



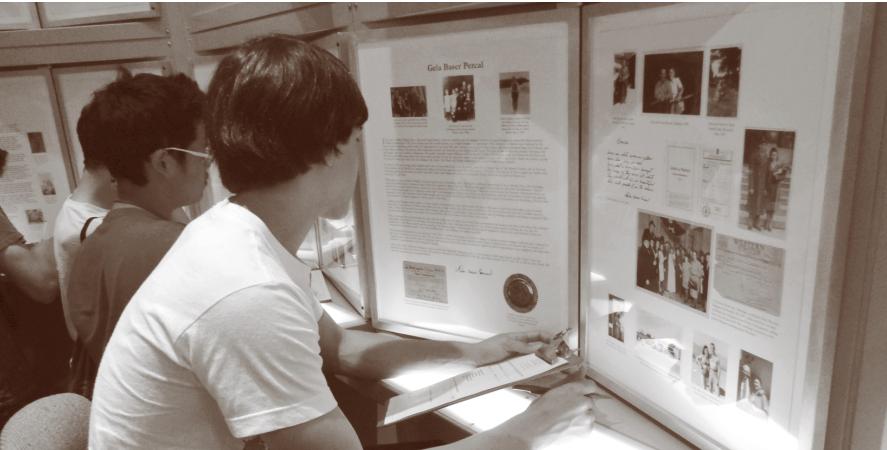
# Jewish Federation OF GREATER SANTA BARBARA

VOL XVII, NO 4

*focus on*  
Federation

FALL 2014

ELUL / TISHRI 5775



Historical shot from 2005. SD Academy kids. PHOTO CREDIT UNKNOWN

## STEP UP FOR ISRAEL

Israel is rarely far from the headlines. But, even within our Jewish community, many of us know relatively little about this tiny nation with such a complex narrative and staggering history. A new educational program, *Step Up for Israel*, aims to teach Jews and non-Jews about the country, its cultures and its often dangerous and always strategic place in world affairs.

Described as an "international, grassroots campaign that connects individuals and communities to Israel," *Step Up for Israel* is an effort by Jerusalem U, a film-based, online portal for Jewish distance learning.

Jerusalem U offers a variety of classes taught by a group of prestigious educators and speakers, including former Harvard professor **Dr. Tal Ben-Shahar**, Princeton professor **Bernard Lewis** and former UN Ambassador

**Dore Gold**. The courses cover a broad spectrum of political and religious subjects.

Jerusalem U has produced four 10-hour, online multimedia courses, has graduated more than 4,500 students and is responsible for over 100,000 hours of Jewish and Israel learning by students worldwide.



Jewish Federation of Greater Santa Barbara is pleased to be able to offer the Step Up for Israel program, thanks to the generous sponsorship of **Bernie and Beverly Penner**.

The Penners say they wanted to help bring the program to Santa Barbara because they feel that education about Israel is crucial to "understanding who we are as a people."

As a young Polish Jew growing up in Germany, Mr. Penner says he felt the

**CONTINUED INSIDE**

## A Happy Anniversary

### Portraits Celebrates Ten Years of Sharing Stories

More than 7,500 students each year visit Federation to learn important history



need better photo

When **Mara Vishniac Kohn** (above, right) visited the Holocaust education center in Toronto and saw an exhibit titled "We Who Survived," with the powerful and inspiring stories of survivors who lived in the area, she knew she had to create a similar tribute in Santa Barbara.

With her passion and determination, it did not take long to realize that vision, *Portraits of Survival*, at Jewish Federation. With a generous donation of \$25 thousand in seed money from UCSB, spearheaded by university Chancellor **Henry Yang**, Kohn brought the Toronto exhibit's creators here to interview and photograph local survivors, preserving their images and stories, making an overwhelming and horrifically dark chapter of time accessible and personal.

### Portraits of Survival anniversary Sunday, November 16

2 – 4 pm • at Jewish Federation

Please RSVP at [www.jewishsantabarbara.org](http://www.jewishsantabarbara.org) or 805-957-1115.

