



Jeanine Borland Mann  
President



Jason Moss  
Executive Director

**Building  
Community,  
Enhancing  
Jewish  
Life**

Dear Friends,

A lot has changed in the world since we began developing and sharing our Federation FOCUS newsletters. The impact of world events continues to be felt throughout the greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys. It is why our Jewish Federation recently updated our mission statement as we continue to evolve to better meet the current challenges and needs facing our community. Our new mission statement is *to strengthen and enhance our community by promoting and advocating for Jewish values and Jewish life in the greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys*. We believe that this better reflects and guides the work our board and staff do each day.

While you may not always be able to see or feel the impact our Jewish Federation has on our community, one of the reasons we created this newsletter was to illustrate and show what we do each day. This newsletter complements the weekly emails we send out about activities that affect our community, from local celebrations and events to updates about Israel.

Inside this issue of Federation FOCUS, we are sharing information about Community Security Initiative (CSI) bringing its robust security program to our community as we continue our work to help make our community safer. You will also learn what to do if you experience (or witness) antisemitism or have security concerns. Plus, we highlight the programs and services we provided over the last several months – from our JFed Players' production of *Company* through our Ladies of Laughter Comedy Fest.

What you will read about in this issue, and so much more of what our Jewish Federation is able to do for our community, is made possible through the generosity and support of our community. Thank you for helping us continue to have the kind of impact we have been able to have on our community, especially when people need us the most. Together we are *strengthening and enhancing Jewish life...right here in the greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys*.

  
Jeanine Borland Mann  
President

  
Jason Moss  
Executive Director

# OUR IMPACT IN OUR COMMUNITY

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

The Jewish Federation is the heart and soul of our Jewish community. It is more than an advocate for Jewish families in the greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys; it stands with us in moments of celebration as well as challenges, steadfastly championing our needs, uniting us, and providing a voice and the resources needed to uplift several meaningful aspects of our lives.

Our Jewish Federation has been the bridge connecting many families (including mine) to something greater than ourselves. Through its programs, whether honoring the memory of those lost in the Holocaust, participating in the annual Jewish Book Festival, singing in Kol HaEmek (the community choir), or attending Camp Gan Shalom, we have found comfort, meaning, and a sense of home. The Jewish Federation creates space for every individual to be seen, valued, and supported. It provides enrichment options for my Jewish soul! That value is priceless!

I strongly believe that it is the heartbeat of Jewish life in our community. Jewish Federation's leadership weaves us together, turning all of us into a caring, resilient community. Without the Jewish Federation, our strength and unity would be diminished. Its value is deeply woven into the very fabric of our identity, serving as an enduring blessing that uplifts each of us. I view the Jewish Federation as a priceless gift that can never be quantified, only treasured.

- Aubrey Fine



I am so thankful that our Jewish Federation exists. I am so appreciative they are here in real time to help us navigate problems when they arise in our local community.

I have personally reached out to our Jewish Federation staff on numerous occasions, unfortunately, over the past two years to help my family navigate an antisemitic lesson plan in a public school, to address direct harassment and intimidation from students at high school, when we saw a wall tagged with Jewish hate, and when someone in our child's elementary school drew swastikas for my child.

And in each instance, the Jewish Federation reached out to the schools to support us. They found ways to ensure schools were complying with best practices, to provide broader solutions to combat hate, and to offer their staff as a resource. And following my reporting to them about antisemitic graffiti my child saw, they helped file a police report on our behalf, and with their help, we were able to get the graffiti removed.

The Jewish Federation is my first line of defense. They have been here for my family every step of the way, and I'm so grateful. They bring so much comfort to the community, knowing that, in this day and time we are living through, there is an organization that can offer help and support when we need it.

- Juli Schneiderman

My family and I are so appreciative and value that our community has a very inclusive Jewish Federation, with activities and events for all ages and interests. They have built a safe harbor for all, children through adults, to celebrate and be proud of being Jewish.

A few years ago, our son qualified to represent the United States in track and field at the Maccabiah Games in Israel. It was a very expensive honor, and a stretch for us to afford. Our Jewish Federation provided a scholarship to help our son with this trip to Israel. Now, we are in a position to give back to our Jewish Federation, and we are happy to do so because we know our dollars go toward helping people in our community and building Jewish identity and pride.

I appreciate the work our Jewish Federation has done over the years to make sure our local school districts are aware of when the Jewish holidays occur. These efforts have dramatically improved calendar planning and helped avoid scheduling important school activities on Jewish holidays.

