



JEWISH COMMUNITY SERVICES

A nonprofit agency serving the Hawaii Jewish Community

Summer 2022

Welcome to our Summer 2022 Newsletter

We are thrilled to share with you the wonderful ways Jews are coming together throughout the state, with the support of JCS!

We decided to dedicate funds from our Nitzvaim grant from the Weinberg Foundation to support community initiatives to bring people together. This initiative was our response to the finding in the Weinberg Foundation funded "Survey of Health and Human Services Needs in the Jewish Community in Hawaii" which identified that the #1 need is for opportunities for contact with other Jewish people.

We ultimately funded nine grants, some of which are described within this newsletter, and the rest are exciting opportunities yet to come!



Kugels & Keiki at Temple Emanu-El



*Check out our recipe for Matzah Toffee Candy on page 2

The new Kugels & Keiki youth culinary program kicked off on April 3 at Temple Emanu-El. This community program is made possible by a grant from Jewish Community Services.

Temple Emanu-El's Youth Education Director Rachel Garcia, and teen helper Eva Shauriki, led the group in the building's kitchen. A dozen children ages 5-12 years old met for two hours to discuss Passover friendly foods, get to know one another and create two kid friendly dishes. Matzah toffee candy* and Passover apple haroset were on the day's menu.

Other classes were also held for various age groups. Dishes such as dairy noodle kugel, chocolate egg creams, traditional potato latkes and cookie hamantashen will be created in these two-hour sessions. This popular new class is made available to Jewish children on the Oahu island. Participants do not need to be members of Temple Emanu-El to participate. The goal of the program is to create community connection opportunities for Jewish youth through creative and delicious activities, as well as bolster Jewish identity within the youth community in Hawaii. With these first few classes there has been momentum for more youth programming to be established, outside of weekly religious services and school.

Maui Jewish Learning Chavurah

Since February 2022, we have had 2 sessions, drawing between 5 to 8 people from the North Shore of Maui. Our inaugural session involved learning about Rosh Chodesh and the halachic particularities of the month of Adar in a leap year. Our second session involved learning about the Aggadah and homilies brought down by the Sages regarding the story and significance of Purim as documented in megillah and recorded in the Babylonian Talmud. We continued our Torah learning and growing our membership in the month ahead as we turned to medieval and current interpretations of the special Parshiot of the month of Adar II, most notably Parshat Parah and Hachodesh as we move from Purim to Pesach.

בס"ד

Northshore Chavurah

החבורה ללימודי יהדות במאוי



A community kollel mixed study group that will take a traditional Jewish text based approach to create an atmosphere of learning לשמה *lishmah* – for its own sake in a mutually supportive and inquisitive environment. Activities will center around monthly gatherings with light refreshments during which we plan to take up a topic and draw on biblical, talmudic, Chassidic, *Mussar*, and commentary in opening up our topics together in an open discussion fashion. Alternatively we will focus on a single work of commentary and read and discuss it jointly.

Goals:

- Develop a group that draws from a diversity of community members
- Strengthen Jewish life at the grass roots from the bottom up not the top down
- Draw together 5-15 people each month fostering curiosity and connection

*Topics and sources may change radically to reflect the needs and desires of the group, however, the pillar of support for our work is to choose a Jewish text to study together on a regular basis.

Supported by Jewish Community Services
<https://www.jcs-hi.org>

The Inter-Island Chevra Kadisha Series



The Chevra Kadisha as Sukkah: Living Jewish Life as Community

Like a Sukkah sheltering the People of Israel in uncertain times, the Chevra Kadisha enfolds our islands' Jewish community. Come explore and learn with us how the Chevra Kadisha supports the Jewish community, including rituals that guide us through the most challenging times, offering a pathway for embracing life fully, a companion through the process of integrating life's inevitable losses, and doing it as one community together.

September 11, 2022 5:00 – 6:30 pm Hawaii time on Zoom

Visit www.jcs-hi.org/community-calendar for event information and zoom link.



