations & Communications Manager |
| Natalie Karic<br>PJ Library & PJ Our Way Program Director | Annabella Tornek<br>Camp Gan Shalom Director & Social Media Coordinator | Susan Hain<br>Bookkeeper                            |                                                      |

JULY 1, 2024 - JUNE 30, 2025

# 2024/2025 JEWISH FEDERATION'S ANNUAL REPORT

BUILDING COMMUNITY, STRENGTHENING AND ENHANCING JEWISH LIFE



## BUILDING COMMUNITY

**31** programs held  
**1,867** total participants

Brought our community together with cultural events, family programming, holiday celebrations, security trainings, and support programs.



## PJ LIBRARY & PJ OUR WAY

**1,352** Kids  
**1,122** Families

Engaged families through free Jewish books, events and holiday fun.



## COMMUNITY ADVOCACY

**217** outreach communications

Advocated to local elected officials, law enforcement, and school districts on issues affecting our Jewish community.



## CAMP FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

**28** CAMPERS  
**\$32,200** Total Scholarships

Ensured our community's youth experience the joy and richness of Judaism with other Jewish children.



## COMMUNITY GENEROSITY

**434** Donors

Helped us keep Jewish life vibrant and safe in the greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys.



## EATON FIRE RELIEF SUPPORT

**170** Jewish households assisted

Provided support including:

- Judaica replacement
- Summer camp scholarships
- Rent & relocation assistance
- Direct cash assistance



## TIMELY UPDATES

**46** Community messages sent

Kept our community informed and connected.



## NEW INITIATIVES LAUNCHED

- One Happy Camper (Jewish overnight camp grants)
- Jewish Community Relations Council
- Led a nationwide Trader Joe's "Boycott"



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

# YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK

A look at the financial support that sustains our programs and strengthens Jewish life.  
Fiscal Year 2024-2025

## Income

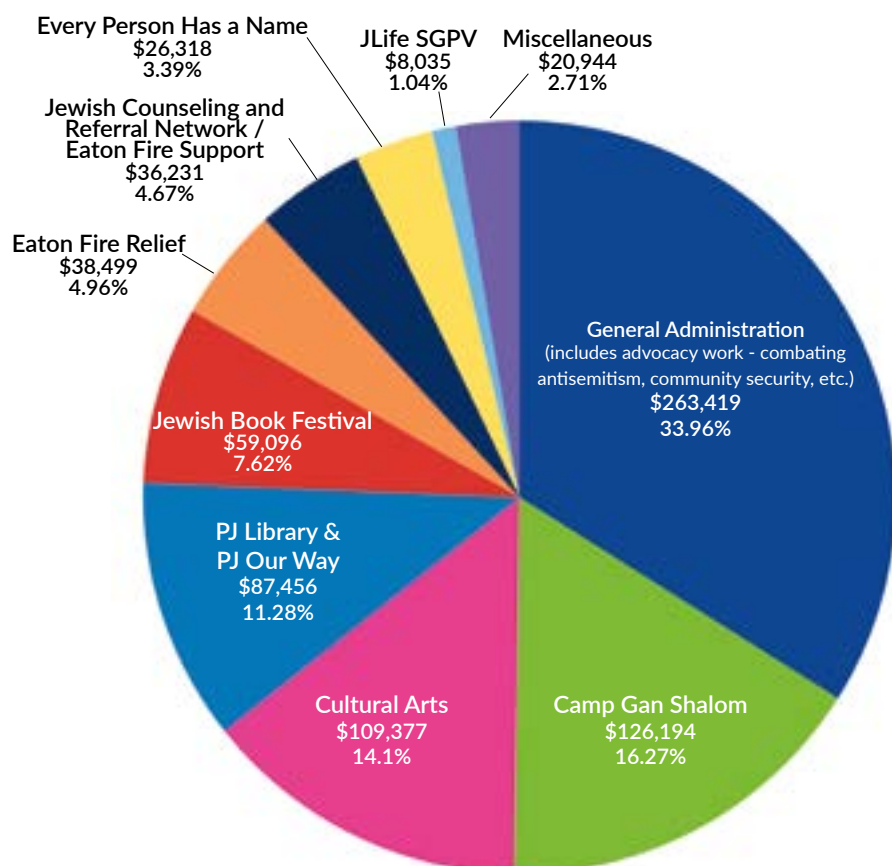
|                           |                  |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Annual Campaign           | \$239,026        |
| 30th Anniversary Campaign | \$249,184        |
| Sponsorships              | \$178,304        |
| Eaton Fire Relief Fund    | \$140,847        |
| Registration Fees         | \$105,608        |
| Tickets                   | \$ 12,542        |
| Grants                    | \$ 7,000         |
| Tributes                  | \$ 2,026         |
| Miscellaneous             | \$ 5,271         |
| <b>Total Income</b>       | <b>\$939,808</b> |



## Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Expenses

## Expenses

|                                                                                                       |                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| General Administration<br>(includes advocacy work - combating antisemitism, community security, etc.) | \$263,419        |
| Camp Gan Shalom                                                                                       | \$126,194        |
| Cultural Arts                                                                                         | \$109,377        |
| PJ Library and PJ Our Way                                                                             | \$ 87,456        |
| Jewish Book Festival                                                                                  | \$ 59,096        |
| Eaton Fire Relief                                                                                     | \$ 38,499        |
| Jewish Counseling and Referral Network/Eaton Fire Support                                             | \$ 36,231        |
| Every Person Has a Name                                                                               | \$ 26,318        |
| JLife SGPV                                                                                            | \$ 8,035         |
| Miscellaneous                                                                                         | \$ 20,944        |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                                                                                 | <b>\$775,569</b> |



## Yearly Financial Comparisons

|         | FY '24-'25 | FY '23-'24 | FY '22-'23 | FY '21-'22 | FY '20-'21 |
|---------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Income  | \$939,808  | \$963,866  | \$563,160  | \$717,185  | \$577,845  |
| Expense | \$775,569  | \$730,140  | \$632,242  | \$662,256  | \$554,880  |
| Total   | \$164,239  | \$233,726  | -\$ 69,082 | \$ 54,929  | \$ 22,965  |

# TOGETHER, WE STRENGTHEN JEWISH LIFE

We are grateful to the donors whose generosity makes our work possible.

Donations received between July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

## \$25,000 +

Neil Brown and  
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Daphna Enzer and Ken Zangwill ~  
Sarah Epstein

# TOGETHER, WE STRENGTHEN JEWISH LIFE

We are grateful to the donors whose generosity makes our work possible.

Donations received between July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

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Suzanne Zitser #

The following indicate additional support for:  
+ Cultural Arts | # Eaton Fire Relief Fund  
\* Literary Circle | ^ PJ Library  
~ Other programs  
(i.e.: Camp Gan Shalom, Emergency Relief Funds, Every Person Has a Name, Israel, and other specific designated funds)

## WAYS TO SUPPORT

# OUR JEWISH FEDERATION

Our Jewish Federation's mission is to build community by strengthening and enhancing Jewish life. We do this as the Jewish voice of our community and through the programs and services we provide.

Like most nonprofits, we rely and value the generous support of our donors. Community members like you can also help us expand our impact by doing any of the following:

- **Follow us on Facebook and Instagram** — like, comment, and most importantly, SHARE our posts.
- **Invite friends** to join you when you attend a Jewish Federation event.
- **Keep us informed** about what you are hearing and seeing in the community. By being an extra set of “eyes and ears,” you help us respond quickly when situations that affect our Jewish community arise.
- **Spread the word** by asking Jewish community members you know if they're familiar with our Jewish Federation. If not, please share our weekly emails and Federation FOCUS with them. Let us know so we can add them to our mailing list.
- **Be a Jewish Federation “ambassador”** by sharing with others what our Jewish Federation is doing and why our work is vital to the community.
- **Tell us your story.** Send us an email or note, or give us a call and tell us about how you and/or your family have been impacted by our Jewish Federation.
- **Make introductions** to key community leaders and organizations you think we should connect with.
- **Encourage your congregation or organization** to invite our Jewish Federation staff to speak.
- **Include our Jewish Federation in your estate plans** to help make a lasting impact on the future of our community.
- **Give generously to our Annual Campaign.** Your donation directly supports the work we do each day to enhance and strengthen Jewish life right here in our community.



“I DID NOT FIND THE WORLD DESOLATE WHEN I ENTERED IT.  
AND AS MY PARENTS PLANTED FOR ME BEFORE I WAS BORN,  
SO DO I PLANT FOR THOSE WHO WILL COME AFTER ME.”

— TALMUD



## CREATE A JEWISH LEGACY

Creating a **Jewish legacy** supports the **Jewish causes** you care about and value for generations. No matter your age or wealth you have the ability to help promote **Jewish values**, strengthen our community, and build a strong and lasting future by naming our Jewish Federation in your will, trust, and other estate plans.

Your **planned gift** will:

- Sustain our vital programs and services.
- Provide opportunities to strengthen Jewish identity.
- Ensure our community remains vibrant and supported.

With your help, you can plant seeds that will flourish and secure our local Jewish community's future.

Contact us to get started today.  
626.445.0810  
federation@jewishsgpv.org



# STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY

## ONGOING SUPPORT FOR EATON FIRE VICTIMS

Shortly after the Eaton Fire broke out and we witnessed the devastating destruction it caused, our Jewish Federation began developing a plan to support those in our community who were most affected. This included heartfelt conversations with several families who lost their homes. During one of these conversations, a community member shared that, as they were evacuating, they considered removing their mezuzah, but decided not to.