And the leadership our Jewish Federation has shown through its presence at city councils in combating antisemitic resolutions in the aftermath of October 7 has been superb. I personally was at a statewide community college meeting where a distressing resolution was proposed. I called Jason as the meeting was going on. Jason answered the call and immediately crafted wording that made the resolution much more acceptable. And it passed!

Our community is stronger because of our Jewish Federation.  
- Tammy Silver



## OUR MISSION

*To strengthen and enhance our community by promoting and advocating for Jewish values and Jewish life in the greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys.*

## OUR VISION

The Jewish Federation of the Greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys is:

- A valued resource about Jewish life in the greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys.
- The Jewish voice for our local area by advocating, educating, and promoting Judaism and Jewish life.
- A place for all people to find their way into and connect with both Judaism and other Jews. We do this through the programs and services we provide that celebrate Jewish community and create opportunities for people to engage with the beauty and richness of Jewish culture.

### JEWISH FEDERATION BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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

### 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
Natalie Karic PJ Library & PJ Our Way Program Director	Annabella Villegas Tornek Camp Gan Shalom Director & Social Media Coordinator	Susan Hain Bookkeeper	

# PROTECTING JEWISH LIFE

## DOING ALL WE CAN TO HELP MAKE OUR COMMUNITY SAFER AND BETTER PROTECTED

Our Jewish Federation’s mission is to *strengthen and enhance our community by promoting and advocating for Jewish values and Jewish life in the greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys*. Each day our staff works towards fulfilling this mission through the programs and services we provide to, and for, our community. And we also understand that considering the current climate of hate that continues to target the collective Jewish community with the unprecedented levels of antisemitic incidents and attacks, one of the major roles our Jewish Federation serves is to help keep our community members feeling safer and better protected.

We take our role in protecting and defending our community as one of our top priorities. This has been done in a wide variety of ways - from the ongoing communication and work with our various local law enforcement agencies to the Community-wide Comprehensive Security Plan we developed and launched in 2022. In 2023, our Jewish Federation, on behalf of our community, joined the Southern California Jewish Security Alliance. This effort was led by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and Jewish Federation Los Angeles (JFEDLA), through their Community Security Initiative (CSI), with the hope of utilizing a more coordinated effort to address and combat antisemitic incidents in Southern California, while at the same time enhancing security efforts and communications between Jewish institutions.



Then, last year, JFEDLA approached us, along with the Jewish Federation of Ventura County and Jewish Federation of Greater Santa Barbara to see if we were interested in bringing their CSI program and extensive resources to our respective communities. Each agreed, and with our support, CSI has now expanded its size and scope, establishing a more robust, unified, professional response and approach to preparedness and protection across Southern California’s Jewish communities from Santa Barbara all the way into Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. This project strengthens our collective security for our synagogues, schools, community centers, and all the places where Jewish life thrives.

Launched in 2012 to combat the rising threat of terrorism, CSI serves a unique role in Jewish Southern California. It serves as a single point of contact for critical incident coordination, information sharing, safety and security training, and resources for Jewish institutions across Los Angeles, and provides individuals within these establishments with the necessary instruction and awareness to prepare for potential threats.

The three main program areas of CSI are: 1) Analysis and Information Sharing; 2) Training; and 3) Risk Assessment.

Our Jewish Federation’s partnership with CSI:

- Creates a central reporting mechanism for our community to report incidents and submit security inquiries,
- Monitors the threat landscape for potential bad actors in our region and provides information analysis for our community,
- Supports local Jewish institutions in developing and updating security plans,
- Provides training in emergency preparedness and active threat response,
- Serves as a liaison with local law enforcement,
- Helps our community access critical resources, including federal and state security funding.

Since we have brought CSI to our community, our Jewish Federation, along with our community partners, has been receiving weekly updates and alerts when situations, including crimes have taken place within a 1 mile radius of their locations. In addition, CSI is working with, and in direct communication with, our local Jewish institutions to enhance the security efforts each is pursuing.



# STRENGTHENING OUR ADVOCACY WORK

Later this spring, we will be coordinating a Town Hall/Security Briefing with CSI, inviting representatives from local law enforcement agencies to share insights, perspectives, information, and resources to help keep our community safer and better protected. This Town Hall will give our community a better idea of all that CSI does and the benefits it adds to our area and our work.

Through this partnership, we are working to create an environment where Jewish community members can feel safer participating fully in Jewish life—whether attending services, dropping children off at preschool or religious school, or gathering for holiday celebrations.

As this partnership continues to evolve, we will keep you updated and share more opportunities for learning, involvement, and support. We believe this collaboration represents not only foresight, but also strength; it reflects what we can achieve when Jewish communities stand together.