Matzah Toffee Candy:

Enough Matzah Crackers to fill a 10x15 jelly roll pan

- 1 cup brown sugar, firmly packed
- 1 cup salted butter
- 1 12-oz bag chocolate chips (milk or semi-sweet)
- Flaked coconut, M&Ms candies and/or chopped toasted nuts

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line a jelly roll pan with foil. Place matzah in one single layer, enough to cover bottom of jelly roll pan. Boil brown sugar and butter for 3 minutes or until melted and slightly bubbling. Pour butter mixture over matzah, making sure to spread over entire cracker layer. Bake in heated oven for several minutes until bubbling. Take pan from oven and sprinkle chocolate chips over layer. Allow chips to melt, then spread over crackers. Sprinkle with flaked coconut, candy and/or nuts. Allow crackers to cool and break into pieces. Store in refrigerator.



The JCS Annual Dinner is Back!

WHAT: This year is a very SPECIAL Dinner and we're adding a Jewish Theatre presentation: *"BELONGING,"* vignettes of Jewish life, by *The Braid*, a Los Angeles Jewish performing company.

WHEN: Saturday, November 12th, 6:00 p.m.

WHERE: The Pacific Club, Honolulu.

Stay tuned for Registration and more information.



The Pacific Club



News from Jewish in Hawaii (JIH)



Thanks to the generous grant from JCS, Jewish in Hawaii (JIH) was born. Everyone felt the growing need for community throughout the pandemic and Hawaii Jews were no different. JIH provides safe in-person activities that reach across all affiliations. So far we have almost 200 individuals on our email list which represents mostly Oahu Jews, many unaffiliated with a temple, and newcomers to the islands as well. It's been exciting to receive requests from folks who haven't moved here yet and are looking for Jewish community. Our activities so far have included a monthly book club, a beach party



kick off, hikes, the establishment of Scuba Jews, and a beach clean-ups.

A very popular event was the Purim party for Jewish young professionals which inspired their voted-on name, "Jewy Hui." This group is in their 20's and 30's and



has planned 3 monthly recurring events: a Rosh Kodesh challah-making at Temple Emanu El, a holiday-based social event, and a last Saturday Shabbat-luck. They are planning bar crawls, cruises and volunteering events.

At this point we are planning for Jewish in Hawaii to collaborate more closely with JCS and coordinate with their centralized calendar. We are so incredibly grateful for our partnership with JCS and the outpouring of support from the community at large. Stay tuned for more fun activities to bring Hawaii Jews together across the islands!



Join our email list at Jewishinhawaii@gmail.com and our partner Facebook group at www.facebook.com/groups/jewishinhawaii to hear about the upcoming events. Anyone in their 20'30's is welcome to join Jewy Hui at Jewyhui@gmail.com.

Ahava 'Aina Purim Party and Hebrew/Spiritual School

Author – Rabbi Rachel Short

Thanks in part to JCS Hawaii, Ahava 'Aina on the Big Island was able to host an epic Purim Party to kick-off the beginning of their Hebrew/Spiritual School!

The Ahava 'Aina Purim Party was a wonderful success! Our community came together to eat, drink, bake and enjoy hamantaschen, and hear the Purim story told by Rabbi Rachel. Mayor Mitch Roth was in attendance, and everyone was able to relax and enjoy connecting with our community in a laid-back, comfortable, meaningful way. Dana Shapiro, Mother and Founder and General Manager of the Hawai'i Ulu Co Op and Ahava 'Aina Hebrew/Spiritual School Teacher hosted at her home, where the keiki all got to know each other, connect, play and have fun. She led our keiki in the creation and baking of Hamantaschen, before they all changed into their costumes and marched and danced and sang in a fun and lively Parade. Music was playing, everyone was laughing and connecting, and Rabbi Rachel shared the Purim story in a fun and exciting way as everyone sounded their groggers every time they heard "Haman." In addition to making hamantaschen, marching in the parade, listening to the story, and singing and dancing, our keiki were also able to play on the slip n slide — one of the special things about going to Hebrew School in Hawai'i! All of the adults shared delicious food and enjoyed catching up. Many new friends were made, spanning all ages, and our community was able to enjoy a wonderful celebration and epic kick-off for

Hebrew/Spiritual school. Everyone left feeling motivated, excited, and wanting more, which was the intention.