Since its opening, *Portraits* has touched thousands of visitors — from school children to seniors — with tours frequently conducted by survivors themselves. On November 16th, Jewish Federation will commemorate the tenth anniversary of the exhibit as well as the 76th anniversary of *Kristallnacht*, the "Night of Broken Glass" and a seminal moment in the unimaginably dark descent of Nazi Germany. The event, titled *From Broken Glass: Reflections of Survival & Life Renewed*, also will see the opening of an art show at Federation featuring works by local Holocaust survivors.

**CONTINUED INSIDE**



**L'Shana Tova**

## Message from the Executive Director



As we prepare to welcome a new year, we naturally reflect on the one that is ending. It has been a year of inspiring growth and deepening purpose at Jewish Federation. We

have introduced new programs such as the **Jewish Women's Network** and the upcoming **Step Up for Israel**. We also expanded existing services including an increased staff and caseload at Jewish Family Services and new activities in our **Children & Family Programs**, including **Little Stars Music Club** and **Prenatal and Postpartum Yoga, Dance and Relaxation**.

Our staff underwent some changes too amid an operational re-organization to help us better address our community's needs and program priorities. Likewise, we have been very fortunate to have the stewardship and strength of our Board of Directors, as well as other Federation leaders, as we continue to redefine our role as a communal organization.

Part of that role, as a Jewish entity, is our connection to Jewry worldwide. Our greater Santa Barbara community demonstrated its commitment to our global family with successful fundraising efforts for Ukrainian Relief, the Sderot Summer Camp Challenge, the Stop the Sirens Israel Emergency Campaign and the Friends for Futbol program to help children from an isolated Peruvian Jewish community adapt to their new lives in Israel.

Of course, in the world we wish to see, there would not be a need for these measures. And so as we look to the New Year, we contemplate the promise it holds, the potential for better and sweeter days and we pray for peace.

L'shana Tovah,

Michael S. Rassler

## Live generously.

IT DOES A WORLD OF GOOD.

### STEP UP FOR ISRAEL



### CONT. FROM FRONT

sting of institutionalized anti-Semitism in his school and socially on the streets of his village. Tragically, he lost his entire family in the Holocaust. Today, with anti-Semitism again on the rise in the world, he is especially concerned

about young Jews going off to college and being prepared and informed to deal with questions about Israel and Judaism.

Federation Executive Director **Michael Rassler** is encouraging local Jewish organizations to partner together and use the program as a communal resource, adding that "As with any bigotry, anti-Semitism is based on ignorance and misinformation. Educational programs such as *Step Up for Israel* are key instruments in the battle against anti-Semitism, bias and discrimination."

*Info: Jewish Federation, (805) 957-1115; info@sbjf.org*

## BOOK OF LIFE HONORS LEGACIES OF GIVING

With gratitude and appreciation, the Jewish Federation of Greater Santa Barbara is pleased to announce the inscription of

**Nina Liff (z"l), Ruth Harder (z"l) and Dr. Al Wyner (z"l)** into the Book of Life.

Permanently displayed at the Federation's Bronfman Jewish Community Center, the Book is a beautifully bound volume featuring personal stories of Santa Barbara residents who have made a provision to support the community through their estate planning. Each person or family whose story is told had agreed to make a gift, whether to the Annual Campaign or to the Endowment Fund, as their legacy to the Santa Barbara Jewish Community to perpetuate their support into the future.

*Info: Name of Contact, 957-111X xXX or person@sbjf.org*

Santa Barbara Jewish Federation  
Book of Life



## YAD: Young Adult Division

Together with visiting students from **Saint Joseph's University** in Philadelphia, YAD members picked up paint brushes and power tools for a *Tikkun Olam* project with **Habitat for Humanity**. These young adults helped build homes for 12 local families at Habitats' Canon Perdido Affordable Homes Project.

Habitat for Humanity of Southern Santa Barbara County Program Coordinator **Rose Cohen** says that it also was because of Federation that the local Habitat branch was able to host out-of-town students for the first time: "Without the generosity of the Jewish Federation of Greater Santa Barbara, the students from St. Joseph's University would not have been able to be a part of, and serve, our community. Many thanks to the Jewish Federation for opening their doors and allowing the students to stay in their facility."