A member of security staff during a community safety event. (Aaron Levy-Wolins / J. Staff)

## What to do if you experience (or witness) antisemitism or hate, or have security concerns

During these last several years, we have witnessed an unprecedented rise in antisemitism and hate that is directed at the Jewish community and its members. From the attacks on Jewish businesses, institutions, and individuals, we know that the images and stories that we have seen and read have increased anxiety and fear for many in our community. And when we experience, or are the target of antisemitism (or hate), it can feel very isolating and we often don’t know what to do, let alone what help might be available.

Here is what you can do:

### Report hate incidents

Even if you feel “it was no big deal” or are not sure if what you experienced warrants reporting it; **REPORT IT.**

You can do this by contacting the ADL, filing a report with your local law enforcement, or 211la.org (a resource LA vs. Hate, a program of the LA County’s Commission on Human Relations). This is a crucial step in our collective fight against all forms of hate, including antisemitism.

Currently, only about one-third of all hate incidents are reported, so it is imperative that if you experience any form of hate, you report it. Data collected by the ADL, FBI, LA County Commission on Human Relations, and law enforcement is used to inform policy and provide a clearer picture and understanding of the current climate.

### For security concerns

As part of our ongoing effort to help keep our community feeling safer and more protected, there are ways you can help. If you see something suspicious or witness an incident, it is imperative that you report it. By being vigilant and serving as an “extra set of eyes”, you can increase the security efforts in our community. Contact your local law enforcement and CSI.

We also strongly encourage you to participate in any security training and workshops offered throughout the community. Whether it is Situational Awareness or Active Shooter training, research continues to illustrate that people who participate in these types of training, feel safer and better prepared to respond if a situation arises.



What we have done...

# SEPTEMBER — MARCH

## COMPANY

This past fall, we performed one of Stephen Sondheim's classic shows, *COMPANY*. We had our amazing JFed Players and others who have worked with us through the years, perform this fun and witty musical to a wonderful audience, ending up with overflow audiences closing weekend. Some of the songs have become very famous such as *Being Alive* and *The Ladies Who Lunch*. We are looking forward to our next production later this spring, a comedy called *Southern Fried Funeral*.



## JEWISH BOOK FESTIVAL

Our 2025 Jewish Book Festival celebrated national Jewish Book Month with our entire community. We are lucky to have partners in the synagogues across our region, from Glendale to Ontario to host these award-winning authors from around the world. Topics ranged from celebrated singer/songwriter Carole King to poetry about October 7, and a special evening with fantasy writer Leigh Bardugo. We stayed connected to our Jewish heritage and current events while fostering discussion and debate at a safe and joyful festival.



## PJ LIBRARY'S HANUKKAH PAJAMAKKAHS PARTY

In December, the PJ Library team welcomed our community of families with young children to Vroman's Bookstore in Pasadena for our fabulous annual



Hanukkah event. We kicked off the morning with joyful energy as Cantor Judy Sofer led us in a Hanukkah sing-along. Next, author Dara Henry read her featured book, *Hanukkah Pajamakkahs*, and signed copies for our attendees. Children decorated pajama shirts to take home, along with a dreidel and gelt goody bag. It was a festive morning for all, filled with light!

## FESTIVAL OF JEWISH MUSIC

It was great to once again bring our community together to help kick off Hanukkah with our Festival of Jewish Music. Originally, this program arose as a response to the proliferation of Christmas music being performed everywhere during the winter holidays. We use this opportunity to perform Jewish and holiday music and to introduce newer Jewish songs written in recent years. And, as we have done in the past, we work hard to include local clergy in participating alongside Kol HaEmek.



## ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Meeting is an opportunity to reflect on the work our organization did over the past year and share what is planned for the year ahead. We highlighted the support we provided to those who were impacted by the Eaton Fire, awarded our 2025 High School Junior Scholarship (Sam Cooper), the 2025 Kimberly Dawn Ellis Scholarship (Dina Zangwill), and honored Debby Singer, our longtime PJ Library and PJ Our Way Program Director. Plus, our Keynote Speaker, Danny Feldman



(Producing Artistic Director of the Pasadena Playhouse) discussed the changing landscape of the American theater and what goes into planning a theater season. He also brought the Regional Theatre Tony Award that the Pasadena Playhouse was awarded in 2023.

## EVERY PERSON HAS A NAME

This year's event was another moving 25-hour vigil and commemoration at Pasadena City Hall. The event began with remarks from several local officials, including Pasadena Mayor Victor Gordo, Congresswoman Judy Chu, State Senators Sasha Renée Pérez and Susan Rubio, and State Superintendent of Schools Tony Thurmond. Then, immediately following the ceremony, over 130 volunteers read aloud thousands of names of Holocaust victims for 24 hours. Several religious school classes came, and we once again had an exhibition on display provided, in partnership with Yad Vashem, Israel's National Holocaust Museum.