That moment sparked a meaningful idea. Our Jewish Federation committed to gifting a specially commissioned mezuzah to Jewish households in our community that lost their home in the Eaton Fire. We reached out to a wood artisan, who partnered with a metal artist to craft a beautiful and unique design. We also contacted MyZuzah, an organization founded in 2018, whose mission is to place a kosher mezuzah on the front door of every Jewish home. Thanks to their generosity, each of the mezuzot we are gifting will include a kosher scroll.



In the coming weeks, our Jewish Federation staff, board members, and volunteers will begin delivering more than 100 mezuzot to affected households. This initiative was made possible through the generosity of those who donated to our Eaton Fire Relief Fund.

***As families rebuild, we hope these mezuzot will bring comfort, blessing, and renewed strength to each home.***

In addition to this, we offered full scholarships to Camp Gan Shalom not only to families who lost their homes in the fire, but also to those displaced by the Eaton Fire. Thanks to generous donations to our Eaton Fire Relief Fund and a grant from Mt. Sinai Memorial Park and Mortuaries, children were able to enjoy a summer surrounded by friendship, laughter, and the warmth of our Jewish community.

If you or someone in your family was impacted by the Eaton Fire and has not yet been contacted by us, please let us know. We want to ensure you receive the support and resources available. Contact Rebecca Russell, Program and Community Outreach Director, at 626.445.0810 ext. 304 or [rrussell@jewishsgpv.org](mailto:rrussell@jewishsgpv.org).

## ISRAEL UPDATES

Our Jewish Federation has always strived to keep our community updated and informed when issues and situations arise that have a direct impact on the Jewish community. In the past, we have sent out periodic updates following incidents or conflicts in Israel that community members have expressed how much they appreciate receiving.

We know that during a crisis, oftentimes people try to get as much information as possible so they better understand what is happening.

Following Hamas' October 7, 2023, attack on Israel, our Jewish Federation knew community members would want to gain as much reliable information as possible. And that mainstream media may not be able to share all of the information out there, or it only provides one perspective. So, we began sending out compiled and curated updates we started receiving from Jewish Federations of North America, the umbrella organization we are affiliated.

Often, these updates provide perspectives and in-depth analyses that go beyond what is published in mainstream media, and we also share articles that we find from other sources as well.

Our Jewish Federation remains committed to disseminating reliable information and resources so our community can stay updated and informed during times of crisis.

If you'd like to receive these updates by email, please contact us at: [federation@jewishsgpv.org](mailto:federation@jewishsgpv.org) or call 626.445.0810.



# What we have done...

# MARCH —

## 30<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Meeting is an opportunity to share how our organization has positively impacted our community over the past year and look ahead at what is planned for the upcoming year. At this year's meeting, we installed our new President (Jeanine Borland Mann) and reinstalled our Board of Governors. We thanked our outgoing President (Julie Solberg), awarded our 2024 High School Junior Scholarship (Tova Rosenbaum), the 2024 Kimberly Dawn Ellis Scholarship (Benjamin Regan), and also honored Robin Evans as our 2024 Volunteer of the Year. In addition, Dr. Devorah Lieberman, President Emerita of the University of La Verne, discussed the current challenges facing college and university leadership today.



## PJ LIBRARY PURIM STORY-WALK

On Sunday, March 9, PJ Library families gathered in the Monrovia Library community room for a playful and festive Purim celebration. Guided by our excellent PJ Library staff and volunteers, children and parents journeyed through a lively story-walk of *Is It Purim Yet?*—with themed activities bringing the tale to life. The fun wrapped up with hamantaschen and plenty of costume flair, as little ones rattled their groggers with joy. We were thrilled to welcome families from across the region, including those from as far as Jurupa Valley, for this joyful and interactive Purim experience!



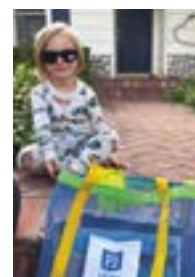
## EVERY PERSON HAS A NAME

This year's event was another moving 25-hour vigil on the steps of Pasadena City Hall. The opening ceremony with remarks from local officials including Pasadena Mayor Victor Gordo, Congresswoman Judy Chu and State Senator Sasha Renée Pérez, and continued as over 130 volunteers (aged 9-96) read aloud thousands of names of Holocaust victims for 24 hours. There was also an art project coordinated by the Armory for the Arts. This year's exhibition was presented in partnership with Anne Frank LA.