*Info: Jill Spear, 957-1115 x107 or yad@sbjf.org*



KELSEY CREWS PHOTO

## Children & Family Programs Fall Highlights

### Fall Holiday Party

Wednesday, September 17 • 5-7 pm  
Celebrate the upcoming Jewish holidays at a special event for the whole family. This community-wide event will feature delicious food, arts and crafts, story time, a prize drawing, and much more!

Tickets: Bring a donation to the Unity Shoppe food drive and get a free prize-drawing ticket; additional tickets will be available to purchase.

**FREE** and open to the community.

### Just 4 Fun Fitness

Justin Iroff

Mondays • 10-11 am

After a brief summer hiatus, we are thrilled to welcome back Just 4 Fun Fitness! Get your little ones running, jumping, throwing, tumbling and having fun with our fun, energetic, super-active and non-competitive fitness program.

### Little Stars Music Club

with Holly Duffy

2nd Thursday of the month

10 - 10:50 am

Sing, dance, and make music together! Holly leads a fun and interactive class of music, movement, and fun!

### Prenatal and Postpartum Yoga, Dance and Relaxation

with Tracy Schmidt

Thursdays • 11:30 am - 1 pm

Please join Tracy, natural childbirth, yoga, dance instructor and doula, for 90 minutes of strength, stretch, joy and relaxation skills for new and pregnant moms. Spend an energizing hour of rhythmic movement, deep yoga stretching and profound relaxation in preparation for birth and refreshment from parenting.

### Family Time

Fridays • 10:30-11:30 am

We welcome children and families of all ages to gather around for an interactive activity every week! Enjoy engaging stories and play in a warm and welcoming space.

Info: **Holly Chadwin**, (805) 957-1115, ext. 109; [hchadwin@sbjf.org](mailto:hchadwin@sbjf.org)

# focus on WOMEN'S DIVISION

## A High Standard in Philanthropy and Volunteerism

### LEE LURIA RECOGNIZED WITH THE KIPNIS-WILSON FRIEDLAND AWARD

Ten years after the founding of the Santa Barbara Jewish Federation, **Leatrice "Lee" Luria** decided it was time for women to take a major role in leadership. She gathered a "minyan" of women and created the Women's Division, serving as the first President from 1983 through 1985. Now three decades later, Lee is being nationally recognized with the **Kipnis-Wilson Friedland Award**, given by the Jewish Federations of North America to "extraordinary women who have set a high standard for philanthropy and volunteerism." Winners are chosen by their peers, based on a lifetime of commitment to the Jewish world. Each recipient is recognized at the biennial International Lion of Judah Conference, taking place this year in New York City.



Lee Luria. PHOTO CREDIT

Lee's vision and leadership brought the Lion of Judah Society donor recognition program to Santa Barbara, and she was one of the first to wear the pin. She also organized the first annual Women's Philanthropy Luncheon. Lee exemplifies her personal philosophy that "Women are a powerful source, and, gathered together, make a powerful force able to accomplish any goals set forth. Having a Women's Division in every Federation is like having a conductor for the symphony! Without one it would be chaotic!"

Lee, together with her daughter **Kandy Luria-Budgor**, continues the generous and supportive work of the **Luria Foundation**, founded by Lee and her late husband **Eli**. The Luria Foundation supports four very important non-profits in the Santa Barbara Community: **Jewish Federation of Greater Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara City College, Santa Barbara Museum of Art and Music Academy of the West**.

Info: **Jilli Spear**, 957-1115 x107 or [jspear@sbjf.org](mailto:jspear@sbjf.org)

## Jewish Family Services

### VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

They are the backbone of all that goes on at 524 Chapala Street and last month Federation showed its gratitude at the Volunteer Appreciation Lunch.

Approximately 50 volunteers enjoyed live music, prize drawings and great food generously sponsored by **Sababa. It's All Good Catering**. Thanks to our volunteers, Federation is able to run programs ranging from yoga to Yiddish, bridge to a book group — and, of course, Schmooze Room.