## DRESS UP AND DO GOOD: A PJ LIBRARY PURIM

To celebrate Purim, our PJ Library team put on a fun-filled program in partnership with the Southern California Children's Museum. We highlighted a new PJ Library book, *Purim Baskets* by Nancy Churnin, all about making mishloach manot for animals. After some interactive storytelling and music led by Leah Paul of Sweet Potato Music, children helped assemble Purim baskets for foster animals at Pasadena



Humane Society. It was so special to connect our Jewish values with a fun, hands-on activity. In the spirit of Purim, attendees got to dress up (animal mask making!) and make some noise (groggers for all!).

## LADIES OF LAUGHTER COMEDY FEST: CELEBRATING FUNNY JEWISH WOMEN

Our 2026 Ladies of Laughter Comedy Fest was expanded further East to allow more of our community to participate. We invited Cathy Ladman and Jena Friedman as our headliners for the fest, who marshalled other hilarious Jewish comedienne in the healing act of laughing. Taking place March 8-14, the Jewish Federation celebrated Women's Month by highlighting Jewish women's voices. Including two stand-up nights, our first film night, a live podcast, and improv and sketch, this festival brought the community together to remind us of how and why we are so resilient.



## ONGOING EATON FIRE SUPPORT

This year marked 1 year since the Eaton Fire, and we have been working closely with the Eaton Fire Collaborative, Eaton Fire Survivor's Network, Maple Counseling, and other organizations which are still standing strong to help rebuild the community the fire attacked. We continue to hear new stories from survivors and share information to support the rebuilding efforts. We are in this for the long haul and look forward to more success stories as we move forward.



**Israel in Focus:**  
A NATION TRANSFORMED  
From October 7 to Iran, and what comes next  
**A conversation with Herb Keinon**  
Senior contributing editor and analyst for The Jerusalem Post



Tuesday, April 28, 7 pm  
Temple Beth Israel of Pomona  
3033 N. Towne Ave., Pomona

For more information, visit:  
[www.jewishsgpv.org](http://www.jewishsgpv.org)



This program is offered in partnership with:



JEWISH FEDERATION OF THE GREATER SAN GABRIEL AND POMONA VALLEYS

JFED PLAYERS PRESENT:

**SOUTHERN FRIED FUNERAL**

by Osborne and Eppler  
directed by Kerr Lordygan

**MAY 2 - 10**  
PASADENA, CA



For tickets and information, visit [www.jewishsgpv.org](http://www.jewishsgpv.org)




Kol HaEmek  
Voice of the Valley  
Jewish Community Choral

**SHIR DELIGHTS XVI**

ANOTHER TASTY ASSORTMENT OF JEWISH CHORAL MUSIC

Sunday, May 31, 3 pm  
Temple Beth David  
9677 E. Longden Ave., Temple City



Tickets: \$15 per person  
To purchase tickets:  
[www.jewishsgpv.org](http://www.jewishsgpv.org)




**2026 CAMP GAN SHALOM**

**WHEN? WHERE?**  
June 15 - July 24 (Weeks 1-6)  
Pasadena  
July 27 - August 7 (Weeks 7-8)  
Pomona

**OUR PROGRAMS**  
KEHILLA (K - 5th)  
MANHEEGIM (6th - 8th)  
CIT\* (9th - 10th)  
\*Must complete application and interview process.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

EXTENDED CARE AVAILABLE

**HOW TO REGISTER?**  
For more information, to register, or to apply for the CIT program, visit:  
[www.jewishsgpv.org](http://www.jewishsgpv.org)






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

114A W. LIME AVENUE  
MONROVIA, CA 91016

NON-PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
ONTARIO, CA  
PERMIT NO. 556

BUILDING  
**COMMUNITY**  
ENHANCING  
**JEWISH LIFE**

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

## HERE WHEN OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS US MOST

Strengthening Jewish life in the greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys

When Jewish families face hardship or antisemitism, they turn to our Jewish Federation. From fire relief to community programs and advocacy, we protect and strengthen Jewish life every day.

No other organization does what we do for our community.

**YOUR GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE TODAY.**  
HELP ENSURE OUR COMMUNITY ALWAYS HAS A STRONG JEWISH VOICE AND SUPPORT SYSTEM

GIVE TODAY AT  
[WWW.JEWISHSGPV.ORG](http://WWW.JEWISHSGPV.ORG)



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