## PJ LIBRARY'S OUTREACH TO FAMILIES AFFECTED BY THE EATON FIRE

In the Jewish Federation's ongoing efforts to support fire-affected families, our PJ Library staff has made significant efforts to stay connected and assist its PJ Library families. In addition to what our Jewish Federation has been doing, our PJ Library staff also delivered Shabbat kits and Pass-over bags to all impacted families. And, most recently, with the help and generosity of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, we helped recreate the libraries of children's books, featuring a sizable collection for each family, bringing much joy.



THE JEWISH FEDERATION'S  
**JFED PLAYERS**  
PROUDLY PRESENT:  
**COMPANY**  
A MUSICAL COMEDY  
MUSIC AND LYRICS BY STEPHEN SONDHEIM  
BOOK BY GEORGE FURTH  
October 4 - 19, 2025  
Pasadena, CA  
For tickets and details, visit:  
[www.jewishsgpv.org/jfedplayers](http://www.jewishsgpv.org/jfedplayers)

NOW MORE THAN EVER,  
YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

In a time of growing uncertainty, your gift helps us remain the trusted voice, the vigilant eyes, and the compassionate heart of our local Jewish community.

Stay informed  
Stay connected  
Stay strong—with us

HELP US CONTINUE TO BE THE EYES,  
EARS AND VOICE OF OUR JEWISH COMMUNITY.

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# -AUGUST

## YOM HASHOAH STAGED READING

For the last several years, our Jewish Federation's JFed Players have staged Holocaust play readings as part of the National Jewish Theater Foundation (NJTF) - Holocaust Theater International Initiative (HTII) Remembrance Play Readings. This year's play, *Exodus: The Shanghai Jews*, commissioned by L.A. Theater Works, uses survivors' own words to tell their stories of how they escaped Nazi persecution and made their way to freedom in Shanghai. We are proud to have brought this play to our community in commemoration of Yom Hashoah.



## JFED PLAYERS: LIVE RADIO SHOWS

For several years, our JFed Players have wanted to host a live radio show, and this year proved to be the opportunity time. In May, our JFed Players performed two radio versions of *Arsenic and Old Lace* and *Starstruck*, directed by Lew Snow. Temple Beth David's pulpit was transformed into our radio stage. Each performance included outstanding Foley (live sound effects) and recorded sound (plus an in-house piano player), and refreshments provided by craft services. As people left the live event, they commented on how much they enjoyed the performance.



## CALLING ALL HOME COOKS & BAKERS

Jewish Cooking Connection is looking for its next home cook or baker to be featured in an upcoming episode. No prior experience is needed. You do all the cooking/baking we do all the recording.

For more information or to participate contact  
Cantor Judy Sofer:  
jsofer@jewishsgpv.org  
or call 626.445.0810



## JEWISH COOKING CONNECTION

After a short hiatus, our Jewish Cooking Connection resumed, featuring three new recipes, including two direct from Israel that are not well-known to American Jews – Kichery (a dish made as families get their homes ready for Shabbat) and Muffuletta (a special crepe dish made with lots of flour, honey and butter and prepared as Passover ends so people can have a bite or two of something not “Kosher for Passover.” Our last video featured a recipe from Barbara Schwartz – her parve Wacky (chocolate) cake, prepared in a single cake pan with just a fork.



## SHIR DELIGHTS

Kol HaEmek (KHE) had a few new additions to the choir this year and worked diligently to prepare some new songs, as well as brought back several of audience-favorite songs that had not been performed for many years. KHE culminated their year with their annual Shir Delights concert in June. Keep an eye out for a video from the concert on the Jewish Federation's YouTube page. KHE is always looking for more singers. Rehearsals will begin in October.

## REPLACING JUDAICA EVENT

Our Replacing Judaica Event, in collaboration with JFed LA and the Board of Rabbis of Southern California, was a heartfelt event offering new and gently used items donated from personal collections and gift shops around the country—such as Kiddush cups, Seder plates, matzah covers, and menorahs. Over five days, families and groups that lost sacred items in the January wildfires were able to stroll through our Jewish Federation office and find new Judaica pieces to replace those they lost.



## CAMP GAN SHALOM

Campers had a fantastic time this summer, making crafts-like masks for our Purim-themed week, puppets, and experimenting with various painting projects! In the yard, campers had some epic handball battles, Capture the Flag, and kickball games.

Our Manheegim campers (6<sup>th</sup>–8<sup>th</sup> graders) had daily outings to places such as Angel Stadium, ice skating, the beach, and laser tag, as well as special programs, including workshops focused on anti-hate and kindness. A special highlight of the summer was our entire camp coming together to restore and repaint Pasadena Jewish Temple and Center's (PJTC) Gaga pit, which they graciously allowed us to use this summer.





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We are happy to announce our  
27<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
**J E W I S H**  
**BOOK FESTIVAL**

October 26 - December 7

To view our 2025 author line-up  
and to RSVP, visit:  
[www.jewishsgpv.org/JBF](http://www.jewishsgpv.org/JBF)