A few weeks later, Dana hosted our first Hebrew/Spiritual School class, again at her home. After Doda Dana and all the keiki introduced themselves, they got right into telling the story of creation so we could learn about Shabbat. Doda Dana told the story of creation as the Keiki interacted, creating a beautiful art project that perfectly told the story. They told the story through art from beginning to end, creating light in the darkness, gluing on cotton balls, cutouts, flowers, feathers, stars, people, and more, concluding with Shabbat, the 7th day of rest. When the story came to Shabbat, all the keiki gathered to bake and braid their very own rainbow challah! While the challah baked, they picked flowers in the yard, played with the Jackson chameleon, snacked on Bamba, played and enjoyed getting to know each other. When the challahs were finished baking, everyone came together, and Rabbi Rachel and Doda Dana shared Shabbat with the keiki. All the keiki and their parents gathered around the table to say the blessings, light the candles, drink grape juice, and enjoy the delicious rainbow challah they baked.

All in all, our Purim Party and Hebrew/Spiritual school were a massive success and we are so grateful to JCS for helping to make it happen!

Stay tuned for more exciting things JCS is helping make happen for Ahava 'Aina... Shaloha!



PHOTO CREDIT: Kayla at Orchid Isle Photography

Save the Date!

Save the Date as JCS brings Professional Jewish Theater to Hawaii! Please join with fellow members of the Hawaii's Jewish Community to celebrate our diversity on November 13, 2022 at 3:00 PM Live at Temple Emanu El Honolulu, or by Streaming Online. Jews of Color share their yearning for belonging and the rich and complicated question that is identity. Funny, poignant, and deeply inspiring stories! For more information, visit www.jcs-hi.org.



Check out the Community Calendar on the JCS website to view upcoming events happening in our local Jewish community! Type the following link in your browser to access the full calendar: www.jcs-hi.org/community-calendar.

40 Kosher Meals Testimonial

I just wanted to send a big THANK YOU to the staff at JCS Hawaii for the huge assist! I work with schools all over the U.S. to plan educational adventures and recently helped a Jewish grade school from the Bay Area plan an exciting trip to O'ahu. For the third year in a row the school had to cancel their 8th grade trip to Israel. But this year instead of staying home, we rallied and we planned an unforgettable journey to the welcoming communities of O'ahu.



40-Kosher meals provided by Veganista HI.
Veganistahi@gmail.com

A huge part of this program was celebrating with a special Shabbat as an entire group - 40 people. Unfortunately, the lasting effects of the pandemic was making it very hard to find anyone who could help prepare this special meal. With time winding down, and my personal stress levels rising, I reached out to JCS Hawaii and Jodie and her amazing staff were able to connect me with a local chef (Veganista HI). The meal was spectacular and the students and faculty absolutely loved it. Thank you for helping save the day!

- Bryan, Camp Counselor

Tribute Appeal

Our popular tribute and memorial gift program are thoughtful ways to commemorate your friends, family and colleagues' joyful occasions, rites of passage or serve as a memorial blessing marking the passing of important people in your lives.

During all the seasons of our lives, Judaism reminds us that acts of tzedakah are a timeless expression of remembrance and support for those who are not as blessed or fortunate.

JCS is here to support and assist you, your family and the Jewish community in Hawaii. Together, we can shape a positive future for people in need and help them face their challenges with compassionate services, assistance and referrals.

Enclosed is a return envelope for your convenience (let us know if you need more) or visit our website at www.jcs-hi.org/how-to-help/donations to make your tribute or memorial gift. JCS will mail a beautiful card with a personalized message according to your wishes, to your tribute recipient and send an acknowledgment to you.

Your friendship and charity make the work of Jewish Community Services (JCS) possible. We can't thank you enough for your support. For all that you are able to do, mahalo and todah rabah.





Jewish Community Services

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JEWISH COMMUNITY SERVICES

Our Mission:

To support and enhance Jewish life in Hawaii through communication, coordination and provision of appropriate social services to those in need.

To learn more about the important work that JCS does in our community or to make a donation online visit

<https://www.jcs-hi.org>

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