Maria Segal, Gil Cardona. PHOTO CREDIT

**Visit! Participate!  
Learn more about JFS!**

Contact JFS Director **Barbara Kuhn**, 957-1115 x115 or [bkuhn@sbjf.org](mailto:bkuhn@sbjf.org)

### PORTRAITS ANNIVERSARY CONT. FROM FRONT

While some of the exhibit's stories can be wrenching, it is critically important that they be told. As *Portraits* Director **Ruth Dubin Steinberg** notes, "As time passes and we lose the opportunity to hear directly from survivors, it becomes more and more urgent to record and share their first-hand stories for future generations. We must do this to honor those who survived and those who did not and to fight hatred and discrimination against any group."

# focus on Federation

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Jewish Federation  
of Greater Santa Barbara

805-957-1115 Fax 805-957-9230

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

Join our e-mail list! [info@sbjf.org](mailto:info@sbjf.org)

**Hours:** Mon-Thurs: 9 am – 5 pm;

Fri: 9 am – 3:30 pm

All events take place at the Bronfman Family Jewish Community Center (BFJCC) unless otherwise stated.

## Get Involved.

Here's what's happening in the community and at the BFJCC.

- 9/17** Fall Family Holiday Party
- 9/24** Erev Rosh Hashanah close @1pm
- 9/25-26** Rosh Hashanah closure
- 10/3** Erev Yom Kippur close @1pm
- 10/4** Yom Kippur (Sat)
- 10/5** Sukkah Building
- 10/8** Erev Sukkot close @1pm
- 10/9-10** Sukkot closure
- 10/11** YAD Sushi Sake Sumo Sukkot Party
- 10/16** Shemini Atzeret closure
- 10/17** Simchat Torah closure
- 11/2** Super Sunday
- 11/9-11** General Assembly in DC
- 11/16** *Portraits of Survival* Anniversary/Kristallnacht Commemoration
- 11/20** Advanced Major Gifts event
- 11/27** Thanksgiving closure
- 12/17** Family Chanukah Party
- 12/11** Latkes & Laughter Comedy Night
- 12/16-24** Chanukah
- 12/20** Vodka Latke
- 12/24** Christmas Eve close @1pm
- 12/25** Christmas closure
- 12/31** New Year's Eve close @1pm

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**Jewish Federation**  
OF GREATER SANTA BARBARA

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## Volunteer on Super Sunday

**Sunday, November 2**

**9 am – 12 noon  
OR 4 pm -7 pm**

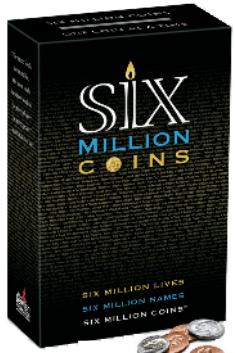
This Super Sunday, give us just a few hours and give others the opportunity to perform the mitzvah of *tzedakah*.

Community service hours for students.

Food, drinks, prizes and GREAT company!

Please RSVP by October 17 to [Marilyn Simon-Gersuk](mailto:Marilyn.Simon-Gersuk@sbjf.org),  
957-1115 x106 or [marilyn@sbjf.org](mailto:marilyn@sbjf.org)

## Six Million Coins™



Pick up your *tzedakah* box at the Federation, Congregation B'nai B'rith or Camp Haverim.

Join us to ensure that present and future generations will never forget.

Help us to collect six million coins. All funds will support local survivor programs and will be collected at the annual community-wide Kristallnacht commemoration.

Info: [Ruth Steinberg](mailto:Ruth.Steinberg@sbjf.org), 957-1115 x123 or [rsteinberg@sbjf.org](mailto:rsteinberg@sbjf.org)

## Art at the JCC

**Santa Barbara  
Art Association**

**Exhibit runs through Nov. 11**

Gallery Hours:

Monday – Thursday 9 am – 5 pm;

Friday 9 am – 3:30 pm



*For the Birds*, by Susan Price

## Portraits of Survival Anniversary and Kristallnacht Commemoration

**Sunday, November 16**

2 – 4 pm • at Jewish Federation

Please RSVP at  
[www.jewishtabarbara.org](http://www.jewishtabarbara.org) or 805-957-1115.

*Join us!*